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DENR

NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR: Most NCR commercial establishments violate rules on environment-friendly business operations

Published April 30, 2022, 8:24 AM
by [Aaron Recuenco](#)

More than 3,700 commercial establishments in Metro Manila are not compliant with the conditions set by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for safe and clean business operations.

The worse part is that the the 3,754 violators represent the 4,043 commercial establishments that have been inspected by the DENR in the past four weeks. This means that more than 90 percent of those inspected by the DENR are violators of environment protection conditions set by the government.

The DENR earlier deployed around 160 personnel from the DENR-Metropolitan Environmental Offices, Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) regional offices, EMB-National Capital Region, and the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) for the implementation of the Intensified Compliance Monitoring and Saturation Drive. The operations were led by Undersecretary for Field Operations-Luzon, Visayas, and Environment Juan Miguel T. Cuna.

Majority of those inspected were commercial businesses, restaurants, manufacturing establishments, gasoline stations, and warehouses.

Based on the report, a total of 1,857 establishments were found to be without environmental compliance certificates or certificates of non-coverage, while a total of 1,894 establishments do not have wastewater discharge permits.

DENR Sec. Jim O. Sampulna said they will issue necessary notices on establishments found to be neglectful of their obligations under Republic Act (RA) 9275 or the Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004.

“The establishments found to have violated pertinent laws will be issued notices of violation and will be called for a technical conference either by the EMB-NCR or LLDA to give them the opportunity to contest the basis of the issued NOV, or secure a commitment from them to comply with the requirements and implement remedial measures,” said Sampulna.

The same report also revealed that around 3,623 establishments have access to a wastewater treatment facility. There were 2,306 with septic tanks, 255 with sewage treatment plants, and 104 with sequencing batch reactors.

Also, 575 establishments are connected to water concessionaires.

Cuna, for his part, said they will inspect more establishments in Metro Manila and in the Manila Bay regions.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2022/04/30/denr-most-ncr-commercial-establishments-violate-rules-on-environment-friendly-business-operations/>



Flowers in Memoriam of DENR Environmental Defenders

Saturday, April 30, 2022 [Journal Online](#)



Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Central Office employees offer white flowers in honor of DENR [environmental heroes](#) who died in the line of duty or had exemplary track records in protecting the country's environment and natural resources during their stint with the Department. Posthumous awards were also given to these men and women for their bravery and courage during the 3rd Environmental Heroes Awarding Ceremony held in conjunction with the Earth Day celebration on April 22, 2022 at the [DENR](#) Central Office multi-purpose building

DENR removes over 19K campaign posters

Campaign materials are considered as solid waste since they are under the non-biodegradables and single-used plastics

Published 3 hours ago on May 1, 2022 04:00 AM

By **Jonas Reyes**



Photo by DENR Region 3

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Central Luzon reported that its Operation Baklas program has removed over 19,000 campaign materials that were nailed and tucked on trees.

DENR regional executive director Paquito Moreno, Jr. said that the campaign materials seen stuck on trees along main roads and thoroughfares in the region were detached in line with the recent directive of DENR Secretary Jim Sampulna to its field offices.

Moreno explained that Operation Baklas aims to promote environmentally conscious elections by urging political parties and supporters to post poll advertisements and other paraphernalia only in common poster areas and spare trees from any campaign materials.

The agency, along with other national government agencies, have intensified their efforts to remove illegally posted campaign materials in key areas in the region notably in Bulacan, Nueva Ecija and Pampanga, which are among the vote-rich provinces in the Philippines.

“Trees are vital to our environment. Nailing them with posters and streamers will not only reduce their aesthetic values, but will likewise pose threat of infestation, as nailed parts may serve as entry points to fungi, bugs, termites, among others,” Moreno said.

He added that campaign materials are considered as solid waste since they are under the non-biodegradables and single-used plastics.

The regional director also stressed that the accumulated materials from the three-month campaign period could increase, especially if proper disposal and recycling would not be observed by the public.

Meanwhile, the assistant regional director of the Commission on Elections, served as guest in Earth Talk Central Luzon, a regular radio program hosted by DENR-3 and discussed important guidelines to keep the pre- and post-election season environmentally-sound.

The DENR here warned the public that any person found violating Section 3 of the Republic Act 3571, which prohibits cutting, destroying or injuring planted or growing trees, may be punished with a penalty ranging from six months to two years imprisonment and a fine up to P5,000.

Source: <https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2022/05/01/denr-removes-over-19k-campaign-posters/>

DENR ‘Oplan Baklas’ yields 19,000 campaign materials



OPERATION BAKLAS. A personnel of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources removes campaign materials illegally nailed and tucked on trees along main roads and thoroughfares in Central Luzon. (DENR)

IAN OCAMPO FLORA

April 29, 2022

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in the City of San Fernando has removed over 19,000 pieces of campaign materials illegally nailed and tucked on trees along main roads and thoroughfares in Central Luzon.

The series of operations came through following the recent directive of DENR Secretary Jim Sampulna to its field offices to carry out "Operation Baklas," which aims to promote an environmentally conscious elections by urging political parties and supporters to only post poll advertisements and other paraphernalia in common poster areas and spare trees from any campaign materials.

The DENR-Central Luzon, in collaboration with other enforcement agencies, intensified its efforts to remove illegally posted campaign materials in key areas in the region notably in Bulacan, Nueva Ecija and, Pampanga, which are among the vote-rich provinces in the Philippines.

"Trees are vital to our environment. Nailing them with posters and streamers will not only reduce their aesthetic values, but will likewise pose threat of infestation, as nailed parts may serve as entry points to fungi, bugs, termites, among others," DENR Regional Executive Director Paquito Moreno Jr. said.

He added that solid waste, particularly non-biodegradables and single-used plastics, accumulated from the three-month campaign period could increase, especially if proper disposal and recycling would not be observed by the public.

In a related development, the Assistant Regional Director of the Commission on Elections (Comelec), served as guest in last Tuesday's (April 26) Earth Talk Central Luzon, a regular radio program hosted by DENR-Central Luzon.

The Comelec official discussed important guidelines to keep the pre- and post-election season environmentally sound.



The DENR warned the public that any person found violating Section 3 of the Republic Act 3571, which prohibits cutting, destroying or injuring planted or growing trees, may be punished with a penalty ranging from six months to two years imprisonment and a fine up to P5,000.

The public may report incidences of illegal posting of campaign materials on trees and other environmentally destructive activities to the nearest DENR office in their area or contact 0945-368-5303.



Aklan LGU to limit tourists going to Boracay

By: [Nestor P. Burgos Jr.](#) - Reporter / [@nestorburgosINQ](#)

[Inquirer Visayas](#) / 05:56 PM April 29, 2022



TOURISM IS BACK. Tourists return to Boracay as COVID restrictions are eased. JACK JARILLA/FILE PHOTO

ILOILO CITY—The provincial government of Aklan will put a cap on tourists going to Boracay when the island’s carrying capacity is reached.

In a virtual press conference on April 29 of the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF), Aklan Gov. Florencio Miraflores said the provincial government would stop issuing quick response (QR) codes to tourists planning to go to the island to regulate arrivals.

The QR codes, issued during the COVID-19 pandemic, are released after tourists have submitted requirements, including confirmed hotel reservations and negative swab test results or vaccination certificates.

Miraflores said they still could not set a date to implement the tourist cap.

The carrying capacity of the 1,032-hectare island is 19,215 tourists at any given time.

The average daily tourist arrivals should be around 6,405 so as not to exceed the island’s carrying capacity, according to government agencies.

The Department of Tourism earlier called the attention of the local governments of Aklan and Malay town due to a breach in the carrying capacity on April 14, with 21,252 tourists, and April 15, with 22,519 arrivals.

But Miraflores said the island did not “technically” breach the carrying capacity because the data on tourist arrivals excluded the number of visitors who left the island.

He said the average daily tourist arrivals is still below 6,000 per day.

“We agreed to have our data on tourist arrivals synchronized and coordinated (with the municipal government),” Miraflores said.



The BIATF, which has been supervising the island's rehabilitation since May 2018, also announced that the island would be turned over to the local government units in Aklan when the term of the task force ends on June 30.

The island's rehabilitation would still be spearheaded by national government agencies and local governments, according to Interior Undersecretary Epimaco Densing III.
lzb



Boracay changed: Recovery, peace and order and politics

By [Antonio Contreras](#) April 30, 2022

MY family and I spent the entire month of April in [Boracay Island](#). It is a luxury I have indulged myself and my family after two years of being mainly on lockdown.

It was my fourth time in Boracay and the first time with my family. This is also the first time that I took the RoRo boat from Batangas, which took us on an overnight travel of about 10 hours. It is an entirely different experience compared to air travel, and is advisable if you are traveling in a big group and plan to stay in the island for a longer time and thus would carry a lot of luggage.

The first time I went to Boracay was in the early 1990s, which was before the tourism boom in the island. It was followed by a trip organized by my university a decade after. In this trip, I already saw the growing number of establishments and the intensification of tourism commercialization. My third visit was when I brought my students on a field exposure trip sometime in the middle part of the decade of the 2010s. It was then that I began to witness an island bursting at the seams of overdevelopment.

This time around, I saw a totally different Boracay. The beaches are now cleaner and the inner main road is now wider and concrete. Except for [Holy Thursday](#) and [Good Friday](#) when there was unusual crowding, crowds in Boracay are now more manageable and less intimidating.

Some people accuse President [Rodrigo Duterte](#) of so many things, but one thing that he did right was when he ordered the closure of Boracay for rehabilitation. It was a bitter pill to take for certainly it caused disruptions and economic suffering for the island residents who depend on tourism for their livelihood.

The closure of the island prepared its residents for the even longer lockdowns due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It was certainly a test of their resilience and their ability to absorb economic shocks and disruptions in their lives. My natural curiosity as a trained social science researcher brought me to doing impromptu field work as I conversed with ordinary people — from service workers in restaurants, hotels and shops, to masseuses and masseurs in spas, to e-tricycle drivers and boat operators. All of them admitted to the difficulties they faced from the one-two punch assaults brought by the closures due to environmental rehabilitation and the pandemic. But all of them also expressed their acceptance of the necessity or the inevitability of both, and that what did not kill them actually made them, and their island, stronger and better.

There is also a new kind of ethos that permeates the air of Boracay. One now feels safer, a feeling one gets by watching the ubiquitous presence of police personnel, in their unique uniforms, perhaps the only force wearing shorts, patrolling and watching over major areas of the island, along [White Beach](#) and in major intersections. There is a sense of respect and a feeling of reassurance that they evince by their very presence.

LtCol. Dicksie [Don de Dios](#), the chief of police of Malay that has jurisdiction over the island, attributes this to the discipline, professionalism and the new sense of pride that he has inculcated in his relatively young police corps. In our one-month stay in Boracay, we did not hear of any major incident except for a brawl between two relatives who were both drunk. Instead, we heard a series of arrests and apprehension of personalities with pending warrants, or were fugitives from the law who thought that the island would shelter them from being reached by the law's long arm.



There is also another development I observed here. It speaks of how politics has cleaved the island's long-term inhabitants. A majority of the island's elite residents, like hotel and restaurant owners, including those who are not locals, are partial toward Vice President [Maria Leonor Robredo](#). On the other hand, a good number of the service and other blue-collar workers prefer former senator [Ferdinand Marcos Jr.](#) What is interesting is that initially, some Marcos supporters were hesitant to articulate their preference. When probed further, they expressed apprehension because their employers are for Robredo and some were not comfortable disagreeing with them. Others were hesitant to reveal their preference toward anyone other than Robredo to avoid being scolded by pro-Robredo customers who, they said, are more vocal and aggressive.

There are two myths, both of which are based on lies, that I discovered prevailing over ordinary island residents. There are those who hesitate to vote for Marcos because they have been told, some by their employers while others by political elites, that he would seize and expropriate the entire island to their disadvantage. And then there are those who are willing to defy elite pressure and insist on voting for Marcos Jr. because of the promise that he has access to tons of gold that he can give to people should he win.

What this political landscape in the island implies is that while its political economy and cultural ecology may be uniquely determined by tourism, its political complexion is very much drawn from how people see themselves. They exist at the margins of an economy that dwells on commercializing its natural landscape, and thus would be at the mercy of the elite class that controls the tourism industry. They will continue to negotiate their survival as they create spaces where they can assert themselves, like on their choice for president.

The fate of this island will now largely depend on good leaders, both local and national. President Duterte cleaned the beaches, while a disciplined local police force under LtCol. de Dios kept its peace. The hope of many is that whoever wins this May will protect this island from threats of excessive exploitative capitalism and enable its people to make the right decisions.



EDITORIAL - Marikina Watershed, patuloy na sinisira

Pang-masa April 30, 2022 | 12:00am



KAPAG hindi umaksiyon si President Duterte at ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa ginagawang illegal mining, quarrying at resort construction sa Masungi at Upper Marikina Watershed sa Baras, Rizal, delubyo ang mangyayari sa Marikina at maraming siyudad at bayan sa Metro Manila.

Nakalulunus ang maaring mangyari kapag hindi naputol ang mga ginagawang malawakang paghuhukay sa reserve areas. Ang Marikina watershed ay napagkalooban ng proteksiyon sa ilalim ng Republic Act No. 7586 o ang National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act of 1992.

Pero sa kabila nito, patuloy ang ilegal na aktibidad sa lugar at walang puknat na sinisira. Sabi ng mga residente sa Baras, Rizal, nang manalasa umano ang Bagyong Ulysses noong 2020, buong bayan ng Baras ay binaha na hindi naman nangyayari dati. Mabilis umanong tumaas ang tubig. Nangangamba sila na kung hindi ipatitigil ang illegal activities sa Marikina watershed protected areas, baka malunod sila at mamatay. Dapat na umanong maputol ang quarrying, mining at iba pang paghuhukay na nakasisira at nagpapahina sa lupa.

Noong Miyerkules, umapela ang Masungi Georeserve Foundation kay President Duterte at DENR Sec. Jim Sapulna na kanselahin ang mineral production sharing agreements sa Upper Marikina Watershed upang mapigilan ang panganib na idudulot ng mga ginagawang aktibidad sa lugar. Ang grupo ng Masungi ang nagpapanatili at nagre-rehabilitate sa portion ng watershed upang magsilbi itong “first line of defense” laban sa pagbaha kung may bagyo.

Sagot ni President Duterte sa Masungi Foundation, sampahan ng kaso ang mga sumisira sa Marikina Watershed. Ipinag-utos niya ito sa DENR secretary at sa Anti-illegal logging Task Force. Ayon sa Presidente, nangangamba sila sa illegal activities na ginagawa sa watershed.

Ngayong nag-utos na ang presidente, kumilos naman sana ng maayos ang DENR at iba pang ahensiya para mapigil ang illegal quarrying at mining sa lugar. Alamin ng DENR kung sino ang nasa likod ng quarrying operations doon. Ayon sa report “malalakas at malalaking pulitiko” ang may-ari ng quarrying at mining kaya hindi maipatigil ang operasyon.

Panahon na para pagbayarin ang mga taong sumisira sa kalikasan.





Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pang-masa/punto-mo/2022/04/30/2177807/editorial-marikina-watershed-patuloy-na-sinisira>



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Sapat ba ang proteksyon sa upper Marikina watershed?

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Nanganganib ang Masungi Georeserve sa Rizal dahil sa mga ilegal umano na estrukturang itinatayo doon, na posibleng magdulot ng pagbaha sa Metro Manila. Ang bahaging ito ng kabundukan ng probinsiya ang isa sa huling kagubatang malapit sa Metro Manila. Humingi na sila

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Duterte signs laws declaring Mount Pulag, Mount Arayat as protected areas

Job Manahan, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Apr 30 2022 06:44 PM

MANILA- President Rodrigo Duterte has approved measures declaring Mt. Pulag and Mt. Arayat in Luzon, as well as other areas, as protected landscapes, documents shared by Malacañang showed.

Other places that Duterte designated as protected areas included the historic Tirad Pass National Park in Ilocos Sur, a portion of land in Balbalan, Kalinga, and an area in Zamboanga Sibugay.

Duterte signed the following laws to grant protected status to the areas, under the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS). This means that the landscapes will be "managed to enhance biological diversity and [get] protected against destructive human exploitation."

- Republic Act No. 11688 or the Banao Protected Landscape Act
- Republic Act No. 11687 or the Tirad Pass Protected Landscape Act
- Republic Act No. 11686 or the Naga-Kabasalan Protected Landscape Act
- Republic Act No. 11685 or the Mt. Pulag Protected Landscape Act
- Republic Act No. 11684 or the Mt. Arayat Protected Landscape Act

The laws cited the areas' rich biological resources and their ecological importance.

The laws will kickstart trust funds for the protection of these landscapes and would likewise create respective Protected Area Management Offices (PAMOs) for supervision and conservation purposes.

Mt. Pulag, a popular tourist spot known for its "sea of clouds," is the highest peak in Luzon and is the second highest in the country.

In its website, UNESCO described the mountain as "an important watershed providing the water necessities of many stakeholders for domestic and industrial use, irrigation, hydroelectric power production and aquaculture."

The mountain is part of the UNESCO [tentative list](#), or an area being considered to be nominated as a World Heritage Site.

Mt. Arayat, meanwhile, is known as a hub of wild animals. Its foot is surrounded by several waterfalls and numerous plants, UNESCO noted.

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/04/30/22/duterte-oks-protected-status-for-mount-pulag-mount-arayat?fbclid=IwAR0F3iYrsISuLkYMTtoUs4lkWjN3o-9iKzuYcNmbfSV-Zp5KfHkaQPWdOqaw>



Protected landscape

by [Manila Standard](#) [May 1, 2022, 1:07 am](#)



President Rodrigo Duterte has approved measures declaring Mt. Pulag, pictured here, and Mt. Arayat in Luzon, as well as other areas as protected landscapes. Other places the President designated as protected included the historic Tirad Pass National Park in Ilocos Sur, a portion of land in Balbalan, Kalinga, and an area in Zamboanga Sibugay.



Saving marine turtles one nest at a time

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

MAY 1, 2022



Gathered “pawikan” (marine turtle) eggs that are ready to be transferred to a secured hatchery of the Pawikan Project in Botolan, Zambales.

The municipality of Botolan in Zambales province, approximately 255 kilometers (km) away from Manila, is known for hosting first-class beach resorts that lure beachgoers to enjoy the sun and the sand.

Other than tourists, Botolan is also frequented by beach lovers, but of entirely different species—the marine turtles.



Trained maritime police help collect marine turtle eggs from nests in the sand that will be transferred to a secured hatchery of the Pawikan Project.

Locally called “pawikan,” marine turtles find their way to the coasts of Botolan to nest and lay eggs.

Every year, between September and January, nesting pawikan—particularly the olive ridley, green turtle and hawksbill turtle—nest along the beaches of Botolan.

The two other marine turtle species are the leatherback turtle and the loggerhead turtle.

Endangered

Most marine turtle species are already endangered because of illegal wildlife trade.

These long-distance swimmers are hunted in the oceans for their meat, shell and body parts. On beaches, it is the nest and eggs that are being hunted.



The seven known species of marine turtles are listed in Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

This means they are all threatened with extinction. Trading of any species on this list is prohibited.

Hundred eggs, handful survive

Female marine turtles lay hundreds of eggs in one nesting season. However, only a few young turtles survive their first year of life and grow to sexual maturity for them to return to their birthplace to nest and lay eggs and become “mama pawikan” themselves.

Turtle eggs are vulnerable to predation. Lizards, snakes and even domesticated animals like stray dogs or cats are known to dig turtle nests to feed on the eggs.

Even newly hatched marine turtles fall prey to crabs, foxes and birds as they emerge from their nest and struggle to reach the shores.

Worse of all, in coastal areas like Botolan, harvesting marine turtle eggs is a way of life for residents, further threatening their survival as a species.

One nest at a time

At least one group, The Mead Foundation (TMF), is working to save marine turtles in Botolan and prevent their extinction.

Ben Mead, founder of TMF, is leading his team of conservation workers to save the pawikan, one nest at a time.

Through the TMF’s Pawikan Project, Mead is able to help empower the local communities who have stopped hunting marine turtle eggs and become protectors of this amazing creature of the sea.

One of the speakers during the recent online celebration of World Wildlife Day with the theme “Recovering Key Species for Ecosystems Restoration,” Mead gave a private sector perspective on the conservation of the endangered pawikan.

Holistic approach; livelihood creation

Interviewed by the BusinessMirror on April 20, Mead said the pressure on natural resources in the Philippines requires a holistic approach to conservation. This is the reason TMF adopted species conservation across all time horizons, he said.

In ensuring the sustainability of TMF’s conservation programs, they are anchored on the economic viability and decoupled from short-term funding pressure.

More importantly, he said, the education and awareness of all stakeholders as a key strategy is critical, hence, integrated into TMF’s approach to conservation.

To make conservation efforts more sustainable, TMF has integrated livelihood creation to “give people the opportunity to make more sustainable choices and not have to resort to non-sustainable outcomes.”

“We apply a pragmatic and disciplined mindset, though the metric of success is impact and sustained outcomes,” he said, citing as an example the approach that covers both flora and fauna.

Secured hatchery

Mead said they work with both government and other private sector partners.



“We try to strike a balance between working with government and other NGOs [nongovernment organizations] and private enterprises,” he said.

In partnership with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and its Biodiversity Management Bureau, NGOs and private groups, TMF initiated the Pawikan Project: Sea Turtle Conservation in Botolan.

It has established a secured marine turtle hatchery near Sundowners Beach resort in the area, where recovered nests are secured.

Only in its third year of operation, the Pawikan Project is already picking up significant strides and has established best practices in sea turtle conservation.

Primary nesting area

“Zambales is one of the primary nesting areas. All five sea turtle species [found in the Philippines] nest on its shores,” Mead said.

He said the entire coastline of Zambales is dedicated to conservation zones.

“There are still significant pressures from poaching that is why we adopted this approach of establishing a secure hatchery and stewarding the nesting of the pawikan,” he narrated.

In running and managing the hatchery, TMF is working closely with the DENR-BMB, Philippine Maritime Group and the Provincial Agriculture Office of Zambales.

Engaging with the youth

“We also engage with the local youth. Consistent with educating and exciting the youth, we thought it is also important to work with the community,” he told the BusinessMirror.

“Initially, our strategy was to engage the youth and have them patrol the beach in the evening and identify the nesting sites and relocate the eggs to our secure hatchery; and release them upon hatching,” he said.

Mead said the TMF is also working closely with the local military and police, and is lately closely coordinating activities with the tourism office of Zambales.

Incentivizing the community

He explained that they understand that the local community in Zambales are affected by poverty. In the past, people living in coastal communities had searched for marine turtle nests to get the eggs, either for food or to sell them.

A pawikan egg costs around P7 each.

Harvesting of pawikan eggs is illegal. The only way to stop it is by offering the community an alternative livelihood.

Mead explained: “Their [residents’] interest in pawikan egg is because of lack of livelihood, opportunity and lack of food and various other reasons. So we shifted our approach to align with the community to work with us and pay them a reward for reporting.”

The approach proved to be very successful and has created a strong alignment with the community.

“We work at the barangay level as well as LGUs,” he said.

Increasing awareness

Meanwhile, Mead said the move to increase the awareness of the community in Zambales is an ongoing process.

“We want to increase the number of hatcheries in Zambales. We require the partners not to touch [the nests]. We have trained rangers to perform that,” he said.

“Once the [presence of a] nest is reported, our rangers move in. Following the best practices, we move the eggs to our secure hatchery,” he explained.

In 2020 and 2021, the Pawikan Project’s secured hatchery gathered a total of 3,432 eggs that were surrendered by the communities, he said.

Moreover, Mead noted that because the hatchery is secured and the eggs are undisturbed, they were able to ensure an 80 percent success rate in terms of pawikan hatching.

During the two-year period, he said a total of 2,743 eggs were hatched and later released to the wild.

Mead said the campaign was able to forge ties with three local government units and seven barangays in Zambales.

The project also continues to receive reports from the community about discovered marine turtle nests in different areas, with a coverage of approximately 20 km from their base of operation.

Way forward

Mead said part of the project’s future plans is to scale hatcheries in Zambales and other areas in the Philippines.

“We are looking at Ilocos Norte, Davao del Sur and Bohol,” he said.

Meanwhile, to ensure financial sustainability, he said TMF is eyeing the establishment of a dive shop in these areas.

In the Sundowners Resort in Zambales, TMF established the Finn’s Diveshop. The income from its operation goes to conservation.

“It is our way of making sure that our conservation will not run out of funds, hence, sustain our effort to save the pawikan,” he said.



The Mead Foundation’s Pawikan Project secured hatchery in Botolan, Zambales.

Image credits: [Pawikan Project Facebook page](#)

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2022/05/01/saving-marine-turtles-one-nest-at-a-time/>



DepEd lauds youth's active steps to protect the environment

Published April 30, 2022, 8:20 PM

by [Merlina Hernando-Malipot](#)

Education Secretary Leonor Briones recognized the contribution of the Filipino youth in protecting the environment.



(Photo from DepEd)

During this year's celebration of Earth Day, the Department of Education (DepEd) showcased the green efforts of Generation Z in the protection of the environment.

"We cannot underestimate the efforts of the youth because even in their own ways, they take active steps to protect the environment," Briones said.

For example, Briones said that Generation Z or better known as "Gen Z" are known supporters of movements like purchasing cruelty-free products, zero-waste management, and the like.

"If they can do it, so can we with our learners," Briones explained.

Organized by the Office of Assistant Secretary for Youth Affairs and Special Concerns (OAYASC) and the Youth Formation Division (YFD), the Earth Day virtual event highlights the theme "Youth: Invest in our Planet" which tackles the importance of "bayanihan" to protect and conserve the environment for future generations as the goal moves from restoring the earth to investing in it in sustainable ways in the light of climate change and growing number of environmental issues worldwide.

Meanwhile, Briones also called on everyone for their active participation in taking care of the planet.

"I call for the youth and everyone to be good role models, to take care of our Mother Earth, and be the bearers of change for a better world," Briones said.

"We cannot tell what the future holds but every day, let us invest in our planet by being actively involved in environmental activities and endeavors," she added.



Youth power

During the panel discussion, youth representatives presented their green initiatives such as the establishment of a vegetable garden, following sustainable food consumption practices like backyard gardening, steaming vegetables, Gulayan sa Paaralan Program (GPP), distribution of fruit-bearing tree seedlings, and Environmental-Friendly Purchase.

Davao Del Sur School of Fisheries SSG Vice President Ramzel Ivan Hugh Delloro shared the following tips for eco-friendly purchases: shop at eco-friendly stores, avoid impulse buying, buy local products, buy fruits and vegetables that are in season, reduce online order deliveries, buy recycled items, bring eco-shopping bags, avoid pre-washed groceries, and choose organic and natural products. “Eco-friendly living can lead to cost savings from energy and water efficiency, less maintenance, enhanced air quality, a healthier lifestyle, increased property value, and positive impact chance in the community to help save the planet,” Delloro said.

Time to act

Meanwhile, DepEd Assistant Secretary for Youth Affairs and Special Concerns Juan Valeriano Respicio IV noted that investing in something entails a certain degree of sacrifice coupled with hope as he urged learners to rise and invest in planet Earth for their future and the future of generations yet to be born.

“Now is the time for us to act. To sacrifice and to invest,” he said.

Respicio also encouraged the youth to be more conscious and proactive and to be supportive of various efforts to preserve the environment.

“Let us focus our attention on matters concerning climate change and be part of the solution to the ever-growing and ever-changing challenges concerning the environment,” he added.



Envi group dismayed over low turnout in Green Vote Survey



Photo by Iona Mendoza

IONA FINLAY C. MENDOZA

April 29, 2022

VARIOUS leaders of environmental groups expressed dismay over the low number of local elections candidates who responded to the Green Vote Survey that aims to know the stand of candidates on environmental issues in Davao City.

During the presentation of the results of the Kalikasan Naman Green Vote Survey 2022 organized by the Interfacing Development Interventions for Sustainability (Idis), members of Idis and other environmental groups were frustrated and disappointed that only 11 Davao City candidates answered the survey out of 55 local candidates invited to partake.

“Nakita nato ang turnout, 11 out of 55, it's very frustrating and disappointing na gamay ra gyod kaayo sa atong mga politicians and naay panahon to answer pressing issues in our locality (It is frustrating and disappointing that only 11 out of 55 local candidates who gave their time to answer pressing issues in our locality),” Idis executive director Mark Peñalver said.

Despite the effort of Idis to reach out to all 55 candidates to learn their platform and advocacies with regards to the environment, only the following candidates responded: vice mayor candidate Melchor Quitain Jr., First Legislative District Representative candidate Mags Maglana, Aspiring councilors Luna Acosta, Lydon Banzon, and Pilar Braga from the First District, Jonard Dayap, Marissa Abella, and Bong Batenga from the Second District, Myrna Daloda-Ortiz, Wilberto Al-ag, and Alberto Ungab from the Third District.

“Kini nga survey kini ra gyod ang usa sa mga activity na kinahanglan makahatag ta sa atong mga issues og makapaningil ta panahon nga naa na sila diha sa mga tagsa-tagsa na posisyon (This survey is an activity that will allow us to present them the issues on the ground and hold them accountable should they be elected to their position),” Nena Morales of the Metsa Foundation said, mentioning how only three candidates from her district have answered the survey.

“Naa man ko sa third district, tulo lang ang mag respond na ang third district ang pinka-grabe nga environmental issues (I am from the third district, and only three responded. The third district has the most environmental issues that needed to be addressed),” she said.



The rest of the candidates did not give a reason as to why they were not able to partake in the survey, said Peñalver. Of all the local candidates, those who did not respond include all four mayoral bets, 32 out of 41 aspiring councilors, and eight out of nine aspiring district representatives.

The environmental leaders said the participation of all candidates was important to help Dabawenyos choose leaders who have concrete plans and resolutions on the climate crisis, sustainability, and other similar issues in Davao City.

“Kung dili ta kabalo unsa ilang plataporma og programa, ilahang stand sa mga issues, di ta kabalo kung unsa pud ilang buhaton once ma-elect sila. Mao nang na-frustrate ang kadaghanan kay tungod important gyod kaayo siya na makabalo ta unsa sila makatabang as government leaders nato puhon (If we do not know their programs, stance on certain issues, we will not know what they will do when they are elected. That is why we are frustrated with the turnout because we want to know how they can help as government leaders),” Amiel Lopez, founder of Project Dyesabel, said.

Peñalver reminded that candidates, when elected, have the power to make law programs that could address environmentally-caused problems such as flooding, thus voting for the right candidates that could propose resolutions to such problems is important.



PAGASA scientist: Expect more intense typhoons if global warming continues

By GMA News

Published April 30, 2022 4:29pm



Olango Island in Cebu after Typhoon Odette in December 2021

A scientist at the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration has warned the public against more intense typhoons if global warming continues to worsen.

During the #LagingHandaPH public briefing on Saturday, PAGASA Scientist I Dr. Marcelino Villafuerte talked about climate change and its effects on the Philippines.

Asked if global warming could result in more typhoons than the usual number experienced in the country, Villafuerte said it was possible.

He said because global warming raised the temperatures of the sea surface and the atmosphere, these in turn fueled the development and further intensification of typhoons.

“Asahan po natin na kapag patuloy na tumaas ang temperatura ng dagat at ating

According to a January 2022 report by [The Guardian](#), the Philippines experience an average of 20 storms and typhoons each year. It also said the country contributed “less than 0.4% to the climate crisis,” while “the global north was responsible for 92%.”

Villafuerte also said that according to forecast, the Philippines would have 6-8 tropical cyclones in the next 6 months.

He said based on studies and data recorded by PAGASA’s instruments, average temperature in the Philippines increased by about 0.68 degrees in the past 65 years or 0.1 degree every decade.

According to Villafuerte, while the target is to maintain average of 1.5 degrees Celsius increase in global temperature, it can reach 4 degrees by the end of the 21st century if we go business as usual.



The scientist said global warming caused extreme events such as heavy rains, typhoons and floods, long drought, lack of water, and sea level rise, which had disastrous effects on livelihood, health, safety and security. Scientists also did not rule out the possible extinction of humans, he added.

In the Philippines, global warming also meant increased heat levels in areas with higher temperature during the dry season, such as Dagupan, Cabanatuan, and Cagayan Valley, among other locations.

Villafuerte also said that according to PAGASA's studies, climate change affected the movements of typhoons, such that we now had harsh typhoons during the months of December, January, and February in Visayas and Mindanao.

The scientist also addressed the concerns that Metro Manila would be submerged by 2050 if climate inaction would continue.

He said a 2019 Climate Central [study](#), which used digital elevation model data sets, was peer-reviewed and published in a [scientific journal](#).

Villafuerte said the study showed that a 1 meter sea level rise by 2050 would not sink all of Metro Manila but reclaimed areas in Manila Bay and other coastal communities such as those in Las Pinas, Cavite, Manila, Valenzuela, Navotas, and Bulacan may be at high risk.

At present, he said satellite data from 1993-2015 showed that the Philippine Sea rose 5.7-7 mm per year or roughly 12 cm, which was the double the global average rate of 2.8-3.6 mm per year.

He said it was also mentioned during the 2021 UN Climate Change Conference or COP26 that the Philippines was [sinking](#) four times faster than the global average rate.

The scientist said the Philippines had been taking concrete steps to mitigate the effects of global warming as part of its participation in COP26.

Villafuerte said the country was committed to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by about 75% by 2030. This includes efforts to shift from coal to clean energy, ban single-use plastics, and implement other green projects.

He also said the government had initiated efforts to reduce use of fossil fuels and fast-track transition to renewable energy, like promoting hybrid vehicles through lower taxes, and mass transportation such as the Edsa carousel, MRT 7, railroads, and subway project; using solar power through installation of panels in government offices; and reviving talks on possible rehabilitation of Bataan Nuclear Power Plant.

The scientist also said PAGASA was coordinating with local government units and the national government to create a national climate change action plan, and it also supported the creation of the new Department of Human Settlement And Urban Development.

Filipinos as individuals can also do their own part by taking the following five suggestions from the UN:

1. save energy at home;
2. walk, bicycle, or take public transportation when traveling;



6. eat more vegetables because processing of meat uses more greenhouse gases;
7. throw away less food because food waste produces methane which adds to greenhouse gases;
8. and practice 4 Rs: reduce, reuse, repair, and recycle.

Meanwhile, he said he supported the recent protest staged by scientists against climate change inaction.

“Kung hindi nila gagawin ang ganoong drastic action at magsasawalang bahala na lang, maaaring ma-feel ng mga concerned government agencies na OK lang at magsawalang action na lang din sila,” he said.

Early this month, the UN-led [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#) issued a report that urged severe emission cuts across all sectors, from agriculture and transport to energy and buildings, to contain global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above preindustrial temperatures. – **RC, GMA News**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/scitech/science/830253/pagasa-scientist-expect-more-intense-typhoons-if-global-warming-continues/story/?fbclid=IwAR1DGeEDKBa9xMt-kYtpvA8bvva87tP8z4AuikzM3hJsHFRgMyZzU9XkRY0>

PAGASA scientist reiterates warning on rising sea levels in PH amid climate change

Job Manahan, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Apr 30 2022 04:35 PM | Updated as of Apr 30 2022 04:50 PM



This photo taken on January 11, 2019 shows houses on bamboo stilts amid encroaching bay waters in Sitio Pariahan, Bulacan. Noel Celis, Agence France-Presse/file

MANILA — The sea level in the Philippine Sea has risen to about 12 centimeters or nearly 5 inches in the past 20 years, a PAGASA climate scientist said on Saturday.

The Philippine Sea had an average yearly increase of 5.7 to 7 millimeters between 1993 to 2015, Dr. Marcelino Villafuerte said, citing studies conducted using satellite data for such period.

This is "double" the global average rate of around 2.8 to 3.6 millimeters yearly, as the global temperature continues to rise, he noted.

"In another statement po 'no related doon sa COP26 meeting, it was said that our country is sinking four times faster than the global average," Villafuerte said in a public briefing.

Experts have observed the rise of sea levels in the country's eastern portions. He said this was seen in Cebu, while the highest increase was reported around Manila Bay.

"Pero ang main reason po for that ayon sa mga pag-aaral ng mga siyentista, mga kasamahan natin sa UP, ay iyong ground water extraction naman, iyon po, na siyang nagpapababa naman ng lebel ng lupa sa gawing coastal communities po ng Manila Bay," he explained.

Reducing carbon emissions and shifting to clean energy could help reduce the rising global temperatures, according to the scientist.

"Kung magpapatuloy po ang pagtaas ng global temperature... iyong mga nararanasan po nating mga extreme events, katulad halimbawa ng malalakas na ulan na maaaring magdulot ng pagbaha, mahabang tagtuyot... mapaminsalang mga bagyo at iyong sea level rise... ay maaari pang lumala," he added.

A report by Agence France-Presse noted that as of 2019, areas north of Manila like provinces Pampanga and Bulacan **have sunk** 4 to 6 centimeters (1.5 to 2.4 inches) a year since 2003, based on satellite monitoring.

Red Constantino, director of the Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities, has warned of the dangers rising sea levels have for the country, most especially during storm surges.

Around 20 tropical cyclones pound the country yearly.



“The Philippines will be twice or certainly above the global levels. And that is going to be disastrous to an archipelagic country like us,” said Constantino.

Filipino green campaigners have expressed concerns about a recent study released by the United Nations' (UN) climate experts, warning about a [catastrophic climate change](#) by 2025 if carbon emission levels remain unchanged.

They called on the public to vote for leaders in the upcoming elections who would prioritize climate justice and measures promoting a "green agenda," saying this would be a vote for survival.

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/spotlight/04/30/22/pagasa-scientist-warns-anew-on-rising-sea-levels-in-ph?fbclid=IwAR13s8nuVHFug21daxRy8WjbKowJAG035zeO3-hhYqds5g1oAprUqNHxp2Y>



China, Pacific Island-nations partner vs climate change

By [Xinhua News Agency](#) May 1, 2022



BLOWN AWAY This Aug. 19, 2020 file photo shows wind turbines — testifying to [Beijing](#)'s green commitment — at the Jiucaiping area of [China](#)'s southwestern Guizhou province. XINHUA PHOTO

JINAN, China: China and island-nations in the [Pacific](#) have agreed on joint cooperative measures to tackle climate change during a conference in the East Asian country's eastern Shandong province.

The conference is part of online and offline ceremonies unveiling a cooperation center for China and [Pacific island](#)-countries and opening a high-level dialogue on climate change between the two sides.

This comes after China and one Pacific island-country, the Solomon Islands, confirmed last week that they signed a security agreement that the United States, Australia and their allies fear could lead to Beijing having a military presence in the region, despite assurances from Honiara.

Samoan Ambassador to China Tapusalaia [Terry Toomata](#) said climate change should be tackled with practical moves, pointing out that Beijing quickly established the cooperation center to assist Pacific island-countries in addressing the problem.

Under the center's climate change cooperation mechanism, China and the nations concerned will establish platforms for professional training, technology cooperation and academic research.

A so-called South-South cooperation agreement, along with many climate change cooperation projects, was signed during the conference.

As the conference host, Shandong has committed to focus on green development and low-carbon cooperation, and promote nongovernmental exchanges in culture, tourism and education activities, according to the organizing committee.

Using its vast experience in enhancing mutual cooperation, the Research Center for Pacific Island Countries of [Liaocheng University](#) said it would provide intelligence and knowledge services for regional climate cooperation.



Climate experts at the conference agreed that extreme weather conditions have become more frequent due to climate change, threatening Pacific island-countries.

China has allotted more than 1.2 billion yuan (about \$181.33 million) for South-South climate change cooperation, and signed 42 relevant agreements with 37 developing countries, including Samoa and Tonga.

Beijing vows to follow the path of green and low-carbon development, and has pledged to peak its carbon dioxide emissions before 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality before 2060.

01 MAY 2022, SUNDAY



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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



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DENR: 1,857 MM firms without ECC

By **CORY
MARTINEZ**

AT least 1,857 establishments in Metro Manila (MM) were found to be without environmental compliance certificates (ECC) or certificates of non-coverage, while 1,894 establishments do not have wastewater discharge permits.

This was discovered during the month-long Intensified Compliance Monitoring and Saturation Drive conducted by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources

(DENR) in Metro Manila.

DENR Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna said that the inspection conducted from March 14 to April 7, aimed to help fast-track the Manila Bay rehabilitation before the end of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte's administration.

According to Juan Miguel T. Cuna, Undersecretary for Field Operations-Luzon, Visayas, and Environment, a notice of violations (NOV) will be issued against the establishments and will be called for a technical conference either by the Environment and Management Bureau (EMB)-

National Capital Region (NCR) or Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA).

The technical conference will give the establishments the opportunity to contest the basis of the issued NOV or secure a commitment from them to comply with the requirements and implement remedial measures.

Sampulna, on the other hand, disclosed that the said number of establishments found to have no ECC and discharge wastewater permits were among the 4,043 establishments that were inspected during the period.

"I would like to congratulate Usec. Cuna for a very successful operation in Manila Bay. This has really been an intensified drive that we even tapped our field personnel from the regions," Sampulna said.

The DENR deployed around 160 personnel from the DENR-Metropolitan Environmental Offices, Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) regional offices, EMB-National Capital Region, and the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) for the implementation of the Intensified Compliance Monitoring and Saturation Drive.



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DENR: Most NCR establishments violate environment protection conditions

By AARON B. RECUENCO

More than 3,700 commercial establishments in Metro Manila are not compliant with the conditions set by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for safe and clean business operations.

Of the 4,043 commercial establishments inspected by the DENR in the past four weeks, 3,754 violated envi-

ronment protection conditions set by the government.

The DENR earlier deployed around 160 personnel from the DENR-Metropolitan Environmental Offices, Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) regional offices, EMB-National Capital Region, and the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) for the implementation of the Intensified Compliance Monitoring and Saturation Drive.

The operation was led by Under-

secretary for Field Operations-Luzon lawyer Juan Miguel T. Cuna.

Majority of those inspected were commercial businesses, restaurants, manufacturing establishments, gasoline stations, and warehouses.

Based on the report, a total of 1,857 establishments were found to be without environmental compliance certificates or certificates of non-coverage, while 1,894 establishments do not have wastewater discharge permits.

DENR Sec. Jim O. Sampilna said

they will issue necessary notices on establishments found to be neglectful of their obligations under Republic Act (RA) 9275 (The Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004).

"The establishments found to have violated pertinent laws will be issued notices of violation and will be called for a technical conference either by the EMB-NCR or LLDA to give them the opportunity to contest the basis of the issued NOV, or secure a commitment from them to comply with the

requirements and implement remedial measures," said Sampilna.

The same report also revealed that around 3,623 establishments have access to a wastewater treatment facility. There were 2,306 with septic tanks, 255 with sewage treatment plants, and 104 with sequencing batch reactors.

Also, 575 establishments are connected to water concessionaires.

Cuna said they will inspect more establishments in Metro Manila and in the Manila Bay regions.



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DENR removes over 19K campaign posters

Campaign materials are considered as solid waste since they are under the non-biodegradables and single-used plastics

BY JONAS REYES

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Central Luzon reported that its Operation Baklas program has removed over 19,000 campaign materials that were nailed and tacked on trees.

DENR regional executive director Paquito Moreno, Jr. said that the campaign materials seen stuck on trees along main roads and thoroughfares in the region were detached in line with the recent directive of DENR Secretary Jim Saupulna to its field offices.

Moreno explained that

Operation Baklas aims to promote environmentally conscious elections by urging political parties and supporters to post poll advertisements and other paraphernalia only in common poster areas and spare trees from any campaign materials.

The agency, along with other national government agencies, have intensified their efforts to remove illegally posted campaign materials in key areas in the region notably

in Bulacan, Nueva Ecija and Pampanga, which are among the vote-rich provinces in the Philippines.

"Trees are vital to our environment. Nailing them with posters and streamers will not only reduce their aesthetic values, but will likewise pose threat of infestation, as nailed parts may serve as entry points to fungi, bugs, termites, among others," Moreno said.

He added that campaign materials are considered as

solid waste since they are under the non-biodegradables and single-used plastics.

The regional director also stressed that the accumulated materials from the three-month campaign period could increase, especially if proper disposal and recycling would not be observed by the public.

Meanwhile, the assistant regional director of the Commission on Elections, served as guest in Earth Talk

Central Luzon, a regular radio program hosted by DENR-3 and discussed important guidelines to keep the pre- and post-election season environmentally-sound.

The DENR here warned the public that any person found violating Section 3 of the Republic Act 3571, which prohibits cutting, destroying or injuring planted or growing trees, may be punished with a penalty ranging from six months to two years imprisonment and a fine up to P5,000.



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MGB XI Confers Safety Milestone Award to Apex Mining An ode to mine workers: physical safety and career safety net

By: Ma. Teresa L. Pacis
AVP, Corporate Affairs and
Communication, Apex Mining

Ensuring physical safety and providing career safety nets -- that is how Apex Mining Co., Inc. manifests its malasakit to its diverse workforce.

Safety is a cornerstone of Apex Mining's operations and logging zero hours of workplace accidents is a testament to its commitment to putting its workers' well-being above all. Aside from protecting their employees from physical harm, Apex Mining also provides a safety net for its employees against career regression and the like by providing continuous training, making sure the members of its high performing team are equipped with the proper knowledge and skills and latest updates on technology and trends, too.

Safety first.

The Mines and Geosciences Bureau Region 11 conferred the Safety Milestone Award to Apex Mining Co., Inc for recording 7,549,768 man-hours without lost time accidents between 11 March 2021 and 20 March 2022. Apex Mining also earned the Compliant Tenement Holder for CY 2021. Both honors were conferred to the all-Filipino mining company at the Stakeholders Forum held at the Grand Regal Hotel in Davao de Oro on 08 April 2022. The forum's



Maco Mine: How do you achieve more than 7 million hours without lost time accidents in the workplace? By consistent training, that's how! In the photo, a member of the Bureau of Fire Protection representative oversees Apex Mining's Fire Drill during the Fire Prevention Month last March 19, 2022.

theme was, "Harnessing Disaster Resiliency Through Responsible Mining". Meanwhile, its fully owned subsidiary, Itogon-Suyoc Resources, Inc. (ISRI) received the Safety Seal from the Department of Labor and Employment-Cordillera Administrative Region in March — the first mining company in CAR to get the seal.

Diversity in the workforce.

Apex Mining's mine sites, located in the north and south extremities of the archipelago (two up north in Benguet and one down south in

Davao de Oro), are a microcosm of the country's rich and diverse workforce. From highly skilled and specialized blue-collar jobs (miners, equipment operators, etc.) to white collar executives (engineers, geologists and the like) Apex Mining provides a host of career opportunities to the residents of its host and impact communities plus graduates of top universities from all around the country. More importantly, Apex Mining is a partner of the IP (indigenous peoples) communities in providing sustainable employment to IPs. As of end March 2022, the Maco Mine Site listed 221 in

its employee roster who are members of the Mansaka tribe. Meanwhile, around 82% of ISRI's work force are members of the Itogon People's Indigenous Organization (Ibaloys, Kankaneys, and Kalanguyas).

Career growth. In August 2020, during the peak of the pandemic, four managers based in its Maco Mine Site successfully finished the Management Essentials course of the Harvard Business School Online. The graduates successfully conducted re-echo sessions to the onsite management team: Naser L. Silongan (mine



Atty Rodi Palma, Apex Mining's vice president for legal and compliance, received the awards for Apex.

area manager) discussed A Process Perspective on Management; Kenny Allan II E. Benigno (assistant manager of the Safety Dept.) on Shaping the Decision-Making Process; Kevin John P. Gocela (mine planning engineer) tackled Implementing for the Present and Learning for the Future; and, Benmarc Josef S. Negre (division manager, Mill) for Managing and Leading Change. At the Sangilo Mine Site of ISRI, 60 LHD and LPT operators earned their Certificates of Assessment from TESDA (Technical Education and Skills Development Authority) after successfully completing their training.



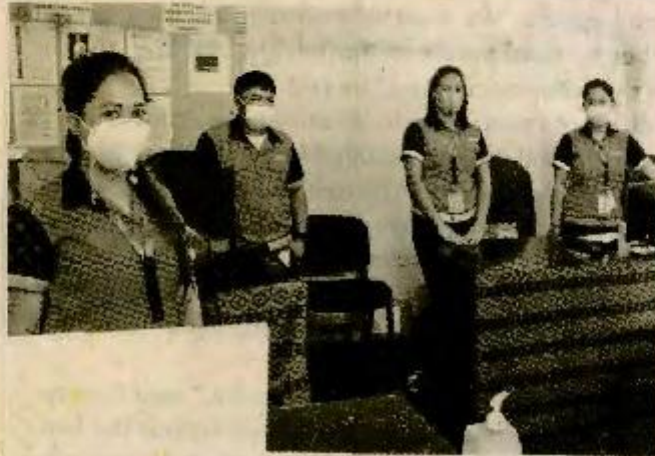
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Apex Mining's community relations team is staffed with members of the Mansaka tribe. In photo are l to r: Merry Apple Dizon and Elmer Onlo and Katrina Calibadan (extreme right) with Christine Mae de Asis (a non-IP fellow comrel officer).



Some of ISRI's operators who finished their TESDA assessment, with their ISRI trainers Engr Hart Anthony Ayagan and Engr Darwyne Villase (2nd and 3rd from right, respectively) and Ma. Socorro M. Bulatao, from the TESDA Provincial Office (Wangal, La Trinidad, Benguet)



Engr. Kenny Allan Benigno, Apex Mining's assistant safety manager for underground operations presented Apex Mining's Best Practices on Underground Safety at the Media and Stakeholders Forum at the Grand Regal Hotel, Davao City. He also finished the Harvard Business School Online's course on shaping the decision process.



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Biodiversity, ecosystem protection highlights of Mother Earth Day

Marking International Mother Earth Day, United Nations (UN) General Assembly President Akinori Hatai called for collective action to safeguard biodiversity and protect ecosystems.

"We are wreaking havoc on our only home — the only home we have, the one home we all share," Hatai told an interactive dialogue on Harmony with Nature.

He encouraged the international community to accept responsibility for its reckless behavior, asking how science has shown that "our continued and careless search for growth into the world's ecosystems" has damaged biodiversity and endangered human health and well-being.

called for a shift to green economies.

"Let us embrace education, technology and science that help safeguard a healthy planet for everyone, including the young people who will inherit this planet," he underscored.

The senior UN official said the international community needs to use the tools and targets of the Paris Agreement on climate change and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as blueprints for a sustainable recovery from Covid-19.

Also addressing the opening segment were Bolivian President Luis Arce and Jersey Bibeau, Spain's Vice-President and Minister of Ecological Transition.

This included two panels, the first entitled "Earth-centered Law to Protect Biodiversity in Harmony with Nature", and the second, "Ecological Economics to Protect Biodiversity in Harmony with Nature."

The interactive dialogue is called for in UN resolution 76/290 — "to discuss the relationship between harmony with nature and the protection of biological diversity, and to explore climate and nature to consider how they intersect with the rest and well as the concept of sustainable development."

Make a switch

Climate change, man-made changes to nature, as well as crimes that disrupt biodiversity such as deforestation, land-use change, intensified agriculture and livestock production or the growing illegal wildlife trade, can accelerate the speed of destruction of the planet.

Although the polio vaccine was proven safe and effective for decades, and saved millions of lives across the world, many parents in Togo and beyond now question its safety and even doubt its benefits — and these questions extend to other "classic" vaccines. People's reactions are sometimes visceral, like Angèle's, reflecting a fear that, although real, is scientifically unfounded and stands in the way of the well-documented risks unvaccinated children are exposed to.

Are they safe? Will they have long-term adverse effects? Are they really indispensable? Can we not protect our children using natural procedures? Are there other substances in the vaccines? Parents in Togo, like in other countries, sometimes struggle to find clear, definitive and credible answers to these types of questions.

Distrust of health authorities, media

There are several reasons for this distrust, depending on the geographical, political and social context.

There is a growing mistrust in many countries toward public officials and health workers in particular. In countries where transitions guarantee the right to information and freedom of the press, mainstream media, whether public or private, are increasingly being questioned.

In countries where legislation on the right to information is non-existent or not fully implemented, the media is not always free to inform the public on issues of general interest, which causes a lack of information. In both cases, citizens increasingly rely on the Internet, especially social media, to get the information they seek.

Social media has become an alternative conveyor of information. It compensates for a lack of access to or trust in information sources like mainstream media. However, it also allows anyone to take on the role of a "journalist" and potentially spread rumors, beliefs, myths, and even false news that can have harmful effects on individuals, potentially on a large scale.

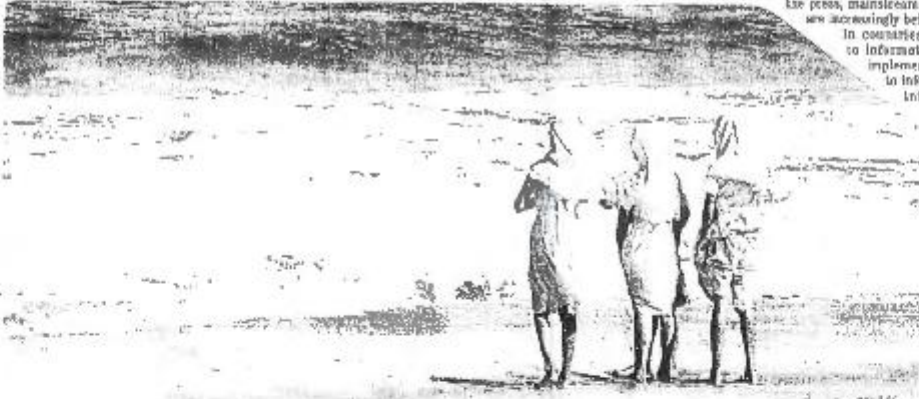
False news is not a new phenomenon. It preceded the advent of the information society — but the Internet amplified its unprecedented proportions.

Shifting to green

Reflecting this year's theme of "Harmony with Nature and Biodiversity, Ecological economy and Earth-centered law," Hatai

Panel discussions

An interactive dialogue followed, with statements from UN member states, observers, experts and others.



At the end of the day in the town of Akkarapudu, Sri Lanka, 10-year-old girls play by the seashore.

PHOTO COURTESY OF UNICEF



China, Pacific Island-nations partner vs climate change

JINAN, China: China and island-nations in the Pacific have agreed on joint cooperative measures to tackle climate change during a conference in the East Asian country's eastern Shandong province.

The conference is part of online and offline ceremonies unveiling a cooperation center for China and Pacific island-countries and opening a high-level dialogue on climate change between the two sides.

This comes after China and one Pacific island-country, the Solomon Islands, confirmed last week that they signed a security agreement that the United States, Australia and their allies fear could lead to Beijing having a military presence in the region, despite assurances from Honiara.

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Beijing vows to follow the path of green and low-carbon development, and has pledged to peak its carbon dioxide emissions before 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality before 2060.

XINHUA



Freelance journalist is lone Filipino finalist in climate journalism awards

A FREELANCE journalist and lecturer at the Lyceum of the Philippines University (LPU) Manila has been recently selected one of the finalists in the second annual Covering Climate Now Climate Journalism Awards.

Jhesset Thrina O. Enano, who teaches journalism at the LPU Manila College of Arts and Sciences, has been shortlisted under the Emerging Journalists category of the 2022 CCNow Awards, a news release said.

Enano also works as a freelance journalist, writing on "interesting new angles such as the psychological toll of climate disasters."

CCNow noted that "through excellent storytelling Enano captures the struggle and suffering of people confronting rising seas."

Enano shared that she is "deeply humbled by this recognition of my work that amplifies our voices and our fight for climate justice here in the Philippines."

"I'm thankful to my former editors at the Philippine Daily Inquirer, and more importantly, to my sources whose trust I carry with me always. I'll continue telling stories of our planet and our people," she added.

At the Inquirer, Enano wrote compelling stories and produced multimedia reports on the climate crisis,



JHESSET Thrina O. Enano

biodiversity, natural hazards, and the interaction of communities with the natural environment.

Her previous assignments focused on human rights, local governance, criminal justice and education.

As an environment reporter, she was able "to shed light on the climate crisis, the environmental defenders, our country's rich biodiversity, and the challenges that beset our planet and the people."

Enano previously won Best Special Feature in the 2020 Catholic Mass Media Awards for her three-part series on wildlife trafficking and illegal trade in the Philippines published by the Inquirer in August 2019.

She was also a recipient of a story grant in 2019 from Internews's Earth Journalism Network, where she reported on the impact of climate change

on the mental health of Filipinos.

She covered the 35th Association of Southeast Asian Nations summit in Nonthaburi, Thailand.

Her works have been published in local and international media. She has spoken on BBC Newshour and CGTN's Asia Today on domestic events with global and regional significance.

Beyond her daily journalistic work, she also gives seminars and workshops on news, feature, environment and science writing to students, scientists and researchers.

CCNow is a project co-founded by Columbia Journalism Review and The Nation committed to bringing more and better coverage on the climate crisis.

The global journalism initiative now includes more than 460 partners worldwide, with a combined audience of more than one billion people.

The Emerging Journalist award goes to an early-career journalist (five or less years of professional experience) whose body of work shows exceptional promise.

This year's finalists for different categories were chosen from 900 entries from 65 countries by an international jury of 90 distinguished journalists around the world.

Winners will be notified individually and will be publicly announced this September, the news release said.



Saving marine turtles one nest at a time

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

THE municipality of Botolan in Zambales province, approximately 255 kilometers (km) away from Manila, is known for hosting first-class beach resorts that lure beachgoers to enjoy the sun and the sand.

Other than tourists, Botolan is also frequented by beach lovers, but of entirely different species—the marine turtles.

Locally called “pawikan,” marine turtles find their way to the coasts of Botolan to nest and lay eggs.

Every year, between September and January, nesting pawikan—particularly the olive ridley, green turtle and hawksbill turtle—nest along the beaches of Botolan.

The two other marine turtle species are the leatherback turtle and the loggerhead turtle.

Endangered

MOST marine turtle species are already endangered because of illegal wildlife trade.

These long-distance swimmers are hunted in the oceans for their meat, shell and body parts. On beaches, it is the nest and eggs that are being hunted.

The seven known species of marine turtles are listed in Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

This means they are all threatened with extinction. Trading of any species on this list is prohibited.

Hundred eggs, handful survive

Female marine turtles lay hundreds of eggs in one nesting season. However, only a few young turtles survive their first year of life and grow to sexual maturity for them to return to their birthplace to nest and lay eggs and become “mama pawikan” themselves.

Turtle eggs are vulnerable to predation. Lizards, snakes and even domesticated animals like stray dogs or cats are known to dig turtle nests to feed on the eggs.

Even newly hatched marine turtles fall prey to crabs, foxes and birds as they emerge from their nest and struggle to reach the shores.



GATHERED “pawikan” (marine turtle) eggs that are ready to be transferred to a secured hatchery of the Pawikan Project in Botolan, Zambales. PHOTOS BY PAWIKAN PROJECT FACEBOOK PAGE

Worse of all, in coastal areas like Botolan, harvesting marine turtle eggs is a way of life for residents, further threatening their survival as a species.

One nest at a time

At least one group, The Mead Foundation (TMF), is working to save marine turtles in Botolan and prevent their extinction.

Ben Mead, founder of TMF, is leading his team of conservation workers to save the pawikan, one nest at a time.

Through the TMF’s Pawikan Project, Mead is able to help empower the local communities who have stopped hunting marine turtle eggs and become protectors of this amazing creature of the sea.

One of the speakers during the recent online celebration of World Wildlife Day with the theme “Recovering Key Species for Ecosystems Restoration,” Mead gave a private sector perspective on the conservation of the endangered pawikan.

Holistic approach; livelihood creation

INTERVIEWED by the BusinessMirror on April 20, Mead said the pressure on natural resources in the Philippines requires a holistic approach to conservation. This is the reason TMF adopted species conservation across all time horizons, he said.

In ensuring the sustainability of TMF’s conservation programs, they are anchored on the economic viability and decoupled from short-term



TRAINED maritime police help collect marine turtle eggs from nests in the sand that will be transferred to a secured hatchery of the Pawikan Project.

funding pressure.

More importantly, he said, the education and awareness of all stakeholders as a key strategy is critical, hence, integrated into TMF's approach to conservation.

To make conservation efforts more sustainable, TMF has integrated livelihood creation to "give people the opportunity to make more sustainable choices and not have to resort to non-sustainable outcomes."

"We apply a pragmatic and disciplined mindset, though the metric of success is impact and sustained outcomes," he said, citing as an example the approach that covers both flora and fauna.

Secured hatchery

MEAD said they work with both government and other private sector partners.

"We try to strike a balance between working with government and other NGOs [nongovernment organizations] and private enterprises," he said.

In partnership with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and its Biodiversity Management Bureau, NGOs and private groups, TMF initiated the Pawikan Project: Sea Turtle Conservation in Botolan.

It has established a secured marine turtle hatchery near Sundowners Beach resort in the area, where recovered nests are secured.

Only in its third year of operation, the Pawikan Project is already pick-

ing up significant strides and has established best practices in sea turtle conservation.

Primary nesting area

"ZAMBALES is one of the primary nesting areas. All five sea turtle species [found in the Philippines] nest on its shores," Mead said.

He said the entire coastline of Zambales is dedicated to conservation zones.

"There are still significant pressures from poaching that is why we adopted this approach of establishing a secure hatchery and stewarding the nesting of the pawikan," he narrated.

In running and managing the hatchery, TMF is working closely with the DENR-BMB, Philippine Maritime Group and the Provincial Agriculture Office of Zambales.

Engaging with the youth

"We also engage with the local youth. Consistent with educating and exciting the youth, we thought it is also important to work with the community," he told the BUSINESSMIRROR.

"Initially, our strategy was to engage the youth and have them patrol the beach in the evening and identify the nesting sites and relocate the eggs to our secure hatchery; and release them upon hatching," he said.

Mead said the TMF is also working closely with the local military and police, and is lately closely coordinating activities with the tourism office of Zambales.



THE Mead Foundation's Pawikan Project secured hatchery in Botolan, Zambales.

Incentivizing the community

HE explained that they understand that the local community in Zambales are affected by poverty. In the past, people living in coastal communities had searched for marine turtle nests to get the eggs, either for food or to sell them.

A pawikan egg costs around P7 each.

Harvesting of pawikan eggs is illegal. The only way to stop it is by offering the community an alternative livelihood.

Mead explained: "Their [residents'] interest in pawikan egg is because of lack of livelihood, opportunity and lack of food and various other reasons. So we shifted our approach to align with the community to work with us and pay them a reward for reporting."

The approach proved to be very successful and has created a strong alignment with the community.

"We work at the barangay level as well as LGUs," he said.

Increasing awareness

MEANWHILE, Mead said the move to increase the awareness of the community in Zambales is an ongoing process.

"We want to increase the number of hatcheries in Zambales. We require the partners not to touch [the nests]. We have trained rangers to perform that," he said.

"Once the [presence of a] nest is reported, our rangers move in. Following the best practices, we move the eggs to our secure hatchery," he explained.

In 2020 and 2021, the Pawikan

Project's secured hatchery gathered a total of 3,432 eggs that were surrendered by the communities, he said.

Moreover, Mead noted that because the hatchery is secured and the eggs are undisturbed, they were able to ensure an 80 percent success rate in terms of pawikan hatching.

During the two-year period, he said a total of 2,743 eggs were hatched and later released to the wild.

Mead said the campaign was able to forge ties with three local government units and seven barangays in Zambales.

The project also continues to receive reports from the community about discovered marine turtle nests in different areas, with a coverage of approximately 20 km from their base of operation.

Way forward

MBAD said part of the project's future plans is to scale hatcheries in Zambales and other areas in the Philippines.


"We are looking at Ilocos Norte, Davao del Sur and Bohol," he said.

Meanwhile, to ensure financial sustainability, he said TMF is eyeing the establishment of a dive shop in these areas.


In the Sundowners Resort in Zambales, TMF established the Fian's Dive shop. The income from its operation goes to conservation.

"It is our way of making sure that our conservation will not run out of funds, hence, sustain our effort to save the pawikan," he said.





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ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU
DENR Compound, Wrigley Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City 1115
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Website: www.emb.gov.ph Email: secomf@emb.gov.ph



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On the ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE REPORT AND MANAGEMENT PLAN (EPRMP) of the proposed JLR BASALT MATERIAL QUARRY PRODUCTION EXPANSION PROJECT of the JLR CONSTRUCTION & AGGREGATES, INC. located at the CITY OF NAGA AND MUNICIPALITY OF MINGLANILLA, PROVINCE OF CEBU

Notice is hereby given to all parties who wish to give their opinion regarding the implementation of the proposed JLR BASALT MATERIAL QUARRY PRODUCTION EXPANSION PROJECT to attend the Public Hearing on:

Date	Time	Venue
16 May 2022 (Monday)	1:00 PM <i>Registration starts at 12:00 NN</i>	Barangay Cagoo Covered Court, Naga City, Cebu

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

The following is the project information:

Project Name	JLR Basalt Material Quarry Production Expansion Project
Project Location	City of Naga and Municipality of Minglanilla, Province of Cebu
Project Capacity	4,000,000 MTPY
Proponent	JLR Construction & Aggregates, Inc.

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

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

1. **EMB Region VII**
DENR Compound, Greenplains Subdivision, Banilad, Mandaue City
Tel No. (032) 260-9777
2. **Naga City Hall / Minglanilla Municipal Hall**
East Poblacion, Naga City, Cebu / Municipality of Minglanilla, Cebu

For more details, please contact the EIAMD Division at this Office at telephone number (02) 8539-4378 loc. 116 through the project casehandlers Engr. Dexter Tabada and Engr. Jason Pagdo Espuena.

mpj

Protect the environment... Protect life.

01 MAY 2022, SUNDAY



DENR

**NEWS
ALERTS**

**COVID-19
NEWS**

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Over 6.7K immunocompromised receive 2nd booster shots

By Lade Jean Kabagani April 30, 2022, 7:21 pm



(Photo courtesy of NTF Against Covid-19)

MANILA – Some 6,702 eligible immunocompromised individuals have received their fourth Covid-19 dose or the second booster shot during the first-week rollout, the National Vaccination Operations Center (NVOC) reported on Saturday.

Overall, NVOC chairperson and Department of Health (DOH) Undersecretary Myrna Cabotaje said 146.7 million doses have been administered nationwide.

Of the total, 67.8 million Filipinos have complete primary series of Covid-19 jabs but only 13.2 million of them have first booster shots.

Cabotaje said the recommendation of the Health Technology Assessment Council for the administration of the second booster shots to other priority groups is still under study.

“If they already have sufficient data to come up with the recommendation, that’s the time they will issue a recommendation for the other groups so let’s just wait for it,” Cabotaje said, partly in Filipino, at a virtual public briefing.

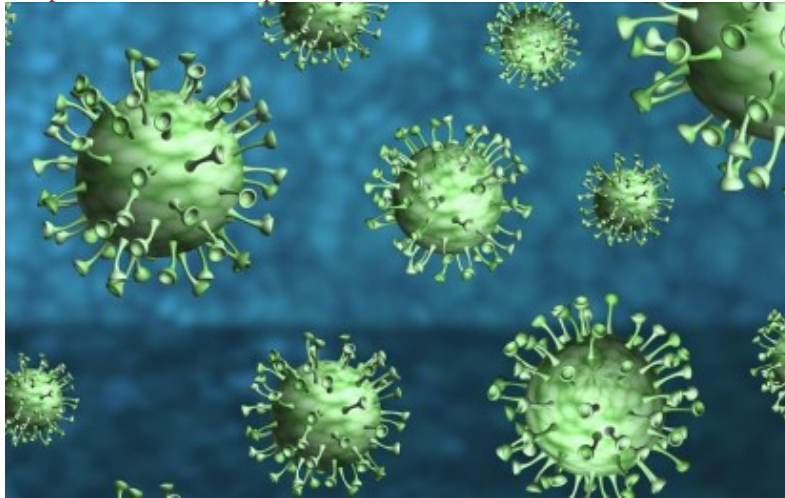
She said the Philippines has enough vaccine supplies should health experts expand the second booster shots to the general public because the booster vaccination drive is not as well-received.

The NVOC is likewise studying whether to set up vaccination sites in polling precincts on election day. **(PNA)**



DOH belies 'unfounded rumors' of Covid surge before polls

By Joyce Ann L. Rocamora **April 30, 2022, 7:18 pm**



MANILA – The Department of Health (DOH) on Saturday categorically denied "unfounded rumors" that it will report a coronavirus surge days before the May 9 elections and pin the blame on campaign rallies.

A tweet posted on April 28 about a supposed DOH-declared surge garnered over 11,000 "likes" and 2,213 retweets.

It alleged that two days before the election, the DOH will release a report indicating a hike in Covid-19 cases and that some of the positive individuals will be ordered to say that they went to a rally of a certain candidate.

"The Department of Health categorically denies unfounded rumors that it will report an artificial increase in Covid-19 cases close to election day for partisan use against any candidate at any level," the DOH said in a statement.

The agency said the Philippines has low Covid-19 case trends due to high vaccination coverage and public compliance with minimum health standards.

DOH underscored that it uses metrics such as health care utilization to evaluate whether an escalation or de-escalation of alert levels is warranted.

"Instead of spreading false and unverified information, we can all do our part in preventing further transmission and avoiding further restrictions caused by the Covid-19 by wearing the best-fitted mask, (isolating) when sick, doubling up protection with vaccination and boosters, and ensuring good airflow," it said.

The Philippines recorded an average of 195 cases daily the past week and an overall national positivity rate of 1.2 percent. **(PNA)**



#OneDENR

**Covid-19
Situation and Response**

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**KANDIDATO SA
ELEKSYON**



**AIRFLOW SA
PRESINTO**

SIGURUHIN ANG MAGANDANG **BENTILASYON SA MGA RALLY, HEADQUARTERS, PRESINTO, O SAAN MANG LUGAR NGAYONG PANAHOON NG ELEKSYON!**



**Best-fitted
Mask**
all the time



**Isolate / Stay
home when
feeling sick**



**Double up protection
with primary series
and booster**



**Airflow
exchange
is good**



**MA-ERE NA MGA PRESINTO
NGAYONG ELEKSYON**



**MA-ERE NA MGA
KANDIDATO**

**SIGURUHIN ANG MAGANDANG *BENTILASYON* SA MGA
RALLY, HEADQUARTERS, PRESINTO, O SAAN MANG
LUGAR NGAYONG PANAHON NG ELEKSYON!**



**Best-fitted
Mask**
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exchange
is good**



Healthy
Pilipinas

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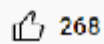
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22h · 🌐



Boracay live prrd program for ati community



159

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Miz July was live — at Boracay Island Philippines.

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Wetland park



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133

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Sino ang magtutuloy after president duterte?

Ati community ang dapat makinabang sa boracay hindi negosyante.

Oureach program ng denr love boracay



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Tribo ng boracay



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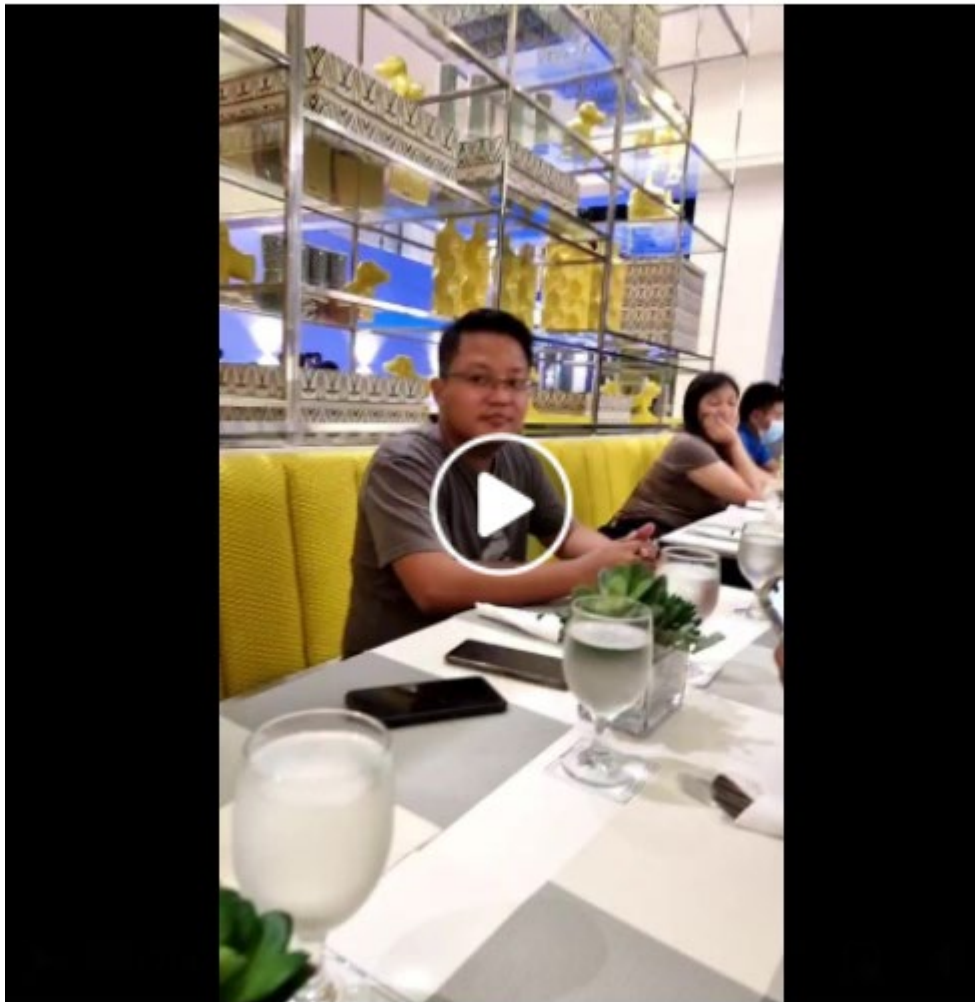


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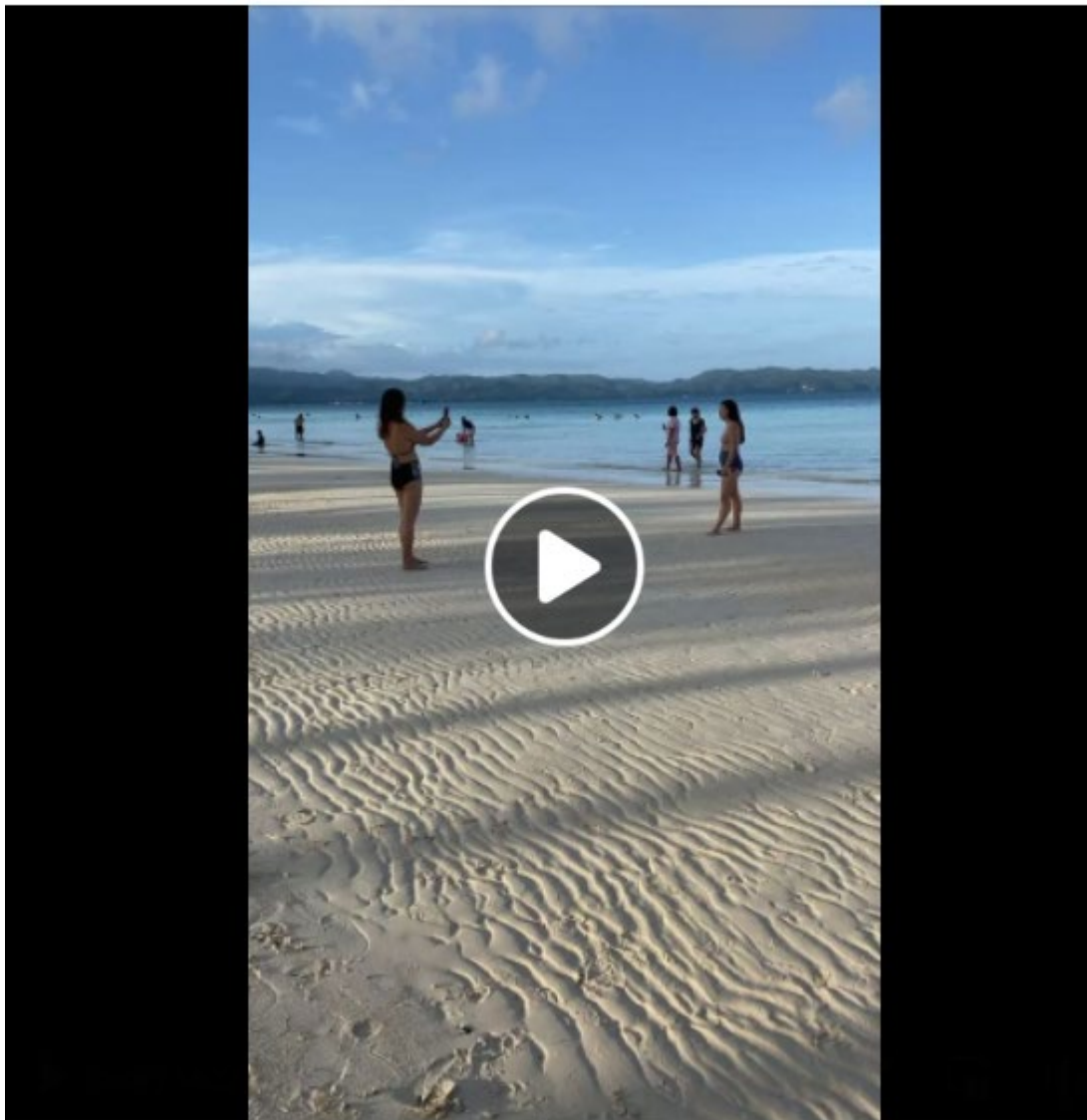


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Boracay Dagsa ngayong May 1



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The Wonders Philippines was live.

1h · 🌐



Anu kaya ito? Buhangin ng bora may maitim tapos mabaho? Tubo ba na ligaw ito?



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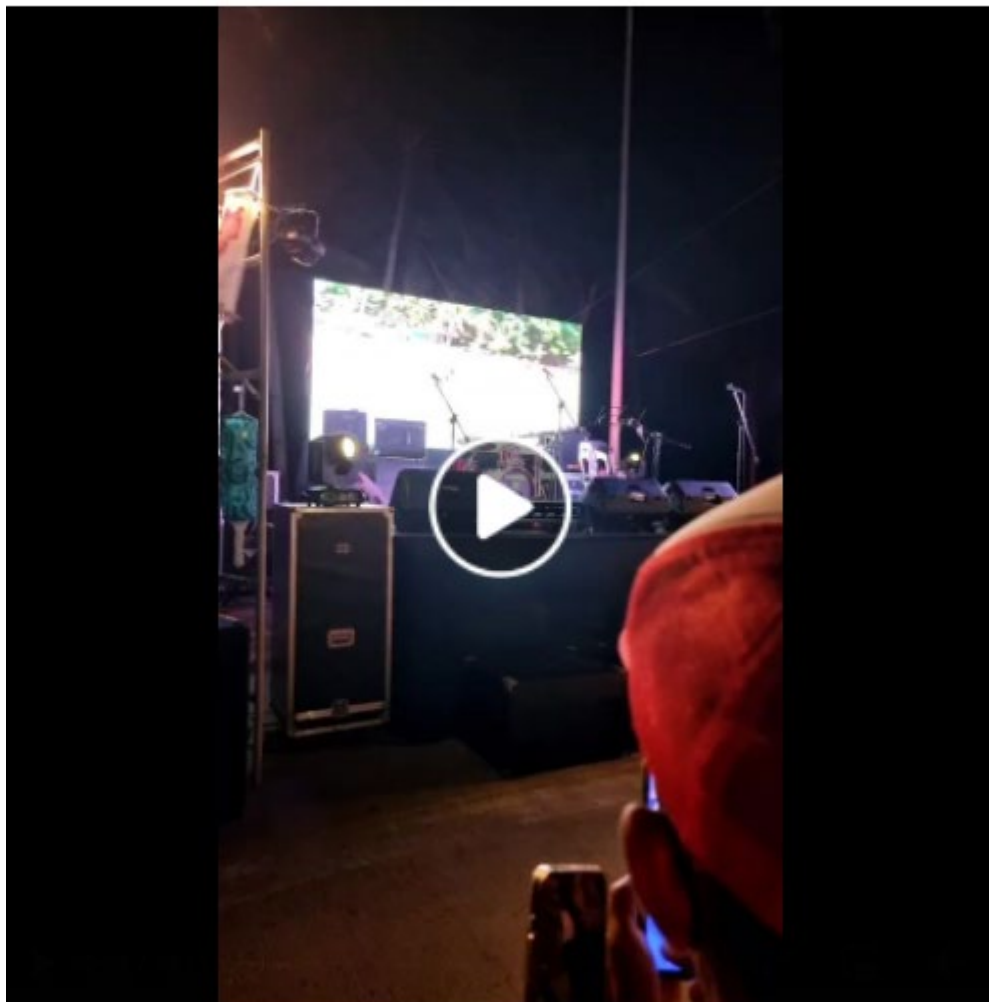


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12h · 🌐



Love boracay better than ever nights festival



40

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11h · 🌐



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