





## DENR Employees Union Hails Sampulna as the New DENR Secretary

Friday, March 4, 2022 Journal Online



The Board Directors of <u>DENR</u> Employees Union (DENREU) took their hats off on the newly designated DENR Acting Secretary during their visit in his office on Wednesday, March 2, 2022. Alvin Gatbonton, President of DENREU, expressed his confidence on the new <u>DENR</u> Secretary. Aside from being an epitome of an excellent public servant, with humble beginnings as a Tree Marker, rising from the ranks to reach the highest position in the agency, Secretary Sampulna holds in his heart a special place for ordinary workers, Alvin said. Posing with Acting Secretary Sampulna (middle) are DENREU Board Directors (from left) Revehilda Cendaña, Emmylou Puerta, Ernestina Jose, Dexter Villa, Wen Almazan, Ethel De Guzman, Ma Victoria Somera, Emma Diez, and Alvin Gatbonton.

Source: <a href="https://journal.com.ph/denr-employees-union-hails-sampulna-as-the-new-denr-secretary/">https://journal.com.ph/denr-employees-union-hails-sampulna-as-the-new-denr-secretary/</a>





March 5, 2022	Headline
Date	Editorial
Date	Column
1 of 2	Opinion
Page	Feature Article

## DENR fast-tracks rehab of typhoon-ravaged areas in Siargao

Published March 4, 2022, 9:09 AM by Mike Crismundo

BUTUAN CITY – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) here has ordered its field officers and disaster teams to double their efforts in rebuilding typhoon-damaged areas in coordination with the local government units (LGUs).

DENR Secretary Jim O. Sampulna issued the directive as local officials have started opening tourism sites, especially in Siargao Island, a world-famous surfing site.

"We must redouble our efforts now in helping rebuild the calamity areas," Sampulna said.

Surigao del Norte Gov. Francisco T. Matugas announced the opening of tourism sites in Surigao del Norte, particularly in Siargao island even as the rehabilitation of tourism facilities are ongoing to serve the needs of tourists, both foreign and domestic.

The agency has been intensifying its efforts to help in the reconstruction of damaged infrastructures in the two provinces of Surigao del Norte, including Surigao City, and Dinagat Islands which were severely-hit by Typhoon Odette in December last year.



General Luna in Siargao Island, Surigao del Norte on Dec. 22 after it was devastated by typhoon "Odette" (Albert Lozada/Greenpeace)

Aside from the relief operations, the regional office of the DENR donated 27,716.11 board feet of lumber of which 13,716.11 bd. ft. were donated to Surigao City and 14,000.00 bd. ft were given to the Province of Dinagat Islands (PDI).





March 5, 2022	Headline
Date	Editorial Column
2 of 2	Opinion
Page	Feature Article

### DENR fast-tracks rehab of typhoon-ravaged areas in Siargao

The DENR has committed to donate at least 90,000.00 bd. ft. of lumber to the two provinces out of the region's confiscated forest products.

"We have already tied-up with the legitimate wood processing plants in the region and milling is ongoing to help us mill the logs into desired sizes for use in the reconstruction of the ruined houses and infrastructures," DENR 13 Regional Executive Director (RED) Nonito M. Tamayo said.

The agency also provided 11 confiscated chainsaws to the affected local government units — six to PDI, two to Surigao del Norte, and three to Siargao Islands.

"The chainsaw will help the LGUs in clearing the felled/uprooted trees that are blocking the road networks. It will also help them slice the logs derived from those trees," Tamayo said.

"We have also tapped the Forest Products Resources and Development Institute of the Department of Science and technology (FPRDI-DOST) for the repair of the four wood mizers that we have and once these are operational, we can lend these to the affected provinces to facilitate the milling of the logs out of the felled/uprooted trees," he added.

All these, he said, are in accordance with the directive of the DENR Undersecretary for Field Operations and Environment Atty. Juan Miguel T. Cuna which specified the guidelines for the agency's response to the Presidential Directive No. 2021-076 dated December 22, 2021 prescribing for the "Immediate Resolution of Typhoon-related concerns in Surigao del Norte and PDI."

Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officers (PENROs) are authorized to issue recovery and transport permit for the naturally growing trees while the Community Environment and Natural Resources Officers (CENROs) shall issue permits for planted trees within private or titled lands for the uprooted/felled trees for use in the reconstruction efforts.

DENR Caraga has recommended the relocation of families living within the easement areas of the shorelines of Siargao Islands following the onslaught of Typhoon Odette which ravaged the islands, severely affecting the communities and the infrastructures in the area.

Tamayo deployed a team to conduct the assessment and identification of possible areas for possible relocation of the communities to safer area as part of the strategies to lessen the impact on the residents and their properties whenever storms/typhoons such as Odette strike.

Sampulna also instructed the Protected Area Superintendent to continue the identification of areas suitable for relocation of displaced residents without damaging the biodiversity since Siargao is a protected area.

Tamayo has been designated to spearhead the rehabilitation efforts in Siargao Island.

Source: <a href="https://mb.com.ph/2022/03/04/denr-fast-tracks-rehab-of-typhoon-ravaged-areas-in-siargao/">https://mb.com.ph/2022/03/04/denr-fast-tracks-rehab-of-typhoon-ravaged-areas-in-siargao/</a>





March 5, 2022	Headline
Date	Editorial Column
1 of 2	Opinion
Page	Feature Article

Hoadline

### NAGHAHANDA NA ANG DENR AT NWRB NG CONTINGENCY PLAN PARA SA ANGAT DAM



March 4, 2022 @ 7:26 PM 12 hours ago

SA gitna ng pangamba na pagbaba ng lebel ng tubig sa Angat Dam, tiniyak ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna sa publiko na mananatili ang National Water Resources Board (NWRB) sa itaas ng sitwasyon dahil na rin sa mga isinasagawang hakbang upang maging sapat ang suplay ng tubig sa panahon ng tag-init.

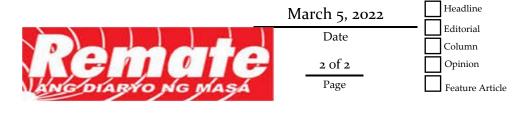
"The NWRB will be in the forefront of monitoring the water level of the Angat Dam and putting contingency measures in place. While we are experiencing low water levels in the Angat Dam, the NWRB has already made its move to solve the looming problem," saad ni Sampulna.

Ang NWRB ay attached agency ng DENR na responsable sa pamamahala at regulasyon ng lahat ng water resources at services sa bansa.

Ayon kay NWRB Executive Director Sevillo David, Jr., ang ahensiya sa pakikipagtulungan ng Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), National Irrigation Administration (NIA), National Power Corporation at Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration ay nagpapatupad na ng mga hakbang upang mabawasan ang kakulangan ng tubig mula sa Angat Dam na nagsusuplay ng 97 porsiyento ng kinakailangang tubig sa Metro Manila.

Ilan sa kinakailangang hakbang ay ang pagbabawas ng alokasyon ng tubig sa pangangailangan sa irigasyon at sa tahanan; pagsasaaktibo ng mga deep wells para sa paggamit ng MWSS; cloud seeding operations; at pagsusulit ng paggamit ng water treatment plants na pag-aari ng water concessionaires tulad ng Maynilad and Manila Water.





## NAGHAHANDA NA ANG DENR AT NWRB NG CONTINGENCY PLAN PARA SA ANGAT DAM

Sinabi ni David na ang domestic water allocation na 48 cubic meters per second (cms) ay mananatili ngayong Marso dahil ang pagkakaroon ng sapat na suplay ng tubig ay nakatutulong upang mapigilan ang pagkalat ng coronavirus.

Samantala, binigyang-diin nito na iba naman ang kaso ng irrigation sector dahil "when the harvest is approaching, the lesser water will also be needed for the crops." Ang alokasyon ay nababawasan mula sa 20 cms to 15 cms.

Source: <a href="https://www.remate.ph/naghahanda-na-ang-denr-at-nwrb-ng-contingency-plan-para-sa-angat-dam/">https://www.remate.ph/naghahanda-na-ang-denr-at-nwrb-ng-contingency-plan-para-sa-angat-dam/</a>

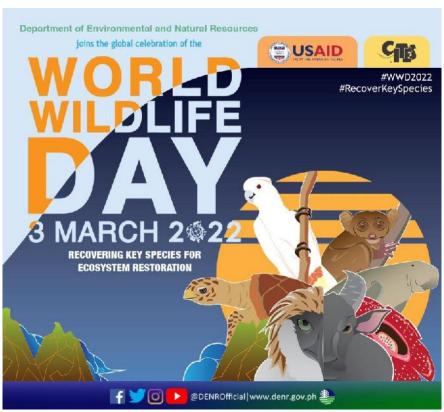


	March 5, 2022	Headline
DOMEST DARKO	Date	Editorial Column
<b>BOMBO RADYO</b>	1 of 2	Opinion
PHILIPPINES	Page	Feature Article
Relentless Service to Filipinos		

## 'World Wildlife Day' ipinagdiriwang ng DENR ngayong araw

By <u>Bombo Analy Soberano</u> -March 3, 2022 | 12:06 PM









### 'World Wildlife Day' ipinagdiriwang ng DENR ngayong araw

Pinangunahan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa pamamagitan ng Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) ang pagdiriwang ng 2022 World Wildlife Day (WWD) ngayong araw na may temang, "Recovering key species for ecosystem restoration."

Ayon kay DENR OIC Secretary Jim Sampulna, layon ng selebrasyon ng World Wildlife Day (WWD) ngayong taon ay para makakuha ng atensiyon lalo na sa mga tinaguriang most critically endangered species of wild flora and fauna, ang kanilang role sa ecosystem, at ang kahalagahan ng mga ito.

Sinabi ni Sampulna, target nila na magkaroon ng diskusyon para magpatupad ng mga bagong solusyon para sa gagawing pag conserve and sustainably sa mga wildlife species.

Dagdag pa ni Sampulna, bilang paggunita sa nasabing aktibidad, ang DENR ay magkakaroon ng webinar kung saan iso-showcase dito ang ginagawang conservation effort sa ilang mga key species gaya ng rufous hornbill (Buceros hydrocorax), tamaraw (Bubalus mindorensis), Philippine cockatoo (Cacatua haematuropygia), at dugong (Dugong dugon) at iba pang mga endangered species.

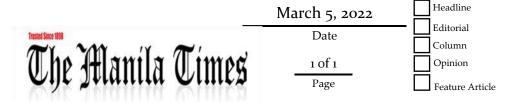
Ayon naman kay BMB OIC Director Natividad Bernardino na sa ngayon ang Pilipinas ay mayruong mahigit 1,000 species na mga halaman at mga hayop na kabilang sa mga threatened species.

Ang World Wildlife Day ay ipinagdiriwang tuwing ika-tatlo sa buwan ng Marso.

Ginugunita din sa araw na ito ang signing of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora or CITES nuong 1973.

Source: <a href="https://www.bomboradyo.com/world-wildlife-day-ipinagdiriwang-ng-denr-ngayong-araw/">https://www.bomboradyo.com/world-wildlife-day-ipinagdiriwang-ng-denr-ngayong-araw/</a>





#### DENR project impact assessment urged

By Vince Jacob Visaya March 4, 2022

TUGUEGARAO CITY: The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) head in Region 2 (Cagayan Valley) has urged project implementers to start evaluating impacts of the Forestland Management Project (FMP) in the provinces of Quirino and Nueva Vizcaya. In her message on Thursday during the opening of the three-day assessment and planning workshop for the FMP, Regional Executive Director Gwendolyn Bambalan noted the importance of assessing not only the progress of the project but also the realization of its goals and objectives. Balamban reported that under the FMP, a total of 36 agroforestry support facilities were turned over to local government units and people's organizations in Quirino and Nueva Vizcaya. About 25,377.80 hectares of plantations were established and are now being protected and maintained. Through the FMP, enterprise development by 34 people's organizations is being pursued. The 10-year watershed rehabilitation undertaking is implemented by the DENR under a loan agreement between the Philippine government and the Japan International Cooperation Agency. It aims to strengthen forestland management in three critical river basins in the Philippines through the implementation of collaborative and comprehensive community-based forest management strategies. Implemented in the nine sub-watersheds of the Upper Magat and Cagayan River basins in Region 2, the project also seeks to improve forest conservation and socio-economic conditions of affected communities and contribute to disaster risk mitigation efforts in vulnerable areas.

Source:  $\frac{https://www.manilatimes.net/2022/o3/o4/news/regions/denr-project-impact-assessment-urged/1834982$ 





## Sta. Lucia Foundation partners with DENR for arboretum project





Gracing the MOA signing ceremony were (from left) Vincent Santos, Director of Environment for Sta. Lucia Foundation; Rose Santos, Director of Sports for Sta. Lucia Foundation; Susan Siron, VP for Permits and Licenses for SLI; Elson Alvaran, General Manager of Beverly Place Golf Club; Laudemir Salac, PENR Officer; Engr. Paquito Moreno Jr., Regional Executive Director for DENR Region 3; Atty. Juan Miguel Cuna, Undersecretary for Field Operations and Environment at DENR; Atty. Ananias "Jun " Canlas Jr., Board Member and Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources and Environment, Pampanga; and Engr. Art Punsalan, PGENR Officer

It has gone beyond the business of building quality homes and communities.

Besides providing livable communities that are safe, value-for-money, and conducive for raising families, Sta. Lucia Land Inc. (SLI) has also taken to heart its duty as stewards of land—to help protect the environment and ensure the sustainability of its project.

"In this business, it's not enough to just build quality homes and vibrant communities. Looking after the land where you build and ensuring that there is little disturbance to the natural environment and nature are a must. For us at SLI, we always make it a point to care for the areas where we build as it has been a part of our DNA to ensure that we respect the environment, lessen our carbon footprint and initiate activities that could help counter the effects of climate change," said Sta. Lucia Land Inc. president Exequiel Robles.

"We want to make significant contributions and to do this, we must look beyond serving the needs of our homebuyers and investors. This is why through the Sta. Lucia Foundation, we continue to partner with various groups, organizations and state agencies because we believe this will allow us to realize our goal of helping build a better, safer living environment for the Filipinos," added Sta. Lucia Land Inc. chairman Vicente Santos.





## Sta. Lucia Foundation partners with DENR for arboretum project

The Sta. Lucia Foundation recently partnered with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for the latter's arboretum project in one of its premier developments—the Beverly Place Golf and Country Club (BPGCC) in Pampanga.



Sta. Lucia Foundation partnered with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for the latter's arboretum project in Beverly Place Golf and Country Club (BPGCC) in Pampanga. Narra, bamboo, bitaog and ilangilang seedlings were initially planted following the signing ceremony.

An arboretum refers to an area where trees, shrubs, and other plant species are <u>cultivated</u> for scientific and educational purposes. It may be a collection in its own right or a part of a bigger <u>botanical garden</u>.

The goal of this initiative is to create a green space for every establishment wherein the trees will not only thrive but will further complement or enhance the area itself. This would also be considered as a significant basis for further studies on improving future conservation efforts.

The arboretum project was led by the DENR's local implementation arm, the Provincial Environment and Resources Office (PENRO) and supported by the Provincial Government of the Province of Pampanga. The primary goal of PENRO and its partner organizations is to create strategies that will further propagate endemic tree species that are constantly exposed to risks such as climate change and illegal logging activities.

The partnership was officially established through the signing of a memorandum of agreement last February 11, 2022, which was attended by representatives from PENRO-Pampanga officer Laudemir Salac, DENR Undersecretary Juan Miguel Cuna, General Manager of BPGCC Elson Alvaran, Sta.





## Sta. Lucia Foundation partners with DENR for arboretum project

Lucia Foundation Director for Environment Vincent Santos and SLI VP for Commercial Business Rose Santos-Mantolino.

After the signing ceremony, a tree planting activity quickly followed wherein seedlings such as narra, bamboo, bitaog and ilang-ilang were planted. Beyond this project, all organizations will continue to monitor the growth and progress of the arboretum in accordance with the conditions set in the agreement.

The creation of the arboretum was in response to the Sustainable Development Goals that were set up by the United Nations General in 2015. It served as a blueprint to achieve a more sustainable future for all.

"The initiative was backed by the Sta. Lucia Foundation which provided the ideal venue within the province for the arboretum project. With the development's sprawling fairways and open space, Beverly Place offers the ideal setting where endemic tree species can be planted and monitored," Santos said.

"As with our past, present and future developments, we remain committed to preserving the environment, rehabilitating green spaces, and fighting off climate change by growing trees and respecting the land," Robles concluded.

For more information, call Sta. Lucia Land at (632) 8681-7332 or visit www.stalucialand.com.ph





## Aboitiz Construction contributes to community gardening and waste management efforts of Cebu communities

Friday, March 4, 2022 Journal Online



In collaboration with the Agriculture's Office and Community Environment and Natural Resources Office of Toledo City and Balamban in Cebu, Aboitiz Construction led a "Scrap to Crop and Waste Management Program" that capacitated a total of 55 farmers on gardening and waste management.

In line with its commitment to building a better future, Aboitiz Construction spearheaded the "Scrap to Crop and Waste Management" program for 55 community farmers of Brgy. Don Andres Soriano, Toledo City and Brgy. Buanoy, Balamban, Cebu.

In partnership with the Agriculture's Office and Community Environment and Natural Resources Office of Toledo City and Balamban, farmers were trained to do organic farming, vegetable production, and solid waste management.

Both barangays are aiming to have sustainable and environment-friendly gardens which will serve as good sources of free fruits and vegetables for community members.

To support the current practices of the barangays on the said fields, Aboitiz Construction donated gardening equipment, fruit bearing seedlings, organic fertilizers, and waste management bins to the barangays.

"Our mission is to contribute to the environmental programs of the communities where our projects are located. The said programs are aligned with our sustainability aspirations. We aim to contribute to building sustainable communities and partnerships and capacity building will be our important enablers," said Nina Ylagan-Pedro, Division Chief for Corporate Affairs and Services of Aboitiz Construction.

Through this initiative, Aboitiz Construction sold its scrap materials from project sites thus, generating funds to implement the Scrap to Crop and Waste Management program, including planting of seedlings that will eventually be a good source of food for the communities.





## Aboitiz Construction contributes to community gardening and waste management efforts of Cebu communities



As part of its sustainability efforts, Aboitiz Construction sold its scrap materials from project sites to generate funds for the implementation of its Corporate Social Responsibility programs.

"We thank Aboitiz Construction for this partnership. Through this, we target to establish an accessible garden for everyone. We also want to strengthen our waste management efforts and contribute to environmental actions through the learning sessions that were provided to us," said Buanoy Barangay Captain Clyde Selbos.

Last year, in partnership with the City Environment and Natural Resources Office of Lipa, Batangas, Aboitiz Construction also conducted a similar program for the local government unit (LGUs) officials of Brgy. Simlong and Pinamucan Ibaba in Batangas City. The program aimed to train LGUs on the basics of tree planting and solid waste management and provided forest seedlings as well as material recovery facilities.

#### **About Aboitiz Construction**

<u>Aboitiz Construction</u> is the construction arm of the Aboitiz Group of Companies, one of the prominent conglomerates in the Philippines. <u>Aboitiz Construction</u> is a privately-held company, with a 46-year track record in value construction and engineering that advances businesses and communities by building a better future.

Source: <a href="https://journal.com.ph/aboitiz-construction-contributes-to-community-gardening-and-waste-management-efforts-of-cebu-communities/">https://journal.com.ph/aboitiz-construction-contributes-to-community-gardening-and-waste-management-efforts-of-cebu-communities/</a>





#### When do sinkholes occur?

Published March 4, 2022 9:30pm

Sinkholes are large depressions found on the ground. These holes form when the soil is drenched in water, especially when it's made of limestone.

As reported on #KuyaKimAnoNa on "24 Oras" Friday, an erosion was likely to occur if there were typhoons, floods, or earthquakes.

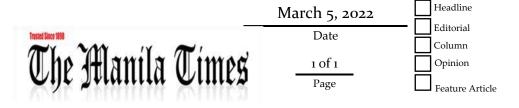
A sinkhole was said to have caused four houses to collapse in Mawab, Davao de Oro, on Monday.

However, Capter John Tubo, senior chief geologist at Mines and Geosciences Bureau in Region XI, said the eroded surface of a sinkhole was usually around a center, while landslides tended to be inclined toward a certain direction.

According to Rheycalyn Lugtu, Mines and Geosciences Bureau geologist, what happened in Mawab was likely a slump failure, which was a type of landslide, or soil piping, because the ground was soft and there's a creek nearby. – **RC**, **GMA News** 

Source: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/116724526976/posts/10160801164096977/">https://www.facebook.com/116724526976/posts/10160801164096977/</a>





#### Philex deposits P137M for mine rehabilitation

By Dexter A. See March 4, 2022

TUBA, Benguet: Philex Mining Corp. has come up with the P137-million required deposit for its final mine decommissioning and rehabilitation plan after the projected end of the mine life of its Padcal site by the end of 2024.

Philex official spokesman and lawyer Eduardo Aratas said the mining company was able to deposit in full with its depository bank the funding requirement for the implementation of its programmed mine rehabilitation.

Earlier, Padcal's mine life was projected to end in December 2022, but prevailing high metal prices in the world market paved the way for the company to further extend its mine life for another two years.

Under existing laws, rules and regulations, mining companies are mandated to deposit funds required for their final mine decommissioning and rehabilitation plans.

Further, such plans must first be prepared by the concerned mining companies where the same will be reviewed and passed upon by the mine rehabilitation fund committee before being submitted to the regional office of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) for assessment and evaluation.

After the plans have been approved by the MGB regional office, they will be transmitted to the MGB central office for review by the Contingent Liabilities and Rehabilitation Fund Committee to ascertain compliance with prevailing issues that will guarantee that mine sites will be brought back closer to their original states.

Aratas said Philex continues to look for possible ore bodies within the vicinity of its Padcal mine that will help in further extending the site's mine life.

Philex, the largest producer of gold and copper in the country, can deliver more than 24,000 tons of ore per day.

Aratas assured its host and neighboring communities of immediate implementation of the programmed mine rehabilitation.

He rallied concerned stakeholders to support the ongoing exploration efforts of the company to look for potential ore bodies near the Padcal mine.

Source: <a href="https://www.manilatimes.net/2022/03/04/news/regions/philex-deposits-p137m-for-mine-rehabilitation/1834984">https://www.manilatimes.net/2022/03/04/news/regions/philex-deposits-p137m-for-mine-rehabilitation/1834984</a>





#### DMCI Mining net income surges to P1.7B

BYJONATHAN L. MAYUGA MARCH 3, 2022



DMCI Mining Corp. posted a net income of P1.7 billion in 2021, nearly three times the P575-million profit it booked in 2020.

The company said its net income in 2021, its highest ever, is due to the record high shipments of nickel ore.

DMCI shipped 1.9 million wet metric tons (WMT) of nickel ore in 2021, 18 percent higher than 1.6 WMT the prior year. This is also an "all-time high" for the company.

"2021 was a banner year for us. We were able to take advantage of the strong China demand and elevated nickel prices because our two mining assets were operational the whole year," DMCI Mining President Tulsi Das C. Reyes said in a statement.

Of the total nickel ore shipments, more than 1 million WMT came from Berong Nickel Corp. while Zambales Diversified Metals Corp. accounted for nearly 900,000 WMT.

Average selling prices jumped 40 percent to \$42 from \$30 on low global inventory amid a stronger-than-expected recovery in stainless steel production, steady build-up in electric vehicle battery demand, and the continuing Indonesian nickel ore export ban.

Meanwhile, the average nickel grade of the shipped nickel slightly improved to 1.36 percent from 1.33 percent.

DMCI Mining revenues grew 63 percent to P<sub>4</sub> billion in 2021 from P<sub>2.5</sub> billion. Excluding a nonrecurring income of P<sub>247</sub> million mainly due to deferred tax liability remeasurement, its core net income soared 144 percent to P<sub>1.4</sub> billion, from P<sub>575</sub> million.





## DMCI Mining net income surges to Pts1.7B

"We expect significant market volatility due to the worsening conflict between Russia and Ukraine. The economic sanctions on Russia will lead to significant supply disruptions," said Reyes.

Accounting for roughly 7 percent of global nickel production, Russia is a major exporter of high-grade nickel to Europe and China. London Metal Exchange nickel prices hit \$26,105 per ton on February 24, the highest level in more than 10 years, as Russia invaded Ukraine.

Source: <a href="https://businessmirror.com.ph/2022/03/03/dmci-mining-net-income-surges-to-Pts1-7b/">https://businessmirror.com.ph/2022/03/03/dmci-mining-net-income-surges-to-Pts1-7b/</a>



	March 5, 2022	Headine
PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY	Date	Editorial Column
THILITTINE NEWS AUCITOT	1 of 2	Opinion
	Page	Feature Article

## Antique's Sibalom Natural Park now welcomes tourists

By Annabel Consuelo Petinglay March 4, 2022, 5:58 pm



NATURAL PARK. The Sibalom Natural Park (SNP) in the Municipality of Sibalom, Antique. SNP Protected Area Superintendent Anthony Evangelio said on Friday (March 4, 2022) the park is open to visitors starting March 1, 2022. (Photo courtesy of Park Superintendent Anthony Evangelio)

SAN JOSE DE BUENAVISTA, Antique – Tourists are now allowed to visit the Sibalom Natural Park (SNP) situated about 12 kilometers away from the town proper of the municipality of Sibalom.

SNP Protected Area superintendent Anthony Evangelio, in an interview on Friday, said several activities were restricted following its declaration as a natural park through Republic Act 11038 in 2018.

The natural park, now teeming with endangered and endemic plants and animal species, is located at the 6,778.44 hectares area in Mt. Porras in Barangay Imparayan. It was opened as a tourist attraction starting March 1, 2022.

"Tourists would be able to see the world's largest flower Rafflesia, which is now blooming at the SNP," he said.

The reddish-orange colored rare Rafflesia speciosa could expand up to 56 centimeters (22 inches) in diameter when in full bloom and considered as the world's largest flower.

It was discovered by the Antique Outdoors - a group of conservationists in the province - in 2000 growing inside the SNP.

Dr. Julie Barcelona, who hails from Sibalom and works as botanist at the Philippine National Herbarium of the National Museum of the Philippines in Manila, named the flower as Rafflesia speciosa.

The natural vegetation also allows the Visayan Warty Pig, Visayan Tarictic Hornbill, and Visayan Spotted Deer to thrive in the area.

"Huge century old trees like the Laua-an species had been preserved in the area," he said.



	March 5, 2022	Headline
PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY	Date	Editorial Column
THEIT INC NEWS AGENCY	2 01 2	Opinion  Example Antida
	Page	Feature Article

## Antique's Sibalom Natural Park now welcomes tourists

Currently, 80 Bantay Gubat personnel of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) patrol the area to help in the conservation and protection of the species.

They will also act as tour guides so that the visitors would be able to see the rare flower and the endangered species only within the designated areas.

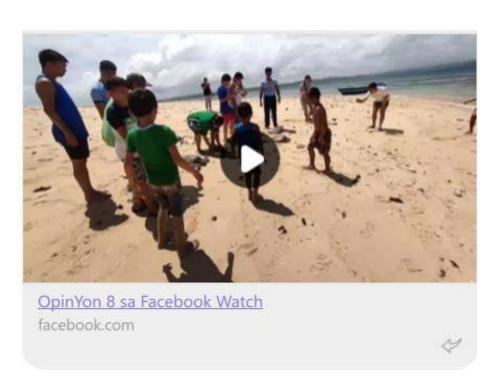
Filipino tourists will be charged an entrance fee of PHP30 for adults and PHP15 for students and PHP100 for foreigners who would like to enjoy the thrilling adventure and unique experience at the SNP.

Amenities such as picnic tables, gazebos, and cottages for families and small groups who would like to hold meetings or stay overnight are also available in the area. (*PNA*)

Source: <a href="https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1169040">https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1169040</a>



	March 5, 2022	Headline
	Date	Editorial Column
	1 of 1 Page	Opinion Feature Article
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## Source:

https://www.facebook.com/168722493140749/posts/5220186074661007/?app=fbl





March 5, 2022	Headline
Date	Editorial
Date	Column
1 of 1	Opinion
Page	Feature Article



TINGNAN: Isang white-spotted bamboo shark, na may habang 32 pulgada, ang natagpuan sa Purok Santo Niño, Barangay Big Margus, Glan, Sarangani Province noong Pebrero 22. | via Hernel Tocmo, BMPM

BASAHIN ang mga kaugnay na ulat: https://news.abs-cbn.com/bmpm/



LOOK: A white-spotted bamboo shark, with a length of 32 inches, was found in Purok Santo Niño, Barangay Big Margus, Glan, Sarangani Province on February 22. | via Hernel Tocmo, BMPM READ the relevant reports: https://news.abs-cbn.com/bmpm/

Translated



#### Bayan Mo, Ipatrol Mo 🗸

Yesterday at 2:07 AM

TINGNAN: Isang white-spotted bamboo shark, na may habang 32 inches ang natagpuan sa Purok Sto. Niño, Barangay Big Margus, Glan, Sarangani Province noong Pebrero 22.

Ayon kay Brgy. Chairman Junmar Jandoc, inilagay nila ang na-stranded na pating sa isang container na may tubig dagat, pero hindi na rin ito naabutang buhay ng Sarangani Bay Protected Seascape (SBPS) Megafauna Response Team.

Batay sa necropsy ng Protected Area Management Office (PAMO), wala itong sugat at hindi pa matukoy ang sanhi ng pagkamatay. Nakumpirmang buntis ang pating at mayroong ilang immature eggs sa sinapupunan.

ABS-CBN News #bayanmoipatrol #bayanpatroller #bmpm



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March 5, 2022	Headline
Date	Editorial Column
1 of 1	Opinion
Page	Feature Articl

GMAN NEWS	GMA News 🗸
NEWS	17 hrs · 🕢

#### SCIENCE SEAL?

Walong Weddell seals ang katulong ng mga researcher at scientist sa Antarctica para sa pag-survey ng tubig sa ilalim ng ice. Ang monitoring device na suot nila ay para sa sa data collection tungkol sa temperatura ng tubig, salt level, at tracking ng behavioral pattern ng mga seal. Layunin ng mga Japanese researcher na may pasimuno ng proyekto ang maintindihan ang epekto ng global warming sa Antarctic coastal areas. Ayon sa project leader na si Nobuo Kokubun, susunod na goal nila ay makagawa ng device para sa mga penguin.

Photos: National Institute of Polar Research/Handout via REUTERS Bisitahin ang www.gmanews.tv para sa mga balita ngayong araw.



Source: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/116724526976/posts/10160800201651977/">https://www.facebook.com/116724526976/posts/10160800201651977/</a>





larch 5, 2022	Headline
Date	Editorial
Dute	Column
1 of 4	Opinion
Page	Feature Article

# Can the tide of plastic pollution be turned by a new global pact?

With plastic waste increasing fast and polluting the world's oceans, UN talks aimed at tackling the problem have agreed to launch work on a global pact to stem it—but will it help?



Plastic bottles and a flip-flop lie on the sand at Maccarese beach in Rome, Italy, November 21, 2018. Image: REUTERS/ Max Rossi

## Thomson Reuters Foundation 5 minute readMarch 4, 2022

From drinks bottles to straws and cotton buds, the amount of plastic waste that flows into the world's oceans and marine areas is expected to nearly triple by 2040, adding up to 37 million tonnes each year, the UN Environment Programme says.

Just 9 per cent of all the plastic waste ever produced has been recycled, while about 12 per cent has been incinerated. The remainder has finished up in landfills, dumps or the environment, according to the UN agency (UNEP).

In a bid to tackle the growing plastic waste crisis, government officials from around the world agreed on Wednesday to start talks toward a <u>historic global plastic pollution treaty</u> at the UN Environment Assembly conference in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi.

It is unclear whether the planned pact will include measures to curb the production of single-use plastic items and packaging, or focus simply on waste management.





March 5, 2022	Headline
Date	Editorial
	Column
2 of 4	Opinion
Page	Feature Article

# Can the tide of plastic pollution be turned by a new global pact?

UN officials said the adoption of the resolution to create a legally binding plastic pollution treaty, due to be finalised by 2024, was the most significant environmental deal since the 2015 Paris climate accord.

Here's why a global treaty - which will also involve businesses and civil society - is seen as vital to protect the environment, human health and the global economy:

#### Why is plastic waste such a problem, and who's behind it?

The United States is the biggest per-capita producer of plastic waste, but in many developing nations a combination of fast-growing economies and populations and long coastlines have filled local seas with plastic rubbish.

Refuse collection and recycling services have largely failed to keep pace with economic development and increased plastic use over the last four decades, particularly in developing countries.

<u>China</u> - once the world's biggest importer of plastic waste - halted imports in 2018, prompting many wealthy countries to divert their garbage to other developing nations.

Soon after, containers full of unsorted trash - often mislabelled as plastics for recycling - were shipped to various developing countries, causing diplomatic tension.

Faced with growing stockpiles, some countries ramped up the burning of plastics to produce energy or sent the waste to landfill. Both have a severely damaging impact on the environment, green groups have warned.

Much of the rest is discarded in the environment and finds its way into the sea, mainly via the world's rivers, which serve as direct conduits of trash.

"Almost all the plastic eventually ends up in the ocean. ... You can be a non-plastic nation and can still get it onto your shores, into your fish, your blood and into your water system. We are one planet," Espen Barth Eide, Norway's climate minister and president of the Nairobi conference, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

#### Why is a global treaty needed?

From the 1980s on, the world quickly became dependent on single-use or disposable plastic, with half of all plastic produced designed to be used only once and then thrown away - from shampoo bottles to shopping bags.

In the early 2000s, the amount of plastic waste rose more in a single decade than it did in the previous 40 years, according to <u>UNEP</u>, with annual plastic waste now totalling about 300 million tonnes.

Globally, 1 million plastic drinking bottles are purchased every minute, while 5 trillion single-use plastic bags are used every year, the UN agency added.





larch 5, 2022	Headline
Date	<b>E</b> ditorial
Date	Column
3 of 4	Opinion
Page	Feature Article

M

## Can the tide of plastic pollution be turned by a new global pact?

The use of disposable plastic, made from oil and gas, supports the fossil fuel industry - fuelling climate change - and hurts the tourism, fishing and shipping industries, according to green groups and economists.

"All evidence suggests that plastic contamination of the ocean is irreversible," Heike Vesper, director of the marine programme at WWF Germany said in a statement. "Once distributed in the ocean, plastic waste is almost impossible to retrieve."

The coronavirus pandemic has presented an additional challenge, as single-use plastic consumption has increased during the crisis.

About 75 per cent of plastic generated by the <u>Covid-19</u> pandemic - such as medical waste and packaging from home deliveries - will likely end up in landfills or the sea, according to UN estimates.

#### What are countries doing to tackle the problem?

Many nations and cities have introduced <u>bans</u> on single-use plastic items, and improved waste collection and recycling.

Public awareness campaigns have also had an impact on <u>consumer</u> behaviour - such as not using single-use drinking straws, or opting for reusable water bottles and coffee cups - along with incentives for recycling.

Communities living near or in coastal areas have teamed up with businesses to form <u>voluntary</u> groups that collect rubbish that washes up on their shores, hoping to protect nature and vital tourism industries.

Meanwhile, new technologies - like mobile apps and GPS - are also being used to help with urban waste collection and management, often using informal garbage collectors.

Facing increased consumer pressure, big brands have pledged to cut plastic waste, with the likes of Coca Cola and PepsiCo among more than 70 signatories to call for a global pact to combat plastic pollution.

#### What is a circular economy and how can it help?

In a circular economy, waste materials - such as metals, minerals and plastic - are <u>recycled</u> back into new raw materials for a next round of production, reducing rubbish and pollution.

"You need to design products for being circulated - you actually need to collect them, you need to actually recycle them and you need to prioritise recycled products in the end," said Eide, who is presiding over the negotiations in Nairobi.

About 70 per cent of planet-heating emissions are related to the production and use of products - from the buildings we live in and the transport we use, to the food we eat and the clothes we wear, according to a January report from Amsterdam-based social enterprise <u>Circle Economy</u>.





March 5, 2022	Headline
Date	Editorial
Date	Column
4 of 4	Opinion
Page	Feature Article

# Can the tide of plastic pollution be turned by a new global pact?

These emissions are generated by resource extraction, processing and manufacturing of goods, it added.

The report's authors said nations are missing an opportunity to slash emissions by adopting circular economy policies that reduce demand for resources and could help meet the Paris accord target of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

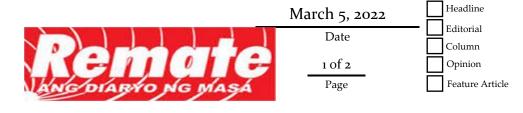
Among their suggestions is for countries to use recycled metal and plastics to make vehicles and recycle vehicles.

"Our insatiable demand for resources and throwaway economy is threatening the planet's future and driving us down the road to climate breakdown," Martijn Lopes Cardozo, Circle Economy's chief executive, said in a statement.

This story was published with permission from <u>Thomson Reuters Foundation</u>, the charitable arm of Thomson Reuters, that covers humanitarian news, climate change, resilience, women's rights, trafficking and property rights. Visit http://news.trust.org/climate.

Source: <a href="https://www.eco-business.com/news/can-the-tide-of-plastic-pollution-be-turned-by-a-new-global-pact/">https://www.eco-business.com/news/can-the-tide-of-plastic-pollution-be-turned-by-a-new-global-pact/</a>





#### Kauna-unahang plastic treaty, bubuuin ng United Nations



March 4, 2022 @ 10:50 AM 20 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines – Sumang-ayon ang United Nations na simulan na ang negosasyon sa pagbuo ng global treaty sa plastic pollution na kauna-unahan sa kasaysayan ng mundo.

Halos 200 bansa sa UN Environemnt Assembly sa Nairobi ang pumabor na lumikha ng isang intergovernmental committee para makipagnegosasyon at isapinal ang plastic treaty hanggang sa 2024.

"We are making history today. You should all be proud," ani UNEA Chair Espen Barthe Eide, climate and environment minister ng Norway.

Samantala, ang nasabing aksyon para labanan ang krisis sa platsik ay inilarawan bilang pinakamahalagang environmental decision na ginawa ng UN sa loob ng napakaraming taon.

"We stand at a crossroad in history when ambitious decisions taken today can prevent plastic pollution from contributing to our planet's ecosystem collapse," saad ni Marco Lambertini mula sa WWF.

Ang treaty framework ay aprubado rin maging ng mga major platic producers sa mundo gaya ng Estados Unidos at China.

Magbibigay-daan ang kasunduan para sa negosasyo ng mga bagong panuntunan sa disenyo ng mga produktong plastic – na gawa sa langis at gas – upang maging mas madali ang pagre-recycle, mahikayat ang sustainable use nito at pamahusay ang pagtatapon ng basura.





### Kauna-unahang plastic treaty, bubuuin ng United Nations

"This is a clear acknowledgement that the entire life cycle of plastic, from fossil fuel extraction to disposal, creates pollution that is harmful to people and the planet," said Graham Forbes from Greenpeace.

Nabatid na pagsapit ng 2040, inaasahang magiging triple ang dami ng mga basurang plastic na pumapasok sa mga karangatan.

Mas mabilis kasi ang paglago sa produksyon ng plastic kumpara sa ibang mga materyales at inaasahang madodoble ito sa loob ng dalawang dekada. Pero wala pang 10 porsiyento ang nare-recycle at karamihan ay natatambak lang sa mga landfill o mga karagatan na tinawag ni Eide bilang "endemic" ng basurang plastic.

Sa ilang mga pagtala, kasing dami ng isang trak ng basura ang plastic na itinatapon sa dagat kada minuto.

Ang malalaking piraso ng mga plastic ay lubhang mapanganib para sa mga sea birds, balyena at iba pang mga hayop sa dagat.

Pero ang maliliit na mga particle nito ay maaaring pumasok sa food chain at makain ng tao.

Samantala, nagpahayag na rin ang malalaking korporasyon ng suporta sa bubuuing kasunduan na lilikha ng karaniwang hanay ng mga patakaran ukol sa produksyon at paggamit ng plastic.

Sa kalagitnaan ng taon nakatakdang isagawa ang unang round ng negosasyon ukol dito.

"This is a landmark decision by UN member states. A legally binding treaty that addresses the full life cycle of plastic will make a dramatic difference in the fight against plastic pollution," ani Richard Slater, chief research and development officer ng British consumer goods group na Unilever. *RNT* 



	March 5, 2022	H
THE PHILIPPINE	Date	Editorial Column
	1 of 2	Opinion
TRUTH SHALL PREVAIL	Page	Feature Article

Headline

# Duterte order commits Philippines to developing nuclear energy program

By Angelica Y. Yang(Philstar.com)

- March 3, 2022 - 10:57am



This April 2014 file photo shows the DOST-Philippine Nuclear Research Institute in Quezon City. According to its website, the agency is mandated to "undertake research and development activities in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, to institute regulations on the said uses and to carry out the enforcement of said regulations to protect the health and safety of radiation workers and the general public."

Creative Commons/Philippine Nuclear Research Institute

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines will work towards including nuclear energy in its power mix and will develop a nuclear power program for it, according to an executive order laying out the country's "national position" on the issue.

President Rodrigo Duterte signed the EO more than a year after an inter-agency body submitted its recommendations. The nuclear power program will be based on the standards of the International Atomic Energy Agency, according to the Philippine Energy Plan 2018 to 2040.

"The national government hereby adopts the national position for a nuclear energy program...The national government commits to the introduction of nuclear power energy into the state's energy mix for power generation," a portion of the EO read.

It added that the state is in charge of ensuring the peaceful use of nuclear technology.

The EO said that the government, through the DOE, has already completed a pre-feasibility study on the viability of introducing nuclear into the energy mix, where coal accounts for a significant share.





## Duterte order commits Philippines to developing nuclear energy program

"The DOE is hereby mandated to develop and implement the nuclear energy program as part of the Philippine Energy Plan," the document read.

In making his decision, Duterte said that he looked at the economic, political, social and environmental aspects in rolling out a nuclear power program in the Philippines.

He said he believes that nuclear power can help bridge the gap between rising energy demand and supply, describing it as a "viable alternative source" of baseload power which will address the projected decline of coal-fired power plants.

"Nuclear technology (can also) help minimize the possible trade-offs between emissions and the environment. Life cycle emissions from nuclear power chains are comparable with the best renewable energy chains and several orders of magnitude lower than fossil fuel chains," he said in the EO.

#### Possible revival of Bataan Nuclear Power Plant

The EO assigned the Nuclear Energy Program Inter-Agency Committee to conduct further studies on the possible use of the \$2.2-billion Bataan Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP), which was completed in 1985 but mothballed a year later.

It also said the NEP-IAC is tasked to look at the establishment of other facilities in generating power from nuclear.

The funding for the EO's implementation will initially come from the DOE and agencies of the 17-member NEP-IAC.

The EO, which was signed by the President on Feb. 28, was made available to reporters on Thursday.

Environment groups like Greenpeace Philippines have criticized the government's pursuit of nuclear energy as it will "burden Filipino consumers economically and expose the country to health hazards, contamination and disaster risks."

In a statement on May 2020, the group raised concerns on the unsolved issues surrounding nuclear waste disposal.

Energy Secretary Alfonso Cusi has openly expressed his support in nuclear power, saying that it is "really safe" and that it will help the Philippines achieve energy security.

Source: <a href="https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2022/03/03/2164642/duterte-order-commits-philippines-developing-nuclear-energy-program/amp/">https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2022/03/03/2164642/duterte-order-commits-philippines-developing-nuclear-energy-program/amp/</a>





larcii 5, 2022	H
Date	Editorial
Date	Column
1 of 1	Opinion
Page	Feature Articl

Headline

### 80,882 tourists visited Boracay last February

Published March 4, 2022, 4:07 PM by Tara Yap

ILOILO CITY— A total of 80,882 tourists visited world-famous Boracay Island in Malay town, Aklan province, last month.



Boracay Island during the pandemic. (Tara Yap/File/Manila Bulletin)

Based on the data released by the Malay Tourism Office, majority of visitors were domestic tourists (80,095). There were also 434 foreign tourists.

This was after the country reopened its doors to fully vaccinated tourists last Feb. 10.

Another 353 tourists were overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) or overseas Filipinos (OFs) vacationing in the country.

While tourist arrivals were picking up, the numbers for February 2022 were not yet the highest for Boracay during the pandemic.

The highest was recorded last December 2021 when 113,596 tourists visited the country's most famous beach destination. But this was still far from the pre-pandemic numbers and before travel restrictions were put in place. For instance, more than 167,070 tourists visited Boracay last January 2020.

With many places in the country under Alert Level 1 and travel restrictions have been eased, the local government and the Department of Tourism (DOT) is expecting more tourists to flock for the summer season.

Source: <a href="https://mb.com.ph/2022/03/04/80882-tourists-visited-boracay-last-february/">https://mb.com.ph/2022/03/04/80882-tourists-visited-boracay-last-february/</a>





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PAGE

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JOINING THE WILD The Department of Environment and Natural Resources office in Region 5 (Bicol Region) spearheaded on Thursday, March 3, 2022, the release of three Philippine serpent eagles (Spilomis holospilus) at the Mt. Masaraga Campsite, Barangay Amtic, Ligao City in celebration of 2022 World Wildlife Day, PHOTO FROM DENR WEBSITE





## SEARCH FOR TRUTH

ERNESTO P. MACEDA, Jr.

## Renewable virtues

f the many BBM "myths" critics are bent on busting, credit for the windmills of Bangui is always among the top of the list. The iconic row of energy turbines along the stretch of Ilocos Norte's Bangui Bay has long been senator Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s signature visual. In all his national campaigns (except the first senato-



rial bid in 1995), this symbol of innovation and sustainability has figured prominently to project the man as

the embodiment of the very same virtues

His putative participation in the establishment of Southeast Asia's first commercial windfarm is derided just as the authenticity of his academic credentials is savaged. But there is no doubting that BBM has seized the green narrative. From when he entered the Scnate in 2010, his vice presidential run of 2016 and now this 2022 presidential campaign, the push for clean and renewable energy has been a core Marcos advocacy.

The passage of the Renewable Energy (RE) Law in 2008 was meant to be an on-ramp to more opportunities. Yet, it achieved the opposite effect. From a share of 34 percent in the power generation mix, RE share has declined to today's mere 21 percent. However, Ilocos Norte has prospered in this area. Marcos country has attained renown as the renewable energy capital of the country. Wind, hydropower and solar energy plants dot

the province's landscape.

The proposed National Renewable Energy Program (NREP) 2020-2040 will set a target of 35 percent share by 2030, spiking up to 50 percent by 2040. Just this week, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte signed EO 164 to include nuclear power in the generation mix, ensuring that the incoming president (he/she) will inherit a policy environment conducive to a revival of the program. Whether or not nuclear energy qualifies under the rubric of renewable is subject to debate. But it is undisputedly a clean energy source as there are no problematic greenhouse emissions.

The long game. When the government declared its moratorium on new coal fired plants in 2020, it was a big step forward in our clean energy transition plans. Our country's commitment to the Paris Agreement, as formalized in our Nationally Determined Contributions submitted to the UN last April, calls for a 75 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. More importantly, the transition to renewables will reduce our dependence on oil imports. The government has just announced a P3.00/liter price hike next week. The surge in oil prices and its deleterious effects on the economy, driven by the Russia-Ukraine conflict, further underscores this importance.

The major candidates are all on record in favor of the slash/suspension on fuel taxes but our finance department officials are advising to tread carefully. The DOF has estimated losses north of P130 billion plus the adverse effects on recovery efforts should we pursue this. But with reality staring us in the face, the specter of having to call emergency special sessions for this purpose is not out of the question.

Critical minerals, challenges. The global clean energy transition presents new challenges to governments. Up until the early 2000s, the energy sector did not figure as much in the demand for minerals. As countries race towards clean energy, the demand for critical minerals has significantly increased. Per the May 2021 report of the International Energy Agency, solar plants, wind farms and electric vehicles (EV) require more minerals to build than fossil-fuel based projects. Lithium, nickel, cobalt, manganese and graphite build EVs and batteries. Wind turbines rely on rare earth elements for the magnets that propel them. Copper is a foundation ingredient for electricity-related technologies.

Ukraine is one of the world's top sources of these minerals - lithium and manganese, in particular. With the availability of world minerals supply compromised, we cannot escape a reassessment of the mining sector in our own development plans. Already, the national government has affirmed its reorientation on the mining front, with the recent DENR lifting of the nationwide ban on open-pit mining for copper, gold, silver

and complex ores.

Autonomy or audacity? Given the renewed focus on critical minerals, the impending South Cotabato amendment of their landmark open pit mining ban takes on added significance. Long before the national government became serious about the implementation of the Mining Act, South Cotabato enacted their provincial Environment Code of 2010. Here was the provision that disallowed open pit mining in the province, anchored on concerns for health, safety and protection of their water supply and biodiversity.

We recall that then secretary of justice Leila de Lima famously (notoriously?) issued a DOJ opinion supporting the outrageous plan of the DILG to file administrative cases against South Cotabato local officials for prohibiting what the Mining Act does not otherwise forbid. According to de Lima: "LGUs cannot arbitrarily hide under the cloak of 'local autonomy' or 'presumption of validity of ordinance' to circumvent the law.

Today, 12 years after, the prohibition has not been overturned. In fact, the Regional Trial Court in Koronadal, South Cotabato has upheld its validity based on the statutory police power to provide for the general welfare of their constituents.

Highest stakes. But even the Court's imprimatur will not render the policy impregnable if policymakers have a change of heart. Acrimonious public hearings have been completed on the proposal to lift the ban and allow the return of "responsible" mining. The Tampakan mine involved is referred to as Asia's largest untapped, undeveloped copper and gold minefield. Even for domestic purposes, the private sector will need copper for more transmission lines to connect new RE plants to the grid.

The Sanggunian Panlalawigan decides. One way or the other, the issue ends up before the higher courts. South Cotabato is only one LGU but their action may be the trigger for other LGUs in a nightmare (for mining advocates) domino effect. For the other LGUs hosting mining concessions, the obstacles have been cleared for the stand they must make. Which side of history

will they choose?

PAGE

## Farmers trained in waste handling

CEBU farmers and communities were the recipients of community assistance program of Aboitiz Construction aimed at enhancing their gardening and waste management projects.

In line with its commitment to building a better future, Aboitiz Construction spearheaded the "Scrap to Crop and Waste Management" program for 55 community farmers of Barangays Don Andres Soriano, Toledo City and Buanoy in Balamban.

In partnership with the Agriculture's Office and Community Environment and Natural Resources Office of Toledo City and Balamban in Cebu, farmers were trained to do organic farming, vegetable production and solid waste management.

Both barangay (villages) are aiming to have sustainable and environmentfriendly gardens that will serve as good sources of free fruits and vegetables for community members.

To support the current practices of the barangay on the said fields, Aboitiz Construction donated gardening equipment, fruit-bearing seedlings, organic fertilizers and waste management bins to the barangay.

"Our mission is to contribute to the environmental programs of the communities where our projects are located. The said programs are aligned with our sustainability aspirations. We aim to contribute to building sustainable communities and partnerships and capacity building will be our important enablers," said Nina Ylagan-Pedro, division chief for Corporate Affairs and Services of Aboitiz Construction. Through this initiative, Aboitiz
Construction sold its scrap materials from project sites thus, generating funds to implement the Scrap to Crop and Waste Management program, including planting of seedlings, that will eventually be a good source of food for the communities.

As part of its sustainability efforts, Aboitiz Construction sold its scrap materials from project sites to generate funds for the implementation of its Corporate Social Responsibility programs.

"We thank Aboitiz Construction for this partnership. Through this, we target to establish an accessible garden for everyone. We also want to strengthen our waste management efforts and contribute to environmental actions through the learning sessions that were provided to us," said Buanoy Barangay Captain Clyde Selbos.

Last year, in partnership with the
City Environment and Natural Resources Office of Lipa, Batangas, Aboitiz
Construction also conducted a similar
program for the local government units
(LGUs) officials of Barangays Simlong
and Pinamucan Ibaba in Batangas City.
The program aimed to train LGUs on
the basics of tree planting and solid
waste management and provided forest
seedlings as well as material recovery
facilities.

BEN GINES JR.

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PAGE

## ANALYSIS

# Collective actions key to recovering wildlife species

#### BY DR. THERESA MUNDITA S. LIM

A PPROXIMATELY 20 percent of the planet's vertebrate and plant species are found only in the Asean region and nowhere else in the world. Home to four biodiversity hotspots and three of the 17 megadiverse countries in the world, Asean has extraordinarily high levels of species richness and endemism. And these numbers could keep growing. According to experts, the region is in an "age of discovery," with more than 2,200 new species described between 1997 and 2014 alone.

For a region that is home to a diversity of wildlife, this year's World Wildlife Day theme, "Recovering key species for ecosystem restoration," resonates strongly with the Asean. Some of the region's economic prosperity is underpinned by the healthy wildlife that thrives within us.

Our agri and floricultural industries continue to flourish, thanks to almost 5,000 species of economically important crops, including food crops, medicinal and ornamental plants, bamboo, timber and other tree species in our region. This is further enhanced by the presence of key species such as pollinators and seed dispersers that make it possible to naturally propagate and expand our vegetative cover. The Asean is home to a diversity of birds, bats and insects like honey bees — with eight out of the nine known species of honey bees native to and present in the region.

Native wildlife is an intrinsic part of Asean culture and identity. Our intimate connection with nature inspires a common understanding of shared responsibility to care and protect not only vital sources of traditional foods such as grains, yams and beans, but also resources that inspire our many rituals and ceremonies. The presence of wildlife voyagers on seas (such as dolphins, marine turtles,

whale sharks and humpback whales) and on air (such as native and migratory birds) that forage, breed and traverse our healthy ecosystems symbolize our trademark Asean hospitality.

However, increasing threats put these important species and their habitats under severe pressure. The 2019 collaborative report "Halting Species Extinctions in the Asean Region" by the Asean Center for Biodiversity (ACB) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature Species Survival Commission's Asian Species Action Partnership (ASAP), observed that many species are more threatened here than in other regions.

According to the report, initiatives to save wildlife are currently being done at the national level. However, there are still about 45 percent of critically endangered land and freshwater vertebrate species in Southeast Asia that also require conservation prioritization — and to scale up efforts to halt the extinction of these key species also means ensuring cross-sectoral and cross-boundary cooperation.

A number of recommendations on recovering key species in the region based on a comprehensive review of threats, area-based conservation measures, ongoing conservation efforts and policy context in the Asean are listed in the report.

First is protecting the ecosystems that serve as wildlife habitats. By strengthening area-based conservation measures, particularly protected areas and Asean Heritage Parks (AHPs), threatened species that inhabit these remaining biodiversity-rich places can be recovered. This strategy would entail ensuring effective management and governance of these protected areas, which the AHP program is currently undertaking. The Asean flagship program supports the management and capacity de-

velopment of the 'best among the best' protected areas through various activities such as training programs in taxonomy, monitoring, enhanced database management, ranger and patrolling activities, equipment support, and development of communication, education and public awareness (CEPA) strategies, among others. There are currently 50 AHPs and more than 2,000 protected areas across the 10 Asean member states.

National, regional and international policies and frameworks on protecting wildlife are already in place and in fact already operationalized. The report recommends further strengthening of legislation, particularly on wildlife trafficking and improving compliance to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (Cites). It should be emphasized, however, that protecting key wildlife requires further investments and research in field-based protection, combating wildlife trafficking, and reducing demand for wildlife products.

Finally, we are reminded by this year's Asean theme, "Asean ACT: Addressing Challenges Together," that recovering key species needs robust, collaborative actions among stakeholders across the 10 Asean member states and beyond. Wildlife knows no boundaries — they roam, they grow, and they thrive across areas within their habitat range that often transcend physical and political divides. Thus, transboundary cooperation is particularly essential to ensure that different policy, legal and institutional mechanisms, as well as management and governance regimes, respond to diverse social, cultural and economic contexts.

Happy World Wildlife Day!

The author is the executive director of the Asean Center for Biodiversity.









PAGET STORY

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# Bridging past, future

The P24.7 billion B-I Bridge that links Binondo and Intramuros in Manila crossing the Pasig River is set for completion in April to alleviate the traffic congestion on both sides of the river. An estimated 30,000 vehicles can pass through the bridge every day, improving mobility and flow of goods.

Chinese Ambassador to the Philippines Huang Xilian said the four-lane bridge spanning 678 meters symbolizes the friendship bond between China and the Philippines and reconnects the past to the future.

"This bridge links the past to the future and progress," Huang said. He noted that the ancient Walled City of Intramuros, with its preserved centuries-old historic architecture, is an exact contrast to the modern and high-rise buildings in Pinenda.

Historically, Binondo was created by Spanish Governor Luis Pérez Dasmariñas in 1594 as a permanent settlement for Chinese immigrants (the Spanish called the Chinese sangleys) who converted to Catholicism. It was across the river from the walled city of Intramuros, where the Spaniards resided. Originally it was intended to replace the Parian near Intramuros, where the Chinese were first confined.

At the request of the Philippine side, China donated two bridges for the Philippines on the Pasig River. One is the E-P (Estrella-Pantaleon) bridge, completed and opened to traffic on 29 July 2021, and the other is the B-I Bridge.

The B-I Bridge is unique in Bridge Landscape Design. Its arch rib design is inspired by the structure of leaves and flowing water waves. The two arch ribs leaning against each other, ingeniously combining modern architectural technology and bridge landscape design, implies the unity of China and the Philippines, side by side, hand in hand.

Turn to page 11

# Bridging past, future

From page 9

In addition, the Federation of Filipino Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry Inc., the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Associations of the Philippines Foundation Inc., and the Philippine Chinese Chamber of Commerce & Industry Inc. generously donated money for the creation of the China-Philippines Friendship Park, built near the Bridge and is nearing completion. It will become an excellent place for tourists to visit to enjoy the beautiful scenery and a symbolic place where people from the two countries share their friendship.

Social benefits

Among the benefits from the friendship bridge is that it helped the local government increase employment and improve people's lives. More than 200 Filipino workers were employed, accounting for 80 percent of the total workers. More than 50 of them were able to build or renovate their homes, 16 are now motorcycle owners, and two were even able to buy cars.

It will also bring advanced bridge construction technology. Many Filipino technicians have grown into technical and management experts after being trained by "Chinese teachers." The bridge also contributes to local environmental protection. The B-I Bridge prioritizes the procurement of highly efficient and energy-saving construction equipment and materials and pays attention to on-site wastewater recycling.

A Water Fog Cannon was used to remove dust to reduce air pollution. Professional institutions were also commissioned to regularly test and evaluate the air and water quality, check the treatment of wastewater and septic tanks, and to timely improve it.

The bridge also motivates the development of the local industry. The B-I Bridge purchased steel, engineering equipment, and building materials produced by local enterprises in bulk, which directly motivated the development of related industries.

"What left the deepest impression on us is undoubtedly the friendship between the Chinese and the Filipino people during the bridge construction process. The graduate of Mapúa University who worked as a bridge engineer after graduating from the university, the Chinese 'uncle' who brought a group of foreign apprentices only through demonstrations, the Filipino welding technicians who have gradually mastered the welding skills... These people touched us the most, and their stories are testimony to the friendship between China and the Philippines," the Chinese embassy said in a statement.

China remains the country's biggest trading partner, the largest source of imports, the third-largest export market, and the second-largest foreign investor of the Philippines. DITO, a flagship telecom project participated by China Telecom, has acquired over five million on-net subscribers.

At the request of the Philippine side, China donated two bridges for the Philippines on the Pasig River.

# Group opposes nuclear energy use in country

BY EIREENE JAIREE GOMEZ

NVIRONMENTAL group Greenpeace has called on the government to revoke Executive Order (EO) 164 that adopts a national position for a nuclear energy program, saying it is misguided and the exact opposite of making a transformative energy policy grounded on clean, safe and accessible renewable energy.

President Rodrigo Duterte last February 28 signed EO 164, which includes nuclear power in the country's energy mix, as this will address high electricity rates and secure the country's energy for the future.

We believe it is a treacherous move spurred by misguided interests that are not aligned with the interests of the Filipino people. Nuclear is the most dangerous and most expensive source of electricity and is the last thing the Filipino people need at a time when we are already deep in debt and trying to recover from a major health crisis," Greenpeace campaigner Khevin Yu said in a statement.

He explained that the signing of the EO and Energy Secretary Alfonso Cusi's continued peddling of the interests of the nuclear industry is a "blatant disregard" of the people's call for a concrete, sustainable and safe solution to the energy crisis through renewable energy.

The Duterte administration is about to leave a tarred legacy and

is setting us up for another horror story like Chernobyl and Fukushima, and that of countries that utilize nuclear power but have no solution to radioactive spent fuel waste. Current and future generations will be left to face the dangerous risks of harnessing nuclear energy, along with the impacts of the climate crisis," Yu said.

Under the EO, the government will work to establish: a national policy on nuclear energy that could withstand changes in administration; a legislative framework by institutionalizing the Nuclear Energy Program (NEP); alignment with international standards in which the NEP will be formulated under the guidance of the International Atomic Agency; and public awareness and acceptability by conducting strong public consultation and information campaigns promoting scientific findings on the benefits of nuclear energy use.

But Greenpeace was firm in urging the government to scrap its nuclear option completely.

"The next administration will already inherit a huge debt burden and the pursuit of nuclear will make this even heavier due to steep capital costs for construction, operation of nuclear plants, enormous costs of radioactive fuel storage, and costs for managing a nuclear incident that can reach billions of dollars, as well as price volatility as almost all sources of uranium are in conflict areas,"

The group even stressed that it is unfortunate that the EO came right after the release of the latest United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change that further reveals the Earth's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change and highlighted the need for nature-based solutions and strong political commitment to address the climate crisis.



# The Manila Times

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PAGE

1

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03-05-22

# Pursuing a mandate to empower the youth

THIS week, the second installment of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Sixth Assessment Report titled "Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability," was released.

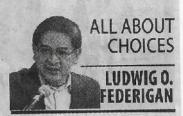
The first — "Climate Change 201: The Physical Science Basis" — that came out last August declared that "unless there are immediate, rapid and large-scale reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, limiting warming to close to 1.5 degrees Celsius or even 2 degrees Celsius will be beyond reach."

It showed that greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from human activities were responsible for approximately 1.1 C of warming since 1850-1900 and that averaged over the next 20 years, global temperatures could reach or exceed 1.5 C of warming. The assessment was based on improved observational datasets as well progress in scientific understanding of the climate system's response to GHG emissions.

The latest report, meanwhile, affirms that the world will face unavoidable multiple climate hazards over the next two decades with global warming of 1.5 degrees. Even temporarily exceeding this level will result in additional severe impacts, some of which will be irreversible and risks for society will increase.

The last report — to be titled "Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change" — will be released this April. It is alarming to note that all these projections and impacts are swiftly manifesting. We cannot wait for a much grimmer projection before we act. Returning to business-as-usual is not an option and the only way forward is to heed the science and take decisive action.

As part of the Philippines' obligation to address climate change, the government has communicated the country's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), pledging 75 percent avoidance and reduction of GHG emissions by 2030.



The NDC will be the tool to upgrade our economy by adopting modern and low-carbon technologies and approaches that will help mitigate the climate crisis and make the economy and growth more resilient and sustainable. What is then the role of the youth in achieving the net-zero goal in line with the country's NDC?

Although we are an emitter of an almost insignificant amount of GHGs compared to the global average, we still need to do everything we can to contribute to the global goal of limiting warming below 1.5 degrees relative to pre-industrial levels. It is, therefore, imperative to work with all sectors in taking a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach in view of intergenerational responsibility.

With the world set to have the largest youth population ever in the coming years, we really need to start thinking of how to mobilize their talents and capacities to make better decisions and influence the work of government. As digital nomads, the youth have access to information that can empower them to become potential key agents of change.

The Climate Change Commission (CCC), pursuant to its mandate under the Climate Change Act of 2009, recognizes the need to empower the youth in understanding climate change and its impacts, and in appreciating their key roles in addressing the climate challenge.

It has been organizing campaigns to engage and mobilize them. In 2011, in partnership with the Council for the Welfare of Children, National Youth Commission (NYC), Sangguniang Kabataan National Federation, The Climate Reality Project, United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) Philippines and United States Agency for International Development (USAid) Philippines, it

organized the "Pinoy + Youth + Power in a Changing Climate" workshop as part of the annual Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week.

With 150 youth leaders participating, it led to the drafting of a Climate Change Children and Youth Statement where "increasing environmental awareness" was identified as one of the actions that the government should pursue.

In 2012, meanwhile, the CCC launched the "Greeneration Philippines" campaign through a National Youth Summit in Manila. The campaign envisioned a unified movement of empowered Filipino youth and also promoted the government's climate change initiatives, particularly the National Climate Change Action Plan and the People's Survival Fund. Thereafter, Greeneration summits were organized for Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao areas to inspire more youth leaders.

Building on the gains of Greeneration and recognizing the need to institutionalize the movement, the CCC partnered with NYC for the #NowPH: One Million Filipino Voices for Climate Action campaign. This was supported by the USAid, Friedrich Naumann for Freedom Foundation, French Embassy and the Unicef.

#NowPH, which means Not on Our Watch, was a youth-led campaign that sought to gather at least 1 million pledges to call for a positive outcome during the UN-FCCC's 21st Session of the Conference of Parties in Paris. It was also a response to the Manila Call to Action on Climate Change of the previous administration and former French president François Hollande urging the international community to pass an agreement that would limit global warming to way below 2 degrees.

The Climate Science Youth Program, meanwhile, aims to increase knowledge on climate change adaptation and mitigation using the latest science. It also envisions informing the secondary education curriculum in partnership with the Department of Education and the CCC-National Panel of Technical Experts. Part of this program is the Gawad CCC: Search for Outstanding Young Climate Scientists where students from science high schools are provided platforms to inspire scientific discussions, technology innovation and climate change leadership.

Lastly, and despite the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, the CCC launched, in partnership with the Oscar M. Lopez Center, the first-ever KFF Film Festival (KFF) in 2020, which aimed to mainstream the effects of climate change through the use of films written and produced by the Filipino youth. Following 2020's success, the 2021 Klima Film Festival will hold its premiere screening and talkback sessions on March 9 and 10 and the awarding ceremony on March 11.

With all these programs, the CCC intends not just to discuss climate change-related issues with the youth but also rightfully utilize their potential in crafting and elevating relevant responses or interventions. The clear message to the youth is: "We need you, the country and the world need you, and definitely, your future needs you."

The author is the executive director of the Young Environmental Forum and a nonresident fellow of the Stratbase ADR Institute. He completed his climate change and development course at the University of East Anglia and an executive program on sustainability leadership at Yale University. You can email him at ludwig federigan@gmail.com of follow him on Twitater at @WiggyFederigan.

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03-05-77

# Action vowed vs climate change

FOLLOWING the latest report of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) that further reveals the earth's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change, the Climate Change Commission (CCC) emphasized the urgent need to accelerate and strengthen adaptation and mitigation measures, especially at the community and local level.

The contribution of the IPCC's Working Group 2 to the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6), affirmed that "global warming has caused dangerous and widespread disruption in nature," and "climate change is affecting the lives of billions of people despite efforts to adapt."

"I have seen many scientific reports in my time, but nothing like this. Today's IPCC report is an atlas of human suffering and a damning indictment of failed climate leadership. With fact upon fact, this report reveals how people and the planet are getting clobbered by climate change," said UN Secretary General António Guterres.

To recall, the Working Group 1 report,

released in August 2021, showed that emissions of greenhouse gases from human activities are responsible for approximately 1.1 degrees Centigrade (C) of warming since 1850-1900, and that over the next 20 years, global temperature is expected to reach or exceed 1.5 C of warming.

The second installment of the AR6 focuses on the impacts of climate change on nature and people around the globe, explores the future impacts at different levels of warming and the resulting risks, and offers options to strengthen nature's and society's resilience to ongoing climate change, to fight hunger, poverty and inequality, and keep earth a place worth living on — for current as well as for future generations.

"The report is a dire warning about the consequences of inaction. It shows that climate change is a grave and mounting threat to our well-being and a healthy planet. It also shows that our actions today will shape how people adapt to climate change and how nature responds to increasing climate risks,"

said IPCC Chairman Hoesung Lee.

The report introduces a special section on climate change impacts, risks and options to act for cities and settlements by the sea, tropical forests, mountains, biodiversity hot spots, dryland and deserts, the Mediterranean as well as the polar regions; and an atlas that will present data and findings on observed and projected climate change impacts and risks from global to regional scales.

In a statement on Thursday, the CCC said that the latest IPCC release evidently illustrates the catastrophic effects of climate change and of rising temperatures in many parts of the world including the Philippines.

Furthermore, the National Panel of Technical Experts of the CCC recently identified the leading climate-induced risks in the Philippines along with recommended strategies and measures to address long-term vulnerabilities, and increase the country's adaptive capacity to the impacts of the worsening climate.

EIREENE JAIREE GOMEZ









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PAGE 1

EDITORIAL CARTO

03-05-22

DATE

# More housing unveiled for

# Mindanao's indigenous peoples

#### By Rio N. Araja

THE Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DH-SUD) on Friday rolled out more housing projects for the indigenous peoples in Mindanao.

DHSUD Secretary Eduardo del Rosario led the signing of a memorandum of agreement and groundbreaking ceremonies for five housing projects for members of the Higaonon tribes in Re-

gions 10 and 13.

He said the housing construction and land development are within their mandate of providing Filipino families, especially the underserved, such as the tribes folk, with access to decent, sustainable, resilient, and more affordable housing communities nationwide under the government's BALAI housing program to be funded using developers' incentivized compliance to balanced housing.

Under the scheme, 250 housing

units would be established in Barangay Kibanban, Balingasag town and Barangay Minalwang, Claveria in Misamis Oriental, and in Barangay Kamagong in Nasipit and Barangay Bokbokan in Las Nieves, Agusan del Norte, and Barangay Sinakungan in Esperanza, Agusan del Sur.

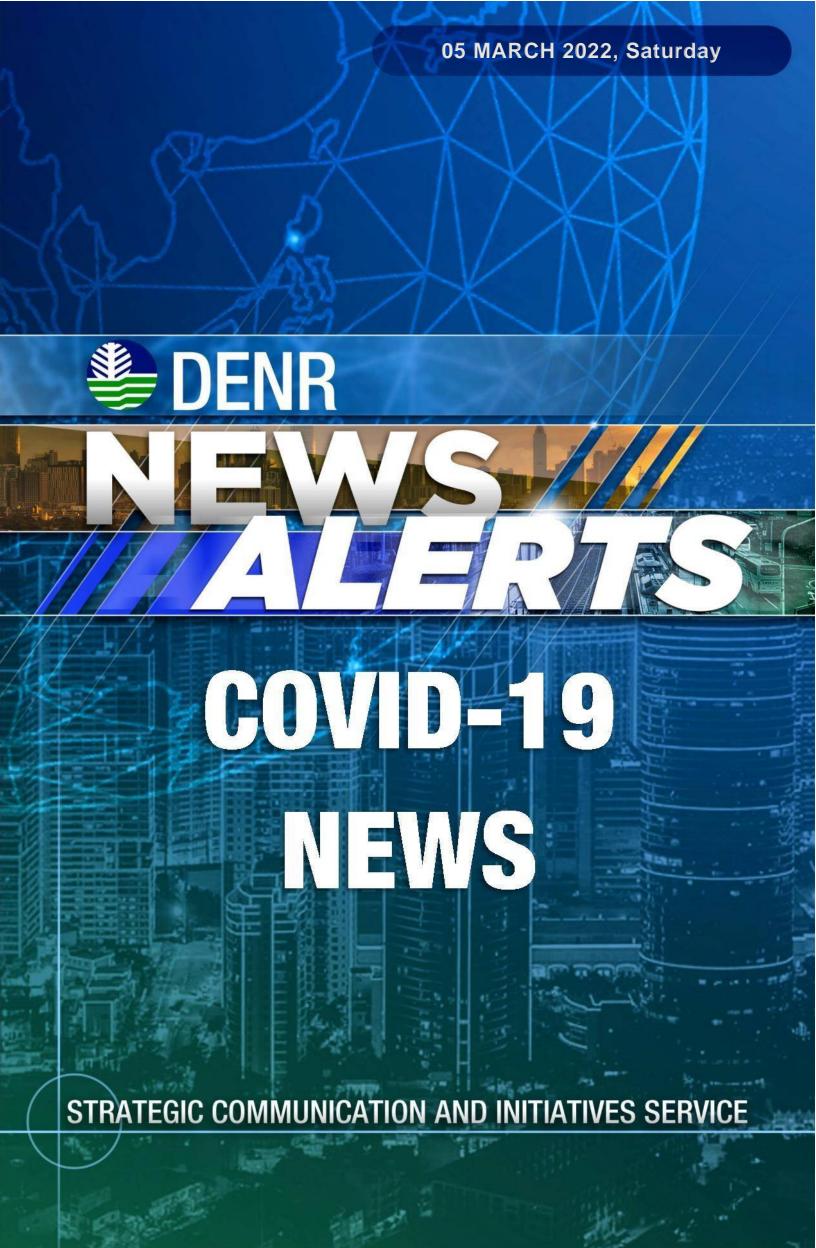
"These projects are in compliance with

"These projects are in compliance with President Rodrigo Duterte's directive of prioritizing IPs in the provision of safe, resilient and affordable housing communities," Del Rosario said.

He said the undertakings are part of the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict's initiatives to insulate IP villages in the farflung communities from communist influence to discourage them from joining the terrorist groups.

ing the terrorist groups.

"Also, these projects will ensure the safety of our IPs, keep them away from harm both natural and man-made," he added





	March 5, 2022	Headline
PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY	Date	Editorial Column
	1 of 1	Opinion
	Page	Feature Article

### PH logs over 1K Covid-19 recoveries

By Raymond Carl Dela Cruz March 4, 2022, 4:41 pm



(Infographic courtesy of DOH)

MANILA – The Department of Health (DOH) on Friday reported 1,062 new recoveries and 853 additional cases of Covid-19.

Its daily Covid-19 tally shows that 784 or 92 percent of the new cases occurred within the recent 14 days.

During this period, it said 170 cases or 22 percent were detected in the National Capital Region (NCR), 128 or 16 percent in Region 4-A, and 94 or 12 percent in Region 7.

To date, there are 50,230 active cases in the country—slightly lower than Thursday's 50,458.

The majority or 91.1 percent of these active cases, it said, are made up of mild and asymptomatic cases.

Specifically, there are 45,300 cases with mild symptoms, 2,773 with moderate symptoms, 1,411 with severe symptoms, 450 are asymptomatic, and 296 are in critical condition.

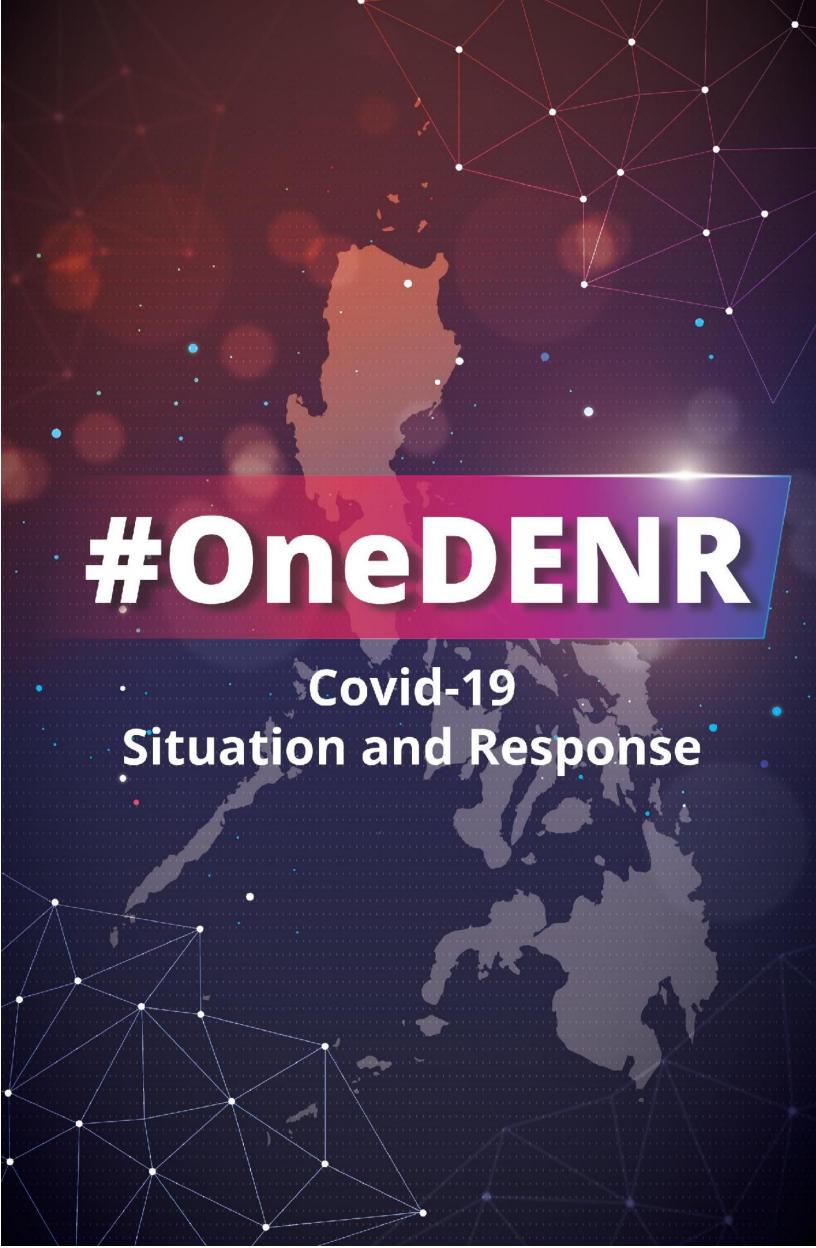
It also reported 232 new deaths, bringing the country's total to 56,770 deaths or 1.55 percent of all confirmed cases.

Based on the latest testing data, there were 25,496 Covid-19 tests administered on Wednesday with a positivity rate of 4.3 percent.

The healthcare utilization rate in the whole country remains low, with about 3,700 beds at intensive care units (ICU) at 25 percent occupancy, 20,500 isolation beds at 22 percent occupancy, 14,000 ward beds at 14 percent occupancy, and 12 percent of 3,000 ventilators are in use.

In NCR alone, there are 1,300 ICU beds at 25 percent occupancy, 4,600 isolation beds at 21 percent occupancy, 3,900 ward beds at 24 percent occupancy, and 15 percent of 1,000 ventilators are in use. (*PNA*)

Source: https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1169057







## **MARSO 4, 2022**

Para sa kumpletong detalye at impormasyon, bisitahin lamang ang aming pampublikong site: https://ncovtracker.doh.gov.ph/

PORSYENTO NG AKTIBONG KASO

50.230

PORSYENTO NG GUMALING

97.1%

3,558,747

PORSYENTO NG NAMATAY

TOTAL NG NAMATAY 56,770

MGA BAGONG KASO 853

MGA BAGONG GUMALING 1,062

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY 232

KABUUANG BILANG NG KASO

3,665,747

#### MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING MARSO 2

**DATOS NGAYONG MARSO 4 AYON SA REPORTS NOONG MARSO 2** 

PORSYENTO NG MGA **NAGPOSITIBO** 

25,496

TINEST

**HALOS** 

91.1%

ANG MILD AT **ASYMPTOMATIC** NA KASO!



#### KABUUANG PILIPINAS PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

ICU BEDS (3.7K TOTAL BEDS)

25% Utilized 

ISOLATION BEDS (20.5K TOTAL BEDS) 22% Utilized \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

WARD BEDS (14.0K TOTAL BEDS)

14% Utilized مسا بسيا مسا برسيا VENTILATORS (3.0K TOTAL VENTILATORS)

\*\*\*\*\*

12% Utilized

# NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

ICU BEDS (1.3K TOTAL BEDS) 25% Utilized 

ISOLATION BEDS (4.6K TOTAL BEDS) 

WARD BEDS (3.9K TOTAL BEDS) 

VENTILATORS (1.0K TOTAL VENTILATORS)

the time time time

KALAGAYAN NG MGA **AKTIBONG KASO** 

450 Asymptomatic

45,300 Mild

2,773 Moderate

1,411 Severe

296 Critical

#### DOH HOSPITAL HOTLINES

For health concerns and emergencies, you may access here the DOH hospital hotlines across the country:

bit.ly/DOHHospitalHotlines

#### DOH ONE HOSPITAL COMMAND CENTER (OHCC) HOTLINES

- . 1555
- 0915-777-7777
- · 02-886-505-00
- · 0919-977-3333
- bit.ly/OHCCHotline

#### DOH TELEMEDICINE CONTACT DETAILS

bit.ly/DOHTelemedicine

#### SeeYouDoc

- seeyoudoc.com
- SeeYouDoc
   SeeYouD

#### KonsultaMD

- konsulta.md
- KonsultaMD

#### CloudPx

cloudpx.ph/

#### Telimed and Medgate

medgate.ph/shop/telimedplan/purchase

21% Utilized

24% Utilized

15% Utilized

#### MedCheck

medcheck.com.ph/find-a-doctor/SeeYouDoc

#### TelAventusMD

- TelAventusMD@aventusmedical.com.ph
- TelAventusMD

#### HealthNow

- healthnow.ph/
- Male help@healthnow.ph
- ☐ HealthNow



Manatiling ligtas!

o gamitin ang WEBAPP



Walang internet or load? Report via SMS

2158-5779 (for Globe users) 225-655-779 (for other users)



May tanong ukol sa COVID-19? I-chat na si KIRA!

VIBER: Kira Kontra COVID by DOH MESSENGER: Department of Health PH KONTRACOVIDPH: kontracovid.ph

MAYROON PANG KATANUNGAN? SUMANGGUNI LAMANG SA SUMUSUNOD:

OfficialDOHgov





📞 (02) 894-COVID / 1555







March 5, 2022	Headline
Date	Editorial
2 400	Column
	Opinion
Page	Feature Article



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March 5, 2022	Headline
Date	Editorial
Date	Column
	Opinion
Page	Feature Article



Source: <a href="https://youtu.be/oX8WI2fn1ls">https://youtu.be/oX8WI2fn1ls</a>



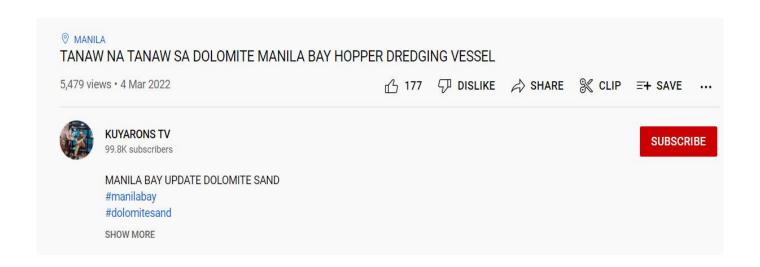




March 5, 2022	Headline
Date	Editorial
Date	Column
	Opinion
Page	Feature Article



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March 5, 2022	Headline
Date	Editorial
Date	Column
	Opinion
Page	Feature Article



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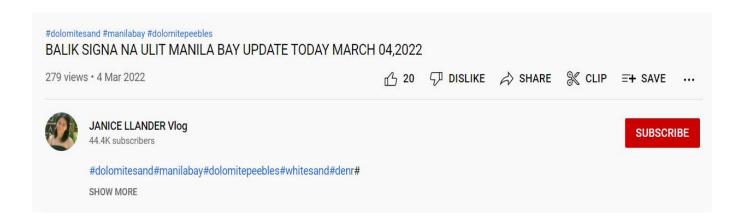




March 5, 2022	Headline
Date	Editorial
Date	Column
	Opinion
Page	Feature Article



Source: <a href="https://youtu.be/weDeHNokZoo">https://youtu.be/weDeHNokZoo</a>



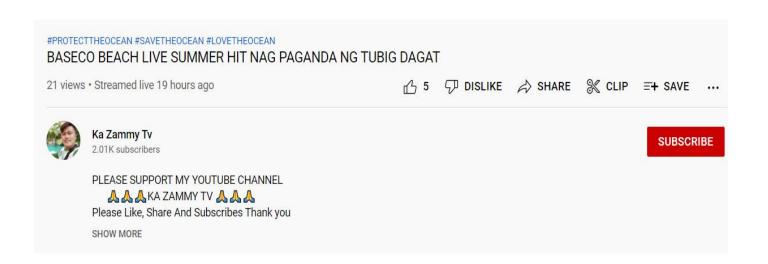




March 5, 2022	Headline
Date	Editorial Column
Page	Opinion Feature Article



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March 5, 202	2 Headline
Date	Editorial Column
Page	Opinion Feature Article



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