

02 MAY 2022, MONDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR vows to fastrack land-titling process before 2022 ends

Published May 1, 2022, 5:57 PM

by [Aaron Recuenco](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has vowed to fast-track the land titling procedures in the country, saying it is an essential element to put an end to land conflicts and insurgency.

The insurgency factor on land titling procedure is reportedly being capitalized by the communist rebels to fuel anger among Indigenous People's through the ancestral domain issue and in recruiting among poor farmers.

DENR Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampilna said he had already urged the Land Management Bureau (LMB) and other DENR offices to initiate processes that would expedite the land-titling procedures.

Sampilna made the statement following the National Task Force-Regional Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict meeting led by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte in Butuan City on April 12. The event, which was also highlighted by the distribution of 7,000 land patents, enforces President Duterte's order to fast-track land distribution as a counter-insurgency measure in the provinces.

"I would like to urge the Land Management Bureau and the Undersecretary for Legal, Administration, Human Resources and Legislative Affairs and supervising undersecretary of LMB to fast-track the titling of all areas because of the fact that 70 percent of the conflict around us is caused by land conflict," said Sampilna.

Sampilna also prompted the DENR's regional officials to fast-track the distribution of lands until the end of the year.

Republic Act 10023 or the Residential Free Patent Act mandates the DENR to accept and process applications for free patent titles of residential lands.

As he acknowledged the low number of Filipinos with land titles, Sampilna underscored the importance of bringing the agency's services to the public to ease the processing of free patents.

"I think by estimate, 30 to 35 percent of our people still do not have titles but they are in possession of tax declaration. This is mainly because they do not want to undergo the process of land titling, as they do not know who to approach. That is why we have to bring our service to them. Let us be closer to the people to speed up the transactions of the public with us," Sampilna said.

"There are three reasons the DENR exists. First is to give lands to those without titles. Second is for the country's natural resources—forestry, mines, and environment. And last, to address conflicts on lands which is a pressing issue at present. Let us concentrate on land conflicts and whoever is in charge should work more," he added.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2022/05/01/denr-vows-to-fastrack-land-titling-process-before-2022-ends/>



5,000 election tarpaulins removed as DENR intensifies 'Oplan Baklas' in Caraga region

Published April 30, 2022, 9:58 AM

by [Mike Crismundo](#)



Photo courtesy of DENR Caraga FB

BUTUAN CITY – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Northeastern Mindanao (The Caraga Region) started its environmental cleanup on Friday by dismantling thousands of tarpaulins installed by candidates on trees.

The DENR's regional, provincial and city offices removed close to 5,000 tarpaulins in five provinces and six cities of the region as the agency stepped up its implementation of "Oplan Baklas" in various parts of the region on Friday, 11 days before the national elections.

In a progress report to DENR Secretary Jim O. Sampulna, DENR 13 Regional Executive Director (RED) Nonito M. Tamayo said officials and personnel of the provincial and community environment and Natural resources offices (PENROs, CENROs) in the region's five provinces and six cities went out of their respective offices to thoroughly implement 'Oplan Baklas.'

About 4,763 pieces of tarpaulins bearing political propaganda that were posted on trees and other structures along non-designated poster areas had already been removed.

"Our respective PENROs and CENROs led their respective personnel to protect grown trees planted along the roads and other areas in the region, in relation to our tree planting program," said RED Tamayo, in an exclusive interview with The Manila Bulletin, late Friday afternoon.

The clearing operation was supported by the Commission on Election (Comelec), the Philippine National Police, and the local government units.

The intensified implementation of 'Oplan Baklas' by the DENR and the concerned line agencies is in compliance with the Memorandum Order (MO) issued by Secretary Sampulna on March 21, 2022, for the promotion of environmentally-conscious national election campaigns.

Republic Act 357 prohibits the "cutting, destroying, or injuring of planted or growing trees, flowering plants, and shrubs or plants of scenic value along public roads, in plazas, parks, schools premises, or any other public ground."

"This (MO) must be strictly followed in an objective to protect and preserve our environment not only for this current generation but also for the next generation," stressed Sec. Sampulna, in a phone conversation.



Meanwhile, Surigao del Norte PENRO Officer Victor Sabornido reported that the agency had removed on Wednesday close to 400 election campaign materials along public roads, particularly those posted in different non-designated poster areas.



Campaign materials on trees in CL removed

[Ric Sapnu](#) - The Philippine Star May 2, 2022 | 12:00am

SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga, Philippines — At least 19,600 pieces of campaign materials illegally posted on trees along major roads in Central Luzon have been removed by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The move was part of DENR's Oplan Baklas, which aims to promote environmentally conscious and trash-free elections.

The initiative started in February in vote-rich provinces such as Bulacan, Nueva Ecija and Pampanga, according to Laudemir Salac, DENR regional director for management services.

"Nailing posters and other materials on trees can result in their death. Holes left by nails on the trunks will become entry points for insects and pests, which may cause the trees to decay," Salac said.

Aside from saving trees, Salac said Oplan Baklas also aims to minimize election-related waste such as tarpaulins, posters and other campaign paraphernalia, especially if the materials used are non-biodegradable and non-recyclable.



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News5
19h · 🌐



Ilang lokal na residente ang sumali sa Zumba session sa may Boracay beach Station 1 para sa selebrasyon ng "Love Boracay 2022."

: DENR



Andrea Ana Sarian and 1K others

142 Comments 29 Shares



Pineda lauds Duterte for declaring Mount Arayat as protected area

IAN OCAMPO FLORA

April 30, 2022

PAMPANGA Governor Dennis Pineda has lauded President Rodrigo Duterte for signing into law Republic Act No. 11684, which designates Mount Arayat as a protected area.

Pineda said the law declaring Mount Arayat as a protected area is a big step in fully recognizing the importance of the area to biodiversity as well as eco-tourism.

According to Pineda, the law will further boost conservation efforts in the area, as well as reinforce current efforts to promote it as an eco-tourism destination and an example for local biodiversity conservation.

A protected area refers to portions of land and water set aside for their unique biodiversity and shielded from destructive human exploitation. Examples are natural parks, wildlife sanctuaries, marine reserves, and watershed or mangrove swamp forests.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), since 2018, had placed Mount Arayat National Park under a Protected Area Suitability Assessment (Pasa), which is part of the long process of elevating the status of the area into a protected landscape.

The new Republic Act No. 11038, or the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System (ENIPAS) Act of 2018, mandates all national parks to be designated as initial components of the system and be subjected to a Pasa.

The National Park is comprised of Mount Arayat and some 3,715 hectares of its rolling and moderately rugged terrain. The mountain was formerly known as “Bunduk Alaya” or “Eastern Mountain,” while Arayat is the name of the town where majority of the mountain’s area is located. Eventually, people began referring to the mountain as Mount Arayat.

Rising at a height of 1,026 meters above sea level, the mountain is considered an extinct stratovolcano, a circular volcanic crater that measures 1.2 kilometers in diameter, according to the DENR. The mountain is part of the Kapampangans’ proud heritage with creation stories and legends revolving around the fabled mountain.

The Mount Arayat National Park covers portions of the eight barangays of Arayat town and another five barangays in Magalang town.



'Dredging won't affect aramang catch'

By [Leander C. Domingo](#) May 2, 2022

APARRI, Cagayan: The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) in Region 2 (Cagayan Valley) confirmed the decrease in the catch of "aramang" (soft-shelled pink shrimp) in the coastal town of Aparri in Cagayan province during the past seven years but clarified that it is not related to the river dredging activities.

Regional Director Angel Encarnacion of BFAR Region 2 under the Department of Agriculture (DA) said the result of their assessment was submitted to the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) here. The MGB is investigating the reported black sand mining causing the decline of fish catch.

MGB Region 2 Director Mario Ancheta said the bureau needed the data or scientific statements on the level of catches and harvests of aquatic resources in Aparri, specifically that of aramang in its investigation of claims of fisherfolk that alleged black sand mining which directly affected such.

He said the fishermen have mistaken the government dredging project to restore the Cagayan River for that of black sand mining and the ongoing dredging activities.

The heavily-silted Cagayan River which traverses Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino, Isabela, and Cagayan Valley, which is the country's longest and largest river, has been causing massive flooding, especially during the heavy downpours.

Encarnacion said the assessment made by the DA-BFAR Region 2 and DA-National Fisheries and Research Development Institute confirmed the decline in the catches of aramang from 2014 to 2020.

He noted that based on the DA-BFAR Region 2 National Stock Assessment Program, a decreasing trend in the landed catch and catch per unit effort (CPUE) of aramang was observed from 2015 to the present.

However, Encarnacion said the decrease starting in 2020 could also be attributed to the limited movement of fishers due to the restrictions brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic.

In fisheries, CPUE is frequently the single most useful index for long-term monitoring of a fishery. A decline in CPUE may mean that the fish population cannot support the level of harvesting while an increase in CPUE may mean that a fish stock is recovering and more fishing effort can be applied.

Encarnacion said the decrease in catch and CPUE could be attributed to several factors present in the environment.

He said these include a sudden change of weather condition during a fishing operation that affects fishing trips or efforts of the fishers and the number of hours expended when they were already out at sea or prevent them from leaving the harbor.

"The increase in boat landings also contributed to the decrease in CPUEs through time. Notably, the greater number of fishing vessels operating, the lesser the volume of catch per boat since the resource has been shared by many fishers," Encarnacion said.

As per the record of the BFAR Region 2, there were 33 boat landings observed in 2015 with the highest CPUE, and 236 boats landed in 2019 with a lower CPUE.



Another contributory factor to the decrease in CPUE could also be the catchability of the gears being used.

Encarnacion noted that the commercial drift filter net (DFN) together with pair trawl or active gears were used in catching aramang from 2014 until 2016.

He said the conversion of commercial DFN to municipal DFN from bigger boats to smaller boats has also affected the catch and CPUE of aramang.

He said the increasing fuel prices could also affect the catch and CPUE of fisherfolk.

PAGASA scientist: PH to experience extreme heat, intense typhoons if climate change worsens

May 1, 2022



Motorists slow down at the flooded area of Anonas Extension in Quezon City on Tuesday (June 8, 2021). (PNA photo by Joey O. Razon)

By Gabriela Baron

The Philippines is expected to experience extreme heat and intense typhoons if climate change worsens, according to a Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) scientist.

In the Laging Handa public briefing on April 30, PAGASA scientist Marcelo Villafuerte said the average temperature in the country rose by about 0.68 degrees in the past 65 years or 0.1 degree every decade.

“Ang kaakibat po ng patuloy na pagtaas nito ng ating temperatura, nagiging madalas ang pagkaranas natin ng extreme events. Halimbawa po, ‘yung mataas na temperature tuwing tag-init, partikular na talagang maiinit katulad po, halimbawa ng Dagupan, ng Cabanatuan, sa Cagayan Valley at sa iba pang lugar,” Villafuerte said.

“Nakaranas din po ng dagliang malakas na ulan na nagdudulot naman ng pagbaha. ‘Yun po ‘yung mga ilan sa mga epekto po ng mataas na temperatura na ito,” he added.

Villafuerte said the rising temperature also causes intense typhoons, heavy rains and floods, long drought, lack of water, and sea level rise.

He added that about six to eight tropical cyclones will enter the country in the next six months.

Citing a 2019 study, Villafuerte said that some Metro Manila cities and nearby areas could be submerged by 2050 due to the worsening climate crisis.

“Yung coastal areas, katulad halimbawa ng reclaimed areas natin sa Manila Bay, ‘yung coastal communities ng Las Piñas, and then sa Cavite, sa Manila, sa Valenzuela, Navotas, at ilang coastal communities din sa Bulacan,” he added. – *ngs*

Source: <https://ptvnews.ph/pagasa-scientist-ph-to-experience-extreme-heat-intense-typhoons-if-climate-change-worsens/?fbclid=IwAR1Z-UAcIpS0dxoHgKiRkjZ82qDmnqe4rYjQxY6Gfv5hIf3O2vA14guxWhY>



Shampoo 'buttons,' eco-friendly na pamalit sa shampoo 'sachets'

Abril 29, 2022 6:16pm

Mistulang makukulay na kendi ang naimbentong shampoo "buttons" ng isang mag-asawa na pamalit sa shampoo "sachets" na nag-iiwan ng basura.

Sa video ng "Next Now," sinabing ang naturang shampoo buttons ay gawa ng mag-asawang Marvin at Ronna Incognito. Bahagi ito ng kanilang negosyo na eco-friendly bath products na ShowerHut.

"Yung kending hubad before, ayun ang idea namin. Parang darating yung time na mabibili mo na siya ng tingi sa tindahan," sabi ni Marvin tungkol sa shampoo buttons.

Eco, travel, at budget-friendly ang produkto dahil maliit lang at puwedeng dalhin kahit saan. Wala ka ring iiwan na basura hindi gaya sa mga shampoo na nakalagay sa sachet.

Nabuo ng mag-asawa ang konsepto ng kanilang negosyong eco-friendly bath products sa pinagsamang research at marketing skills ni Marvin at chemistry background ni Ronna.

Una silang nakagawa ng bar version ng shampoo, conditioner, feminine wash, lotion at iba pang body-care products.

Ang lahat ng ito ay nagsimula lang sa loob ng kanilang kusina.

"Each shampoo bar that we use is actually equivalent to plastic sachets. So we have different sizes po ng shampoo bars for everyone na gusto muna i-try," ayon kay Ronna.

At kamakailan lang, inilunsad na rin nila ang shampoo buttons na tiny version ng shampoo bar.

Ang shampoo buttons ang sagot ng mag-asawa sa tingi o sachet culture ng mga Pinoy.

Nagkakahalaga lang ng P15 ang isa ng shampoo buttons at puwedeng magamit ng tatlo hanggang anim na beses.

Mayroon din silang limang variants nito para sa iba't ibang kondisyon ng buhok. Gaya ng chemically-treated na buhok, panlaban sa dandruff, o para sa oily scalp.

Compostable packaging din ang gamit nila para mas lalo pang makaiwas sa plastics.

"Gusto namin i-encourage 'yung mga tao na regardless of how small your act is, malaking bagay siya, makakatulong siya for the environment," ani Marvin.

--FRJ, GMA News

Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/balitambayan/talakayan/830166/shampoo-buttons-eco-friendly-na-pamalit-sa-shampoo-sachets/story/?utm_source=GMAnews&utm_medium=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR1D-ugm3zHCm2pPjmFVuWX-jDzDcipekC8F6fE9AcVAvKMw-ud_9KVc5do



Mahigit 1,000 koleksyon ng mga preserved extinct animals, natuklasan sa Spain!

[MGA PANGYAYARING KAGILA-GILALAS](#) - [Arnel Medina](#) - Pang-masa May 2, 2022 | 12:00am

KINUMPISKA ng mga Spanish police ang mahigit 1,000 piraso ng mga taxidermy animals o mga prineserbang bangkay ng mga hayop.

Ayon sa mga awtoridad, nagkakahalaga ang koleksyon na ito ng \$32 million. Karamihan kasi sa mga ito ay specimen ng mga endangered animals at ang ilan pa rito ay totally extinct animals o mga hayop na hindi na matatagpuan kahit saan.

Naganap ang raid sa isang malaking warehouse sa bayan ng Betera sa Eastern Spain.

Nagmistulang museo at zoo ang 50,000 square meter warehouse dahil sa dami ng mga preserved animals na umabot ang bilang sa 1,090. Ilan sa mga ito ay mga elepante, white rhino, cheetah, leopard, lion, crocodile, tiger, polar bear at scimitar orix, isang hayop na idineklarang “extinct in the wild” noong taong 2000. Bukod dito, may natagpuan din na 198 piraso ng elephant tusk, ilang bangko na gawa sa paa ng elepante at upuan na may balat ng crocodile.

Napag-alaman ng mga awtoridad na ang nagmamay-ari ng private collection na ito ay isang prominenteng businessman mula sa Valencia, Spain. Ayon dito, minana lamang niya ang mga ito mula sa kanyang ama.

Sa kasalukuyan, iniimbestigahan kung may nilabag na environmental crimes at smuggling ang businessman.



UN agency report: 40% of Earth's land is degraded

BY LYN RESURRECCION MAY 1, 2022



The UN report warned that the way land resources are currently mismanaged and misused threatens the health and continued survival of many species on Earth, including humans.

A new United Nations report warned that up to 40 percent of Earth's land is degraded, it directly affects half of humanity, and threatens about half of global GDP amounting to \$44 trillion.

The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) flagship Global Land Outlook 2 (GLO2) report projected that if business as usual continued through 2050, additional degradation of an area almost the size of South America will occur.

It added that nations' current pledge to restore 1 billion degraded hectares by 2030 requires \$1.6 trillion within this decade, which is a fraction of today's annual \$700 billion in fossil fuel and agricultural subsidies.

The report said that as food prices soar amid rapid climate and other planetary changes, "crisis footing" is needed to conserve, restore and use land sustainably.

The report warned that the way land resources—soil, water and biodiversity—are currently mismanaged and misused threatens the health and continued survival of many species on Earth, including humans.

It said that if current land degradation trends continue, food supply disruptions, forced migration, rapid biodiversity loss and species extinctions will increase, accompanied by a higher risk of zoonotic diseases like Covid-19, declining human health, and land resource conflicts

At the same time, it pointed decision-makers to hundreds of practical ways to effect local, national and regional land and ecosystem restoration.

UNCCD's evidence-based flagship GLO2 report that was five years in development with 21 partner organizations, and with over 1,000 references, was the most comprehensive consolidation of information on the topic ever assembled.

It offered an overview of unprecedented situation, and projected the planetary consequences of three scenarios through 2050: business as usual, restoration of 50 million sq km of land, and restoration measures augmented by the conservation of natural areas important for specific ecosystem functions.

It also assessed the potential contributions of land restoration investments to climate change mitigation, biodiversity conservation, poverty reduction, human health and other key sustainable development goals.



The report warned: “At no other point in modern history has humanity faced such an array of familiar and unfamiliar risks and hazards, interacting in a hyper-connected and rapidly changing world. We cannot afford to underestimate the scale and impact of these existential threats.”

“Conserving, restoring and using our land resources sustainably is a global imperative, one that requires action on a crisis footing... Business as usual is not a viable pathway for our continued survival and prosperity,” it said.

The report was released before the UNCCD’s 15th session of the Conference of Parties to be held in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire from May 9 to 20.

Ibrahim Thiaw, executive secretary of the UNCCD, said: “Modern agriculture has altered the face of the planet more than any other human activity. We need to urgently rethink our global food systems, which are responsible for 80 percent of deforestation, 70 percent of freshwater use, and the single greatest cause of terrestrial biodiversity loss.”

“Investing in large-scale land restoration is a powerful, cost-effective tool to combat desertification, soil erosion and loss of agricultural production. As a finite resource and our most valuable natural asset, we cannot afford to continue taking land for granted,” he added.

Future scenarios

The report predicted the outcomes by 2050 and risks involved under three scenarios:

n **Business as usual:** Under this situation, the continuing current trends in land and natural resource degradation will continue, while demands for food, feed, fiber, and bioenergy continue to rise.

Land management practices and climate change will continue to cause widespread soil erosion, declining fertility and growth in yields, and the further loss of natural areas due to expanding agriculture.

By 2050 this will result in 16 million sq km continued land degradation (almost the size of South America).

There will also be a persistent, long-term decline in vegetative productivity is observed for 12 percent to 14 percent of agricultural, pasture and grazing land, and natural areas—with sub-Saharan Africa worst affected.

At the same time, there will be additional 69 gigatons of carbon is emitted from 2015 to 2050 due to land use change and soil degradation. This represents 17 percent of current annual greenhouse gas emissions: soil organic carbon (32 gigatons), vegetation (27 gigatons), peatland degradation/conversion (10 gigatons).

n **Restoration:** This situation assumes the restoration of around 5 billion hectares (50 million sq km or 35 percent of the global land area) using measures, such as agroforestry, grazing management, and assisted natural regeneration. The current international pledges measure 10 million sq km.

By 2050, this will result in crop yields increase by 5 percent to 10 percent in most developing countries compared to the baseline.

There will also be improved soil health that will lead to higher crop yields, with the largest gains in the Middle East and North Africa, Latin America, and sub-Saharan Africa that will limit food price increases.

Soil water holding capacity will increase by 4 percent in rain-fed croplands; carbon stocks rise by a net 17 gigatons between 2015 and 2050 due to gains in soil carbon and reduced emissions.



Although biodiversity is seen to continue to decline, however it will not be as quickly, with 11 percent of biodiversity loss averted.

Restoration and protection: This scenario includes the restoration measures, augmented with protection measures of areas important for biodiversity, water regulation, conservation of soil and carbon stocks, and provision of critical ecosystem functions.

By 2050, these measures will see an additional 4 million sq km of natural areas (the size of India and Pakistan); and the largest gains expected in South and Southeast Asia and Latin America.

Protections will prevent land degradation by logging, burning, draining, or conversion.

At the same time, about a third of the biodiversity loss projected in the baseline will be prevented, and an additional 83 gigatons of carbon are stored compared to the baseline.

The report said avoided emission and increased carbon storage will be equivalent to more than seven years of total current global emissions.

Image credits: [GLO2 Report UNCCD](#)



Dagupan heat index reaches ‘danger level’ — PAGASA

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published May 1, 2022 11:32:02 AM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, May 1) — The heat index in Dagupan City, Pangasinan was at “danger level” after reaching 50 degrees Celsius at 5 p.m. on Saturday, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, Astronomical, Services Administration said.

PAGASA defines heat index as “human discomfort index that gives the apparent temperature on what humans perceive or feel as the temperature (from the surroundings) affecting the body.”

Areas with heat index between 42 degrees to 51 degrees Celsius are considered at “danger level.”

The following areas also had heat index above 41 degrees Celsius on April 30:

- Aparri, Cagayan - 46°C at 5 p.m.
- Laoag City, Ilocos Norte - 44°C at 2 p.m.
- Casiguran, Aurora - 42°C at 2 p.m.
- Masbate City, Masbate - 42°C at 1 p.m.
- NAIA, Pasay City- 42°C at 1 p.m.

From March 1 to April 30, the highest heat index was also recorded in Dagupan City at 54°C on April 22 at 2 p.m., PAGASA said.

PAGASA cautioned that heat cramps and heat exhaustion are likely to happen, and heat stroke is probable when living in areas with heat index in the danger zone.

The state weather bureau has advised to limit time spent outside, drink lots of water, use umbrellas when outdoors, and schedule heavy-duty activities for the beginning or end of the days, when it is cooler.

Source: <https://www.cnnphilippines.com/news/2022/5/1/Dagupan-heat-index-.html>

02 MAY 2022, MONDAY



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NEWS CLIPPINGS

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regional director for management services.

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– Ric Sapnu



Social enterprise aims to open more bamboo plantations

By ANDREA E. SAN JUAN

BAMBUHAY, a social enterprise using bamboo farming and entrepreneurship, said it is working with a Canadian firm to ramp up bamboo planting in the Philippines to meet rising demand.

Mark Sultan Gersava, Bambuhay founder and chief executive farmer, said the sector is in the level of industrialization given the "very high" demand, according to a statement released by the Philippine Exporters Confederation, Inc. (Philexport).

He said Bambuhay and the Canadian firm are stepping up 40,000 hectares of plantations of bamboo across the country. Gersava did not identify the Canadian firm.

"Actually that is just one portion of the business and the focus of this project on industrialization for a large-scale plantation and large industrialization production (is) basically in Pangasinan and in Davao Region and of course in Bukidnon. So that's our direction," Gersava said.

He said Bambuhay aims to establish one production facility in every region to localize the supply chain, specifically the raw materials.

"Within that, we can decrease the carbon dioxide (CO₂) that we are producing because it's all locally-made."

Gersava is encouraging more farmers to plant bamboo to earn more income, and for indigenous communities and illegal loggers to shift to a more sustainable livelihood program.

The social enterprise estimates it has eliminated 424,000 pounds of plastic, diminished 5.6 million pounds of CO₂, and reforested 542 hectares of forest.

Bambuhay's 2030 goal is to reforest one million hectares of deforested land, and plant one billion bamboo trees.

Meanwhile, Enrique Tacbad, provincial director at Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Zambales said the government supports businesses that take concrete steps to protect the environment through

climate-friendly investments.

Tacbad said the DTI also spearheads the revitalization of the Philippine Bamboo Industry Development Council across the country, and co-leads the regional bamboo councils along with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

"We recognize bamboo as a sustainable raw material, a wood substitute, and a rising industry with the help of the passionate bamboo advocates all over the country," he said.

Most bamboo species are fast growing, but its use has not been increasing at the same pace.

Lack of investment, weak institutional framework, and limited skilled people in the bamboo craft are just some of the reasons blamed for the slow growth of the bamboo industry.

The absence of reliable raw material sources also discourages investments in bamboo processing, according to Philexport.



Mt. Pulag, Tirad Pass, 3 more sites now declared by law as protected areas

By Macon Ramos-Araneta

SENATOR Cynthia Villar has welcomed President Rodrigo Duterte's enactment into law of her five measures, declaring Mt. Pulag in Benguet and four other sites in the country as protected areas.

She thanked the President for signing Republic Acts 11684, 11685, 11686, 11687, and 11688, which added Mt. Arayat in Pampanga, Mt. Pulag in Benguet, Naga-Kabasalan in Zamboanga Sibugay, Tirad Pass in Ilocos Sur, and Banao in Kalinga to the list of protected areas under the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS).

The NIPAS was established under Republic Act 7586, as amended by RA 11038 or the Expanded NIPAS Act of 2018.

With this, Villar, chairperson of the Senate committee on environment and natural resources, said there were now 112 protected areas in the country that have been so declared through legislation.

"The signing of these laws would mean more forest lands; landscapes; ecologically rich, unique and biologically important areas that are habitats of threatened species of plants and animals; biographic zones and related ecosystem, whether terrestrial wetland or marine would be protected," noted Villar.

"These areas would be given protected status by legislative action, in order to ensure their conservation," she added.

Villar had pushed for the passage of the E-NIPAS Act of 2018, which strengthened the legal framework for the establishment, management and maintenance of all designated protected areas in the country or those that are identified to be ecologically rich and biologically important public lands.



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Rising temperatures



SHE SAYS
DINAH VENTURA

“It’s simply too bad that some of our more mature leaders don’t seem to have a grasp of all that’s relevant in the issue.”

A Boston university student, in April, pointed out a key fact: “While some older people may not live through some of the worst effects of this climate crisis, my generation will.”

Montpelier High School senior Gabe Groveman, one of the students representing different schools who gathered in Montpelier, Vermont last week, was adamant about getting lawmakers to feel the urgency of the matter.

They were pushing for “policies that aggressively move us away from fossil fuels, and protect us against rising temperatures and severe impacts from more powerful weather events in a changing climate,” the story on *New England Cable Network* said.

Youth voters are likely looking seriously at candidates’ position on climate change, global warming or environment concerns.

It’s not enough to spout a desire to address the matter — there must be concrete plans for action. As we should know by now, nature waits for no man.

A group of scientists also recently raised an important concern, says *Science Daily*. This link between climate change and viral transmission is described by an international research team led by scientists at Georgetown University and is published 28 April in *Nature*.

“In their study, the scientists conducted the first comprehensive assessment of how climate change will restructure the global mammalian virome. The work focuses on geographic range shifts — the journeys that species will undertake as they follow their habitats into new areas. As they encounter other mammals for the first time, the study projects they will share thousands of viruses.”

In other words, with the rising temperatures, wild animals could move closer to human communities to try to survive, but then effecting change — “like how SARS jumped from bats to civets, then civets to people.” It’s probably happening already, scientists imply.

In short, another pandemic could happen.

The climate question is clearly a multi-pronged one, and sadly, not all leaders are well-versed in the matter.

What’s worse, not all leaders care — and we are also speaking of global leadership. The climate issue is the entire planet’s concern, after all.

Yet if there is any reason to be alarmed, it is by the mounting allegations that world leaders have not been as upfront as we would want about the real situation.

There had been times, in the last decade or so, when news came out

about “suppression” of scientific facts, or how these were “downplayed” or “distorted.” There has always been an economic reason behind decisions that ultimately affect the environment.

For ordinary folks, however, the question of climate change is pretty simple: “How we eat, how we buy, how we play, how we learn and how we live are just some of the things we can alter in order to make a difference,” another Vermont student, Jasmine Gruen, a junior, said.

Someone as young as she is can understand the practical merits of addressing climate change — it’s simply too bad that some of our more mature leaders don’t seem to have a grasp of all that’s relevant in the issue.

Then again, it can be hard to grapple with terms like “greenhouse emissions,” “fossil fuels” and so on, let alone the laws that govern these concepts here and around the world.

Still, the urgency is there to face these details. Costs of living skyrocketing, and environment degradation continuing, are more than enough reasons to pay attention. The next set of leaders should make it prime priority, and really ensure that steps will be taken on a much wider scale than it is nowadays.

This is so, even though we have been a little bit slow, we can help stem the changes that scientists say are sure to come.

“With the rising temperatures, wild animals could move closer to human communities to try to survive, but then effecting change.”



A call to invest in nature

COMMENTARY

SELVA RAMACHANDRAN

This year's commemoration of Earth Day came with an important call to action: to invest in nature for the sustainable future of the generations to come. And what a timely call it is.

Increasing global emissions contribute to extreme weather patterns. The onslaught of recent typhoons that swept the Philippines clearly demonstrates the worsening climate crisis, greatly affecting those at the fringes of society.

The years 2021 to 2030 were designated by the United Nations as the decade for ecosystem restoration, as well as the deadline for the achievement of the sustainable development goals. The call for protection and revival of the earth's ecosystems has never been more urgent. Only with healthy ecosystems can we enhance people's livelihoods, address climate change, prevent the collapse of biodiversity, and protect the population against deadly pandemic.

However, the planet and its people are at the tipping point; we find ourselves faced with a critical crossroads, which could spell either survival or peril. Recent global reports such as the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the assessment of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services have highlighted that we are at a turning point in the earth's history if nothing is done. The message is clear—we need to change the way by which we use investments to reverse this trajectory.

We do not need to look far to observe the challenges in restoring the country's valuable ecosystems. The Philippines has been touted as the third-largest contributor of marine plastics. Combined with water pollution, these endanger marine wildlife and fisheries production, affecting the value of tourism, food supply, and human health. Recent studies have shown that microplastics have been discovered in human blood, organs, and tissues, posing added huge health risks.

Furthermore, degraded watersheds have resulted in reduced capacities to prevent flooding and landslides, affecting lives and properties and, at the same time, reducing water supply during dry months. Mangroves, seagrasses, and coral reefs have deteriorated in many parts of the country, and uncontrolled development in the coastal areas have compromised their ability to weaken storm surges and other climate-induced hazards, thereby leaving swathes of destruction to communities and livelihoods.

All of these are preventable if every citizen and stakeholder will do their part in investing in nature. Investing in our future would mean less cost to repair, rebound, and avoid the hefty damages that inaction could inflict upon society.

There are a number of ways by which we can show our "investments."

First, let us invest in behavior and lifestyle modification. Global food waste, for example, is responsible for 6-8 percent of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. This, in addition to making more food available for those who are in need, is a tradeoff we make if we are not prudent in our consumption.

Everyday decisions, such as minimizing the use of plastics, can mean a lot in turning the tide in our campaign against marine litter. Reducing the volume of our wardrobe and the frequency we buy new clothes is another way we can make a difference. The fashion industry alone is responsible for 2.1 billion metric tons of GHG emissions in 2018 or 4 percent of the global total. This is equivalent to the same quantity of emissions of the entire economies

of France, Germany, and the UK combined!

Second, let us invest in risk-informed planning and development. Decisions on location of settlements, industries, city centers; and the way we plan spatial development in cities, greening our infrastructure, can mean a lot in preventing lives and saving costs through efficiency gains. Mapping of hazards and exposure of population and assets, and providing alternatives and development controls, zoning regulations can save the government billions of dollars of losses and damages from powerful typhoons and earthquakes.

Third, let us ensure financing is geared toward sustainability. This means ensuring that capital is channeled toward investments that either do no harm or result in positive impacts on the environment. There are available tools to guide decision-making on this, and metrics to guide us in measuring results. This entails the active application of environment, social, and governance principles; aligning with the Sustainable Finance Roadmap; and ensuring each project is evaluated against social and environmental impacts. There are big wins in doing this—the Better Business Better World Report of UNDP has estimated that around \$82 trillion in investment opportunity and 4.4 million new jobs will be created if directed toward those in support of SDG positive investments.

Lastly, all of these will not happen without an environmentally aware citizenry and supportive leadership. At this crucial time, we enjoin all Filipinos to make their voices heard and advocate for environmental sustainability and sustainability financing as priority agenda for the country's path for development. The clock is ticking, and every second of inaction may cause us generations lost.

Dr. Selva Ramachandran is the UNDP Philippines resident representative.



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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On the **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) REPORT** of the **PROPOSED STAGNO LIBJO MINING PROJECT**, a nickel mining project of **STAGNO MINING CORPORATION** to be located in Barangays San Antonio, San Jose, Garcia, General Aguinaldo, Barangay San Jose and Bayanihan, Municipality of Libjo, Province of Dinagat Islands.

Notice is hereby given to all parties who wish to give their opinion regarding the implementation of the **PROPOSED STAGNO LIBJO MINING PROJECT** to attend Public Hearing that is scheduled as follows:

Date	Time	Venue
17 May 2022	9:00AM (Registration will start at 8:30 AM)	Sitio Maytubig Covered Court, Barangay Bayanihan, Libjo, Dinagat Islands

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

The following is the project information:

Proponent	Stagno Mining Corporation
Project Name	Proposed Stagno Libjo Mining Project
Project Location	Barangays San Antonio, San Jose, Garcia, General Aguinaldo, Barangay San Jose and Bayanihan, Municipality of Libjo, Province of Dinagat Islands
Nature of the Project	Resource Extractive Industry
Extraction Rate	1,000,000 MT/Year of Nickel and associated minerals
MPSA 022-94-X (SMR) Amended I	1,149.8301 hectares
Components outside the MPSA	36.63 hectares

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

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

EMB CARAGA
Purok 5, Barangay Ambago,
Butuan City

MPDO-Libjo
Municipal Hall, Municipality of Libjo,
Dinagat Islands

For more details, please contact the EIAMD at this Office at telephone numbers (02) 8539 4378 local 116 and look for the project case handler **Engr. Joel G. Polintan** or at this email: joel_polintan@emb.gov.ph.

02 MAY 2022, MONDAY



DENR

NEWS

ALERTS

COVID-19

NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



COVID-19 cases in Metro Manila slightly up – OCTA

[Michael Punongbayan](#) - The Philippine Star May 2, 2022 | 12:00am



Residents engage in outdoor activities at the Marikina River Park.

The STAR / Walter Bollozos

MANILA, Philippines — The number of new cases of COVID-19 per day in the National Capital Region (NCR) slightly increased over the past week, the OCTA Research Group reported yesterday.

OCTA said Metro Manila recorded 85 cases of COVID-19 from April 24 to 30, for a growth rate of seven percent compared to 79 infections from April 17 to 23.

The reproduction number in the NCR also increased during the same period from 0.66 to 0.79, according to OCTA.

“Healthcare utilization for COVID remains very low at 21 percent, with the intensive care unit utilization rate at 19 percent,” the independent research group said.

OCTA reported that the positivity rate in the NCR stood at 1.4 percent for an average of 11,544 COVID-19 tests conducted daily.

Data from the Department of Health showed that Metro Manila posted 126 new COVID-19 cases on April 30. Of the figure, the city of Manila logged the highest infections with 25 followed by Pasay with 15 and Parañaque with 13.

The NCR registered the highest number of new COVID-19 infections with 126 followed by Cavite with 13. Bulacan and Rizal logged nine cases each.

Earlier, OCTA warned the public that COVID-19 cases may surge to 5,000 to 10,000 daily as the new Omicron subvariant entered the country.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/nation/2022/05/02/2178143/covid-19-cases-metro-manila-slightly-octa>

DOH denies rumor of ‘artificial’ COVID-19 surge before May 9 polls

May 1, 2022



Quezon City residents and workers wait for their turn for booster shots at the Quezon Memorial Circle on Saturday (Jan. 15, 2022). The Department of Health allows the administration of booster jabs three months after the second primary dose and two months after the single-shot Janssen vaccine. (PNA photo by Rico H. Borja)/ File

By Katrina Gracia Consebido

The Department of Health (DOH) on Saturday, April 30, denied rumors it will report an “artificial” increase in COVID-19 cases close before the May 9 polls.

In an advisory, DOH stressed that the country’s high vaccination coverage for the primary series of the COVID-19 vaccines and the public’s “very good” compliance to minimum public health standards have resulted in low COVID-19 case trends.

The Health department noted that the country’s average daily COVID-19 tally is at 195.

The DOH added that it uses other metrics such as healthcare utilization to evaluate and recommend to higher authorities if 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 COVID-19 pandemic by wearing the best-fitted mask, isolate when sick, double up protection with vaccination and boosters, and ensuring good airflow,” DOH said.

The DOH issued the advisory in response to a social media post claiming that the government will release a bulletin of COVID-19 surge two days before the national and local elections. -gb

02 MAY 2022, MONDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

VLOGS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



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21m · Malay · 🌐



Art gallery at feliz hotel boracay



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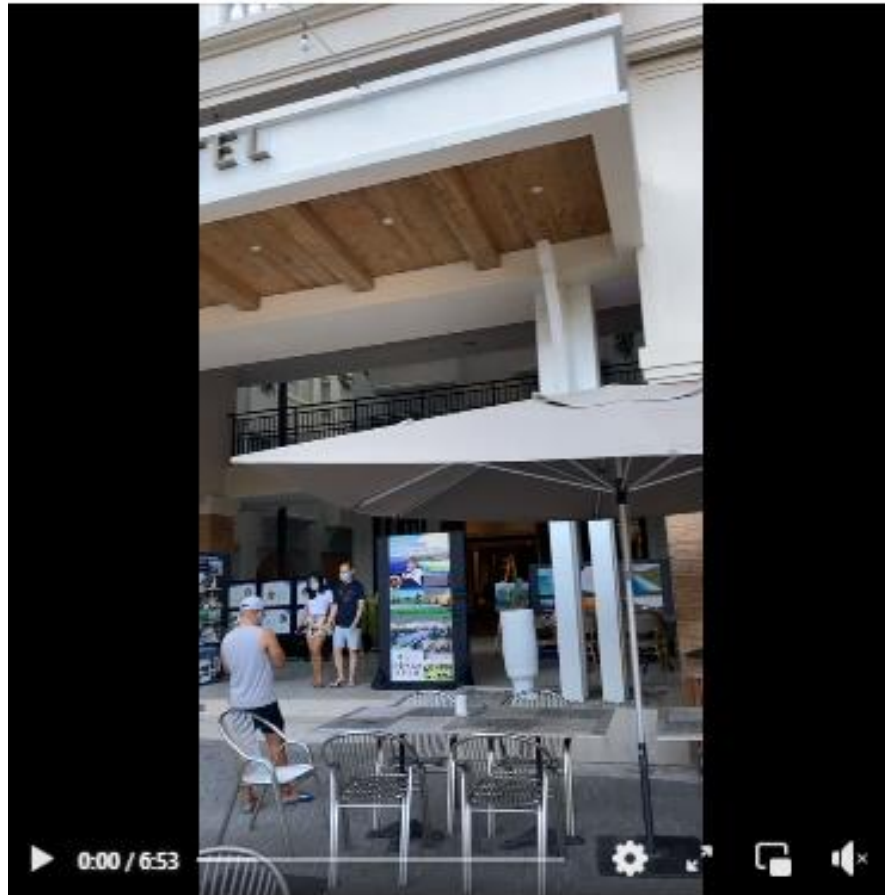


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Feliz hotel boracay



👍 5

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12h · 🌐



Live love Boracay balik sigla na! | Dentr



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Huling gabi ng love boracay



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Boracay clean up 2022



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