

30 MARCH 2022, Wednesday



**DENR**

# NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



## DENR-BFP Pen Five-Year Partnership for Reforestation Program

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 Journal Online



In a landmark move to strengthen inter-agency reforestation initiatives, **Department of Environment and Natural Resources** (DENR) Region 3 Executive Director Paquito Moreno, Jr. and **Bureau of Fire Protection** (BFP) Chief Fire Director Louie Puracan (2nd and 3rd from left, seated) sign the five-year Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to collaborate in the adoption of identified National Greening Program reforestation areas in Bulacan province. The agreement includes the planting of bamboo, forest and fruit bearing tree species and their maintenance to ensure sustainable growth. The MOA signing, held at the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center on March 25, was witnessed by (left to right, seated) **DENR** Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service Director Khalil Sergio Bayam and BFP Officer-in-Charge Deputy Chief for Operation Ch Supt Wilberto Rico Neil Kwan Tiu, and Philippine Bamboo Industry Development Council Executive Director Rene Madarang (2nd from right, standing).

Source: <https://journal.com.ph/denr-bfp-pen-five-year-partnership-for-reforestation-program/>



## LIBO-LIBONG PILIPINO ANG NAKILAHOK SA TAUNANG EARTH HOUR 2022



March 29, 2022 @ 7:43 AM 22 hours ago

KAUGNAY sa paggunita ng buong mundo sa taunang **Earth Hour** nitong March 26 ay pinasalamatan ni DENR o Department of Environment and Natural Resources acting secretary Jim Sampulna ang mga Pilipino na nakiisa sa makahulugang pagpatay ng ilaw sa loob ng isang oras para sa maayos na pamamahala ng kapaligiran bilang bahagi ng “new normal lifestyle.”

Noong April 2021 nang nagsumite ang Pilipinas ng Nationality Determined Contribution sa UNFCCC o ang United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change kung saan ay nangako ang bansa sa inaasahang pagbaba ng greenhouse gas emissions sa 75% kung saan 2.71% dito ay unconditional habang ang 72.29% naman ay conditional para sa taong 2020 hanggang 2030.

Para sa DENR acting secretary, ang ambisyosong mithiin na ito ay hindi matutupad kung ang gobyerno lamang ang kikilos at ang tao ay mananatili lamang sa kanilang nakagawiang pamumuhay na nakakasira sa kapaligiran.

Upang labanan ang ilang suliraning pang-kapaligiran sa bansa, nangako si Sampulna na ipagpapatuloy ng bansa ang pagpapatupad sa environmental laws tulad ng Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2001, Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999 at ang Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004. Sa kanyang pamamahala, ipagpapatuloy din ng DENR ang pagpapalakas sa National Greening Program at protektahan ang 8.7 million ektarya ng kagubatan, kabilang ang panga-nga-laga sa mga protected areas at biodiversity ng terrestrial at marine ecosystems ng bansa.



## LIBO-LIBONG PILIPINO ANG NAKILAHOK SA TAUNANG EARTH HOUR 2022

Binigyang diin ng acting DENR secretary ang kahalagahan ng mga kolektibong aksiyon ng bawat isa upang labanan ang climate change tulad ng paghikayat sa mga Pilipino na gumamit ng bisikleta at mass transport vehicles, bilang tugon na rin sa krisis-petrolyo na hinaharap ng bansa. Pinaalalahanan din ni Sampulna ang publiko na magtipid sa tubig partikular na ngayong panahon ng tag-init. Samantala, para naman sa nalalapit na eleksiyon, hinikayat ni Sampulna ang Filipinong botante na piliin ang pinuno na bibigyan ng prayoridad ang climate change mitigation.

Nitong March 26 sa pamamagitan ng pagpatay ng kanilang computers, television sets, air conditioning units at mga hindi kinakailangang ilaw ng mula 8:30 hanggang 9:30 ng gabi ay libu-libong mga Pilipino ang nakilahok sa gawain.

Ang Earth Hour movement, na inorganisa ng World Wide Fund for Nature, ay sinimulan sa Sydney, Australia noong taong 2007 hanggang sa ito'y maging annual symbolic action sa buong mundo na lumaganap na sa mahigit 7,000 lungsod at sa 180 bansa at teritoryo.



## Nursery for Manila Bay bamboo parks rises on Pampanga's Mt. Arayat

By: [Tonette Orejas](#) - [@ttorejasINQ](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 04:40 AM March 28, 2022



PATHWAY | Bamboo stalks are grown along the sides of the pathway of the nursery that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources has established inside Mt. Arayat National Park in Arayat, Pampanga, in this photo taken on March 21, 2022. (TONETTE OREJAS / Inquirer Central Luzon)

ARAYAT, Pampanga, Philippines — Imagine the coastlines of Manila Bay, spanning some 190 kilometers, planted with thick, tall bamboo shrubs.

In the case of Pampanga province and the rest of Central Luzon, whose rivers drain to Manila Bay, the possibility of greening the embankments has increased after the [Department of Environment and Natural Resources](#) (DENR) in the province and region made a new source of bamboo stalks in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic in November 2021.

The DENR's new nursery sits on a 7,000-square-meter lot inside Mt. Arayat National Park.

Abandoned by the then Bureau of Forestry in the 1980s, it was reclaimed by the DENR in August last year which started developing the nursery in November to propagate 20,000 bamboo stalks every six months, said DENR provincial head Laudemir Salac.

### Seed money

Surrounded by tamarind trees and located 74 meters above sea level in Barangay San Juan Baño of Arayat town, the nursery is mildly shaded and flood-free.

Little springs provide irrigation, but an old empty swimming pool is waiting to be converted into a small impounding dam.



## Nursery for Manila Bay bamboo parks rises on Pampanga's Mt. Arayat

So far, P600,000 was spent on developing the project named "Pilot Bamboo Production Nursery," using the P1-million seed money derived from the Manila Bay rehabilitation program, DENR Regional Executive Director Paquito Moreno said on Thursday.

The provincial DENR has 12 foresters, including Salac, managing the nursery.

"This is the first bamboo nursery in Central Luzon that focuses on stream bank protection. The bamboo planting for the linear parks comes after coastal cleanups," Salac said.



FORESTERS | These two foresters are among 12 personnel taking care of the bamboo nursery inside Mt. Arayat National Park in Pampanga, in this photo taken on March 21, 2022. (TONETTE OREJAS / Inquirer Central Luzon)

The DENR was one of 13 government agencies ordered by the Supreme Court in a mandamus issued on Dec. 18, 2008, to clean up, rehabilitate and preserve Manila Bay.

According to the high court, the DENR must also restore and maintain its waters to a level fit for swimming, skin diving, and other forms of recreation.

Seventeen main rivers in the Central Luzon provinces of Bataan, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga and Tarlac as well as in Calabarzon's Cavite, Laguna and Rizal drain to Manila Bay. The Manila Bay area covers eight provinces and 178 local government units in the National Capital Region, Central Luzon and Calabarzon. Its drainage area covers 1,994 square km (199,400 hectares) while its coastline measures about 190 km, the DENR said.



## Nursery for Manila Bay bamboo parks rises on Pampanga's Mt. Arayat

Pampanga Agricultural State University (PSAU), which has maintained a bamboo nursery since 2006, is the DENR's partner in the nursery, which grows 20 species and multiplies the "bayog" and "tinik" varieties. PSAU has made best practices in bamboo propagation and production that increase survival rate and shelf life, the Department of Science and Technology said in a 2019 report.

Salac said local governments in Pampanga could get bamboo stalks by June this year.

Read more: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1574364/nursery-for-manila-bay-bamboo-parks-rises-on-pampangas-mt-arayat#ixzz7OyClz74i>

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Pagligo sa Dolomite Beach ng Manila Bay, maaaring payagan na sa Mayo

Source:

<https://www.facebook.com/499151633499640/posts/5209263199155103/?app=fbl>





8 hrs · 🌐

Umabot sa 67 sako ng halo-halong solid waste ang nalinis ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources - NCR, Metropolitan Environmental Office–North, at ng Philippine National Police Maritime Group (PNP-MG) sa baybayin ng Tanza Marine Tree Park (TMTP) sa Barangay Tanza, Navotas City.

Bahagi ang clean-up operation na ito sa mga aktibidad para sa pagdiriwang ng 31st founding anniversary ng PNP-Maritime group.

📷: DENR NCR





TINGNAN: Nadiskubre ang tension cracks sa Kiantay Elementary School sa Barangay Upper Sepaka sa Surallah, South Cotabato noong Marso 21.

Ayon kay Jilvert Mondido, senior geologist ng Mines and Geosciences Bureau Region XII, sanhi ito ng pagulan sa lugar at dahil din sa coal deposit sa bayan.

"Mababaw lang 'yon, 'pag too much na ang tubig natin, papasok doon sa taas ng layer ng coal. So hindi 'yan tatagos. So ang mangyayari doon, mag-slide o gagapang pababa, uusog ang kalupaan," ani Mondido.

Inirekomenda na ng MGB XII huwag munang gamitin at papasukan ng mga tao ang paaralan. Inabisuhan din ang mga residente malapit dito na mag-ingat sa posibleng paglala ng sitwasyon. (📸: MDRRMO) | via Hernel Tocmo

Para sa iba pang mga balita, magtungo lamang sa [news.abs-cbn.com](https://news.abs-cbn.com). ✓





## Green investments



[BY MANNY B. VILLAR](#)

MARCH 29, 2022



IN the not-so-distant future, motor vehicles running on Edsa and other thoroughfares will be fueled by biomass, hydro dams, geothermal energy, and wind and solar power. Electric-powered vehicles and public transportation, and renewable energy sources are the new normal and the wave of the future.

They should be among the growth drivers of the Philippine economy tomorrow. And as the Ukraine-Russia conflict heats up and affects commodity prices, we need to invest in our future and reduce our reliance on fossil fuel.

We still depend heavily on imported fuel to power our transport and power sectors. We tap diesel generators in case of emergencies or power blackout. This dependence has exposed us to the vagaries of the global crude market caused by geopolitical tensions and thinning supply. Even our own reserves of natural gas are nearing depletion, raising concern on our energy security in the coming years.

We should not be many years away from massively adopting electric vehicles, in place of traditional gasoline-fed or diesel-powered automobiles. Some of our Asian neighbors are already following in the footsteps of the United States and Europe. Hyundai of South Korea last week launched the first electric car assembly plant in Indonesia. Our neighboring nation is taking advantage of its rich natural resources used in the production of electric vehicles. Indonesia, apart from being the largest nickel producer in the world, has rich deposits of copper ores, cobalt and bauxite—the crucial raw materials used in the production of EVs.

In India, Suzuki Motor is investing \$1.3 billion on electric vehicle and battery production to help the South Asian country in its bid to achieve carbon neutrality. Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi signed the investment agreement in the Indian state of Gujarat to showcase India's fight against climate change.



## Green investments

The Philippines can receive this kind of foreign investment through the right mix of fiscal incentives and other business-friendly policies. If there is an economic activity that can attract more foreign capital, protect our environment and support growth in a sustainable manner at the same time, it is the development of renewable energy projects, or simply green power plants, along with the promotion of EVs.

If we are to become a high-income country, we must draw more foreign capital on top of the \$10 billion that we generate annually. Singapore, a high-income Southeast Asian country with a population of just over 5 million, gets \$100 billion in foreign direct investments each year.

But the Philippines, as I've said in my previous column, is now in an ideal position to fully reopen the economy and lure foreign investments. Our improving health situation will help us in our goal to attract more foreign capital, especially in the renewable energy sector. For one, foreign investors look for the stability and affordability of power supply, especially if they want to build energy-intensive projects, such as hyperscale data centers.

Our private sector is very receptive to green energy, or indigenous power sources such as solar, wind and hydropower, in support of their sustainability objectives. Many local power companies are also up to the task of meeting the rising demand for clean power from natural sources.

My own PAVI Green Renewable Energy Inc., for one, looks to expand its clean energy portfolio, especially solar, wind and hydropower projects. It is a part of our environmental responsibility, which has always been at the heart of our operations, to support sustainable and resilient communities.

Financing support and tax incentives from the government will make the renewable energy sector economically feasible. We need to ensure that we have adequate, affordable and clean power to meet the requirements of our growing economy, including the transportation sector, which is now partly run by electricity in the forms of mass transit systems and a few personal mobility vehicles.

If we are able to fully transition to electric vehicles in this decade and most of our power plants produce clean energy, we will be in a better position to protect our economy from the fluctuation of global fuel prices and mitigate the impact of climate change for a more sustainable future. Energy security and environment protection are critical components of economic expansion.



## Scientists find microplastics in human blood

UNTV News • March 29, 2022



Scientists have found microplastics in human blood for the first time.

According to new research published in the journal *Environment International*, 77 percent of the people tested carried plastic particles in their blood.

“Our study is the first indication that we have polymer particles in our blood – it’s a breakthrough result,” Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam ecotoxicologist Professor Dick Vethaak said in an interview with the British newspaper, the *Guardian*.

Vethaak claimed that the findings are a reasonable cause for concern.

Whole blood samples were collected from 22 anonymized, healthy, and non-fasting adult volunteers.

Among the plastic types discovered, PET or polyethylene terephthalate was the most widely encountered.

Fifty (50) percent of the volunteer blood donors have PET in their bloodstream. This plastic type with a resin code 1, is used for packaging beverages, like soft drinks, juices, and water.

This was followed by PS or polystyrene which is found in 36 percent of the donors. PS with resin code 6, is styrofoam commonly used for food containers and disposable cups.

PE or polyethylene plastic-type is also found in 23 percent of the tested people. These plastics with resin codes 2 and 4 are used in producing grocery bags, frozen food bags, food containers, and container lids.

And five (5) percent of the donors have PMMA or methyl methacrylate in their bloodstream. This plastic type belongs to resin code 7. PMMA is a transparent thermoplastic, often used as a light or shatter-resistant alternative to glass.



## Scientists find microplastics in human blood

Resin codes are used by manufacturers to easily identify plastics for recycling purposes.

The study discussed that it is scientifically probable that plastic particles may be transported to organs via the bloodstream.

According to researchers, the plastic particle concentrations reported in the study are the sum of all potential exposure to route sources in the living environment that enter the air, water, and food, and even personal care products that might be ingested, dental polymers, fragments of polymeric implants, polymeric drug, and tattoo ink residues. — **Maribelle R. Boral-Cabling**



## Taal, patuloy ang pag-aalboroto

By [Angie dela Cruz](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon)  
- March 29, 2022 - 12:00am



This handout photo taken and received on March 26, 2022 from the Philippine Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) shows the Taal volcano, which sits in a picturesque lake in Batangas province, after an eruption sent ash and steam hundreds of metres into the sky.

Handout / Philippine Volcanology and Seismology / AFP

MANILA, Philippines — Patuloy ang pag-aalboroto ng Bulkang Taal kahit hindi ito nakapagtala ng volcanic earthquakes sa nakalipas na 24 oras.

Gayunman, ayon sa Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs), may naganap na 'upwelling' ng mainit na volcanic gas sa lawa ng main crater na lumikha ng plume na may taas na 1,000 metro na napadpad sa Timog-Kanluran.

Nagbuga rin ang bulkan ng sulfur dioxide na may 1,140 tonelada kada araw.

Patuloy na ipinagbabawal ng Phivolcs ang pagpasok ng sinuman sa Taal Volcano Island na isang Permanent Danger Zone (PDZ) at sa high-risk barangays ng Agoncillo at Laurel sa Batangas.

Ipinagbabawal din ng Phivolcs ang lahat ng aktibidad sa Taal Lake, at ang pagpapalipad ng anumang aircraft malapit sa naturang bulkan.

Pinaalalahanan din ng Phivolcs ang publiko na mag-ingat at iwasan na lumapit sa TVI dahil sa posibleng biglaang pagputok ng bulkan, pyroclastic density currents o base surge, volcanic tsunami, ashfall, o volcanic gas.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2022/03/29/2170629/taal-patuloy-ang-pag-aalboroto/amp/>



## Creation of Taal commission, dev't fund pushed

By Filane Mikee Cervantes March 29, 2022, 7:37 pm



*(File photo)*

**MANILA** – Deputy Speaker Vilma Santos-Recto on Tuesday called for the immediate passage of a bill proposing the creation of the Taal Volcano Rehabilitation and Development Commission.

Santos-Recto, former governor of Batangas province, said the creation of Taal Commission would provide relief, resettlement, rehabilitation, and assistance to those affected by the continuing unrest of the Taal Volcano.

"This proposed measure seeks to strengthen the mechanisms of government to address the needs of families and communities affected by the eruption of Taal Volcano," Santos-Recto said.

Under House Bill 5966, a Taal Volcano Rehabilitation and Development Fund, which will have PHP50 billion allocation, shall be established to provide immediate relief to affected individuals and families.

The proposed commission shall provide structure and direction in the utilization of the fund.

The proposed fund shall be used to establish resettlement centers, homesites and townsites for displaced families; provide livelihood and employment opportunities for local residents; construct, repair, rehabilitate or reconstruct public infrastructure needed in the affected communities.

She said the development fund shall also be used to implement other interventions that could expedite the return to normalcy in affected localities.

"I hope we can craft more laws that would improve our local government units' disaster preparedness capabilities so that we can ensure the safety, health, and economic well-being of our people," she said.

Taal Volcano has been under alert level 3 (magmatic unrest) since Saturday, indicating there is magmatic intrusion at the main crater that may further drive succeeding eruptions, she noted.





## Creation of Taal commission, dev't fund pushed

Three phreatomagmatic bursts were also detected in the Taal Volcano during the 24-hour observation period.

These eruptions occurred at 9:30 a.m., 9:33 a.m., and 9:36 a.m. on Monday, and produced plumes 400 meters to 800 meters high.

Phreatomagmatic eruptions are caused by the interaction of magma and water. Eruptions normally consist of multiple explosive events, the interval of which may vary.

Eight volcanic earthquakes caused by movements or eruptions of magma from the volcano were also detected in the past 24 hours. The figure includes one volcanic tremor that lasted for five minutes and seven low-frequency volcanic earthquakes.

As of Tuesday, National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) spokesperson Mark Timbal said 1,142 families are now staying in 17 evacuation centers.

These numbers are equivalent to 3,771 persons, he added. While another 265 families or 1,203 individuals are staying with friends and relatives in Batangas.

Local government units affected by Taal Volcano's ongoing magmatic unrest include those of Agoncillo, Balete, Cuenca, Laurel, Lemery, Talisay, and San Luis, Timbal said. **(PNA)**

30 MARCH 2022, Wednesday



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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



**DENR LAUDS MAYNILAD ESTERO CLEAN-UP:** The Department of Environment and Natural Resources–National Capital Region recognized the invaluable contribution of Maynilad Water Services Inc. in the multi-sectoral effort to protect and rehabilitate the Manila Bay through its wastewater management and *estero* clean-up drives. Photo shows Maynilad Wastewater sewer network management head Reynaldo Angeles (3rd from left) receiving a plaque of appreciation from DENR-NCR regional executive director Jacqueline Caangan, CESO III (2nd from left) for being DENR's environmental partner, given during the 'Gawad Taga-Ilog 2.0: Search for Most Improved Estero in Metro Manila' held recently at Park Inn by Radisson in Quezon City. Maynilad helped in the clean-up of Estero de San Miguel in Manila, which was awarded the 'Most Improved Estero' citation this year.



■ Frederic Francis Cruz, president of FF Cruz Shipping Corp., leads the inauguration of the new Ajuy-E.B. Magalona missionary route on March 25, 2022. Also present were Iloilo Gov. Arthur Defensor; Ajuy, Iloilo Mayor Jet Rojas; lawyer James Balsomo 2nd, representative of Iloilo Fifth District Rep. Raul Tupas; Marina Regional Director Felisa Orongan; and Commander Edison Diaz of Coast Guard Station Iloilo. MARINA PHOTO

# FF Cruz starts Panay-Negros missionary route

BY GENIVI VERDEJO

**F**F Cruz Shipping Corp. has opened the new Ajuy-E.B. Magalona service that links Panay Island and Negros Occidental.

The Maritime Industry Authority (Marina) said the route of Bay-ang, Ajuy, Iloilo to Mantaangan, EB Magalona, Negros Occidental is the first missionary route granted by Marina Regional Office 6.

Frederic Francis Cruz, president of FF Cruz Shipping Corp., led the inauguration of the new mission-

ary route at Bay-ang, Ajuy, Iloilo on March 25, which was attended by Iloilo Gov. Arthur Defensor; Ajuy, Iloilo Mayor Jet Rojas; lawyer James Balsomo 2nd, representative of Iloilo Fifth District Rep. Raul Tupas; Marina Regional Director Felisa Orongan; and Commander Edison Diaz of Coast Guard Station Iloilo.

The event was also witnessed by representatives of the Department of Public Works and Highways, National Economic and Development Authority, Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and local government unit (LGU) officials of Ajuy.

M/V Felipe commenced her voyage from Barangay Mantaangan, EB Magalona, Negros Occidental going to Barangay Bay-ang, Ajuy, Iloilo, which takes an hour and a half, notably shorter than the travel time in the Dumangas to Bacolod route. This new route will truly be ben-

eficial to the passengers and other enterprises, mostly in the northern part of Iloilo.

Orongan lauded FF Cruz Shipping Corp. for fostering the interconnectivity between Panay Island and Negros Occidental and for making a new route in Aju and EB Magalona a reality. FF Cruz Shipping's new service will contribute to the economic development of Ajuy and its neighboring towns, he said.

Marina, the maritime stakeholders, other government agencies and LGUs promote economic growth through enhanced interconnectivity in the maritime sector.



## Manila Water readies lab for virus detection in wastewater

MANILA Water Co., Inc. announced on Tuesday that it plans to build a molecular laboratory for wastewater surveillance over SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

"The project is part of the company's COVID-19 response and is aimed to detect and quantify the SARS-CoV-2 in wastewater using polymerase chain reaction (PCR) machines that are efficient in amplifying small segments of DNA or RNA. These data will be complementary to the current clinical testing and reports of confirmed positive cases," Manila Water Laboratory Services Head Joannatess B. De Vera said in a statement.

The company's first molecular laboratory is expected to be completed before month's end and will be ready to operate by June 2022.

Ms. De Vera said the facility would expand the capacity of Manila Water's laboratory services to detect SARS-CoV-2 virus in its wastewater treatment systems and generate data for public health use.

The project aims to help communities have access to the technique and technology in tracking local outbreaks of COVID-19 or what is called wastewater-based epidemiology (WBE).

"[The] data to be generated in this molecular lab can help communities formulate actions in mitigating COVID-19 in its early stages of emergence or re-emergence as WBE can detect the virus even before people show symptoms," Manila Water Research and Development Head Emmanuel Jimenez said.

Mr. Jimenez said that since wastewater samples contain waste from numerous individuals, the community will have access to a cost and time-efficient screening approach to determine the level of infection not only of COVID-19 but other possible emerging and future threats.

"The new facility will support the current efforts of the different local government units to address this pandemic. Operating the molecular laboratory also allows the company to provide services beyond its regular wastewater treatment and operations," Manila Water added.

Manila Water provides water treatment, sewerage and sanitation, distribution services, and management services to residential, commercial, and industrial customers in the East Concession Zone. — **Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson**



## AbaCore subsidiaries sell Batangas properties

AbaCore Capital Holdings Inc. (AbaCore) announces that its subsidiaries Friendship Management Corp. (Friendship Management) and Candor Realty Corp. (Candor) have agreed to sell properties in Batangas to businessmen expanding their operations in the province.

Under the agreement, Friendship Management will sell 21,375 square meters of land located at Tanguay in Lipa City, Batangas to Taft Property Venture Development Corp. (TPVDC), a subsidiary of the Gaisano group, for P17.1 million. This transaction is a milestone for the Gaisano group as this marks their first venture in the province.

After this transaction, AbaCore will maintain 10 hectares of land in nearby Barangay San Salvador and 90 hectares of land in Rosario, Batangas.

Candor agreed to sell about 4,845 square meters of land to a meat processing company under a large retail chain for

P41,182,500. This entity will use the land to expand their current meat-processing operations.

Candor will maintain another 4,845 square meters of land for itself after the completion of the sale.

Regina Mandanas, chief executive officer of AbaCore, lauded how the transactions that will deliver long-term value to shareholders.

The two agreements come amid an ongoing trend among businesses to shift their focus to Batangas. In October 2021, AbaCore, through its subsidiary Omnicor Industrial Estate & Realty Center, entered into a \$100M joint venture with Starfleet Innotech under which it will provide the New Zealand-based asset management company with land to develop into a resort-like condotel property.

Currently, an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) has been issued for the target project site.



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# CHINA WARNS

# PH: STOP

# PANATAG SHOAL

# PATROLS

STORY BY TINA G. SANTOS

Malacañang asserts Philippine sovereignty over a rich fishing ground now controlled by Chinese forces and a senior American official is visiting to reaffirm Washington's 'unwavering commitment' to its alliance with Manila.



**FROM A1**

**By Tina G. Santos**  
@santostinaINQ

China has warned the Philippines against “interfering” with its patrols at Bajo de Masinloc, saying the shoal and its waters are part of Chinese territory.

The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) earlier reported that a China Coast Guard (CCG) vessel came dangerously close to one of its patrol ships near the shoal in a “close distance maneuvering” incident on March 2.

Using the Chinese name for the shoal, also called Panatag (or Scarborough) Shoal, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin told reporters in Beijing on Monday that it was China’s “inherent territory.”

“China has sovereignty over Huangyan Dao and its adjacent waters as well as sovereign rights and jurisdiction over relevant waters,” he said.

“We hope that the Philippine ships will earnestly respect China’s sovereignty and rights and interests, abide by China’s domestic law and international law, and avoid interfering with the patrol and law enforcement of the China Coast Guard in the above-mentioned waters,” Wang said.

Malacañang rejected China’s territorial claim.

“The Philippine position is we continue to exercise full sovereignty over Bajo de Masinloc and its territorial sea, as well as sovereign rights and jurisdiction over the surrounding [exclusive economic zone] and continental shelf,” acting presidential spokesperson Martin Andanar said in a statement on Tuesday.

China seized control of the shoal in 2012 after a standoff with the Philippine Navy. This prompted the Philippines to challenge China’s sweeping claims to the South China Sea, including the West Philippine Sea, in the international arbitral tribunal.

In 2016, the tribunal invalidated China’s claims demarcated by its nine-dash line and ruled, among others, that the waters around the shoal were traditional fishing grounds to be shared by several countries, including the Philippines, and that China had interfered with these rights by restricting access to the area.

Beijing has repeatedly refused to recognize the ruling.

**Rules-based order**

The fishers’ group, Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mammalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalalakaya), said Beijing should be compelled to abide by the 2016 ruling.

“Beijing has no right to dictate who can stay and who will be ejected from the seas that they have no legal and political claim,”





**DANGEROUS MANEUVERS** The Philippine authorities have logged four instances where China Coast Guard vessels maneuvered dangerously close to Philippine Coast Guard ships at Bajo de Masinloc, Zambales. The last incident occurred on March 2. —PHOTO FROM PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD

Pamalakaya said in a statement.

“We assert to China our freedom of navigation, especially our right to fish in our territorial waters,” it said.

The PCG reported on Sunday that CCG 3305 came within 19 meters of the BRP Malabrigo.

It said that it was the fourth close encounter off the shoal since last year and was a “clear violation” of international regulations to prevent collisions at sea.

Commenting on the incident, the Japanese ambassador to the Philippines, Koshikawa Kazuhiko, reiterated his government’s position “that any actions by force or coercion are utterly unacceptable.”

“The rules-based international order is more important than ever for every country, regardless of its size,” Koshikawa said in a Twitter post on Monday.

Japan has its own maritime row with China in the East China Sea, where China insists it owns the Japanese-administered Senkakus, which are five uninhabited islands.

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) has yet to make a statement on the CCG vessel’s risky maneuver.

Tensions between Beijing and Manila spiked in 2021 after hundreds of Chinese vessels were detected at Julian Felipe (Whitsun) Reef in the resource-rich Spratlys archipelago.

In November last year, CCG vessels blocked and “water cannoned” Philippine boats on a resupply mission to BRP Sierra Madre, the Philippine military outpost at Ayungin (Second Thomas) Shoal west of Palawan.

No one was hurt in the incident, which forced the boats to



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CARTOON

03-30-22

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China Warns...

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abort their mission, prompting Foreign Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. to condemn and protest against the Chinese action, and reminding China that a public vessel is covered by the Philippines-US Mutual Defense Treaty.

**Blinken adviser's visit**

The DFA recently summoned China's ambassador over the presence in the Sulu Sea of a Chinese reconnaissance ship, which the Philippine military said was eavesdropping on an ongoing joint Philippines-US military exercise early this year.

On Tuesday, the US Department of State said a senior policy adviser to Secretary of State Antony Blinken will visit Manila to "reaffirm our unwavering commitment to the US-Philippines alliance."

Counselor Derek Chollet will consult with Philippine officials on joint efforts to support the rule of law and ensure freedom of navigation in the South China Sea, it said in a statement.

His visit is part of a trip to the Philippines, Vietnam and Japan from March 28 to April 2.

"Counselor Chollet will reaffirm the US commitment to our Indo-Pacific allies and partners, and engage with key stakeholders on bilateral and regional issues, including efforts to seek a peaceful return to democracy in Burma (Myanmar)," the state department said.

The US official is also expected to discuss democracy and human rights as well as regional issues, Washington's relations with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) and the impact of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson also said Locsin and three other foreign ministers from Asean would be visiting Beijing separately for talks from March 31 to April 3.

The others are Foreign Minister Retno L. P. Marsudi of Indonesia, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Don Pramudwinai of Thailand and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin of Myanmar.

According to Wang, Beijing hopes to have "in-depth exchanges of views" with the four countries on the current regional and international situation.

He said Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines and Myanmar were "China's friendly neighbors and important partners" in Beijing's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), an ambitious \$1-trillion cross border infrastructure program that includes maritime, rail and road projects in Asia, Africa and Europe.

BRI is also intended to expand Beijing's global economic and political power and influence. —WITH

REPORTS FROM LEILA B. SALAVERRIA AND FRANCES MANGOSING INQ.



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ALBAY

# Newly discovered plant species named after Bicolano conservation biologist

By GABRIELA BARON

**A** new plant species, *Begonia francisabuidii*, was discovered in Albay. It has since been named after the late young Bicolano conservation biologist Francis Gregor Abuid.

The plant was published by members of the Philippine Taxo-

nom (PTI), a non-profit, non-government organization dedicated to autonomously advancing the discovery and documentation of the country's plants and animals.

The plant, according to PTI, is endemic to Albay. It was named after Abuid "in acknowledgment of his efforts in inspiring young Bicolanos to protect, conserve, and study the biodiversity in the Bicol region."

"The new species resembles *B. madulidii* but it is distinguished by shorter and puberulent rhizomes, densely hirsute stipules, reddish and pubescent petiole, smaller leaves, puberulous panicle, smaller bracts, and four-tepaed pistillate flower," PTI said.

PTI said *B. madulidii* is proposed to be placed in the Criti-



**PLANT-ASTIC DISCOVERY** — New plant species, *Begonia francisabuidii*, was discovered in Albay and was named after the late young Bicolano conservation biologist Francis Gregor Abuid.

cally Endangered category, based on International Union for Conservation of Nature red list categories and criteria.

According to IUCN, critically endangered species are those species that possess "an extremely high risk of extinction as a result of rapid population declines of 80 to more than 90 percent over the previous 10 years."



## 7 bayan apektado sa pagsabog ng Bulkang Taal

Pitong bayan sa Batangas ang naapektuhan dahil sa pag-aalboroto ng bulkang Taal.

Sa Laging Handa public briefing, sinabi ni National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council Spokesman Mark Timbal, mahigit 1,000 pamilya ang naapektuhan sa insidente at ngayon ay tumutuloy sa mga evacuation center bukod pa sa mahigit 1,000 katao na nakikituloy sa kanilang mga kamag-anak.

Kabilang sa mga

bayan na naapektuhan ay ang mga bayan ng Agoncillo, Balete, Cuenca, Laurel, Lemery, Talisay at San Luis

Inilagay naman sa high risk ang mga barangay Boso Boso, Gulod, eastern sector ng Bugaan, Banyaga at isa pang lugar.

Samantala, matapos ang isang araw na pananahimik ng bulkan ay nagkaroon muli ito ng 3 phreatomagmatic bursts ayon sa Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs).

(Aileen Taliping)



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### **Bulkang Taal nakapagtala ng 3 pang phreatomagmatic bursts**

NASA tatlo pang phreatomagmatic bursts ang naitala sa Taal Volcano noong Lunes, ayon sa Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS).

Batay sa kanilang report na inilabas nitong Martes umaga, sinabi ng PHIVOLCS na base sa kanilang pagbabantay mula alas-5:00 ng umaga ng Lunes hanggang alas-5:00 rin ng Martes ng umaga, nakapagtala ng phreatomagmatic burst bandang 9:30 ng umaga, alas-9:33 ng umaga at alas-9:46 ng umaga noong Lunes.

Walo namang volcanic earthquakes, kabilang na ang isang volcanic tremor, ang namataan sa paligid ng Taal na tumagal ng hanggang limang minuto.

Aabot naman sa 4,273 tonelada ng sulfur dioxide ang pinakawalan nito.

Nagbabala ang ahensya sa mga possible hazards ngayong nananatili pa ring nakataas ang Alert Level 3 sa Taal, tulad na lamang ng posibleng biglaang explosive eruption, pyroclastic

density currents o base surge, volcanic tsunami, ashfall, at accumulation ng lethal volcanic gas.

Kabuuang 1,632 pamilya o 5,878 katao ang lumikas mula sa kanilang tahanan dahil sa pag-alboroto ng Taal, ayon sa Batangas Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (PDRRMO).

30 MARCH 2022, Wednesday



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## DOH warns vs getting 4 or more COVID-19 shots

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Mar 29, 2022 5:35:26 PM



JUN-ANDENG YNARES/FACEBOOK

**Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, March 29)** — The Department of Health (DOH) on Tuesday reminded the public to follow the prescribed number of COVID-19 doses by experts and authorities.

"Kung ano lang po ang pinag-aralan maigi at binigyan ng authorization ng mga eksperto at ng Food and Drug administration, ayun lang ang sundin natin," Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergere in a press briefing.

[Translation: Let's just follow whatever was studied and authorized by experts and the Food and Drug Administration.]

"Because beyond that, we cannot assure anymore if it's still safe for you or it's still effective in protecting you against this specific disease such as COVID-19," she added.

Vergere said in an earlier interview that she has received reports of people getting more than three doses of the COVID-19 vaccine.

For his part, infectious diseases expert Dr. Edsel Salvana warned that some vaccines may be less effective if given frequently with shorter intervals.

"May mga bakuna na ang characteristics nila ay kapag binibigay mo nang masyadong madalas at maikli ang interval, maaring bumaba yung kanilang effectiveness," he said.



---

## DOH warns vs getting 4 or more COVID-19 shots

[Translation: There are vaccines whose effectiveness may decline if given frequently and with shorter intervals.]

The emergency use authorization (EUA) of available COVID-19 vaccine brands in the country currently allows only primary shots and booster doses.

The DOH said it is still awaiting the Food and Drug Administration's approval on the EUA amendment to allow a fourth dose for senior citizens and immunocompromised individuals.



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
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






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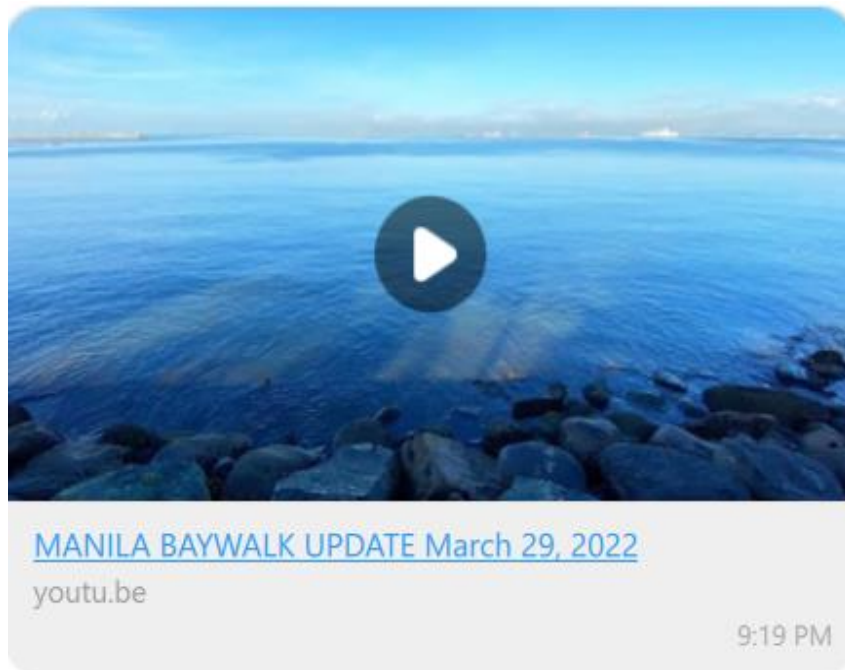


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Bahagi ng pagmamalasakit ng Iglesia Ni Cristo sa kalikasan at kapaligiran, nagsagawa ng coastal cleanup drive ang mga kaanib nito sa Brgy. Taboc Norte, Oroquieta City, Misamis Occidental.

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