

21 MARCH 2022, MONDAY



NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Biodiversity park soon to be developed in QC

Published March 20, 2022, 9:53 AM
by [Aaron Recuenco](#)

An eco-friendly and urban biodiversity park is set to be constructed in Quezon City following the memorandum of agreement signed by the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) with the Quezon City government and the Metro Pacific Investments Corporation (MPIC).

Acting DENR Secretary Jim O. Sampulna said the proposed Gabay Kalikasan Park will be developed in New Manila in Quezon City and will serve as a pilot-test of the “adopt-a-city” approach in implementing the Urban Biodiversity Program (UBP) which is aimed at encouraging the business sector’s support in creating green urban communities at the city and barangay or village level.

“While our focus is largely directed at managing natural ecosystems through the establishment of protected areas, we also need to address the importance of enhancing our urban ecosystems to be able to provide a quality and livable environment for urban dwellers,” Sampulna said.

Sampulna said the park also seeks to increase awareness, understanding, and appreciation of local communities and other stakeholders on the importance of urban biodiversity and green spaces, and encourage individual actions on urban greening.

Natividad Y. Bernardino, director of the DENR-Biodiversity and Management Bureau, said Filipinos can visualize the city landscape with living rivers, streams, lakes, coastal areas, swamps, urban forest parks, and green highways for wildlife through the DENR’s Urban Biodiversity Program.

“Let us anticipate with enthusiasm the full-bodied implementation of the [UBP] as the DENR and the Department of the Interior and Local Government firm up a new policy on urban biodiversity as part of the Seal of Good Local Governance,” Bernardino said.

Implemented in 2017, the UBP aims to promote the conservation of biodiversity, develop and maintain green spaces within cities to provide benefits through ecosystem services to Filipinos.

Sampulna envisions an increase in the proportion of green spaces in the country’s five largest cities—Quezon City, Cebu, Davao, Caloocan, and Manila—by at least 5 percent under the Philippine Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan for 2015-2028.



DENR, Quezon City government ink deal for biodiversity park

[Elizabeth Marcelo](#) - The Philippine Star March 21, 2022 | 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has signed a memorandum of agreement with the Quezon City government for the development of an urban biodiversity park in New Manila.

“While our focus is largely directed at managing natural ecosystems through the establishment of protected areas, we also need to address the importance of enhancing urban ecosystems to be able to provide a quality and livable environment for city dwellers,” Environment Secretary Jim Sampulna said in a statement.

Real estate developer Metro Pacific Investments Corp. (MPIC) also signed the agreement.

Under the agreement, the local government of Quezon City and MPIC will be partners of the DENR in implementing the Urban Biodiversity Program (UBP) for the development and sustainable management of Madison Park, which will be known as Gabay Kalikasan Park, in New Manila.

The DENR said the project would serve as the pilot test of its “adopt-a-city” approach in implementing the UBP to encourage the business sector’s support in creating green urban communities in cities and barangays.

The department said the UBP, with the tagline “Building a biodiversity, friendly environment in Metro Manila,” also seeks to “increase awareness, understanding and appreciation of communities and other stakeholders on the importance of urban biodiversity and green spaces, and encourage individual actions on urban greening.”

DENR Biodiversity Management Bureau director Natividad Bernardino said the department’s vision for the UBP is to transform the city’s landscape with “rivers, streams, lakes, coastal areas, swamps, urban forest parks and green highways for wildlife.”

Implemented in 2017, the UBP aims to promote the conservation of biodiversity as well as develop and maintain green spaces within cities, which in turn can provide benefits to the public through ecosystem services.

Sampulna said the DENR envisions an increase in the proportion of green spaces in the country’s five largest cities – Quezon City, Caloocan, Manila, Cebu and Davao – by at least five percent under the Philippine Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan.



Biodiversity park to rise in Quezon City

March 20, 2022 | 7:16 pm



BMB.GOV.PH

THE DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has signed a memorandum of agreement with the Quezon City government and Metro Pacific Investments Corp. (MPIC) for the development of an urban biodiversity park in New Manila, Quezon City.

“While our focus is largely directed at managing natural ecosystems through the establishment of protected areas, we also need to address the importance of enhancing our urban ecosystems to be able to provide a quality and livable environment for urban dwellers,” DENR Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna said in a statement.

The project will develop and sustainably manage Madison Park, which will be renamed Gabay Kalikasan Park.

It also intends to “encourage the business sector’s support in creating green urban communities at the city and *barangay* or village level.”

The park is under the DENR’s Urban Biodiversity Program, which seeks to promote urban biodiversity and green spaces, ensure ecological integrity and clean and healthy environment.

The DENR aims to increase green spaces by 2028 in the highly-urbanized cities of Quezon, Caloocan and Manila in the capital region, Cebu in central Philippines, and Davao in the southern island of Mindanao. — **Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson**



DENR, QC sign deal for urban biodiversity park dev't

March 20, 2022, 4:44 pm



MANILA – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), through the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) and DENR-National Capital Region, has signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with the Quezon City government and Metro Pacific Investments Corporation (MPIC) for the development of an urban biodiversity park in Quezon City.

The DENR and its partners agreed to implement the “Building a Biodiversity-Friendly Environment in Metro Manila” project under the Urban Biodiversity Program (UBP) to develop and sustainably manage Madison Park, which will be known as Gabay Kalikasan Park, in New Manila, Quezon City.

Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna on Sunday underscored the DENR’s role in realizing plans to “ensure ecological integrity and clean and healthy environment, which includes sustained biodiversity and ecosystem services.”

“While our focus is largely directed at managing natural ecosystems through the establishment of protected areas, we also need to address the importance of enhancing our urban ecosystems to be able to provide a quality and livable environment for urban dwellers,” Sampulna said in a statement.

The project aims to pilot-test the “adopt-a-city” approach in implementing the UBP to encourage the business sector’s support in creating green urban communities at the city and barangay or village level.

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“Let us anticipate with enthusiasm the full-bodied implementation of the [UBP] as the DENR and the Department of the Interior and Local Government firm up a new policy on urban biodiversity as part of the Seal of Good Local Governance,” Bernardino said.



Implemented in 2017, the UBP aims to promote the conservation of biodiversity, develop and maintain green spaces within cities to provide benefits through ecosystem services to Filipinos.

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Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2020/09/03/denr-hit-for-planning-to-fill-manila-baywalk-with-white-sand/>



DENR pushes for new global plastics resolution in UN environment forum

Published on: March 20, 2022

By DENR

QUEZON CITY -- The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) pushed for a new resolution on a legally-binding global agreement to address plastic pollution during the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA 5.2) held from February 28 to March 2.

The legally-binding agreement on plastic pollution aims to reduce its discharge into the environment by covering all stages of its life cycle and by adopting a circular economy approach related to its design, production, use, and disposal.

However, DENR's Climate Change Service chief of Climate Change Information and Technical Support Division Albert Magalang, who led the Philippine delegation in the negotiations on the plastic treaty at the UNEA 5.2, stressed that the "global agreement should consider national capabilities and circumstances."

The agreement would also tackle plastic pollution from preventive measures in the upstream part of the lifecycle, to the downstream addressing waste management to prevent plastic pollution in the marine and other environments.

The new resolution would also support the goals outlined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people.

Hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), UNEA is the global authority for the environment with programs focusing on climate, nature, pollution, and sustainable development.

In addition to UNEA 5.2, UNEP is also celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, which is considered a historic milestone for the global environmental community.

In celebration of the anniversary of UNEP, DENR Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna underscored the importance of immediacy in promulgating policies and forging agreements for the environment.

"We realize how fast time flies and fast disappearing are the opportunities for doing the maximum good for this planet and our very existence as species. The environmental repercussions we are experiencing are all traceable to us humans such as climate change that intensifies hazards creating disasters worldwide," Sampulna said.

The new DENR chief noted that environmental repercussions can be solved through the delivery of means of implementation to developing countries like the Philippines in areas such as finance, technology, and capacity building.

According to Sampulna, these environmental repercussions include the "massive disappearance of our support system like natural resources and their biodiversity, the massive choking of our oceans because of plastics, the rise of zoonotic diseases like COVID-19, and the deterioration of our health from chemical and wastes."

He also strongly advocated for the prevention and reduction of residual impacts to become the unifying standard of the collective work of member-states. (DENR)

Source: <https://pia.gov.ph/press-releases/2022/03/20/denr-pushes-for-new-global-plastics-resolution-in-un-environment-forum>



Wetlands: For people, planet, and the future



GEORGE M. DE LA CRUZ March 20, 2022

IN FEBRUARY 2022, the world has just celebrated the first World Wetlands Day to spark vigilance about wetlands, following its adoption by the United Nations General Assembly on 30 August 2021.

The global celebration is part of the anniversary of the Convention on Wetlands, which was adopted as an international treaty in 1971.

Unknown to many, wetlands support vegetation in harmony with habitation of natural species necessary for life's survival, which is a critical aspect in the whole cycle of the food chain.

About 70 percent of the endangered species depend on wetlands to survive like bugs, frogs and salamanders, fish, birds, snakes and turtles, and mammals like mice, Wetlands provide them with the space they need to live and get food.

However, the fast-growing population threatens biodiversity and livelihood, especially of local communities.

The surge in the population is directly proportional to the spiraling industrial and human-related activities resulting in pollution, contamination both in the soil and water brought about by coliform bacteria or toxic and non-toxic pollutants from industrial waste like the sugar central, factories, laboratories, hospitals.

Obviously, this has caused damage to the estuaries and wetlands, of course, including illegal fishing or overfishing of local communities in the coastal areas.

Experts opined wetlands are lost three times faster than forests, which calls for the world leaders to act as an urgent concern to reverse the rapid loss of wetlands and encourage actions to conserve and restore them.

Wetlands are critically important ecosystems that contribute to biodiversity, climate mitigation and adaptation, freshwater availability, and world economies.

In the case of Negros Occidental, it has at least 90,000 hectares of 109 kilometers of adjoining coastlines covering 52 coastal barangays within three cities and seven municipalities and these areas became the source of livelihood of the residents.

These wetlands are a haven for at least 73 species of water birds, angel wings shells, green mussels, crabs, shrimps, oysters, and mangroves.



These rich and bio-diverse coastal resources obviously had contributed to the economic spurt in the said coastal localities.

The province having showcased such bio-diverse potentials has placed the island as the Philippines' 7th Ramsar site, which environment officials seen to tourism industry.

The citation emphasizes the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands primarily as habitat for wildlife and as source of livelihood for the people.

In the country, the six other Ramsar sites are in Olango Island Wildlife Sanctuary in Cebu, Naujan Lake in Oriental Mindoro, Agusan Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary, Palawan's Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park and Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park, and Las Piñas-Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area Sanctuary.

It can be understood that flooding of coastal lowlands from rising sea levels could create broad coastal marshes that are protected from wave action by barrier islands or reefs. Too, coastal wetlands form when rivers deposit sediment as they reach the ocean.

Plants, especially mangrove species, take root and hold the soil firm against the forces of tides and waves. It serves as buffer during monsoon, protect coasts from erosion as it stabilizes the shoreline, aside from serving as feeding and roosting for marine and coastal wildlife.

"Wetlands are critical to people and nature, given the intrinsic value of these ecosystems, and their benefits and services, including their environmental, climate, ecological, social, economic, scientific, educational, cultural, recreational and aesthetic contributions to sustainable development and human well-being," UN General Assembly 2021.

It emphasized the need for conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation and its contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world.

Taking into account, the UN General Assembly 2021 moreover, said that wetlands are essential to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals related to poverty eradication, food and nutrition, healthy living, gender equality, water quality and availability, energy supply, the reduction of natural disasters, innovation and the development of appropriate infrastructure, sustainable and resilient human settlements, the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change, oceans, seas and marine resources, biodiversity and the sustainable use of ecosystems.

Let's "get wet" to preserve our lands – our mountains, forests, mangroves, swamps, rivers, seas, and oceans for survival. Let us plant more trees and not babies, to balance our ecosystem and even address the ill-effects of climate crisis.

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The DENR said the project would serve as the pilot test of its “adopt-a-city” approach in implementing the UBP to encourage the business sector’s support in creating green

urban communities in cities and barangays.

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Implemented in 2017, the UBP aims to promote the conservation of biodiversity as well as develop and maintain green spaces within cities, which in turn can provide benefits to the public through ecosystem services.

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Regional Updates

Biodiversity park to rise in Quezon City

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Biodiversity park to rise in QC

By **CORY MARTINEZ**

AN urban biodiversity park will soon be developed in Quezon City which aims to increase awareness, understanding, and appreciation of local communities and other stakeholders on the importance of urban biodiversity and green spaces, and encourage individual actions on urban greening.

The development of the park will be made possible following the signing of memorandum of agreement (MOA) between the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, through the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) and DENR-National Capital Region and

the QC government and Metro Pacific Investments Corporation (MPIC).

The DENR and its partners agreed to implement the "Building a Biodiversity-Friendly Environment in Metro Manila" project under the Urban Biodiversity Program (UBP) to develop and sustainably manage Madison Park, which will be known as Gabay Kalikasan Park, in New Manila, QC.

The project aims to pilot-test the "adopt-a-city" approach in implementing the UBP to encourage the business sector's support in creating green urban communities at the city and barangay or village level.

DENR Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna stressed the importance of the DENR's role in realizing plans

to "ensure ecological integrity and clean and healthy environment, which includes sustained biodiversity and ecosystem services."

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A broader look at today's business



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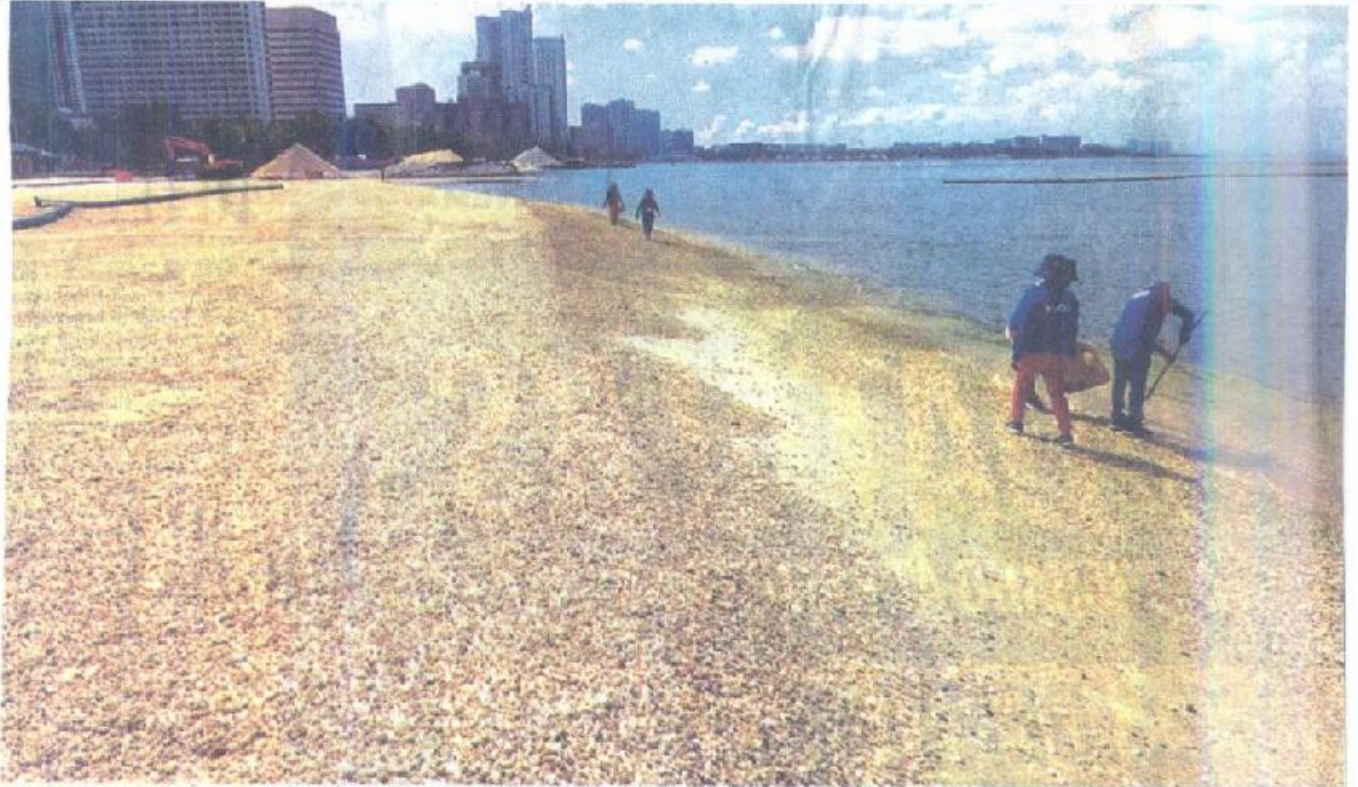
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MMDA personnel keep the famed dolomite beach of Manila Bay clean from garbage continually being washed ashore. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources said having a swimmable dolomite beach remains its target before the end of President Duterte's term. DENR Undersecretary Jonas Leones said they will continue to rehabilitate Manila Bay to reach the water quality standard of 100 most probable number (mpn) per 100 milliliters (ml), which is considered safe for swimming. BONE BEYES



SELEBRASYON NG WORLD WATER DAY 2022 "GROUNDWATER: MAKING THE INVISIBLE, VISIBLE" SINIMULAN NG DENR

SINIMULAN ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources ang selebrasyon ng World Water Day ngayong taon sa pamamagitan ng pagtitipon ng policy makers at mga eksperto para sa 1st National River Basin Summit noong Marso 15.

Ayon kay DENR Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampolna, ang dalawang araw na summit na inorganisa ng River Basin Control Office (RBCO) ay bahagi ng selebrasyon ng

World Water Day sa Marso 22 na may temang "Groundwater: Making the Invisible, Visible."

Aniya pa, hangarin ng summit na maidokumentong ang mga gawain at mga natutunan mula sa mga nakalipas na river basin initiatives na krusyal sa pangangailangan ng bansa para mapanatili at mapagsama-sama ang river management practices at sa implementasyon ng 421 principal river basins.



Hinikayat ni Sampolna sa kanyang keynote message ang mga policymakers at experts na magplano ng partikular na aksyon at comprehensive framework para mapaghandaan ang mga kalalimidad dulot na rin ng climate change.

Binigyang diin nito na ang aplikasyon ng integrated water resources management approach ay susi para maprotektahan ang river systems ng bansa na labis na dumedependa sa groundwater para sa annual flow nito.

"The deterioration of groundwater quality may directly affect aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems," saad ni Sampolna at idinagdag pa nilo na ang pinsala ng river systems ay magdudulot ng ecological at economic losses at nakaapekto sa kalidad ng buhay ng mga tao.

Sinabi ni Sampolna na labis sa 50 percent na water flow ng mga ilog ang umaasa sa groundwater habang higit sa 90 percent naman ng wa-

ter flow ang nagagamit sa panahon ng tag-init.

Ipininisita sa pagdiriwang ang dalawang best practices ng river basin governance. Ito ay ang Cagayan de Oro River Basin Experience (NGO-led River Basin Governance) na ipinakita ni Cagayan de Oro River Basin Management Council Executive Director Hilly Ann Roa-Quiaol at ang Pampanga River Basin Experience (Regional Development Council-led River Basin governance) na tinalakay ni National Economic and Development Authority-Central Luzon Regional Director Gina T. Gacusan.

Tinalakay naman ni National Water Resources Board Executive Director Seville David, Jr. ang "Results of the Study on Groundwater Assessment" habang ipinisita naman ni DENR-Climate Change Service Director Elenida Basug ang "Build Back Better: Updates and Initiatives."



Neda exec: We need more investments to improve water supply, sanitation

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA
@jonbmayuga

MORE investments are needed to boost the country's water supply and sanitation situation and eventually achieve the country's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) No. 6 targets, an official of the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) said.

SDG No. 6 is about clean water and sanitation for all. Specifically, the goal is to "ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation all." According to the United Nations, 129 countries are "not on track" to have a sustainably managed water and sanitation system.

Neda Undersecretary Roderick M. Planta said while the Philippines is blessed with abundant water, not all administrative regions are created equal and availability remains an issue. Speaking at a webinar organized by the *Philippines Graphic* and *BUSINESSMIRROR* entitled, "GroundWater: Making the invisible visible," ahead of the celebration of World Water Day (March 22), Planta said, "depending on where you are, water stress is real."

He warned that water stress in some areas is expected particularly due to population growth and urbanization.

According to Planta, the Philippines needs at least P1 trillion to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal No. 6 target, or P100 billion a year to achieve water supply and sanitation by 2030.

"The biggest sources of investments for water supply and sanitation are commercial and development loans," he said. The previous allocation from the national government stood at less than 1 percent of the indicative investment requirements for the sector.

Meanwhile, he said national government investments for Water Supply and Sanitation average .15 percent of the total General Appropriations Act (GAA). The budget that

goes to WSS, he said, is just about 70 percent of the total infra budget, and about .03 percent of the total Gross Development Product.

In 2022, alone, he said the National Expenditures Plan showed total dedicated funds for WSS are P4.072 billion in 2021; while total dedicated funds for WSS is P6.274 billion. This includes budgets of LWA, DILG (salintubig), Department of Health (DOH), DPWH, and NWRB.

Planta, who presented the Philippine Water Supply and Sanitation Masterplan, said water supply and sanitation is part of the 17 interlinked global goals, and for the water resources sector, Sustainable Development Goal No. 6 or Clean Water Sanitation is at the center of the entire SDGs.

"Basically, most of the country's water resources come from the surface water," he said. The challenge and the plan, he said, is to provide safe water and sanitation for all.

Abundant water resource

THE Philippines, he said, has abundant water resources—159,900 million cubic meters per year (MCM/year): comprising 125,790 million cubic meters per year of surface water, or about 86.2 percent of the total, while groundwater is about 20,200 MCM/year or 13.8 percent.

According to Planta, growth comes with more demand for the use of water and this means some areas will experience water stress.

Currently, about 9 in every 10 families had a basic level of drinking water in the country and the BARMM has the highest percentage of families with access to unimproved service level.

Meanwhile, about 4 out of 5 families had a basic sanitation service level in the country, and yet, 20 percent of families in BARMM still practice open defecation.

Planta said 88 percent of families had access to water sources classified as safe, while 50 percent of families in the BARMM still get water from unsafe sources.

SEE "NEDA," A8

Citing a report from Water.Org, he said a total of 4 million people in the Philippines still practice open defecation, while an additional 3 million are limited to using unprotected pit latrines or buckets.

"Fragmentation in the management and regulation of MWSS services impedes the implementation of long-term solutions and hinders the attainment of universal access targets," he said.

Planta cited a need for institutional coherence to successfully implement the Philippine Water Supply and Sanitation Master Plan, which serves as the National Action Plan to achieve the SDG.

This means establishing water supply and sanitation sector institutions and the creation of an apex water body through legislation. Another solution is the creation of a unified Water Regulatory Commission, as currently, there are many regulatory bodies.

Planta said there are 25,000 water service providers in the Philippines and the high-end water service providers are Maynilad and Manila



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Water.

He said there is a need to capacitate and strengthen the capacities of these water service providers as well like the LGU-run and LWUA-run water service providers.

"Water demand management needs communication strategy," he added, adding that the Neda has already communicated its recommendation for the formulation of research and development agenda for water which calls for partnerships with the academe and water supply and sanitation partners and experts.

Neda has a work plan developed to continuously monitor and update the progress towards the achievement of PWSSMP goals and targets.

For his part, Seville David, Executive Director of the NWRB as far as groundwater is concerned, cited a Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) study where experts identified at least 9 water constraint areas: the cities of Baguio and Angeles, in Luzon including Metro Manila; Iloilo, Bacolod and Cebu in the Visayas; and Davao City, Zamboanga City and Cagayan de Oro City in Mindanao.

"Some of the issues that have been identified [such as] the lowering of groundwater level and effect of saltwater intrusion [are] evident

due to over extraction of groundwater," he said.

According to David, there's significant deficit in water supply in these areas during the summer season. "Some of the cities in NCR and Metro Cebu exceeded the safe yield or recharge rate with several condition of depression," he said.

David said the NWRB had embarked on a project on Groundwater Studies in these constraint areas—eventually extended elsewhere because of availability and sustainability of these groundwater resources.

"Critical in the groundwater management studies is the conduct of comprehensive water resources assessment—essentially, river basin," he said.

Between 2013 and 2019, 11 Ground Management Plans have been completed. These are for the Iloilo and surrounding areas, Cagayan de Oro City, Angeles City, Baguio City, Metro Manila and Cavite, Bacolod City, Zamboanga City, Metro Cebu, Tagbilaran City and Batangas City.

Meanwhile, to analyze the interaction with groundwater resources, five comprehensive water assessments of river basins were completed: Agno river basin, Panay river basin, Davao river basin, the Jalaur River Basin, and the Bicol River Basin.

The NWRB executive director said the government is working on groundwater management plans for Masbate city, Laguna and Bulacan and similar River basin study for Cagayan River Basin and Tagoloan River Basin.

"We have realized, it appears that we have abundant water resources, but...freshwater is being threatened in terms of availability because of degraded water quality, including saltwater intrusion in some areas particularly coastal areas; pollution that has been affecting our surface water has been a very big factor on the availability of water," he said.

"Another issue is the over-extraction or unregulated extraction of groundwater," he added.

"Some of these are also extracting and the NWRB is doing or actively pursuing these groundwater users," David said.

On top of that, David said groundwater is now becoming vulnerable to contamination from pollution being disposed of households, and industries including agricultural areas.

He said unregulated extraction of groundwater is becoming an issue due to the slow recharge of aquifers, especially because of climate change wherein water is the most impacted as far as natural resources are concerned.



Protecting 'invisible' water

Climate change is causing global temperatures to rise, putting our most visible sources of water at risk. Southeast Asia has been projected as one of the regions to be most affected by climate change.

Closer to home, the Philippines faces ongoing water scarcity with its dry season spanning six to eight months and supplies frequently shut down to preserve capacity. This year, utility companies and the government are looking to ensure that Metro Manila averts a similar water crisis that hit the capital three years ago.

As water becomes a scarce resource, the Philippines needs to tackle water shortages quickly and efficiently. Water plays a crucial role, not only in sustaining the lives and livelihoods of almost 110 million people but also in supporting the agriculture sector, which contributes an average of 20 percent to the country's GDP. Some 80.5 percent of water is also allocated for household consumption.

What is often overlooked is groundwater. Put simply, groundwater is water found underground, and currently supplies more than half of the potable water supply and 85 percent of the piped water supply in the Philippines. It is strategically and economically important to current and future water supply during dry season.

Despite its increasingly vital role, many still struggle to understand this invisible resource and find effective ways to protect it. Human activities and climate variability are increasing the pressure on groundwater resources. Now, a quarter of the world's population is using water faster than the planet can replenish this natural resource.

With this World Water Day's theme, "Groundwater—Making the invisible visible," experts have noted that the time is now to actively protect all our water

resources, especially groundwater. To sustain the world's water resources, we need to utilize intelligent technology to ensure effective water management strategies and, in turn, protect and sustainably use groundwater.

COMMENTARY

PIA YASUKO RASK

Reducing groundwater pollution

The first approach is protecting the quality of this water source. Groundwater is especially vulnerable to pollutants from commercial or industrial activities, and even urban development. Groundwater sources in the Philippines face the issue of pollution from agricultural run-off pollutants, aquaculture, industrial waste, and domestic sewage, only 42 percent of which is reported to be free from contamination.

Demand and waste production go hand-in-hand—the more we consume, the more waste we generate. Wastewater, when handled improperly, can have adverse effects on the biological diversity of aquatic ecosystems and can disrupt the fundamental integrity of our life support systems.

Recognizing this, water solutions providers like Grundfos are increasingly applying intelligent technology to manage wastewater. Through the Internet of Things, advanced real-time data collection and sensors, wastewater treatment facilities can operate in a more predictive manner, reducing downtime and avoiding serious business and environmental consequences. These systems are also able to ensure that energy and other resources are used as needed, achieving greater cost-effectiveness and sustainability, which can

be key considerations for countries like the Philippines.

Reducing our carbon footprint

It is also imperative that we think longer-term. Climate change can affect the amounts of soil infiltration, while rising temperature increases evaporative demand over land, which impacts the ability of groundwater resources to recharge.

Countries are already taking actionable steps toward decarbonization, and it is heartening that the Philippines is committed to reductions in greenhouse gas emissions of 70 percent by 2030.

However, water itself actually holds an intrinsic relationship with energy use. Energy is required in the entire water process, from pumping, transportation, treatment, and desalination. With fossil fuels being the source of most of the energy produced today, water processes are indirectly responsible for producing large amounts of greenhouse gases, contributing to climate change.

One way to reduce the carbon footprint of water processes is by making them more energy efficient. Technology has been a key enabler of energy efficiency, and we are now equipped to achieve considerable efficiencies in water processes, such as utilizing smart technologies to enable pumps to be more responsive to fluctuating demand, adjusting water use through real-time monitoring.

Securing water through collaboration

Lastly, we should not neglect the fact that water solution providers can help the cause of strengthening water security by introducing innovative solutions and industry expertise.

Pia Yasuko Rask is senior director of Grundfos SafeWater.



SMC's Ang to businessmen: Ramp up green investments

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA [@jonlmayuga](#)

SAN Miguel Corp. (SMC) President and Chief Operating Officer Ramon S. Ang is calling on Filipino businessmen to invest in environmental projects.

Speaking during the inauguration and opening of the Million Trees Nursery and Eco Learning Center at the La Mesa Road in Quezon City, Ang said "businesses should not always be about profit."

He challenged business moguls including those behind Maynilad Water Services Inc. and Manila Water Corp., the two major private water concessionaires of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), to invest more in environmental projects without thinking of what they are to gain from such endeavors.

"I am challenging you to tell your bosses, Enrique Razon and [Manuel V.] Pangilinan, to invest in the environment. If you can't tell them that, I will tell them," Ang said, drawing

cheers from nearly 100 guests who took part in the event which was attended by MWSS, Maynilad, and Manila Water officials along with other supporters of the Million Trees Foundation Inc. (MTFI).

Both Maynilad and Manila Water are active supporters and donors of the Annual Million Trees Challenge (AMTC) launched in 2017 by then MWSS Chairman and Administrator Reynaldo Velasco.

SMC's subsidiary, Luzon Clean Water Development Corporation (LCWDC), is the third MWSS concessionaire.

The company extended a cash donation of P5 million for the establishment of the tree nursery and eco learning center of the MTFI in the 5-hectare government property that

was leased by the MWSS through a memorandum of agreement.

MTFI seeks to sustain the gains of the AMTC project implemented by the MWSS now headed by Administrator Leonor C. Cleofas who graced the event.

Velasco said the project aims to protect and conserve important watersheds through massive tree-planting activities, recognizing the important role of the private sector in providing clean, drinking water to Filipinos. The facility's inauguration and opening on Friday were dedicated to former President Fidel V. Ramos on the occasion of his 94th birthday in recognition of the public-private partnership initiative of the government that paved the way for the privatization of water service in the country.

AMTC was able to surpass its target by 200,000 thousand trees, planting a total of 5.2 million trees in the last five years.

As part of its commitment, MTFI now headed by President and Executive Director Melandrew T. Velasco aims to sustain the gains of the project by planting 10 million trees until 2030.

Interviewed at the sidelines of the event, Ang said SMC will continue to

support the government via initiatives that promote environmental protection and conservation.

He said SMC has many environmental projects that supported the Duterte administration. Ang mentioned the investments of SMC in dredging the country's rivers, such as the Tullahan River.

"SMC has many projects like the Tullahan River dredging project. The Tullahan River project is to dredge 1 million tons (of silt garbage); Ngayon 800,000 na. It will be completed in the next few months. (For) Pasig River, 3 million tons. Name a per-

son or company, even the government who funded such (project)? No one," he said.

Ang, who clarified he has no interest in running for public office, said SMC is also not getting anything in return in implementing the river dredging projects, which has so far been credited for addressing the perennial flooding woes in Metro Manila.

"Not even tax perks," he added.

SMC is also a partner of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in other environmental projects, such as the rehabilitation of Boracay wetlands and dredging of rivers in Bulacan.



Environmental conservation ipinanawagan ng bagong Miss Eco-Int'l

Nawagan ang bagong hirang na Miss Eco-International 2022 na si Kathleen Paton na suportahan ang environmental conservation pagkatapos ng pandemya.

Masayang binati si Paton ng mga lider at miyembro ng Turismo Isulong Mo Partylist (#156TURISMO) na kamakailan ay nag-imbita sa beauty queen sa pagbisita sa ilang ecological park at farm resorts sa Davao City.

Ayon kay dating DOT Sec. Walda Tulfo-Teo, 1st nominee ng TURISMO, nagagalak sila sa panalo at tagumpay na natamo ni Kathleen Paton na nasungkit ang Miss Eco-International at isang malaking karangalan na katuwang nila ito sa pagsusulong ng

sustainable development at pangangalaga sa kalikasan na pinagmumulan ng ating kabuhayan.

Sabi ni Teo, ikinagagalak ng #156TURISMO Partylist na makakapit-bisig si Paton sa adbokasya ng environmental conservation, sustainable at responsible tourism bilang pagsasaalang-alang sa mga darating na henerasyon.

Pumatok ang adbokasya ng 24-anyos na tubong Boracay, Aklan, sa Miss Eco-International pageant na ginanap noong Biyernes sa Cairo, Egypt kung saan inilathad nya ang kahalagahan ng sustainable development at karanasan ng bansa sa taunang pananalasa ng mga bagyo.

-Mer Layson-



PH riding on 'nuclear

By MYRNA M. VELASCO

energy renaissance'

'Nuclear renaissance' is undoubtedly gaining traction and sweeping policy agendas for global energy markets, with the likes Germany opting to decommission nuclear fleets; while others are integrating this technology in the revolution of their future energy mix. The Philippines, too, is toying with the idea of a potential nuclear energy mix.

Within Asia, political and economic interests also converge – tugging many countries to ride the wave of nuclear resurgence. Japan, South Korea, China and Taiwan are the region's front-runners in the nuclear race; while Southeast Asian countries like Vietnam, Thailand and Malaysia likewise took serious studies in weighing this as recourse in their power mix – although they eventually took a backseat on that option.

Can the Philippines be far behind? Certainly not – because Energy Secretary Alfonso G. Cusi had consistently espoused the possibility of reinvigorating the country's nuclear power ambition.

He may have been the lone voice championing it for the last six years – but he has gained breakthrough when President Rodrigo Duterte issued Executive Order 164 mandating the crafting of a "nuclear energy program" for the country.

To Cusi, this is like an "unfinished symphony" when he finishes his term by June this year, but it is in his 'wish list' that the initial policies he laid down for nuclear power will eventually end up into a ravishing storyline in the power sector's future – primarily in aiding the Philippines decarbonization targets and in bringing down electricity rates.

But like in other parts of the globe, the 'ghosts' of the past nuclear accidents – i.e. the Three Mile Island and Chernobyl mishaps of the 1970s-1980s as well as the 2011 Fukushima tragedy – plus the creeps over radioactive exposure risks continue to haunt any country's plunge into nuclear power development program. Taking cue from these, public acceptance also served as the Achilles' heel in pursuing the nuclear option.

Despite the tricky investment terrain ahead, the Philippines seem not losing sight into re-aligning nuclear power to become part of the country's long term energy plan – and the Department of Energy (DOE) has been casting three-pronged approach to achieve this vision – either to repower the mothballed 620-megawatt Bataan Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP); push for greenfield nuclear power installations; or plump for the deployment of small modular reactors (SMRs) in many off-grid domains or the targeted microgrid systems in various parts of the country.

Gordian knot in policymaking
Cusi explained that a law to

be passed by Congress will thrive as the strongest policy framework to underpin the country's nuclear power development strategy – primarily in addressing the warranted regulatory toolboxes as well as in fleshing out the investment strategies that could guide interested project sponsors.

In the updated Philippine Energy Plan (PEP), nuclear power's integration in the power mix is targeted by year 2035, although in the DOE's current assessment, the installation of SMRs which are of smaller capacities, could even come as early as 2027 in the initially targeted sites in Cagayan Valley, Sulu and Palawan.

The energy chief conveyed though that "this would depend on the pas-

sage of necessary legislative policies on nuclear power, which are among the bills that have been certified to be passed by Congress."

Energy officials are well aware that after botched nuclear ambition in the 1980s, the country will need to re-take 'baby steps' on propounded nuclear technology installations; and even on plans of bringing back the idled BNPP on stream.

The Philippines should have been ahead on this course – tracing back development plans in the 1970s to 1980s – in which the BNPP could have paralleled the Kori nuclear facility of South Korea, Krško of Slovenia and Angra of Brazil. Unfortunately though, because of politics and allegations of corruption, the country inauspiciously lost its track on this power development track.

The DOE admitted that the country will need to hurdle "exhaustive predicaments" for it to get back into the nuclear energy pathway – as all the gaps in legal, policy and regulatory frameworks would need to be addressed first – and these processes could take decades to accomplish.

Bluntly, the issues and concerns when it comes to nuclear power developments already turned too long and varied – from public acceptance;

humongous upfront capital investment which became a dilemma in nuclear new builds like the Hinkley Point C nuclear power project in the United Kingdom and the Olkiluoto-3 nuclear power development in Finland; then there are also recycling and storage/disposal concerns on spent fuel; safety and equipment redundancy installation as well as siting issues; nuclear liability and insurance coverage; upskilling of human resources and enabling of domestic expertise on nuclear power operations; and most importantly, the tricky policy and regulatory frameworks.

And in the restructured sphere of the Philippine energy sector that is now largely private sector driven,



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nuclear power facilities would also have extreme struggle finding their place under merchant market conditions.

At any rate, Energy Undersecretary Gerardo Erguiza Jr. noted that the crafting of the country's nuclear energy program had been studied and recommended by at least 17 government agencies – spearheaded by the DOE and had been underpinned by the Departments of Science and Technology, Environment and Natural Resources, Foreign Affairs, Health, Interior and Local Government, the Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) as well as key government entities like the Philippine Nuclear Research Institute (PNRI), Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS), National Transmission Corporation (TransCo) and the National Power Corporation (NPC), among others.

"The national position aspect, that was suggested also by the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) – it's part of the 19 infrastructure issues and concerns because that's the problem in the world – that one administration will put up a nuclear power plant, but it could be opposed by the next generation of leaders under the pretext that it is just the

desire of a certain administration, so the next administration may not want it... that's why the IAEA suggested this as an important aspect as a result of the whole-of-government approach to come out with policy," he stressed.

Erguiza added that with the Malacanang-sanctioned policy, "We can say now that all the relevant agencies came out with comprehensive study and they made recommendations, so we now have a security in policy."

On a leveled-cost basis, the DOE further argued that "nuclear power is an economical source – that could be high on productivity and reliability, and low on per kilowatt-hour cost and emissions."

The operating life cycle of a nuclear plant is typically for 40 years, and feasible for extension by 20 years; and a second extension of another 20 years – altogether, that would run up to 80 years of operating life, hence, the cost of electricity it will generate will turn out cheaper in the long run.

Uranium is used as fuel in nuclear power generation. For countries with scant resources, they import from uranium-producing countries like Australia, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, South Africa, Namibia, Russia, and even China and India.

Nevertheless, the prospect of uranium importation similarly raises debate against the Philippines' bid for energy independence. But nuclear advocates said there is less fuel use for every megawatt of power produced from nuclear; and the enrichment process being done on uranium (either through gaseous diffusion or centrifuge process) holds promise of further increasing fuel efficiency.

For the nuclear power critics, DOE officials also set a cautionary reminder that the juggernaut of fossil fuel solution embraced after the BNPP mothballing is now hitting us back with a riskier dilemma of global warming.

In fact, the President's EO laid

down that "nuclear power shall be tapped as a viable alternative for baseload power source, along with alternative energy sources, to address the projected decline of coal-fired power plants which come under increasing environmental opposition."

BNPP's fate

As reckoned from the outcomes of studies done by various international nuclear power experts from the IAEA, Rosatom State Nuclear Energy Corporation of Russia; and the Korea Hydro & Nuclear Power of South Korea, the budget for the re-powering of the BNPP could range between \$1.0 billion to \$2.0 billion – inclusive of cost allocations for decommissioning as well as waste management disposal.

The cost assumption is based on rehabilitation that will make use of the plant's original specifications – and the rehabilitation work could take 5-7 years, as culled from previous IAEA study.

When finally brought back into operation, previous estimates posit that BNPP's selling rate may come cheaper by ₱2.00-₱2.50 per kWh as compared to the prevailing generation tariff of more than ₱5.00 per kWh.

The mode of financing and which sector to undertake the project – either private or public sector through build-operate-transfer (BOT) or public-private partnership (PPP) arrangements – are among the issues yet to be decided also in the policy domain.

The BNPP rehabilitation financial plan, the IAEA report further recommended, "must comprise the total capital investment, the nuclear fuel cycle cost and the establishment of debt/equity targets and the assessment of potential funding sources."

Nuclear waste management through dry cask storage, as full-proof safe practice in other countries, has also been proposed. It is not a very expensive option and capable of storing nuclear wastes for 60 years or longer, according to experts. That will then afford the country enough leeway to scout for more permanent site on waste storage.

Concerns have likewise been raised about manpower skills and the scale of technical expertise that must be gained for the plant's operation. Previous legislative measures propounded to initially waive the nationality requirement, so foreign experts and technical support can be engaged in the interim – and a 10-year timeframe must be provided to build on domestic expertise in nuclear power development and operations; in tandem with incorporating nuclear power as part of university curricula.

Energy officials are convinced that the BNPP can still be brought back into operation and offers service to the Filipino consumers – us, who were all made to pay for that \$2.0 billion behemoth, but mothballed investment facility.



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Honest work Gathering recyclable materials earns for Aling 'Dadang' P500 a day at the La Huerta Fishport in Parañaque City. She tells *Daily Tribune* that it's a backbreaking work, but one that she is proud of as it brings food on the table.

PHOTOGRAPH BY AL PADILLA FOR THE DAILY TRIBUNE @tribunephil_at



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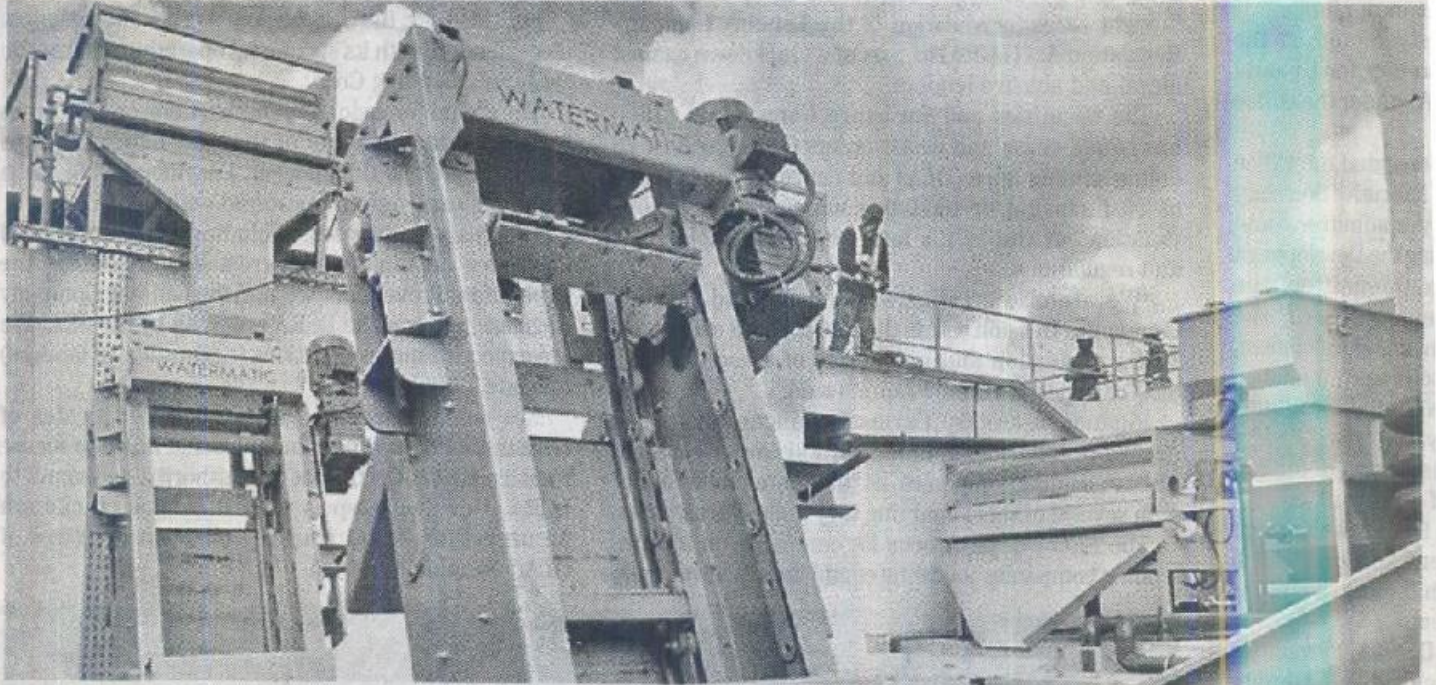
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TITLE: PAWAWAN CAPITAL BETS MANILA ON SEWAGE PAGE 2-2
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PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF PUERTO PRINCESA CITY INFORMATION OFFICE

Puerto serious about sewage Puerto Princesa's innovative and economical Septage and Sewage Treatment Plant will help reduce pollution in Puerto Princes Bay since the city's wastewater will be treated before these are discharged to the bay. The area for treatment will have three outfalls that will empty into the bay.



TITLE: ANTIQUE WHERE THE MOUNTAINS MEET THE SEA PAGE 1-2

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ANTIQUE, a province in Panay Island in Western Visayas in the Philippines, is often overlooked as a tourist destination because of its proximity to the more popular Boracay Island in Aklan. But Antiqueños believe this will soon change.

"Antique is a paradise where the mountains meet the sea. It is a province that may have been in the doldrums for three decades but is now experiencing (its) Golden Age," says **Loren Legarda**, Deputy Speaker and Representative of the Lone District of Antique.

Under Legarda's vision of discovering, documenting, and protecting Antique's rich marine biodiversity, she allocated a budget under the Department of Tourism that was implemented by the local government of Antique and the DOT regional office.

In early 2021, Studio H2O organized an expedition team composed of marine researchers, scientists, and underwater cinematographers. Aside from conducting a scientific survey of the reefs in Antique, particularly around the coastal areas of Pandan Bay and Libertad, the project also held a freediving workshop for fisherfolks with the intention of teaching them how to survey, protect and do an inventory of their own marine areas.

"Part of the survey is to have the local people learn the method so they can continue on with the monitoring, or at least be interested in learning more about it,"

says **Tara Abrina**, one of the team's researchers and freediving instructors.

"The objective of the project was really for tourism, to see where people can go to dive, where guests can stay, and what might be interesting underwater," she adds.

During the survey, a rare sighting of an oceanic manta ray, a creature known to visit nutrient-rich waters that provide zooplankton, surprised and excited the team. The oceanic manta ray is famous for its majestic form that could reach up to twenty-three feet across. For the researchers, the encounter was truly magical. But no one was more delighted than the staunch environmental champion herself.

"The discovery and sighting of the existence of the manta ray in our waters is so important because it shows they thrive in

a healthy marine ecosystem," says Deputy Speaker Legarda. "And the manta ray, of course, must be protected at all costs, especially because it is identified as possibly threatened for extinction."

Deputy Speaker Legarda is aware that the oceanic manta ray sighting can draw in more visitors and open up more possibilities for ecotourism. That is why she believes that the tedious task of survey and documentation is crucial in educating the public about the all-important work of protecting the environment. Thus, her continued support for projects such as this remains steadfast.

"How can we protect something we don't know exists and so documenting all of this—taking photos and video without destroying their habitats—is very important," Legarda emphasizes.

Legarda authored several landmark environmental laws, as well as laws on marine protection and conservation such as Ecological Solid Waste Management Law, Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, the Climate Change Act, Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act, Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System, National Environmental Awareness and Education Act, People's Survival Fund Act, and the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act, among others. As Deputy Speaker and Representative of the Lone District of Antique, Legarda has also authored bills for the province's marine protection such as the establishment of a multi-species marine hatchery in Tibiao and the Northern Antique Pro-

ected Seascape and Landscape.

Watch the journey of the Antique expedition team in *Antique: Where the Mountains Meet the Sea*, a new documentary produced by Studio H2O through the Office of Deputy Speaker Legarda, the Department of Tourism in partnership with the Province of Antique.

The 20-minute documentary, which captures the underwater beauty of the province, as well as the true heart of the Antiqueños, airs on Discovery Channel on March 23 at 6:15 p.m. with replays on March 24 at 8:15 a.m. and 11:25 a.m.

Discovery Channel airs in the Philippines, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, Hong Kong, South Korea, Taiwan, and India.



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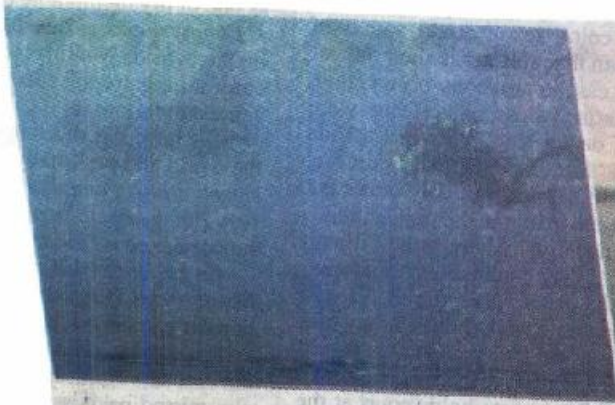
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Deputy Speaker and Representative of the Lone District of Antique Loren Legarda



The beautiful reefs in Antique are teeming with marine life



A rare sighting of an oceanic manta ray in the waters of Antique



Legarda describes Antique as a paradise where the mountains meet the sea



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An expedition team of marine researchers, scientists, and underwater cinematographers surveys the reefs in Antique for tourism and environmental preservation purposes



Dear Chief Acosta,

Nais ko pong magtayo ng isang negosyo na may kugnayan sa recycled at upcycled na mga produkto. Mayroon po bang insentibo ang pamahalaan para sa mga negosyo na tumutulong sa pangangalaga ng kalikasan?

Joseph

Dear Joseph,

Para sa inyong kaalaman, ang inyong katanungan ay binigyang-linaw ng Section 5 ng Republic Act 10771 o kinikilala bilang "Philippine Green Jobs Act of 2016."

Ayon sa probisyon ng nasabing batas, ang isang negosyo na nagbibigay ng green jobs na sertipikado ng Climate Change Commission o mga trabaho na tumutulong sa pagpapanatili o pagpapanumbalik ng kalidad ng kalikasan, ay magtatamasa ng mga sumusunod na insentibo:

a. Special deduction mula sa taxable income katumbas ng limampung porsyento (50%) ng kabuuang gastos buhat sa pagsasanay sa kakayahan ng mga empleyado at research development. Ang nasabing special deduction ay

INSENTIBO SA MGA NEGOSYONG TUMUTULONG SA PANGANGALAGA SA KALIKASAN

bukod pa sa itinalagang ordinary at necessary business deductions para sa mga nasabing gastusin, sa ilalim ng National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended.

b. Tax at duty free na pag-angkat ng mga kagamitan na direkta at eksklusibong ginagamit sa operasyon ng negosyo.

Samakatuwid, upang inyong matamasa ang mga nabanggit na bencpisyo, marapat na kayo ay dumulog sa Climate Change Commission upang ang inyong negosyo ay mabigyan ng kinakailangang sertipikasyon.

Sana ay nabigyan namin ng linaw ang inyong katanungan. Ang payong aming ibinigay ay base lamang sa mga impormasyon na inyong inilahad at maaaring magbago kung mababawasan o madaragdagan ang mga detalye ng inyong salaysay.

Maraming salamat sa inyong patuloy na pagtitiwala.

Kung kayo ay may katanungan o nais ihingi ng payon legal, sumulat sa MAGTANONG KAY ATTORNEY ni Percida Acosta, BULGAR Bldg., 538 Quezon Ave., Quezon City o mag-email sa magtanongkayatorni@bulgar.com.ph



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Palawan capital beats Manila on sewage dev't

We invested into the facility as part of our commitment to improving everyday living in our communities

BY MARIA ROMERO
@tribunephil_mbr

A modern facility that treats septage and sewage water has started commercial operations in Puerto Princesa to address contamination issues along the city bay.

The Puerto Princesa innovative and economical Septage and Sewage Treatment Plant (PPieSSTP), located at the Baywalk in Barangay Tagumpay, treats 2 million liters a day of sewage waste and 70 liters of septage waste a day

It is being run and maintained by the Puerto Princesa Water Reclamation and Learning Center Inc. (PPWRLC), under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) with the City Government of Puerto Princesa and Faith Lived Out Visions 2 Ventures Holdings Inc. (FLOV2VS) in cooperation with the Puerto Princesa Water City Water District.

PPieSSTP is designed to capture and treat the top three largest domestic outfalls of the city into Puerto Princesa Bay. Its capacity can be expanded to accommodate more sewage and septage wastes.

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

Latest sewage technology

PPWRLC president Jehremiah Asis said the facility uses modern

technology to treat septage and sewage wastewater so that "what is discharged into the Bay after treatment is fit for re-use in firefighting, watering plants and other non-potable applications."

Asis envisions the plant becoming a knowledge center for students and government leaders who want to see the long-term value of wastewater treatment.

Facility uses modern technology to treat septage and sewage wastewater.

For his part, Vivant Hydrocore Holdings Inc. president and CEO Atty. Jess Anthony Garcia said: "We invested into the facility as part of our commitment to improving everyday living in our communities. By ensuring that the water discharged into Puerto Princesa Bay is compliant with the environmental standards."



*Imported tarantula,
tuko bulilyaso*
**PILIPINAS,
TRANSIT POINT
NG WILDLIFE
SMUGGLING**

TINIYAK ng pamunuan ng Bureau of Customs (BOC) na hindi hahayaang gamitin ng mga sindikato sa likod ng wildlife smuggling ang Pilipinas bilang transit point ng illegal na kalakalan ng mga exotic at endangered animal species.

Patunay anila ng kanilang matigas na pahayag ang pagkakasabat sa Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) kamakailan ng mga pambihirang hayop mula sa Bangkok Thailand na ipinasok muna sa Pilipinas, at saka padadala sa Dubai.

Kabilang sa mga nasabat ng mga alertong kawani ng BOC-NAIA ang walong tuko (gecko lizards), 40 batang gamba (spiderlings) at limang makamandag na tarantulang pawang nakapangalan sa isang residente ng Parañaque City.

Batay sa dokumento ng BOC-NAIA, idineklara bilang "commercial samples" ng mga facial cosmetics products ang laman ng bagaheng nabulilyaso ng mga operatiba nang magsagawa ng x-ray scanning at physical examination sa naturang kargamento.

Batay sa dokumento ng BOC-NAIA, idineklara bilang "commercial samples" ng mga facial cosmetics products ang laman ng bagaheng nabulilyaso ng mga operatiba nang magsagawa ng x-ray scanning at physical examination sa naturang kargamento.

Agad namang inilipat sa kustodiya ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang mga kumpiskadong tuko at gamba para sa angkop na pangangalaga.

ng mga exotic aquatic wildlife species na nagkakahalaga ng hindi bababa sa P3.5 milyon, ilang saglit matapos i-diskarga sa eroplanong ginamit sa pagpupuslit ng mga kontrabando.

Sa isang pahayag, binigyang pagkilala naman ni BOC-NAIA district collector Carmelita Talusan ang mga kawani ng kanyang tanggapan sa mahigpit at masigasig na pagbabantay sa mga pumasok at lumalabas na kargamento – kabilang ang "flora at fauna."





Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
MINES AND GEOSCIENCES BUREAU
Regional Office No. VII

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Fax No. [+63 32] 346-9176 / 236 1139;
E-mail: region7@mgb.gov.ph

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION OF MIDAN CORPORATION
FOR EXPLORATION PERMIT**

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 21 of Department Order No. 2010-21 (Providing For A Consolidated Department Of Environment And Natural Resources Administrative Order For The Implementing Rules And Regulations Of Republic Act No. 7942, Otherwise Known As The "Philippine Mining Act Of 1995"), that **MIDAN CORPORATION** with office address at **18E Fort Palm Spring, 30th Street Corner 1st Avenue, Bonifacio Global Taguig City, Metro Manila** has filed an Exploration Permit application, for the exploration of **gold, silver, copper, lead, zinc, molybdenum, and other minerals** and particularly described as follows:

- I. Application Number: **EXPA-000241-VII**
- II. Date of Filing: **September 27, 2019**
- III. Area Location
- Barangays: **Balayan Olang, Tayac, and Lapyac**
- Municipality: **Siaton**
- Province: **Negros Oriental**

IV. Technical Description of the Area * #

CORNER	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
1	9	7	00.00	123	3	00.00
2	9	8	30.00	123	3	00.00
3	9	8	30.00	123	4	30.00
4	9	8	00.00	123	4	30.00
5	9	8	00.00	123	5	00.00
6	9	7	30.00	123	5	00.00
7	9	7	30.00	123	4	30.00
8	9	7	00.00	123	4	30.00

"MINING SHALL BE PRO-PEOPLE AND PRO-ENVIRONMENT IN SUSTAINING WEALTH CREATION AND IMPROVED QUALITY OF LIFE"

Total area = 845.0732 hectares

* **Exceptions:** The Applied Area shall be subject to Section 19 of RA 7942 and Section 15 ("Areas Closed to Mining Locations") and Section 16 ("Ancestral Lands"), of DENR Administrative Order No. 96-40, Series of 1996. Among other things:

- The following shall be closed to mining locations: areas with valid and existing mining rights; existing mining applications; and areas expressly prohibited by law;
- The following shall also be closed to mining locations except upon written consent of the concerned government agency or private entity subject to the evaluation and validation by the Bureau: areas near or under public or private buildings, cemeteries, archaeological and historical sites, bridges, highways, waterways, railroads, reservoirs, dams or other infrastructure projects, public or private works including plantations or valuable crops.
- Applications for mineral agreement or financial or technical assistance agreements covering: small scale mining areas; civil or military reservations; areas covered by Certificate of Ancestral Domain claims; or areas of ancestral land as may be defined by law shall require prior written consent of concerned individuals, groups or other government agencies having jurisdiction over the area(s) applied for.

Note The Notice must be accompanied by a map/sketch plan with index map showing the nearest municipality(ies) and any major environmental feature(s).

V. Size of the Area - **845.0732** hectares

VI. Duration of the Permit

The permit shall be for a period not exceeding two (2) years from date of issuance, renewable for a term of two (2) years each but in no case shall the total exceed six (6) years.

VII. Extent of Operation to be Undertaken

Exploration (Reconnaissance/Regional Survey, Semi-Detailed to Detailed Geological and Geochemical Survey, Topographic Survey, Subsurface Investigation (Test Pitting, Trenching & Drilling) of gold, silver, copper, lead, zinc, molybdenum, and other minerals.

Any and all persons having adverse claims, protests and/or opposition to the above mentioned application (s) are hereby notified that their adverse claims should be filed directly within ten (10) days from the date of publication or from the last date of posting/radio announcement, with the Regional Office or through any Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer (PENRO) or Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer (CENRO) concerned of the DENR for filing in the Regional Office concerned for purposes of its resolution by the Panel of Arbitrators pursuant to the provisions of Republic Act 7942 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations. Adverse claims, protests or oppositions should be accomplished in accordance with Sections 203 and 204 of Department Order No. 2010-21 (Providing For A Consolidated Department Of Environment And Natural Resources Administrative Order For The Implementing Rules And Regulations Of Republic Act No. 7942, Otherwise Known As The "Philippine Mining Act Of 1995"), and a copy thereof shall be furnished to the applicant by the adverse claimant.

For further particulars, apply or course your inquiries to the Regional Director, Mines and Geosciences Bureau, Regional Office No. VII, Greenplains Subdivision, Banilad, Mandaue City, Philippines.

ARMANDO L. MALICSE
Regional Director



Cc:

• The Director
Bureau of Geosciences Bureau
Powers Avenue, Jambon, Quezon
City

• The Honorable Governor
Province of Negros Oriental

• Mr. Ryan-yong Cho
President
Midan Corporation
18E Fort Palm Spring, 30th St. Cor. 1st Ave.
Bonifacio Global Taguig City, Metro Manila

• The Municipal Mayor
Siaton, Negros Oriental

• The Honorable Barangay
Captain
Balayan Olang, Siaton,
Negros Oriental

• The Honorable Barangay
Captain
Tayac, Siaton, Negros
Oriental

• The Honorable Barangay
Captain
Lapyac, Siaton, Negros
Oriental


MT - Mar. 14 & 21, 2022



TITLE: _____

PAGE: _____

DATE: _____



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Visayas Avenue, Cebu City
Tel. Nos. 928-6629 to 29; 925-6833 to 35
925-7041-7043 to 43; 929-6252; 928-1889
Website: <http://www.denr.gov.ph> E-mail: wcb@denr.gov.ph

**NOTICE OF BIDDING
MISCELLANEOUS LEASE APPLICATION**

Notice is hereby given that the DENR-CENRO at Ciongapo City will accept oral or written bids not later than 10:30 A.M. on May 10, 2022 for the lease of tract of land herein below described:

Location : Brgy. Sta. Niho, San Felipe, Zamboanga
Description : Plan Mla-03-C00035-D
Beginning at a point marked "P" of Plan Mla-03-C00035-D, being N 88° 55' W., 1,483.26 m. from NBM #2, San Narciso, Zamboanga to corner 1; Thence:
Line 1-2: S 47°08' E., 200.00 m; Line 2-3: N42° 52' W., 127.77 m;
Line 3-4: N 47°08' W., 269.50 m; Line 4-1: N71°, 27' E., 145.56 m

Boundaries:
North: Salvage Zone
East: Foreshore
South: Foreshore
West: West Philippine Sea

Area : 30,000 square meters
Appraised : Land P 20,250,000.00
Value of : Proposed/Existing Improvements P 19,920,000.00
Applied for by : **PONGE AND ASSOCIATES CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION**
Rep. by: Jan Erika Daniclle C. Talsadoras

Approved Annual Rental : P806,700.00

The right to lease the land will be awarded to the person offering the highest annual rental, which shall not less than three percent per centum (3%) of the value of the land plus one per centum (1%) of the value of the proposed and/or existing improvements. In order that a person may be entitled to participate in the bidding, he must be a qualified public land applicant, and must, before the commencement of the same, make a deposit equivalent to at least three (3) months' rental. Only deposit in cash, money, order, treasury warrant, certified check or manager's check can be accepted. A person bidding in representation of another may do so under a duly executed power of attorney. During the bidding, the bidder has to make an additional deposit every time his bid is raised, to complete the three (3) months' rental, otherwise, such bid is raised shall not be accepted. The right is reserved to reject any or all bids.

(SGO.) ROGER V. ENCARNACION
CENR Officer

MT - Feb. 14, 21, 28; Mar. 7, 14, 21, 2022



TITLE: _____

PAGE _____

DATE _____



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU
DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City 1118
Telephone Number (02) 8639-4378
Website: www.emb.gov.ph Email: recordsco@emb.gov.ph

NOTICE OF CHANGE OF VENUE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On the ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE REPORT AND MANAGEMENT PLAN (EPRMP) of the proposed ORE BLEND EXPANSION PROJECT of the PHILIPPINE SINTER CORPORATION located in Phivedec Industrial Estate in the Municipality of Villanueva, Province of Misamis Oriental.

Notice is hereby given to all parties who wish to give their opinion regarding the implementation of the proposed ORE BLEND EXPANSION PROJECT that venue of PH is changed to:

Date	Time	Previous Venue	New Venue	Zoom
28 March 2022 (Monday)	8:30 AM (Registration starts at 7:30 AM)	Brgy. Katipunan Covered Court and Brgy. San Martin Covered Court	Brgy. Katipunan Market Area, Villanueva, Province of Misamis Oriental	https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82280689096?pwd=MnlzbnRkbnRkZzNlXVZlSjNlNzE5bnBvVmdzOQ== Epr6OVmdzOQ Meeting ID: 822 8068 9096 Passcode: 895064

For more details, please contact the EIAMD Division at this Office at telephone number 8639-4378 local 116 and look for the project case handlers For. Mark Anthony Tullao and Engr. Carlo Vic Arida.

MT - Mar 21, 2022




TITLE: _____

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DATE _____

PUBLIC NOTICE

 Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
CALAGA

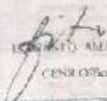
NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office in Calaca, Batangas will accept oral or written bids not later than 10:00 AM on April 29, 2022 for the lease for Industrial Port purposes of the tract of land herein below described:

Location	Brgy. San Rafael, Calaca, Batangas
Description	Miscellaneous Lease Application No. DI-007-4
Area	2,982 sqm.
Applied for by	Holon Mining and Development Corp. represented by Jolid S. Panang L.

The right to lease the tract will be awarded to the person offering the highest annual rental, which shall not be less than three per centum (3%) of the value of land plus one per centum (1%) of the value of the proposed and/or existing improvements. In order that a person may be entitled to participate in a bidding, he must be a qualified public land applicant, and must, before the commencement of the same, make a deposit of equivalent to three (3) months rent. Only deposit in cash, money order, treasury warrant, certified checks, cashier's check or manager's check can be accepted. A person bidding, or representation of another may do so under a duly executed power of attorney. During the bidding, the bidder has to make an additional deposit every time his bid is raised, to complete the three (3) months rental, otherwise, such bid accepted shall not be accepted. The right is reserved to reject any or all bids.

FEB 17 2022


JOLID S. PANANG L.
CENR Office



TITLE:

PAGE

DATE



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU
DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue, Cebu, Cebu City 1113
Tel Nos. (032) 849 4873
Website: www.denr.gov.ph Email: records@denr.gov.ph



Meeting ID: 899 2713 1765
Passcode: 449992

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On the ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) REPORT of the PROPOSED NICKEL LATERITE MINING PROJECT of 4D VENTURES AND DEV'T INC. located in Barangays Pantukan and Adlay, Carrascal, Surigao del Sur and Barangay Cagdianao, Claver, Surigao del Norte

Notice is hereby given to all parties who wish to give their opinion regarding the implementation of the PROPOSED NICKEL LATERITE MINING PROJECT to attend on-line Public Hearing that is scheduled as follows:

Date	Time	Zoom Details
05 April 2022	9:00AM	Meeting ID: 899 2713 1765 Passcode: 449992
<i>Registration starts at 8:30 AM</i>		

This Public Hearing is being conducted in connection with the 4DVI's application for Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC). The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) of the aforementioned project is being reviewed by the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The following is the project information:

PropONENT	4D Ventures and Dev't Inc.
PROJECT NAME	Proposed Nickel Laterite Mining Project
PROJECT LOCATION	Barangays Pantukan and Adlay, Carrascal, Surigao del Sur and Barangay Cagdianao, Claver, Surigao del Norte
NATURE OF THE PROJECT	Resource Extractive Industry
EXTRACTION RATE	8,000,000 MT/Year
MPSA 222-2010-XIII Area	2,320.0881 hectares

All interested parties who wish to attend or participate in this on-line Public Hearing should preferably confirm their attendance/ participation through the above Zoom platform.

Likewise they may give their opinion(s) in a concise position paper submitted to the ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION (EIAMD) of this Office through email or email at enr@emb.gov.ph, three (3) days before the Public Hearing schedule.

The project's EIS and Executive Summary for the Public are downloadable at our website: www.eia.emb.gov.ph (kindly access the Notice of Public Hearing/ Consultation link found in our website) while copies will be available in the following offices:

EMB CARAGA
Purok 3, Bgy. Ambogo,
Butuan City

MPDO-Carrascal
Municipal Hall, Poblacion,
Carrascal, Surigao del Sur

MPDO-Claver
Municipal Hall, Claver, Surigao
del Norte

For more details, please contact the EIAMD Division at this Office at telephone numbers (02) 8539 4376 local 116 and look for the project case handler Engr. Joel G. Polinan or at this email: joel.polinan@emb.gov.ph

mpj

Protect the environment... Protect life..

21 MARCH 2022, MONDAY



NEWS ALERTS

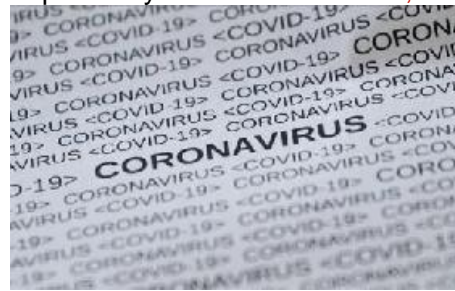
COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



PH stays ‘very low risk’ with negative growth rate, low ADAR

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor and Christopher Lloyd Caliwan March 20, 2022, 3:11 pm



MANILA – The Philippines remained at “very low risk” classification for Covid-19 while countries in East Asia are experiencing a surge in new cases, the OCTA Research Group said Sunday.

In a tweet, OCTA Research Group Fellow Dr. Guido David said the country’s average daily attack rate (ADAR) is 0.47 as of March 18.

The growth rate is at minus 22 percent and the seven-day average of new cases is at 527 per 100,000 individuals.

Timor-Leste, Taiwan, Cambodia, and China are also “very low risk” for Covid-19.

Their ADARs range from 0.13 to 0.86 while their seven-day average of new cases range from 2 to 1,885.

South Korea, Vietnam, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, and Brunei are classified as severe based on their ADAR, which is the average number of cases in a week per 100,000 people.

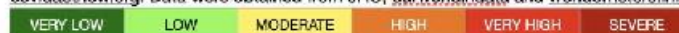
South Korea and Vietnam have high ADAR of 788.15 and 281.52, respectively, while their growth rates are at 42 percent and 38 percent, respectively.

Brunei, also “severe”, has an ADAR of 482.60 but growth rate (new cases for the week compared to the previous week) is at minus 43 percent.

Covid-19 Numbers in East Asia as of March 18, 2022

As of March 18, 2022	7-Day Average	ADAR	Growth
South Korea	404,666	788.15	42%
Vietnam	274,025	281.52	38%
Japan	49,935	39.68	-10%
Hong Kong	26,536	349.10	-32%
Malaysia	25,270	76.38	-17%
Thailand	23,962	34.18	7%
Indonesia	12,086	4.34	-50%
Singapore	11,402	192.31	-30%
Brunei	2,146	482.60	-43%
China	1,885	0.13	362%
Laos	733	9.83	185%
Myanmar	595	1.08	-50%
Philippines	527	0.47	-22%
Cambodia	148	0.86	-48%
Taiwan	71	0.30	11%
Timor Leste	2	0.15	-67%

Growth = growth rate in new cases, current week vs previous week. ADAR = 7-day average number of new cases per 100k people. Indicators are based on covidactnow.org. Data were obtained from JHU, ourworldindata and worldometers.info





In terms of growth rate, China is at 362 percent while Laos is at 185 percent, although they are still classified as “very low” and “moderate”, respectively, as their ADAR are at 0.13 and 9.83, respectively.

For the past week, South Korea had 404,666 new cases and Vietnam 274,025.

Vietnam will host the 31st Southeast Asian Games on May 12 to 23, with about 10,000 athletes from 11 nations participating.

Organizers said strict protocols will be implemented, including limiting or barring spectators who would want to witness the 526 events in 40 sports.

The biennial meet was reset from its original schedule November 21 to December 2 last year due to the pandemic.

Keeping it down

Based on the latest Department of Health data, there were 4,131 new Covid-19 infections from March 7 to 13 while intensive care unit bed utilization is at a mere 19.6 percent as of March 14.

The Philippine National Police (PNP) said it will remain active in imposing minimum health protocols and reminded visitors in tourist spots to prioritize their protection.

Vacationers should expect the presence of cops, help desks, and assistance posts in areas of convergence like beaches and churches during the Holy Week, according to PNP spokesperson Col. Jean Fajardo.

“Don’t forget to always wear face masks and practice social distancing wherever you go,” she said in a radio interview on Sunday.

Of the estimated 17,000 to be deployed by the PNP, about 5,000 will be on foot and bike patrol in more congested areas such as Boracay and passenger terminals.

Fajardo said they will be assisted by more than 42,000 force multipliers and volunteers.

“Inaatasan na rin ang mga field commanders na makipag-ugnayan sa mga local chief executives po natin lalong lalo na dito sa ating mga local tourism offices para po masiguro na magiging ligtas ang ating mga turista, both local and foreign. Aasahan din natin ang pagdagsa ng ating mga turista lalong lalo na ngayon na halos wala ng restriction, kung meron man ay very minimal na ang restriction pagdating sa travel and movement (Field commanders are also instructed to coordinate with local chief executives, especially in the local tourism offices, to ensure that our tourists will be safe, both local and foreign. We will also expect the influx of our tourists especially now that there are almost no restrictions. If there are any, the restrictions are very minimal when it comes to travel and movement),” she said. (PNA)



Expert warns new COVID-19 surge 'inevitable'

By [Paige Javier, CNN Philippines](#)

Published Mar 19, 2022 5:30:19 PM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, March 19) – Infectious diseases expert Dr. Rontgene Solante warned the country could face another wave of COVID-19 infections, similar to surges that have swept Hong Kong, South Korea, and Vietnam.

Solante cited three factors that could lead to another spike in cases:

1. The highly transmissible Omicron BA.2 subvariant, which is dominant in Hong Kong, South Korea, and the Philippines;
2. The reopening of society, downgrading of some health protocols; and
3. Waning immunity of vaccines to protect against infection (though protection against severe COVID-19 remains high).

"If you look at these countries, it's because of the waning immunity and the ability of the Omicron BA.2 to evade the antibody that is being produced by the vaccine," he said.

Solante stressed the importance of getting booster shots to increase protection, as immunity from the primary doses wanes after a few months.

As of March 14, The Department of Health (DOH) said 11.16 million individuals of the over 33 million eligible population have already received their boosters.

"We are planning a fourth dose or a second booster for the vulnerable population. Just to make sure that by the time we have a spike or surge in May, June, July, this population will still be protected from COVID," Solante said.

The DOH listed 4,131 new COVID-19 cases from March 7 to 13. It also reported 591 new deaths in the same period.

Based on the DOH tracker, there is a dip in both individuals and samples tested weekly. From a peak of over 500,000 in January, it has fallen to a little over 100,000 in March.

"As long as the positivity rate remains below 5% then we are still keeping good track of the virus that's going around in our community," said another infectious diseases expert, Dr. Edsel Salvaña.



Solante, meanwhile, called on the public to continue following health protocols, and remain cautious of potential superspreader events - especially in the run-up to May elections.

"Yes we are in a good situation now that our cases are low but it does not guarantee that we will not have another spike or surge in cases. The other part is our testing capacity. Less are testing now so how will we know that we are below 1,000? So the true picture of the number of cases does not reflect," he said.

Solante also urged the government to keep Metro Manila and other parts of the country under Alert Level 1 for the next few months.

"I don't agree with downgrading, downsizing at zero. Remain at alert level one and let's see after the elections, we will see if the cases are stable, increasing or not. We can reassess," he said.

21 MARCH 2022, MONDAY



DENR

NEWS

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D1rFTR34lWo>

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