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DENR

NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR chief Sampulna probes illegal wastewater discharge in Manila Bay

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA



THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will intensify compliance monitoring of business establishments in the Manila Bay region.

This after the DENR reported the discovery of more illegal discharges of wastewater that contribute to the contamination of the waters of Manila Bay.

DENR Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna said the intensified compliance monitoring aims reinforce the water quality management, particularly on the tracking of sources of untreated wastewater and sewage discharging into Manila Bay.

Sampulna led a site inspection in Manila Baywalk on March 11 wherein he received reports that there are illegal drainage pipes leading to the Manila Bay.

He wants the DENR, which is leading the interagency Manila Bay Task Force (MBTF), to find out where the illegal drainage pipes are coming from “so we can order the stoppage of the illegal discharges”

“We will have a saturation drive. We will inspect all establishments so we can trace where the foul smell of Manila Bay is coming from. There are many secrets here in the Manila Bay waters,” he said.

Sampulna wants all the establishments to be fully compliant with environmental laws such as Republic Act (RA) 9275 or Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004, RA 9003 or Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, and Presidential Decree 1586, warning that erring establishments will be penalized once the sources of illegal pipes have been traced and verified.

DENR Undersecretary for Field Operations, Environment, and Supervising Undersecretary for Metropolitan Environmental Offices (MEOs) Atty. Juan Miguel T. Cuna will oversee the operations.

He will be joined by the DENR-MEOs, DENR-National Capital Region (NCR), Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) Central Office, EMB-NCR, and the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA).

“We will determine if these establishments have sufficient facilities to treat their wastewater and also guide them on how to comply with our environmental laws,” said Cuna.

Sampulna said the monitoring would focus on the improvement of the water quality as the DENR targets to make the Manila Bay swimmable by the end of President Duterte’s administration.



“This is President Duterte’s legacy. He has instructed us to rehabilitate Manila Bay as we did in Boracay,” Sampulna said.

Based on the data of the Manila Bay Coordinating Office, the fecal coliform level near the Manila Baywalk was down to 22,500 most probable number per 100 milliliters (MPN/mL) as of February 28, 2022, from 5.75 million MPN/100 mL in 2019.

Meanwhile, the fecal coliform level near the Manila Bay Dolomite Beach has dropped to 1,700 MPN/100 mL as of March 2022, from an average of 62,700 MPN/100 mL in 2019.

From January to December 2021, the DENR regional offices and LLDA have inspected 6,206 establishments that have been discharging wastewater into Manila Bay.

The DENR has so far issued 1,400 notices of violation, five cease-and-desist orders, and five ex-parte orders.



Sampulna Inspects Manila Baywalk, Dolomite Beach



Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna (center) leads the inspection of the Manila Bay Rehabilitation Projects and the Dolomite Beach on Friday, March 11 with Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs Atty. Jonas R. Leones (left) and Metropolitan Manila Development Authority District Operation Engineer Alex Mohammad (right). The rehabilitation resulted in cleaner waters and better air quality in the area. DENR will hold an intensified compliance monitoring of establishments along Roxas Boulevard, Manila in the third week of March as part of the cleanup efforts. Also in photo are **DENR** National Capital Region Executive Director Jacqueline Caancan and Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service Director Khalil Bayam (back, left and right).



DENR turns over Marikina River rehab project to DPWH

[Elizabeth Marcelo](#)



Joggers and cyclists enjoy the open air as they exercise along the riverbanks in Marikina City on Friday morning, Oct. 22, 2021.

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) recently turned over to the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) the Task Force Build Back Better’s Marikina River rehabilitation project to ensure its continuity after the Duterte administration.

Acting Environment Secretary Jim Sampulna said the move would mainstream the task force’s gains in the Marikina restoration project into the initiatives of the DPWH’s Unified Project Management Office-Flood Control Management Cluster.

“But the objective of the activity remains the same – to address the issue of perennial flooding in Marikina, Pasig and Quezon City,” Sampulna said, adding that the gains of the task force was proven by the “improved conditions in the Marikina and Pasig during intense rains last year.”

The transfer of implementation allows for the second segment of Phase 2 of the Marikina River Dredging Project to be adopted under Phase 4 of the DPWH’s Pasig-Marikina River Channel Improvement Project in partnership with the Japan International Cooperation Agency.

Phase 2 of the dredging consisted of two segments covering Barangays Santolan, Ugong and Caniogan in Pasig.

Sampulna said Segment 1, which started in July 2021, is almost complete with 30,420 cubic meters already dredged as of Nov. 2, 2021, resulting in the widening of the Marikina River on the side of Pasig by 12,840 square meters.

Phase 1 of the Marikina River restoration project was completed in July last year, or five months after it was launched in February.

The DENR said Phase 1 of the project resulted in the widening of the Marikina River by about 9,060 square meters after 41,625 cubic meters were dredged from three “chokepoints” along the Olandez sewage treatment plant, BF City and SM Marikina Riverbanks.



“This broadened the river to up to 100 meters and an additional depth of two meters,” Sampulna said.

Marikina Mayor Marcelino Teodoro commended the efforts of the DENR-led task force, saying that “great improvements in terms of reducing floods have been observed last year, especially in outlying areas along the river.”

Teodoro said the task force has also provided local officials with effective models for addressing the flooding problems in Marikina.

He said the Marikina City Council recently approved a resolution calling for the dredging of Marikina River by the local government instead of hiring contractors.

The city government has purchased new equipment and other dredging materials as a result of the lessons learned from the task force’s initiatives in the Marikina River, Teodoro said.



DENR beefs up NE agroforestry farms

Published 4 hours ago on March 15, 2022 03:30 AM

By **Jonas Reyes**



CARRANGLAN, Nueva Ecija — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) announced that it has completed the road extension project in Barangay Bunga-Dilaing Bato in cooperation with the Japan International Cooperation Agency.

The project aimed to improve the productivity of agroforestry farms here and according to DENR Central Luzon executive director Paquito Moreno it will also improve the livelihood of upland farmers in the area.

He also cited that the road extension is seen to provide communities there better accessibility and mobility to goods and services and noted that the agency will tap non-government organizations in providing protection for the 4,914-hectare reforested area of the Seguim Subwatershed.

“As an agroforestry support facility of our Forestland Management Project (FMP) in Pantabangan-Carranglan Watershed, this infrastructure project is seen as supplementary to the local government’s efforts to provide social services, boost the local economy and guarantee food security,” Moreno said.

The new road extension project is expected to augment other completed farm-to-market roads such as the Sitio Sinipit-Sitio Pamalyan in Barangay Conversion in Pantabangan and Dilaing Bato-Calo-Mambeja in Barangay R. A. Padilla in Carranglan.

“Apart from facilitating a greener path for our farmers and our environment, we want to help communities improve their vehicular and pedestrian mobility that lessen potential damage and transportation cost of agricultural products,” Moreno said.



Agroforestry road to boost productivity of upland farmers

IAN OCAMPO FLORA



UPLAND ROAD PROJECT. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources and Japan International Cooperation Agency complete the road extension project in Carranglan, Nueva Ecija. (DENR)

THE recently completed road extension project of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) is expected to improve the productivity of agroforestry farms and livelihood of upland farmers in Carranglan, Nueva Ecija.

Paquito Moreno, executive director of the DENR-Central Luzon, noted that the more than one-kilometer road extension in Barangay Bunga-Dilaing Bato would not only provide communities better accessibility and mobility to goods and services, but would also help partner people's organizations in protecting the 4,914-hectare reforested area of the Seguin Subwatershed.

"As an agroforestry support facility of our Forestland Management Project (FMP) in Pantabangan-Carranglan Watershed, this infrastructure project is seen as supplementary to the local government's efforts to provide social services, boost the local economy and guarantee food security," he said.

Moreno reported that this facility would be added to the completed access roads of Sitio Sinipit-Sitio Pamalyan in Barangay Conversion in Pantabangan and Dilaing Bato-Calo-Mambeja in Barangay R. A. Padilla in Carranglan which both connect farm areas to market towns.

"Apart from facilitating a greener path for our farmers and our environment, we want to help communities improve their vehicular and pedestrian mobility that lessen potential damage and transportation cost of agricultural products," Moreno said.

The opening of the road extension was strengthened with a memorandum of agreement (MOA) between the DENR and the Municipal Government of Carranglan, where the latter, in coordination with FMP Partner Peoples' Organization Tectona Grandis Promiseland Association Inc., would be responsible for maintaining and operating the completed subproject.

For his part, Barangay Bunga Captain Faustino Natividad expressed his gratitude for the benefit the project would bring to the community and vowed to help in its maintenance activities.



Launched in 2012, FMP is a 10-year reforestation project that aims to rehabilitate the Pantabangan-Carranglan Watershed, one of the biggest protected areas in Central Luzon, and to strengthen forestland management through the implementation of a collaborative community-based forest management strategy.

It integrates conservation and development-oriented activities with participation and capacity-building of local communities to rehabilitate degraded forestlands in three critical river basins, including Upper Magat and Cagayan in Cagayan Valley, Upper Pampanga in Central Luzon, and Jalaur in Iloilo.



DENR seizes illegally imported live reptiles at NAIA

by Faith Argosino



Law enforcement personnel of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) seized illegally imported bearded dragons and tegus at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA).

In a statement issued by the DENR-National Capital Region, it stated the seized items came from Bangkok, Thailand. Among them were two heads of bearded dragons, a green iguana, six heads of black and white tegus.

They arrived in a parcel at the Central Mail Exchange Center (CMEC) in Pasay City recently.

“The contents of the box were described as ‘commercial samples’ but upon opening, nine plastic containers with one live reptile each were found instead,” the DENR-NCR said in a statement issued on March 13.

The agency added that the importation of wildlife into the country requires a permit from the DENR for terrestrial plant and animal species or the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) of the Department of Agriculture for fishes, aquatic plants, invertebrates, and all marine mammals.

For temporary custody and care, confiscated reptiles were taken to the Regional Wildlife Rescue Center at the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center in Quezon City.

In an earlier statement, former DENR Sec. Roy A Cimatu reminded the public to follow legal measures regarding the purchase or transport of wildlife, citing the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2001 or Republic Act (RA) 9147.

He said that violators would pay a fine between P5,000 to P300,000 for trading wildlife. On the other hand, violators will face six months to one-year imprisonment or a fine from P50,000 to P100,000 for the mere transport of wildlife.



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P20-M bamboo processing hub to rise in Davao del Sur



TO PROVIDE more market-centered and environment-sensitive projects among farming communities in the Davao region, the Department of Agriculture (DA)-Davao has partnered with the Davao del Sur State College (DSSC) for the establishment of a P20-million bamboo processing facility in the province.

The said facility under the Upscaling of Bamboo Rural Enterprise and Development (Bread) Project of DA includes the establishment of a processing center for the production and commercialization of pressed bamboo or engineered bamboo that has high market demand as substitute for wood.

In an interview, DA-Davao Technical Director for Operations Dr. Marila Corpuz said that the project is part of the key strategies of DA to establish Agri Industrial Business Corridors (ABCs) and provide farmers access to resources, including state-of-the-art production technology, capital, and value-adding facilities.

“In partnership with DSSC, we will soon have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Local Government Units (LGUs) and farmer-growers for the establishment of bamboo plantation to ensure supply of bamboo varieties for processing such as Kawayang tinik, Giant bamboo, Bolo, Botong, and Bayog. Farmer-beneficiaries will receive free seedlings and fertilizers,” Corpuz said.

She added that the project, which will be operational in September this year, targets to organize 500 farmers into clusters with 20,000 hectares of consolidated bamboo farms.

DSSC on its part will also establish a two-hectare bamboo setum and nursery that will collect and showcase different varieties of bamboo and serve as a source of good quality planting material for field planting and distribution to interested growers.

The said facility will also serve as a venue for farmers and other stakeholders’ skills training on Good Agricultural Practices for Bamboo Production, seedling production and processing. The initial beneficiaries for the training on engineered bamboo are the 200 out-of-school youth from various municipalities in Davao del Sur.



“We thank our partners in the DSSC, the LGUs, DENR and other government line agencies for the full support in the implementation of this project and we hope this partnership will further be strengthened for the project to serve more farming communities,” said Corpuz. **(PR)**

2 resolutions protecting biodiversity areas in Davao City passed

IONA FINLAY C. MENDOZA



TWO resolutions from separate regulatory bodies were recently passed to protect the Makabol Forest, watersheds, and biodiversity areas in Davao City from destructive activities.

Interfacing Development Interventions for Sustainability (Idis), in a statement on March 14, commended passing of Local Zoning Review Committee (LZRC) Resolution 7 Series of 2022, or the “Resolution requesting members of the 19th City Council to Require the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to Secure Zoning Compatibility Certification for all Tree Cutting Permit Applications in Davao City” and Watershed Management Council (WMC) Resolution 2 Series of 2022, or the “Resolution Urging the DENR Region 11 to consider the provisions of the Watershed Code before the issuance of a permit for cutting or removing trees within the Watershed Areas.”

Idis said LZRC Resolution 7, passed on February 16, 2022, ensures that issuance of tree-cutting permits in areas requiring biodiversity protection will be avoided while WMC Resolution 2, passed on February 4, enumerates prohibited activities in Conservation areas and Agro-Forestry/Agricultural Non-Tillage areas.

Both resolutions intend to protect critical environmental and watershed areas in Davao City, particularly the Mounts Makabol-Alikoson Conservation Area (MMACA) in Barangay, Salaysay, Marilog District.

Idis Executive Director Mark Peñalver told SunStar Davao on Monday, March 14, that the resolutions reinforced the conservation status of MMACA as an environmentally critical area (ECA) LZRC and WMC.

According to a previous interview of Davao City Mayor Sara Duterte-Carpio, MMACA was declared as an ECA under Section 8 of the 2007 Watershed Code of Davao City.

“These resolutions acknowledge the importance of MMACA as an ancient nesting site of the Philippine Eagle and the source of drinking water of the community,” Peñalver said. “This means that the city is making a stand against private interest and for the general welfare.”



In addition, Duterte-Carpio also said during a radio interview on March 14 that she supports actions strengthening the environmental protocols in Davao City.

“Any moves na magpakusog sa atong pagprotekta sa mga watershed diri sa siyudad sa Davao (that will strengthen the protection of our watersheds) will always be welcome,” she said.

Moving forward, Idis and the Philippine Eagle Foundation are proposing the possible declaration of MMACCA as a critical habitat for the Philippine Eagle since it is also known to have century-old trees which are in danger of being cut down.



Philippines adopts UN resolution to end plastic pollution

By [Pia Lee-Brago](#)



The resolution starts the process to craft an agreement to end plastic pollution, addressing the full lifecycle of plastic products – from production, design to disposal. Endorsed by 175 nations last March 2 at the UNEA-5 in Nairobi in Kenya, it is based on three initial draft resolutions from various nations.

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines has joined other nations in adopting a historic resolution at the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5) to end plastic pollution and forge an international legally binding agreement by 2024.

The resolution starts the process to craft an agreement to end plastic pollution, addressing the full lifecycle of plastic products – from production, design to disposal. Endorsed by 175 nations last March 2 at the UNEA-5 in Nairobi in Kenya, it is based on three initial draft resolutions from various nations.

By the end of 2024, the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) it established is expected to have already completed its work of drafting the agreement.

The United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) will convene a forum by yearend, in conjunction with the first session of the INC, to share knowledge and best practices in different parts of the world. Once the INC work is completed, UNEP will convene a diplomatic conference to adopt its outcome and open it for signatures.

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

Plastic production soared from two million tons in 1950 to 348 million tons in 2017, becoming a global industry valued at \$522.6 billion and is expected to double in capacity by 2040.

Espen Barth Eide, UNEA-5 president and Norway’s climate and environment minister, said “plastic pollution has grown into an epidemic of its own.”

“Paradoxically, plastics are among the most long-lasting products we humans have made – and frequently, we still just throw it away,” he said, noting that the product can be used over and over again.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2022/03/14/2167060/philippines-adopts-un-resolution-end-plastic-pollution/amp/>



6.4-magnitude quake jolts Occidental Mindoro – Phivolcs

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

An offshore earthquake measuring magnitude 6.4 rocked Occidental Mindoro and nearby areas, including parts of Metro Manila, at around 5:05 a.m., Monday, March 14, according to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs).

Phivolcs said the epicenter of the earthquake was traced 110 kilometers (km) northwest of Lubang, Occidental Mindoro, and occurred at a shallow depth of 29 km.

It initially measured the quake at magnitude 5.7 but later revised it to magnitude 6.4.

Phivolcs said it was felt as a weak tremor at Intensity III in Quezon City, Taguig City, Mandaluyong City, and Makati City, while it was “slightly weak” at Intensity II in Talisay, Batangas.

Is instruments also recorded the quake at Intensity III in Calumpit, Bulacan; Guagua, Pampanga; Olongapo City; Carmona and Tagaytay City, Cavite; and Calapan, Oriental Mindoro.

It was also recored at Intensity II in Las Piñas City; Marikina City; Muntinlupa City; Quezon City; Pasig City; Baler, Aurora; City of Malolos, Marilao, Pandi, Plaridel, San Ildefonso, and San Rafael, Bulacan; Gapan City, and Palayan City in Nueva Ecija; Iba, Zambales; Batangas City and Talisay, Batangas; Dolores and Gumaca, Quezon; and Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro.

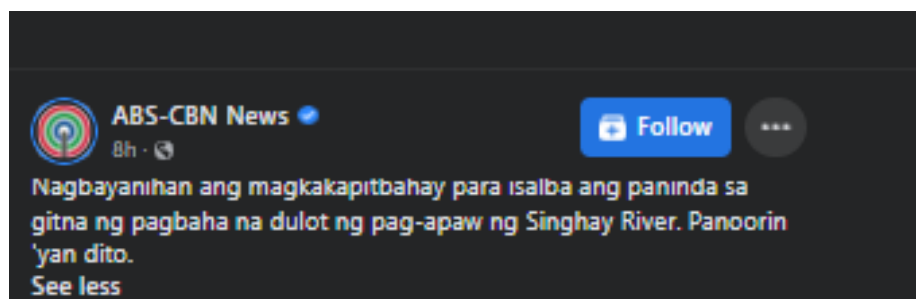
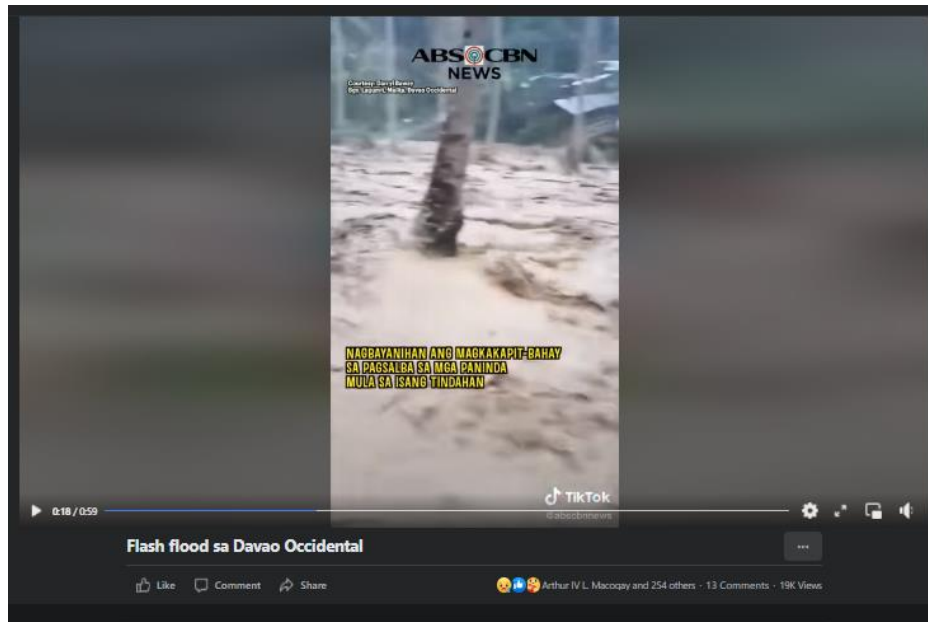
It was detected at Intensity I in Parañaque City; Pateros; Doña Remedios Trinidad, Bulacan; Cabanatuan City and San Jose City in Nueva Ecija; Magalang, Pampanga; Tarlac City, Tarlac; Los Baños, Laguna; Infanta, Lucban, Mauban, Mulanay and Polillo, Quezon; San Jose, Occidental Mindoro; Roxas, Oriental Mindoro; and Puerto Princesa City, Palawan.

Phivolcs said the earthquake was tectonic in origin, which means it was caused by the movement of an active fault near the area.

It does not expect damage but advised the public to stay vigilant as aftershocks may occur due to this earthquake.



Flash flood sa Davao Occidental





Tornado kills 1, destroys dozens of houses in Sulu

By Al Jacinto



This photo from the Sulu Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office show the destruction left behind by a tornado that swept through a remote coastal village on the island of Usadda in Pangutaran town. PHOTO BY SULU PROVINCIAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT OFFICE

ZAMBOANGA CITY: A tornado ravaged a coastal village in Sulu, killing one person and wounding two others.

At least 40 houses were destroyed, the provincial government said.

Governor Sakur Tan quickly dispatched several teams over the weekend to the remote island of Usadda in Pangutaran town to provide assistance to the victims and to assess the situation in the area.

Members of the relief teams from the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office led by its operations officer Farham Alfad distributed food and other items to those affected by the twister.

The family of the lone fatality also received P20,000 from Tan and the wounded P10,000 each, while P5,000 was given to each of the owners of the houses destroyed by the tornado.

The municipal government also provided relief assistance to the victims.



Caloocan at Cavite, patuloy na walang suplay ng tubig – Maynilad

ni [Lolet Abania](#)



File photo: PNA

Patuloy na makararanas ang mga kostumer ng Maynilad Water Services Inc. ng water service interruption dahil sa mabilis na pagkonsumo ng tubig at tinatawag na high turbidity level ng suplay nito

Sa interview ngayong Lunes kay Maynilad spokesperson Jennifer Rufo, sinabi nitong apektado ang mga residente sa Caloocan sa bahagi ng norte hanggang Cavite sa bahagi ng south, mula alas-10:00 ng gabi hanggang alas-6:00 ng umaga.

“Yes po. Tuloy-tuloy po siya. Bale pinipilit po nating gawing off-peak lang po ‘yung interruptions para bigyan po tayo ng pagkakataon na punuin ‘yung ating mga reservoir in time for peak demand the following day,” paliwanag ni Rufo.

Ayon kay Rufo, tumataas ang kinokonsumong tubig ngayon dahil sa mainit na panahon, habang ang tubig sa reservoirs ay mas madaling maubos kaysa karaniwan.

Aniya pa, sa southern part gaya ng Muntinlupa, ang suplay ng tubig mula sa Laguna Lake ay limitado na rin dahil sa spikes naman ng turbidity.

Gayunman, sinabi ni Rufo na nagsasagawa na ang Maynilad ng mga treatment facilities at naglalagay na rin ng mga deep wells para makadagdag ng suplay ng tubig sa kanilang mga kostumer.

Nitong Sabado, nag-anunsiyo ang Maynilad ng water service interruptions ng hanggang Marso 16, kung saan ayon kay Rufo, posibleng ma-extend pa ito.

Ang Maynilad ay nagseserbisyo sa mga kostumer na nasa mga lungsod ng Caloocan, Las Piñas, Makati, Malabon, Manila, Muntinlupa, Navotas, Parañaque, Pasay, Quezon, Valenzuela.

Gayundin, sa ilang lugar sa Cavite gaya ng mga lungsod ng Bacoor, Cavite, at Imus, at sa mga bayan ng Kawit, Noveleta at Rosario.



Editorial: Envi-friendly campaign

THE campaign for the 2022 National and Local Elections is in full swing.

Around Davao City, posters of politicians have been posted on walls, posts, and billboards, among others. Aside from posting campaign collaterals, politicians are also organizing their respective campaign rally and caravan.

However, following the trails of campaign rallies, caravans, and motorcades are trash of flyers, posters, tarpaulins, banners, water bottles, and food packaging, among others.

Interface Development Intervention for Sustainability (Idis) said in a recent statement that they are expecting more trash once the local campaign starts on March 25, 2022.

"Concerns over the environmental impact of elections are once again rising in the wake of elections, with rival election campaigns producing tons of trash," the group said.

It added "The single-use plastic waste generated during the campaign causes choking of drainage, ingestion by stray animals, land, and water pollution, thereby causing adverse impact on human health and the environment."

EcoWaste Coalition also reported that laboratory tests detected levels of cadmium above the European Union's limit in the tarpaulin posters of six presidential aspirants, namely: Vice President Leni Robredo, Senators Ping Lacson and Manny Pacquiao, former Senator Bongbong Marcos, Mayor Isko Moreno, and labor leader Leody de Guzman.

"Cadmium, which belongs to the World Health Organization's list of '10 chemicals of major public health concern,' is toxic at very low exposure levels mainly affecting kidneys and the skeleton. It is classified as a human carcinogen," EcoWaste said.

It is therefore quite odd to observe that despite all these years, we have not developed a system or practice of how we can campaign without creating so many trash or negatively affecting the environment.

Hopefully, as the campaign season continues in the next two months, our leaders and those running for different electoral posts will be more sensitive to the environment around them. Likewise, we hope supporters of the candidates will also be mindful with their trash. Aside from a safe and informed 2022 Elections, we hope that it will also be one that is environmentally friendly.



UN launches biodiversity talks on deal to protect nature



This picture shows dolphins off the coasts of Port-Leucate on March 3, 2022. AFP PHOTO

PARIS: UN biodiversity negotiations began in Geneva on Monday to hammer out a global deal to better protect nature that is due for approval later this year.

Almost 200 countries are due to adopt a global framework this year to safeguard nature by mid-century from the destruction wrought by humanity, with a key milestone of 30 percent protected by 2030.

"The world is clearly eager for urgent action to protect nature," said Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, in a press release.

"And we have no time to spare. Together we must ultimately deliver a truly historic agreement that puts us firmly on the path to living in harmony with nature."

Talks, which run from March 14 to 29, will set the stage for a crucial United Nations COP 15 biodiversity summit, initially due to be held in Kunming, China in 2020 and postponed several times because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The Geneva meeting will announce new dates for COP 15, which is currently slated for April to May but is expected to be delayed again.

According to several sources, the new dates envisaged are from the end of August to the beginning of September.

The CBD said the Geneva talks will play a crucial role in finalizing an "ambitious transformative post-2020 framework" to be approved at COP15.

A draft of the document outlines some 20 targets for 2030, including the high-profile ambition to protect at least 30 percent of the Earth's land and water habitats.

It also includes objectives on reducing the amount of fertilizers and pesticides discharged into the environment and cutting at least \$500 billion per year of harmful subsidies.

In 2019, a report by UN biodiversity experts said one million species could disappear in the coming decades, raising fears the world is entering a sixth era of mass extinction in the last half-billion years.



Countries have failed to meet almost all the biodiversity targets set in 2010.

And now climate change is a growing threat that could compound all of these problems.

Last month, the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warned that nine percent of all the world's species will likely be "at high risk" of extinction even if warming is capped at the ambitious Paris target of 1.5 degrees Celsius.



Robert Borje named Climate Change Commission vice chair

By Azer Parrocha



NEW VICE CHAIRPERSON. President Rodrigo Roa Duterte administers the oath of office of Secretary Robert E.A. Borje as the new vice chairperson and commissioner of the Climate Change Commission at the Malacañang Golf (Malago) Clubhouse in Malacañang Park, Manila on March 9, 2022. Borje will serve for a term of six years. *(Presidential photo by Ace Morandante)*

MANILA – President Rodrigo Roa Duterte has named Chief of Presidential Protocol and Presidential Assistant on Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Robert Borje as the new vice chairperson and commissioner of the Climate Change Commission.

Photos released by the Palace on Sunday show Duterte administering Borje's oath at the Malacañang Golf (Malago) Clubhouse in Malacañang Park.

He will serve for a term of six years.

In November 2021, Borje was conferred with the Gawad Mabini with the Rank of Dakilang Kamanong (Grand Cross) which is given to Filipinos who have rendered distinguished foreign service or helped promote the interests and prestige of the Philippines abroad.

Borje, a foreign service officer, previously served at the Philippine Embassy in Washington, D.C. and the Philippine Mission to the United Nations in New York.

Before his appointment as Chief of Presidential Protocol, he has been serving as Assistant Chief of Presidential Protocol since 2016.

Borje also worked at the Office of the President's Mindanao Economic Development Council, now the Mindanao Development Authority.

He was formerly a news desk editor and anchor for ABS-CBN Davao and live correspondent and producer for TV Patrol Manila and ABS-CBN News Channel. **(PNA)**

Climate action lags as Covid-19 hits goals in developing nations



Jamaicans walk near houses September 13, 2004, which were destroyed by Hurricane Ivan in Kingston. Image: REUTERS/ Daniel Aguilar DA

In Jamaica and Grenada, plans to cut emissions and adapt to climate change impacts have been delayed as the pandemic shrinks government budgets.

From higher shipping costs for solar panels to employee layoffs, a plethora of pandemic-related ills have hindered efforts to fight climate change in the Caribbean nation of Grenada. And it is not alone.

Across the world, [Covid-19](#) has hit economic growth and tax revenue, making it harder for governments - particularly in developing nations - to meet their targets on cutting carbon emissions and adapting to climate change.

“Covid has definitely had a negative impact,” said Trevor Thompson, Grenada’s acting chief agriculture officer and a member of the country’s National Climate Change Committee.

Even the lack of face-to-face meetings has contributed to the slowdown.

“Virtual meetings could only accomplish so much,” he said.

Scientists warn the world has less than a decade left to slash its still-rising emissions by nearly half, or the most ambitious goals of the Paris Agreement - aimed at keeping people and nature safe from accelerating warming - will be lost.

Similarly, the need to adapt to worsening climate impacts - from floods and sea level rise to droughts, storms and wildfires - is becoming urgent, scientists [warned](#) last month.

As the planet heats, “losses and damages increase and become increasingly difficult to avoid” and will be “strongly concentrated among the poorest vulnerable populations”, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) said.

But rising costs and shrinking budgets have hampered progress on Paris Agreement goals in many of the nations at highest risk from extreme weather and rising seas.

In Indonesia, the government budget for climate action fell 20 per cent in 2020 from the previous year, while Fiji cut climate funding by 40 per cent, according to the World Resources Institute (WRI), a research nonprofit.

Fiji’s reduction came even as tropical Cyclone Yasa slammed the Pacific island nation, causing some \$250 million in damages, WRI said.

'On the backburner'

Grenada aims to spend more than \$1 billion by 2035 to reach its climate goals, which include a 40 per cent reduction in its greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.

Implementation of these efforts has been delayed by up to a year due to the pandemic, with costs rising 35 per cent, Thompson said.

In nearby Jamaica, plans to procure electric buses, install solar panels at schools and plant 3 million trees have also been set back, as capital budgets shrank and pandemic restrictions kept people at home.

Jamaica is aiming for a 25 per cent reduction in emissions by 2030, but has not yet fully detailed the associated costs.

Matthew Samuda, a Jamaican minister for economic growth and job creation, who works on climate action, said the two-year pandemic had taken a toll on their climate efforts.

"All projects right across (the) public and private sector have been impacted," he said.

For many nations trying to meet their Paris targets, "the implementation timeframe now is a lot smaller", said Pablo Vieira of the NDC Partnership, a coalition that helps developing countries with their climate change plans.

Some nations updated their aims with more ambitious targets at last year's COP26 talks in Glasgow, giving them little time to fulfil them, particularly as the pandemic drags on, he said.

"(Economic) recovery might take another three, four or five years, which means climate action will most likely be put on the backburner," he said.

In addition to the slowdown in climate action, the declines in greenhouse gas emissions seen at the height of global lockdowns have disappeared as economies steadily rebound, climate analysts say.

Crippling

The latest synthesis report by the UN climate secretariat of countries' climate action plans - or "nationally determined contributions" (NDCs) - found most nations "have not reflected the potential impacts of the pandemic in their NDCs".

Across sub-Saharan Africa, rising debt associated with efforts to battle Covid-19 and economic slowdowns has been a brake on climate action.

In Africa, some countries are now spending up to 30 per cent of their income servicing debt, said Sejal Patel, an environmental economist with the London-based International Institute for Environment and Development.

"It can be crippling," she said, noting that the pandemic had also forced governments to hike spending on welfare, healthcare and education.

Samuda, of Jamaica, said his country was not alone in seeing the pandemic as at least a temporary dampener on its push for climate action.

"That disruption would obviously hurt any developing country, and Jamaica wasn't immune," he said.

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DENR

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DENR warns Manila Bay polluters

By **CORY MARTINEZ**

DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Acting Jim O. Sampulna has warned erring establishments that penalties will be imposed against them once verified that they are the sources of untreated wastewater and sewage discharging into Manila Bay.

Sampulna issued the warning following the discovery of more illegal discharges of wastewater that contributed to the contamination of the waters of Manila Bay, during an early inspection of the Manila Bay last Friday.

"I was informed that there are illegal drainage pipes leading to the Manila Bay and we want to find out where these are coming from so we can order the stoppage of the illegal discharges," Sampulna said.

"We will have a saturation drive. We will inspect all establishments so we can trace where the foul smell of Manila Bay is coming from. There are many secrets here in the Manila Bay waters," he said.

Sampulna also assured that an Intensified Compliance Monitoring (IMC) measure will be implemented to reinforce its water quality management, particularly on the tracking of sources of untreated wastewater and sewage discharging into Manila Bay.

The IMC will be conducted to ensure that establishments are compliant with environmental laws such as the Republic Act (RA) 9275 or Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004, RA 9003 or Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, and Presidential Decree 1586.

Sampulna said that Atty. Juan Miguel T. Cuna, DENR Undersecretary for Field Operations, Environment, and Supervising Undersecretary for Metropolitan Environmental Offices (MEOs) will oversee the IMC operations with cooperation with the DENR-MEOs, DENR-National Capital Region (NCR), Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) Central Office, EMB-NCR, and the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA).

"We will determine if

these establishments have sufficient facilities to treat their wastewater and also guide them on how to comply with our environmental laws," said Cuna.

Sampulna said the monitoring will focus on the improvement of the water quality as the DENR targets to make the Manila Bay swimmable by the end of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte's administration.



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DENR beefs up NE agroforestry farms

BY JONAS REYES

CARRANGLAN, Nueva Ecija – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) announced that it has completed the road extension project in Barangay Bunga-Dilaing Bato in cooperation with the Japan International Cooperation Agency.

The project aimed to improve the productivity of agroforestry farms here and according to DENR Central Luzon executive director Paquito Moreno it will also improve the livelihood of upland farmers in the area.

He also cited that the road extension is seen to provide communities there better accessibility and mobility to goods and services and noted that the agency will tap non-government organizations in providing protection for the 4,914-hectare reforested area of the Seguin Subwatershed.

“As an agroforestry support facility of our Forestland Management Project (FMP) in Pantabangan-Carranglan Watershed, this infrastructure project is seen as supplementary to the local government’s efforts to provide social services, boost the local economy and guarantee food security,” Moreno said.

The new road extension project is expected to augment other completed farm-to-market roads such as the Sitio Sinipit-Sitio Pamalyan in Barangay Conversion in Pantabangan and Dilaing Bato-Calo-Mambeja in Barangay R. A. Padilla in Carranglan.

“Apart from facilitating a greener path for our farmers and our environment, we want to help communities improve their vehicular and pedestrian mobility that lessen potential damage and transportation cost of agricultural products,” Moreno said.



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Bamboo processing hub to rise in Davao

DAVAO CITY: The Department of Agriculture (DA) in Region 11 (Davao Region) entered into an agreement with the Davao del Sur State College (DSSC) for the construction of a P20-million bamboo processing facility in the province.

The processing facility will provide more market-centered and environment-sensitive projects among farming communities in Davao region.

The facility under the DA's Upscaling of Bamboo Rural Enterprise and Development Project includes the establishment of a processing center for the production and commercialization of pressed bamboo or engineered bamboo that has high market demand as a substitute for wood.

Dr. Marila Corpuz, DA 11 technical director for operations, said that the project is part of the key strategies of the agency to establish agri-industrial business corridors and provide farmers access to resources, including state-of-the-art production technology, capital, and value-adding facilities.

"In partnership with DSSC, we will soon have a Memorandum of Understanding with the local government units (LGUs) and farmer-growers for the establishment of bamboo plantation to ensure supply of bamboo varieties for processing such as kawayang tinik, giant bamboo, bolo, botong, and bayog. Farmer-beneficiaries will receive free seedlings and fertilizers," Corpuz said.

The project will be operational in September this year, which aims to organize 500 farmers into clusters with 20,000 hectares of consolidated bamboo farms.

DSSC, for its part will also establish a two-hectare bamboo nursery that will collect and showcase different varieties of bamboo and serve as a source of good quality material for field planting and distribution to interested growers.

The said facility will also serve as a venue for farmers and other stakeholders' skills training on good agricultural practices for bamboo production, seedling production and processing.

The initial beneficiaries for the training on engineered bamboo are the 200 out-of-school youth from various municipalities in Davao del Sur.

"We thank our partners in the DSSC, the LGUs, DENR and other government line agencies for their full support in the implementation of this project," she said.

She said she hopes that the partnership will further be strengthened for the project to serve more farming communities," Corpuz said.

RUTH PALO



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PROBINSYA

Mga nilagareng narra nasamsam sa Cagayan

Aabot sa P100,000 halaga ng mga nilagareng kahoy ng narra ang sinamsam ng mga awtoridad matapos na madiskubreng inabandona sa loob ng isang sementeryo sa Brgy. Cato,

Tuao, Cagayan.

Ayon kay Lt. Jennifer Calauad ng Tuao Police Station, unang may tumawag sa kanilang opisina na isang concerned citizen at ini-report ang nakitang mga nilagarehong narra

sa loob ng sementeryo sa Brgy. Cato.

Rumesponde ang mga pulis at dinatnan nga ang nasa 45 piraso o 1,139 board feet ng mga tinistis na narra.

Hindi pa batid kung kanino ang mga inabandonang kahoy na ilegal na pinutol at tinistis. Dinala ang mga ito sa Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office ng Cagayan. **(Allan Bergonia)**



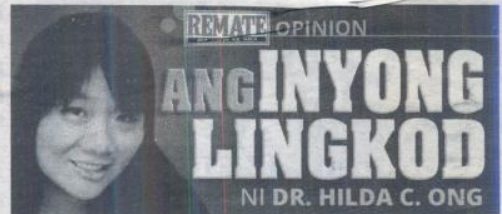
SINISIGURO NG NWRB AT MANILA WATER ANG PAGHAHATID NG MAAASAHANG SUPLAY NG TUBIG

SA pagpasok ng tag-init at sa kabila ng higit-kumulang 17.89 metrong baba ng lebel ng tubig sa Angat Dam kumpara sa normal na operating level nito na 212-metro, patuloy na-sinisiguro ng Manila Water na ang supply ng tubig para sa mga custo-mer ay manatiling sapat at tuloy-tuloy.

Ito ay dahil naikasa na ng Manila Water ang ilang programa ukol sa water supply contingency at augmentation, sa malapit na pakikipag-ugnayan at pakikipagtulungan sa Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) at National Water Resources Board (NWRB).

Kabilang dito ang pagmaximize ng 100 million-liter-per-day (MLD) kapasidad ng Cardona Water Treatment Plant, na kumukuha ng tubig mula sa Laguna Lake; pagpapagana ng mga deepwells na makapagdaragdag ng hanggang 115 MLD; at pagpapagana ng Marikina Portable Water Treatment Plant na maaaring makapaglinis ng tubig mula sa Marikina River upang makadagdag ng hanggang 20 MLD sa supply.

Bukod dito, ilang adjustment din sa operasyon ang isagawa ng kumpanya gaya ng 'backwash recovery' o paglilinis muli ng 'wastewater byproduct' ng proseso ng water treatment, maging ang



REMATE OPINION

ANG INYONG LINGKOD

NI DR. HILDA C. ONG

pag-a-adjust ng pressure ng tubig sa kabuuan ng East Zone kung kinaka-ilangan. Maaaring kumuha ng karagdagan ng tubig para sa La Mesa Reservoir mula sa kalapit na Alat Dam.

Bagama't itong mga programa sa supply augmentation ay sinisimulan na, patuloy pa rin ang panawagan ng Manila Water tungo sa responsableng paggamit ng tubig, bilang suporta sa natu-rang programa ng NWRB at MWSS.

Habang nagtutulungan ang pamahalaan at ang kunsesyunaryo upang makapagbi-

gay ng tuloy-tuloy na supply ng tubig, hinihikayat naman ang publiko na maging matatino at responsable sa paggamit ng tubig upang maiwasan na masayang ito.

Base sa ulat ng MWSS, ang antas ng tubig sa Angat Dam ay nasa 194.11 metro sa araw ng Marso 14, 2022, (8:00am), bahagyang bumaba ang water level sa Angat dam, sa Ipo Dam nasa 98.77 mtrs, mas mababa sa maintaining level na 101 meters at sa La Mesa Dam nasa 78.37 mas mababa rin sa maintai-ning level na 80.15 meters.



Gov't tightens monitoring of online selling, issues consolidated rules

By Othel V. Campos

THE government has further tightened the monitoring of trade and commerce in online shopping channels with the issuance of Joint Administrative Order

22-01, consolidating all existing rules and guidelines on online businesses.

The JAO was the result of concerted efforts among the Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Health, Department of Agriculture, Department of En-

vironment and Natural Resources, Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines, and National Privacy Commission.

In response to the proliferation of prohibited and regulated products sold on marketplace platforms and social

media marketplaces, these government agencies issued the JAO to caution merchants selling on Facebook/Meta, Instagram, Viber, Lazada, Shopee, Carousell, and other marketplace platforms

against the sale of unlicensed, restricted, or prohibited products.

Under the order, government agencies shall develop a system to exchange intelligence or information on prohibited and regulated items monitored online, including automatic sharing of information with the appropriate regulatory agency on possible violations detected or discovered.

This may include the sharing of and access to a database of products/items containing sufficient information, keywords, and content.

“Institutionalizing this exchange of information between government agencies is one of the ways by which we can make monitoring of compliance by online sellers more efficient. The DTI e-commerce division shall be tasked to coordinate with both the marketplace platforms and government agencies in setting up this mechanism,” said Trade Secretary Ramon Lopez.

Online businesses are covered by the Consumer Act of the Philippines, the Philippine Standards Law that provides liabilities in case of defective products, or the Intellectual Property Code for counterfeit and pirated goods.

Online sellers need to comply with product and service warranties, labeling require-

ments including price tag placement.

The DTI warns that the practice of providing prices through private (or direct) messages to consumers or buyers is considered a violation of the Price Tag law.

Online merchants must exhibit the corresponding permit or license number for regulated items as prescribed by regulatory agencies concerned. Online businesses are not allowed to produce, import, distribute, market, sell or transport goods that are prohibited by law.

DTI Undersecretary for Consumer Protection Group Ruth Castelo reminded online merchants to comply with the provisions of the Consumer Act and the Price Act.



Mamba pushes for environment agenda

TUGUEGARAO CITY: A vice gubernatorial candidate is pushing for the "I Love Cagayan River Movement" as one of his platforms in the 2022 local elections.

Francisco Mamba 3rd, nephew of the incumbent Gov. Manuel Mamba, said that through environmental protection, the Cagayan Development Agenda (Caganda) 2025 and the reopening of the port of Aparri will boost the economy of the province.

"The I Love Cagayan River Movement aims to clean and dredge the mighty Cagayan river, which is heavily silted causing floods to low-lying areas," the 25-year-old Mamba said.

When Typhoon "Ulysses" hit the province of Cagayan, thousands of families were affected and millions of pesos worth of infrastructures were damaged. The province also lost billions of pesos in agriculture due to the swelling of the river.

The young Mamba said sustainable movement was launched to mitigate the flooding issue and stabilize the soil in the river banks.

"We started planting bamboo because according to science, it strengthens the soil and mitigates soil erosion, which may result in siltation of the river," he said.

One of his main agenda for Cagayan is for the province to get back in the international trading are-

na, especially with the neighboring countries in Asia.

China is just two days away from Aparri by sea, he said.

The vice gubernatorial candidate said that because of the heavy siltation and the shallow waters, vessels or ships can't barge in or dock in the port.

"As of now, the Cagayan dream to reopen the port is about to be reached. The dredging operation which also provides revenue for the province created a path for the dream to come true," he said.

Moreover, the young visionary leader explained that the reopening of the port is research-driven and will be profitable for Cagayan.

"The Cagayano dream is to be also part of the international arena, the international trade and a highlighted heritage, which will generate profit for the development of our lands. We need honest leaders who have potential to continue the dream. I see so much potential here, but we need collaborative leadership to be able to execute these plans," Mamba said in an interview with *The Manila Times*.

The young candidate has a degree in Public Administration and is currently studying law. He is an athlete who is a vocal environmental advocate.

JERICO JOSHUA M. KAHULUGAN



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PPP water treatment plant launched in Puerto Princesa

THE local government of Puerto Princesa in Palawan has launched the commercial operations of a facility that treats both septage and sewage water.

Constructed through public-private partnership, the Puerto Princesa innovative economical septage and sewage treatment plant (PPieSSTP) is capable of treating as much as 2 million liters of sewage waste and 70 liters of septage waste daily.

The facility, located at the Baywalk in Barangay Tagumpay, is operated by the Puerto Princesa Water Reclamation and Learning Center Inc. (PP-WRLC), together with the city government of Puerto Princesa and Faith Lived Out Visions 2 Ventures Holdings Inc. (FLOV2VS) in cooperation with the Puerto Princesa City Water District.

FLOV2VS is a joint venture of JCA 1221 Holdings Inc. and Vivant Hydrocore Holdings Inc.

“Puerto Princesa Bay is in the heart of the city and it can be an asset or it can be a liability. If we do not treat the city’s wastewater before it is discharged into the bay, nature will be unable to clean it and if that happens, Puerto Princesa will lose something big. But if we ensure that the bay remains pristine, it will become an asset, especially for tourism,” said Lucilo Bayron, Puerto Princesa City mayor.

Jehremiah Asis, PPWRLC president, said the facility ensures that septage and sewage wastewater discharged into the bay is fit for re-use in firefighting, watering plants and other non-potable applications after treatment.

Asis said PPieSSTP is designed to capture and treat the top three largest domestic outfalls of the city into Puerto Princesa Bay, with its capacity open for possible expansion in the future.

Asis added the facility supports climate change adaptation strategies to address water security especially as part of its energy demand is supplied by solar energy. Also, the entire complex is envisioned to become a knowledge center to showcase the long-term value of wastewater treatment.

Jess Anthony Garcia, Vivant Hydrocore president and chief executive officer, said the facility also ensures sustainable livelihood of the fisherfolk and other sectors by making wastewater in the area compliant with the environmental standards. —
Jed Macapagal



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BIKE CARAVAN PARA SA ECO-FRIENDLY CAMPAIGN

UMABOT sa 87 samahan ng mga siklista ang lumahok sa bike caravan sa 14 na lungsod at bayan sa buong bansa para sa eco-friendly campaign.

Kabilang sa mga lumahok ang Maynila, Marikina, Vigan, Baguio, Urduyog, Legazpi, Cebu, Bacolod, Ormoc, General Santos, Cagayan de Oro, Zamboanga, Camarines Sur at Iloilo.

Ayon kay Albay Board

Member at Association of Barangay Councils Albay Chapter President Joseph Philip 'JP' Lee, karapat-dapat suportahan ang naganap na mga bike caravan at ang adbokasiya ni dating House Speaker Alan Peter Cayetano para sa eco-friendly na pangangampanya. Inilunsad ang bike caravan bilang tugon sa isinusulong na isang eco-friendly campaign.

(Mylene Alfonso)



Our broken relationship with nature

COMMENTARY

ANGELA CONSUELO IBAY

Every act has an impact. Every action has a reaction. And every decision leads to a destination. Earth Hour 2022 comes amid the hectic campaign season of the elections; where Filipinos will make the important decision of selecting the next leaders of the country. They must choose who they think will use their power to take care of the Philippines' environment and biodiversity, push for climate justice and a renewable energy future, and champion a people-centered sustainable development.

The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)'s newest report warns that there is something wrong with how humans live on Earth—using and consuming resources, producing emissions, and altering ecosystems—that needs to be fixed. Ignoring the adverse effects of these actions and continuing with business-as-usual will lead to undesirable consequences for both people and the planet.

Like several earlier reports, the IPCC findings show a world in danger because of climate change, compounded by the pressures of human activity. Though current adaptation actions have made a difference, these are still insufficient. Ecosystems have already been transformed; the pollution and destruction happening in nature continue at a pace that will lead to "irreversible impacts" on nature and human civilization.

The report emphasizes that it is increasingly difficult to tackle climate change as the multiplicity of hazards, risks, and impacts become

ever more complex and hard to manage. Typhoons are already a way of life for Filipinos, but they will come with greater intensity as the warming continues. With every incremental increase in global temperatures, more adaptation investments must be made urgently and rapidly as the window to prevent irreversible damages to the planet is becoming narrower every passing year. Curbing carbon emissions is still essential if we are to keep below the 1.5 degrees Celsius temperature threshold.

The most significant sources of carbon emissions globally are in developed countries, but we also have polluters in our own backyard. In a 2021 study by Ocean Cleanup, several Philippine rivers were among the top 50 rivers in the world that carry pollution into the open ocean. Fossil fuel plants are still operating and in the pipeline. Other environmental issues we face include destructive mining, deforestation, illegal wildlife trade, improper waste management, marine habitat degradation, and air pollution.

The country's next leaders should understand the science of climate change and its link to nature and have the strong will to implement mitigation and adaptation measures to ensure we have a chance at a climate-resilient future.

Let's stop the outdated notion that we should not mix the environment with politics. The reality is that the government regulates the use of our natural resources. Our next leaders must set and effectively implement policies that favor conserving the environment instead of exploiting it for profits. We need to speak out about environmental issues, asking those in government positions, current and future, what are your plans, and how will you do it?

Based on the way things are going now, we clearly have a broken relationship with nature. We exploit it for the sake of greed and do not think that what we do to nature comes back to us. Fortunately, we can still mend that relationship, learning from hard lessons and painful experiences, by bringing together our individual and collective actions to address climate change and nature loss as we adapt to a climate-defined future.

In celebrating Earth Hour 2022 on the last Saturday of March, WWF continues to push for everyone to decide to choose nature. The right decision to #ShapeOurFuture begins with switching off for Earth Hour and voting for nature in the elections. This decision matters as Filipinos should choose the next leaders who will put nature first so that our future destination is a clean, safe, and healthy environment for all living things.

Angela Consuelo Ibay is head of the Climate and Energy Programme of the World Wide Fund for Nature-Philippines.



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Department of Environment and Natural Resources
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU
 DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City 1116
 Tel. Nos. (632) 927-1517; 928-3725; Fax No. (632) 920-2258
 Website: www.emb.gov.ph; E-mail: recordsco@emb.gov.ph

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On the **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS)** of the proposed **QUARRY AND CEMENT PLANT OPERATION PROJECT** of the **SOUTH WESTERN CEMENT CORPORATION** to be located in **BARANGAY LO-OC, MALABUYOC, CEBU**.

Notice is hereby given to all parties who wish to give their opinion regarding the implementation of the proposed **QUARRY AND CEMENT PLANT OPERATIONS PROJECT** to attend the Public Hearing scheduled on:

Date	Time	Venue
23 March 2022 (Wednesday)	9:00 AM – 12:00 NN <i>Registration starts at 8:00 AM</i>	Barangay Lo-oc Basketball Court

The Public Hearing is being conducted in connection with the review of the EIS of the aforementioned project by the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The following is the project information:

Project Name	Quarry and Cement Plant Operation Project
Project Location	Barangay Lo-oc, Malabuyoc, Cebu
Project Type/ Capacity	Resource Extractive (6.0 MMTPY for Limestone Quarry, 5.0 MMTPY for Cement Plant)
Proponent	South Western Cement Corporation

All interested parties who wish to attend or participate in this Public Hearing should preferably confirm their attendance/participation and may give their opinion(s) in a concise position paper to the **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION (EIAMD)** of this Office through e-mail at eta@emb.gov.ph, three (3) days before the Public Hearing schedule. Those who will not be able to register or submit written positions may be given the opportunity to share their issues on the day of the hearing itself.

The project's EIS and Executive Summary for the Public are downloadable on our website: (*kindly access the Notice of Public Hearing/Consultation link found in our website*) while copies will be available in the following offices:

- **EMB Region VII**
DENR Compound, Greenplains Subdivision, Banilad, Mandaue City
- **Malabuyoc Municipal Hall**
Municipality of Malabuyoc, Province of Cebu

For more details, please contact the EIAMD Division at this Office at telephone number 8539-4378 loc. 116 and look for the project case handlers **Engr. Dexter Tabada** and **Ms. Joena-Marie Pagulayan**.

(PDI – March 8 & 15, 2022)

15 MARCH 2022, TUESDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



4,131 COVID-19 cases naitala sa nakalipas na linggo

[Danilo Garcia](#) - Pang-masa March 15, 2022 | 12:00am



Filipinos queue for RT-PCR swab tests at the Rizal Memorial Stadium in Manila on Tuesday, Jan. 4, 2022 as the Philippines records a sharp increase in new COVID-19 cases.

The STAR / Michael Varcas

MANILA, Philippines — Ayon sa Department of Health (DOH) na mula Marso 7 hanggang Marso 13, 2022, ay nasa 4,131 na bagong kaso ng COVID-19 ang naitala sa bansa.

Ang average na bilang ng bagong kaso kada araw ngayong linggo ay nasa 590, mas mababa ng 35% kung ikukumpara sa mga kaso noong Pebrero 28 hanggang Marso 6.

Sa mga bagong kaso, 3 o 0.07% ang kasalukuyang may malubha at kritikal na karamdaman. Samantala, mayroon namang naitalang 591 na pumanaw at sa bilang na ito ay 115 ang naganap sa buwan ng Marso.

Noong ika-13 ng Marso, mayroong 1,006 na malubha at kritikal na pasyente na naka-admit sa mga ospital.

Sa 3,598 ICU beds para sa mga pasyenteng may COVID-19, 704 (19.6%) ang okupado. Habang 17.2% ng 27,021 non-ICU COVID-19 beds naman ang kasalukuyan ding ginagamit.



PH logs 1K severe Covid-19 cases, 591 deaths in past week

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor **March 14, 2022, 5:07 pm**



MANILA – The Department of Health (DOH) on Monday reported 4,131 new cases of the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) for the recent week.

In its latest case bulletin, the DOH noted that the figures cover the period of February 28 to March 6 with a daily average cases of 590 or 35 percent lower than the new infections reported prior to the week in review.

For the same period, three were severe and critical cases which brought the total cases admitted in hospitals to 1,006.

Only 19.6 percent or 704 out of the 3,598 intensive care unit (ICU) beds in the country are used while 17.2 percent of 4,648 non-ICU beds are utilized.

Meantime, there were 591 verified deaths recorded during the past week.

About 71.71 percent of the country's target population has been vaccinated against Covid-19.

The DOH also reported 74.87 percent of the senior citizens have been inoculated against the disease.

The elderly group is composed of 8,721,357 individuals while the country's target population for inoculation is 80 percent (90,005,357 individuals) of the country's entire population.

As of March 13, DOH data showed 64,540,840 individuals are fully vaccinated while 11,160,537 people have received their booster shots. **(PNA)**

15 MARCH 2022, TUESDAY



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#ManilaBayUpdate #DolomiteBeach #BattleForManilaBay

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