

13 MAY 2022, FRIDAY



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# DENR: Recycle, don't burn used campaign materials

[Gaea Katreena Cabico](#) - Philstar.com May 12, 2022 | 3:36pm



A man has a drink in front of posters plastered on a wall ahead of the May 9 presidential election in Manila on May 8, 2022.

AFP/Chaideer Mahyuddin

MANILA, Philippines — Candidates in Monday's national and local elections should clean up and dispose of campaign materials in accordance with environmental regulations, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources said.

In a statement Thursday, acting environment chief Jim Sampulna said the disposal of campaign paraphernalia must be in accordance with the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

"Win or lose, these candidates must consider the long-term consequences of their campaign materials in the environment. Therefore, they must encourage their supporters and volunteers to take down these materials, especially those made of plastic, and dispose of these properly," he said.

Sampula urged candidates to assemble teams that will clean up voluntarily "instead of being intimidated by possible violations after the election season."

The DILG ordered local government units and poll candidates to remove and dispose of campaign materials by Friday.

In an advisory to LGUs, the strict enforcement of local ordinances and regulations against illegal dumping, open burning and littering, and utilization of materials recovery facilities to collect and restore reusable items have been recommended.

Local governments were also urged to devise innovative and safe strategies to recycle and upcycle reusable campaign waste materials, and impose the responsibility to the organizers of political activities to ensure the waste will be properly disposed of.

More than 168.84 tons of materials were collected after the midterm elections in 2019.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/climate-and-environment/2022/05/12/2180629/denr-recycle-dont-burn-used-campaign-materials>



# DENR seeks proper disposal of poll materials

by [Rio N. Araja](#) [May 12, 2022, 11:30 pm](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Thursday urged candidates to dispose their campaign materials properly.

DENR Secretary Jim Sampulna told the candidates in the 2022 national and local elections to clean up and dispose campaign materials in accordance with Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

“Win or lose, these candidates must consider the long-term consequences of their campaign materials in the environment. Therefore, they must encourage their supporters and volunteers to take down these materials, especially those made of plastic, and dispose these properly,” he said.

The agency, along with the local government units, would be “at the beck and call” of the Commission on Elections to make sure that a resolution would be crafted requiring candidates to remove election materials after every campaign period.

“We will make sure that the existing environmental laws, such as RA 9003, will strengthen the resolution,” Sampulna said.

He called on the candidates to assemble their teams to “clean up voluntarily instead of being intimidated by possible violations after the election season.”

He recommended the recycling and upcycling campaign materials to lessen the by-products to be disposed of at dumps.

He said the Department of the Interior and Local Government, a member of DENR’s National Solid Waste Management Commission, has already disseminated an advisory to all local governments to remind them to strictly enforce the pertinent provisions of RA 9003.

Commission on Elections spokesperson John Rex Laudiangco also urged winning and losing candidates to help them remove their campaign materials.

“We are asking all candidates, please continue cleaning up your campaign materials. Let us be environment friendly and compliant,” he said, adding that “if possible, let us recycle these materials. Don’t just throw them away anywhere.”

During the campaign period — 90 days for running for national positions and 45 days for local — candidates have put up tarpaulins, posters, among others, to promote their candidacy.



## DENR chief to pols: Clean up your mess

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA MAY 12, 2022

Both winners and losers in the May 9, 2022, national and local election should clean up their mess, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna said on Thursday.

“Win or lose, these candidates must consider the long-term consequences of their campaign materials in the environment. Therefore, they must encourage their supporters and volunteers to take down these materials, especially those made of plastic, and dispose of these properly,” Sampulna said in a news statement.

Together with local government units (LGU), the DENR chief said his agency would push for the passage of a measure that will require candidates to remove election materials after every campaign.

“We will make sure that the existing environmental laws, such as RA 9003, will strengthen the resolution,” Sampulna vowed.

Sampulna said candidates should assemble their teams to “clean up voluntarily instead of being intimidated by possible violations after the election season.” “Candidates could show how sincere they are in serving the country this way,” he added.

The DENR chief suggested to candidates to do recycling and upcycling of their used or even excess campaign materials to lessen the by-products that will be disposed of in dumpsites.

The Department of the Interior and Local Government, a member of the National Solid Waste Management Commission, has already disseminated an advisory to all LGUs to remind them to strictly enforce the pertinent provisions of RA 9003.

Under the advisory, which was disseminated to the regional offices of the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), several initiatives have been recommended, including strict enforcement of local ordinances and regulations against illegal dumping, open burning and littering, and utilization of materials recovery facilities of LGUs to collect and store reusable materials.

Coming up with innovative and safe strategies to recycle and upcycle reusable campaign waste materials; imposing the responsibility to the organizers of political activities to ensure that the waste generated will be properly disposed of; and encouraging the citizenry to take part in initiatives of LGUs in ensuring a clean and litter-free environment, prior to, during and after elections were also included in the recommended initiatives for post-election activities of the candidates.

In April, the DENR took down over 114,000 campaign materials posted on trees nationwide pursuant to RA 3571.

RA 3571 provides that “cutting, destroying, or injuring of planted or growing trees, flowering plants and shrubs or plants of scenic value along public roads, plazas, parks, school premises, or in any other public pleasure grounds are prohibited.”





# Clean up poll trash, candidates urged

[Mayen Jaymalin](#) - The Philippine Star May 13, 2022 | 12:00am



A worker at the Environmental Management Office of the Marikina government recycles campaign posters to be used for the city's landscape project yesterday.

Jesse Bustos

MANILA, Philippines — With the elections now over, the Commission on Elections (Comelec) yesterday urged candidates to help in the removal of campaign materials.

“We appeal to the candidates, patuloy sana ang paglilinis ng campaign posters. Let us be environment-friendly and compliant with environmental laws,” acting Comelec spokesman John Rex Laudiangco said at a press briefing.

“Let us properly dispose of campaign materials and if possible, let's try to recycle these trash. Huwag itapon kung saan saan,” he added.

Both winning and losing candidates, Laudiangco said, should coordinate with local government units (LGUs) and the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) in cleaning up campaign paraphernalia.

Laudiangco said the election law should be amended to ban sample ballots during the campaign period.

But he said the Comelec believes that the distribution of sample ballots helps in educating the voters.

## Recycle campaign materials

The MMDA said it is looking to recycle election tarpaulins taken down by its personnel under Oplan Baklas.

MMDA Chairman Romando Artes said they are planning to take the campaign posters to Vitas pumping station in Tondo, Manila where there is a solid waste granulator and brick-making facility.

“We will turn these campaign trash into eco bricks or eco bags,” he said.

The MMDA has collected 252 tons of campaign materials after the elections.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) also urged the candidates to dispose of campaign materials in accordance with Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act.

“Win or lose, these candidates must consider the long-term effects of campaign materials on the environment. They must encourage their supporters and volunteers to take down these trash, especially those made of plastic,” acting Environment Secretary Jim Sampulna said.



He said the DENR, together with LGUs, would coordinate with the Comelec to make sure that a resolution would be crafted to require candidates to remove election materials after every campaign period.

Sampulna asked the candidates to assemble their teams to clean up campaign paraphernalia.

He recommended the recycling of campaign materials to lessen the by-products that will be created if these trash are disposed of.

Last April, the DENR took down over 114,000 campaign materials posted on trees nationwide.

Manila, Caloocan start cleanup

The Manila city government has started removing campaign posters displayed around the city.

In a Facebook live on Wednesday, outgoing Manila Mayor Isko Moreno said he has ordered the Department of Engineering and Public Works to dismantle campaign posters in the city.

Moreno said the city should get rid of these election paraphernalia, which became an “eyesore” in Manila.

“The election is finished. We need to bring back cleanliness in our electric posts, electric wires and walls,” Moreno said in Filipino.

He said the city government could assist private residences in removing the posters of the candidates they supported.

In Caloocan, personnel of the city government’s Public Safety and Traffic Management Department hauled 12 truckloads of campaign materials.

Most of the campaign posters were collected along Sangandaan and Rizal Avenue, according to the city public information office.

The Department of the Interior and Local Government had ordered LGUs to clear communities of campaign trash by today. – **Rhodina Villanueva, Ghio Ong, Ralph Edwin Villanueva, Marc Jayson Cayabyab**



# DENR project to protect Samar Protected Landscape

May 13, 2022



Calamianes Island, Palawan. PHOTO BY COYXXX

A DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) project to build socioeconomic resilience in the Catubig Watershed will protect the Samar Protected Landscape and Seascape while supporting the livelihood of rice farmers, craftsmen and fishers.

The Small Grants Program (SGP) Phase 7, funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), was launched by the DENR last April 8.

It involves livelihood and biodiversity projects in four sites. These are in Aurora province (Sierra Madre), Calamianes Group of Islands in Palawan, and Siargao Protected Landscape and Seascape in Surigao del Norte. Phase 7 sustains the project that was started under GEF-Phase 5.

The DENR-GEF SGP-7's work in Catubig Watershed may have the biggest environmental and socioeconomic growth impact among Samar natives.

While known to have a rich biodiversity profile with mixed dipterocarp forests, Samar Island is also known as the most cyclone-prone region in the country.

The National Economic and Development Authority reported in 2015 that Northern Samar, where the Catubig Watershed is located, had a poverty incidence of 61.6 percent. This makes it one of the country's poorest provinces.

The SGP-7 costs \$13.78 million of which \$4.436 million comes from a GEF grant. The Philippine government co-finances \$9.214 million.

"It is urgent that we strengthen the resilience of our community-based organizations. They are the frontliners in conservation and livelihood interventions. In this period of climate change and biodiversity degradation, a more integrated effort of interventions is essential," DENR Secretary Jim Sampulna said.

Greg Sarmiento, executive director of the Eastern Visayas Partnership for Rural Development, said the launch of SGP-7 is timely due to recent climate hazards experienced in the province.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2022/05/13/public-square/denr-project-to-protect-samar-protected-landscape/1843445>



# DENR hopes to extend Boracay gains after June 2022

May 12, 2022



*Boracay Island (PNA File photo)*

**By Katrina Gracia Consebido**

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) conveyed hope that the local government of Malay, Aklan will maintain the Boracay rehabilitation as the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF) expires by June 2022.

In a statement, DENR Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna said “the dissolution of the task force does not mean the end of the rehabilitation of the famous resort-island.”

“We are all excited to complete the rehabilitation of Boracay. But we cannot allow anyone to undo—immediately or otherwise—what we have accomplished, or to unlawfully stand in the way to the completion of our mission,” Sampulna said.

The BIATF was created by President Rodrigo Duterte through Executive Order (EO) 53 on May 8, 2018, chaired by the DENR which works with the Department of the Interior and Local Government as the vice chair, and the Department of Tourism as co vice-chair.

The BIATF’s term was extended until June 30, 2022 through EO 147.

Sampulna said they have done their part in their department to restore the island, hoping that the successor of the next administration will be able to do more.

“Our comfort, by then, is that we have done our part as members of this task force, and that, hopefully, we will be in a position to do more, or that our successors will be able to protect and build on our gains,” he said. **—ag**





# DENR trains 22 wildlife enforcers for Calabarzon

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA MAY 12, 2022

A total of 22 individuals from various local government units (LGUs), nongovernment organizations (NGOs), and pet shops recently completed a two-day training for wildlife enforcement officers in Region 4A, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said.

After training held in Calamba City recently, these individuals will get the opportunity to become deputized Wildlife Enforcement Officers and help the DENR combat illegal wildlife trade.

The 22 individuals who took the training will also represent the batch of volunteer wildlife enforcement officers (WEO) in the provinces of Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, and Quezon.

The DENR-Calabarzon through its Enforcement Division headed the training orientation for the prospective WEOs. Because WEOs do not receive a salary and only work voluntarily, the DENR screens prospective applicants before putting them under training.

During the two-day event, a strong emphasis was placed on the equal importance of both wild flora and fauna and their role in the natural processes in the ecosystem was reminded by Laguna Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer (PENRO) Eriberto B. Saños.

Further, Chief Enforcement Division Annabelle M. Barquilla stressed the importance of wildlife law enforcement in ensuring the conservation and sustainable use of wildlife resources.

Meanwhile, the salient features of RA 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act, Cyber Crime Investigation on Illegal Wildlife Trade, Wildlife Law Enforcement Protocol Techniques, Manual Forms, and other documents on Apprehension, Seizure, and Confiscation of Wildlife were discussed during the orientation.

The identification of commonly traded flora and fauna, basic wildlife handling techniques, and actual wildlife handling and restraining were also conducted to further capacitate the prospective WEOs. The actual handling and restraint activity was facilitated by Nielsen Donato, Wildlife Farm Permit Holder and the co-host of the TV Show, Born to be Wild.

The DENR-Calabarzon also called for direct involvement of the citizens through recruitment, training, and deputation as Environment and Natural Resources Officers (ENROs) and WEOs. The conduct of WEO training is one of the requirements in the deputation of WEOs, as stated under section 30 of RA 9147.



## Mayor Olivarez joins CENRO in post-election cleanup

Published May 12, 2022, 2:10 PM

by [Jean Fernando](#)

Paranaque City Mayor Edwin Olivarez joined members of the City Environment and Natural Resources (CENRO) in conducting “Oplan Baklas Election Paraphernalia” or post-election cleanup in the city on Thursday, May 12.

CENRO chief Bernie Amurao said the mayor joined them in conducting clearing operations along the stretch of Dona Soledad in Barangay Don Bosco.

Amurao said the day after the conduct of elections on Monday, May 9, they immediately conducted clearing operations and have already collected 14 garbage trucks full of election paraphernalia equivalent to 210 tons.

He said Olivarez, who wanted to maintain cleanliness around the city, joined and worked with them in removing all the election paraphernalia around the city.

The CENRO chief said the collected election paraphernalia were given to some barangays with livelihood programs using recyclable waste materials.



# MMDA, EcoWaste to turn election trash into ecobricks, ecobags

By Raymond Carl Dela Cruz [May 12, 2022, 7:54 pm](#)



**OPERATION BAKLAS.** The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) workers use a truck to collect election paraphernalia and other materials on Thursday (May 12, 2022). The MMDA collected 254 tons of election junk to be recycled into ecobricks and ecobags in the last two days. (PNA photo by Rico H. Borja)

**MANILA** – Hundreds of tons of election paraphernalia and other junk left behind during the recent national elections will be collected and recycled by the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) and the EcoWaste Coalition.

In a televised interview on Net 25 on Thursday, MMDA Chair Romando Artes said ‘Operation Baklas (tear down) 2022’ began on Tuesday, with the cleanup expected to be completed in two weeks.

*“Marami po tayong teams na ikinalat para sa pagbaklas po nito at katulong din naman po natin ang ibang sangay ng pamahalaan pati na po yung mga local government units [LGUs] (We have many teams deployed for the teardown and we are assisted by other branches of the government including LGUs),”* Artes said.

So far, the MMDA has collected 28 truckloads equaling 98 tons of junk on Tuesday and 43 truckloads equaling 154 tons of junk on Wednesday -- totaling 254 tons of election trash during the first two days of the cleanup drive alone.

Despite the massive amounts of junk to be collected, he said these will not be dumped into sanitary landfills and instead will be recycled into hollow blocks and bricks through an existing brick-making facility at the Vitas Pumping Station.

*“Meron naman pong waste granulator kung saan itong mga tarpaulins po na ito at plastic ay gigilingin po natin para maging sangkap po sa ating ecobrick (We have a waste granulator where we will ground these tarpaulins and pieces of plastic to be used in making ecobricks),”* Artes said.

He said these ecobricks are used in the rehabilitation of sidewalks and parks in Metro Manila.

The program, he said, was launched in 2021 and funded by the World Bank.

*“Yan po nagbabawas ng basura na imbis na itapon sa landfill ay pinapakinabangan po natin sa paggawa ng hollow blocks at bricks (It reduces waste. Instead of being thrown in a landfill, it can be used to make hollow blocks and bricks),”* Artes said.





He also said the EcoWaste Coalition, in a meeting requested by the group on Wednesday, will be given tarpaulins collected by the MMDA to be made into ecobags.

*“Pinag-usapan po namin yung pagbibigay po sa kanila ng maaayos na tarpaulins para magawa po nilang ecobags (We discussed providing them with tarpaulins that are in good condition which they can turn into ecobags),”* Artes said.

To ensure the cleanliness in Metro Manila and the rest of the country, he called on election candidates and their supporters to help take down their election posters and other paraphernalia.

*“Kung hindi po ito maaalis pagdating po ng tag-ulan, kalimitan ito ay napupunta sa ating mga kanal, sa estero, na nagdudulot po ng baha (If these are not cleaned up by the rainy season, these usually end up in canals or estuaries, causing floods),”* Artes said.

He noted that the MMDA is in close coordination with the Commission on Elections for the continued cleanup of election paraphernalia and other junk. **(PNA)**



# Ecowaste sa mga kumandidato: Maging responsible sa campaign materials

[Angie dela Cruz](#) - Pang-masa May 12, 2022 | 12:00am



The EcoWaste Coalition encouraged people to practice the zero waste advocacy "Reuse and Repurpose 2022 Election Campaign Material" at Quezon Memorial Circle in Quezon City on Wednesday, May 11, 2022. The organization shows how the safe recycling of the waste came from the materials used in the past election.

John Mark Pineda for Philstar.com

MANILA, Philippines — Nanawagan ang environmental group na Ecowaste coalition sa lahat ng kumandidato na nanalo man o natalo na maging responsable sa kanilang mga ginamit na campaign materials.

Dapat sana ay magkanya-kanyang tanggal ang mga kandidato ng kanilang mga campaign materials at umisip ng paraan kung paano ito mapapakinabangan pa sa pagre-recycle.

Maaari anilang ma-recycle ang mga campaign materials sa pamamagitan ng paggawa mula dito ng bag na lalagyan ng mga gulay at isda sa pamamalengke at maaari ring magamit na mantel sa upuan at lamesa.

Ang tambak na basura na iniwan ng nagdaang halalan ay malaking hamon sa mga kandidato para makipagtulungan sa pamahalaan na malinis ang kapaligiran.

Dapat umanong isaisip ng mga kandidato ang kanilang responsibilidad sa nakalipas na halalan.



# NPD conducts clean-up drive in Caloocan City

Published May 12, 2022, 9:58 PM

by [Allysa Nievera](#)

The Northern Police District (NPD) launched a clean-up drive in Barangay 18, Caloocan City on Thursday, May 12.

Personnel of the Bureau of Jail and Management and Penology (BJMP), barangay representatives, and advocacy groups from Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas, Valenzuela (CAMANAVA) joined the activity.

They gathered piles of plastic, rubber, styrofoam, cigarette butts, diapers that littered around the barangay.

The organizers of the clean-up drive underscored the importance of the people's collective effort in protecting the environment.

NPD director Police Brig. Gen. Ulysses Cruz urged the residents not to dump garbage in the area in order to maintain cleanliness in the area.





# Where dismantled campaign posters will go

By GMA News

Published May 12, 2022 10:29pm

After several months on display, campaign posters are now being taken down and the Department of Interior and Local Government hopes candidates will take the lead.

But where will dismantled campaign materials go?

According to John Consulta's report on "24 Oras" on Thursday, campaign tarpaulins and paraphernalia can be recycled and used for other purposes.

Lorna Misa, head of Muntinlupa City Environmental and Sanitation Center, said these materials can be converted into chairs, eco bags, tree guards, among others.

"Ito po mga plastics ay dinadala namin sa plastic flamingo para po ihalo sa semento na ginagawa naman mga silya. Yung mga tarpaulins ay ginagawa namin eco bags. Yung mga kahoy at alambre, ginagawa namin tree guards kapag may mga tree planting," Misa said.

(We bring these plastics to the plastic flamingo to be mixed with the cement which can be used to make chairs. For the tarpaulins, we reuse them for eco bags. For the woods and wires, we reuse them as tree guards.)

"Lahat po 'yan ay hindi itatapon. Hindi po pwedeng magsunog kasi masama po 'yan sa kalikasan," she added.

(All those campaign materials will not be thrown away. We can't burn them because it's bad for the environment.)

Meanwhile, the Commission on Elections (Comelec) again appealed to the candidates to implement proper disposal of campaign materials in accordance with the environmental laws.

"Hinihiling po namin ang ating mga pulitiko at mga kababayan patuloy na po tayong sa paglilinis ng ating campaign materials and let's be environmentally friendly and compliant," Rex Laudiangco, acting Comelec spokesperson, said.

(We ask our politicians and countrymen to continue cleaning our campaign materials and let's be environmentally friendly and compliant.)

"Tuloy-tuloy po ang paglilinis at huwag pong itapon kung saan-saan. Makipag-coordinate po tayong dito sa NCR sa ating mga LGUs at sa MMDA," he added.

(Keep cleaning and don't throw it anywhere. Let's coordinate here in NCR with our LGUs and the MMDA.)—**Mel Matthew Doctor/LDF, GMA News**

Source: [https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/topstories/nation/831503/where-dismantled-campaign-posters-will-go/story/?fbclid=IwAR2knynrsnQsmqca-VZtaGei12NFrhV5aEYcx\\_wi5B-CBF2E2wftBHnACic](https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/topstories/nation/831503/where-dismantled-campaign-posters-will-go/story/?fbclid=IwAR2knynrsnQsmqca-VZtaGei12NFrhV5aEYcx_wi5B-CBF2E2wftBHnACic)



GMA News

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Para 'di makadagdag sa mga basurang idine-diretso lang sa mga landfill, ire-recycle at gagawing kapaki-pakinabang ang mga pinagbabaklas at nahakot na campaign paraphernalia.

At kahit tapos na ang palugit ng DILG, patuloy ang panawagan sa mga kumandidato na tumulong sa paglilinis! | May 12, 2022



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TINGNAN: Isang araw matapos ang #Halalan2022, naglinis agad ang poll clerk na si Bayan Patroller Julieta Monteza, kasama ang kanyang anak, sa loob at labas ng kanilang polling precinct sa Malangas Central Elementary School sa Zamboanga, Sibugay kahapon, Mayo 10.

Pagod man sa mga tungkulin sa eleksyon, hindi na pinatagal ni Julieta na malinisang ang lugar.

ABS-CBN News  
#BayanPatroller  
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**Bayan Mo, Ipatrol Mo**  
Bayan Patroller Julieta Monteza  
Zamboanga Sibugay

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# MOUNTAIN OF TRASH

May 12, 2022



Workers gather campaign posters at a recycling facility in Marikina City on Wednesday, May 11, 2022. PHOTO BY JOHN ORVEN VERDOTE



## EDITORIAL – Daming basura

Pang-masa May 12, 2022 | 12:00am



TAMBAK ang basura sa mga eskuwelahang pinagdausan ng election. Dalawang araw na ang nakalilipas pero wala pang kumikilos para linisin ang mga basura na kinabibilangan ng mga papel, plastic bottle, cup, straws, face mask, at marami pa.

Hindi lang sa loob ng school na pinagbotohan nagkalat ang basura kundi pati na sa kalsada na pinilahan ng mga tao. Nagmistulang malawak na basurahan ang bisinidad ng voting centers. Wala nang nagpaalala sa mga botante na huwag iwanan ang mga kodigo nila at ang mga plastic ng inumin. Nawalan na ng disiplina.

Tiyak na problema kung sino ang maglilinis. At wala namang ibang kikilos dito kundi ang mga guro na namahala rin sa botohan. Kawawa naman sila. Sana atasan ng Comelec ang mga kandidato na tumulong sa paglilinis dahil sangkot sila sa pagdami ng basura. Sila ang dapat na unang obligahin.

Sa Quezon City, ipinag-utos na ng proklamadong Mayor Joy Belmonte na linisin ang mga basurang naiwan ng election. Tanggalin na rin ang mga campaign posters at iba pa.

Basura ang dahilan kaya laging bumabaha partikular sa Metro Manila. Ilang dekada na ang problemang ito sa subalit hanggang ngayon, problema pa rin at mas malala dahil kaunting ulan, baha agad.

Inamin na noon ng Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) na mga basura ang dahilan nang pagbaha na karamihan ay pawang plastic na hindi nabubulok. Hindi raw kaya ng pumping stations na pabilisin ang pagliit ng baha dahil sa mga basurang plastic. Ngayong malapit na ang tag-ulan, tiyak na baha na naman ang kalaban sa Metro Manila at kung hindi malilinis ang mga basura sa nagdaang election, problemang malaki. Ngayong may pandemya, nadagdag ang mga ginamit na face masks, face shields sa mga basura.

Noong nakaraang Marso 2, lumahok ang Pilipinas at ba pang bansa sa UN resolution para wakasan ang plastic pollution. Naganap ang historic resolution sa UN Environmental Assembly sa Nairobi, Kenya. Sa resolution, ipinaliwanag ang full life cycle ng plastic products – mula sa produksiyon at design disposal ng mga ito. Inaasahan na ang resolution ang magwawakas sa problema sa plastic pollution sa buong mundo.

Maraming basura ang iniwan ng election at sana magkusa ang mga kandidato na tumulong sa paglilinis, particular ang pagtanggap sa kanilang campaign posters.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pang-masa/punto-mo/2022/05/12/2180459/editorial-daming-basura>





# Setting a green agenda

Published May 13, 2022, 12:05 AM

by [Justin John del Rosario](#)

The next administration is starting to form its identity, which can be gleaned from the chosen members of the Cabinet. Environment groups and advocates are waiting with bated breath to see who will be placed in various departments that would oversee the protection and sustainable utilization of our natural resources — earth, water, air, caves, mines, deep sea, etc. Like what happened during the 2016 election of then President-elect Duterte, the fact that he chose the late Gina Lopez for the environment portfolio was a signal of a green agenda that highlighted sustainable and community-based eco programs rather than the exploration of more mining sites.

This early, various groups have called on the next administration to “immediately act on climate change.” They said that a strong climate leadership is an imperative in this critical decade for climate action — our last window of opportunity to limit global warming to 1.5-degree celsius. One of these groups is Love 52, a youth movement that demands our next leaders for a green and just future through better governance. Joanna Sustento, the co-lead of Love 52, emphasized the need for the government to take action and hold the entities and corporations that are mostly responsible for the climate crisis accountable.

“We will lose our future if the climate crisis is not addressed, if our leaders won’t take action,” Sustento said. “We are not the ones handing out licenses to companies whose business practices destruct the environment. We’re not the ones who invented single-use plastic that is closely related to fossil fuel... There are powerful people and entities who have the greater responsibility because they created and continue to perpetuate the broken system.”

Another youth group, called the Youth Advocates for Climate Action Philippines (YACAP), said that the youth is at the receiving end of the repercussions of the current extractive economic system. “It doesn’t make sense if your solution to climate change ends up undermining the well-being of the Filipino people. We need leadership that is vocal about the situation of the country and a leader who is willing to hold the industrialized, the Global North, and the Annex 1 countries accountable for their emissions that contribute to the climate crisis,” said Jon Bonifacio, national coordinator of YACAP.

“This big problem needs to be solved by genuine leaders who would respond to the root causes of climate change and would bring forth proper changes to this system that is breaking our planet,” Jedryc Romero, executive director and founder of youth-led environmental organization KalikaSan Pablo added.

“We need leaders who have the humility to listen to experts, scientists, environmental defenders, and advocates,” Romero said, adding that this is the only way to ensure climate actions that are based on evidence and actual truth on the ground.

So, why did I mention all these youth eco groups? It is for the simple reason that they will be the ones who will inherit this planet — and, sad to say, would be the ones who will be most affected if any careless or irresponsible decisions will be made by the next administration.

I’m now, I like to believe, in the “middle” of my life but the youth still have a long, long way to go. And they can’t live on a planet marred by climate change — where typhoons are always at categories four or five, where heat breaches 39 degrees, and where microplastics are now contaminating their food.

There are so many environmental issues that must be faced soon. Yes, there are issues on national security, health and pandemic response, foreign affairs, employment and the economy, and so on. But I hope and pray that environment concerns will not be set aside and





be placed among the top agendas. I hope that it will receive the utmost attention of our leaders not only those at the national level but also those who were elected in our cities and municipalities. For without this planet, where would Filipinos live and thrive? Last I checked, we only have one Philippines.

(Johannes L. Chua is the editor of the Environment and Sustainability Section of Manila Bulletin.)



## Therma Visayas conducts ‘Scubasurero’ underwater cleanup drive in Toledo

Thursday, May 12, 2022 Journal Online



Volunteers worked together to collect the trash found underwater. Photo courtesy of Architect Daryl Carabio.

**TOLEDO CITY, Cebu** — Leading up to the celebration of Earth Day this year, [AboitizPower](#) subsidiary Therma Visayas, Inc. (TVI), in partnership with the Aboitiz Foundation, organized an underwater garbage cleanup with its volunteer “**Scubasureros**” in Barangay Bato last April 14, 2022.

“Scubasurero is a term coined from ‘scuba diving’ and ‘basurero’ or garbage collector,” explained Therma South, Inc. (TSI) Reputation and Stakeholder Management Manager Lou Jason Deligencia. “We have conducted this activity as part of our environmental commitment to help protect marine life, especially in the areas where we operate.”

“The idea for this activity came from TVI employees who are also divers,” he explained. “They were diving in the beach just across TVI when they discovered trash stuck to the seabed, and so they’ve decided to tap us and other divers to conduct a wider underwater cleanup.”

Among the volunteers who participated in the event were TVI employees, community members, and local government officers. Local surfers from Toledo Local Breakers groups and members of the Young Environmentalists group of Barangay Cabitoonan also provided support to the event. Non-diver volunteers also joined the coastal cleanup in the area.



Most of the trash found underwater were single-use plastics and old clothes. Photos courtesy of Racquel Rialm and Architect Daryl Carabio.

“I love to dive and I care for the environment—that’s a top priority of mine, and TVI’s Scubasurero project aligns with my interests and beliefs,” said Architect Daryl Carabio of the Toledo LGU City Planning and Development Office.

Along with other volunteers, TVI Procurement Operations Specialist Relyn Lazaro has committed to regularly do underwater cleanups to help decrease the amount of trash in the sea.



“We were able to gather a lot of trash from just a few hours of diving—there was a lot of plastic and even clothes in just two hours, we were able to collect 101 kg of plastic, 21 kg of glass, piles of clothes,” said Lazaro. “We are hoping to raise community awareness on proper waste disposal and segregation since most of the trash we’ve collected underwater are single-use plastics, such as sachets and other plastic packaging, which do not easily biodegrade.”

“We have to keep in mind that even the smallest plastic that gets into the sea can be damaging to sea life,” said TVI Facilities and Services Administrator Jonneil Culala.

### Livelihood in Barangay Bato

Deligencia said the company also takes into consideration its host community members who heavily rely on fishing as their main livelihood.

“Marine life in the area is so rich, but we need to ensure that it continues to thrive so that our local fishermen wouldn’t need to go farther out into the sea to catch any fish,” he added. “It will be more efficient for them to fish nearer the coast.”

“We also intend to put up an initiative in managing Crown of Thorns (COT) starfish infestation in the area. COT feeds on corals and if left unmanaged, will devour an entire reef colony in months. Without corals, the fish will find habitat elsewhere creating lower fish catch for our fisher friends,” he added.

This program is a testament to TVI’s commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations, particularly on Life Below Water and Decent Work and Economic Growth.

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### About Therma Visayas Inc.

**Therma Visayas, Inc.** (TVI) is one of the two coal-fired power plants in the country that houses a Coal Dome facility, second only to its sister plant Therma South, Inc. (TSI).

TVI operates the 340-MW Toledo power plant in Brgy. Bato, Toledo City, Cebu. It uses state-of-the-art Circulating Fluidized Bed (CFB) and the Best Available Control Technology (BACT) to minimize coal dust emissions that can harm the atmosphere.

True to its word of achieving a better tomorrow through cleaner and more efficient power production, TVI is making strides in the Visayas as a leading electricity generator.



# Herbalife Nutrition and National Parks Development Committee plant 'seedling'

BYBMPPLUS MAY 11, 2022



Bike Racks in Luneta Park Herbalife Nutrition, in collaboration with the National Parks Development Committee (NPDC), unveiled on April 2, 2022 bike racks in Luneta Park.

The installation of Herbalife Nutrition-branded racks in various locations around the park represents a further step taken by the Company to encourage sustainable mobility and a healthy active lifestyle among Filipinos.

"We have noticed that the Philippines is starting to develop a cycling culture as a result of the challenges in mobility caused by the pandemic. More Filipinos have started cycling not just for recreation, but for traveling to work, the grocery and other destinations," said Allan Domingo, General Manager of Herbalife Nutrition Philippines.

"As a global nutrition company that advocates a healthy active lifestyle supported by good nutrition, we are glad to see our fellow Filipinos becoming more physically active." Domingo noted that not only would cycling bring health benefits to people, but also contribute to a healthier environment.

"Environmental sustainability is part of Herbalife Nutrition's commitment to supporting a better, healthier World, and is embedded in both our day-to-day activities and our long-term business strategy," he said.

Luneta Park, also known as Rizal Park, is one of the largest urban parks in Asia, covering 58 hectares. Located in the capital city of Manila, it is one of the country's major tourist attractions, visited by local and foreign tourists alike. The bike racks in Rizal Park were constructed based on a design by Eggshell Worldwide Communications, Inc., the creative agency behind the bike rack art installations that were also launched in Manila last year.

Called "Seedlings", the bike racks serve as a reminder that nature also needs time and care to reach their optimal state. The Philippines is one of the countries in Asia Pacific with strong private sector participation in driving sustainability programs. Herbalife Nutrition seeks to partner with more private companies and local government units to establish more cycling infrastructure in key cities across the country.

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2022/05/11/herbalife-nutrition-and-national-parks-development-committee-plant-seedling/>



# Thai gold mine set to reopen even as locals reel from heavy metal poisoning

Villagers claim their health has suffered as a result of the Chatree mining complex's operations, with mass blood tests confirming that a majority of those tested exhibited elevated levels of arsenic, manganese and cyanide.



The Temple of the Reclining Buddha in Wat Pho, Bangkok, Thailand. Image: [FLASHPACKER TRAVELGUIDE, CC BY-SA 3.0](#), via [Flickr](#).

By Kannikar Petchkaew, [Mongabay.com](#) May 12, 2022

Standing in the house where she has lived since she was born 45 years ago, Preamsinee Suntornthammathat points to the temple where her grandparents took her to pray as a child.

During festivals, hundreds of people from nearby provinces flocked here. Women gossiped and cooked together in a huge kitchen, while men exchanged stories of farming and boar hunting.

Across the road stood the school where she studied from the age of 3. She loved the big playground, she says. "The grass was so soft that we never hurt falling."

But the village of Preamsinee's memories is gone. The temple still stands, but no one visits it. The school building has crumbled to the ground and been swallowed by overgrown trees.

Preamsinee stands alone in a ghost town, her neighbours long gone. Khao Mo, the mountain her village is named for, has been hollowed out into an open-pit gold mine, its highest point now standing just 100 meters (330 feet) above her house.

In November 2001, Thailand's first modern gold mine started operations. With a Thai name meaning bravery, the Chatree Mining Complex is owned by Akara Resources Public Company, a subsidiary of Sydney-based Kingsgate Consolidated Ltd.

Chatree, which straddles the provinces of Phichit and Phetchabun in central Thailand, is made up of two ore fields and two processing plants, and has produced more than 1.8 million ounces (51,000 metric tons) of gold and more than 10 million ounces (283,00 metric tons) of silver since it began production.

**[We will protest at Thailand Stock Market, where Akara has long made efforts to list itself, to notify the public and investors of their hostile actions and ask them to refrain from supporting this hazardous business.](#)**

[Lertsak Khamkongsak, climate justice activist, Commoners' Party](#)

For now, the mine stands silent. It was shut down in January 2017, following years of complaints and lawsuits from people living nearby, who say mining damaged their health and the environment.

But the silence may not last much longer. In 2017, Akara sued the Thai government for revoking its permit. That case remains pending in an international arbitration tribunal, but in January 2022, the government agreed to allow the mine to reopen.

### ***Decades of disputes***

By 2004, three years into rock blasting and mineral processing, residents of Ban Khao Mo and nearby villages started moving out. The mining company bought their land and paid compensation, and hundreds of households relocated. Only a handful of people, like Preamsinee, decided to stay.

“There were blasts and dust everywhere,” she recalls. “When they blew the mountain away it was dark with dust for days.”

During the 15 years the mine operated, multiple lawsuits were launched on both sides. A group of 300 residents filed a class-action suit demanding compensation for health problems. Another group filed cases accusing the company of trespassing on national forest land, resulting in an ongoing investigation by the Justice Ministry’s Department of Special Investigation.

Residents also sued Thai state authorities for [issuing mining permits without an environmental impact assessment](#) — a complaint that was substantiated. In turn, the company has launched defamation suits against residents, activists and academics.

Nirun Yingmahisaranon, who as director-general of the Department of Primary Industries and Mines was the original grantor of the concession, says complaints starting piling in within a few years of the mine’s launch.

At first they centered on the noise and dust, which Nirun says were “manageable.” That escalated to reports of heavy metal in water sources, and then to two rounds of mass blood tests of people living near the mine, who complained that chemicals and heavy metal runoff from the mine were making them ill.

In 2014, the country’s Central Institute of Forensic Science found that more than half of the 731 adults tested, and more than two-thirds of 67 children tested, had higher-than-normal levels of heavy metals, mostly arsenic and manganese. Akara said the blood test was unacademic, unjust and unfair.

In 2015, another mass blood test was organised by a joint working group including representatives from Akara, residents’ groups and government bodies. Of 1,004 adults tested, 420 were found to have manganese levels exceeding safe standards, 196 had unsafe levels of arsenic, and 59 had unsafe cyanide levels.

Tests were also run on 297 children under 15, of whom 165 were found to have unsafe levels of manganese, 53 unsafe arsenic levels and two unsafe levels of cyanide. Though Akara initially participated in the joint working group, it never endorsed the results.

“That started local panic,” Nirun says. “Knowing the number of heavy metals in their bodies.”

### ***Toxic levels of cyanide***

Manit Lampason, 70, is a participant in the class-action suit. Originally from Ban Khao Mo, he sold his land and moved to a new village 2.5 kilometres (1.5 miles) away, only to find his new house sits less than 0.8 km (0.5 mi) from the mine’s tailing pond, where waterborne mining waste is stored.

“They told us we will be safe here, but it is not,” Manit says. “I have been living with the cyanide pond for years.”

In 2011, a lab test from a government hospital found an alarming level of cyanide in his body. The report, viewed by Mongabay, found a cyanide level of 1.04 micrograms per litre ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ ), while the lab's reference range said levels exceeding 1  $\mu\text{g/L}$  amounted to "toxification." A repeat test five months later at the same lab found an even higher level: 1.56  $\mu\text{g/L}$ .

Cyanide has long been used in gold mines to extract the valuable gold from the ore. But in high concentrations it is toxic, leading to a ban on its use in gold and silver mining in countries including the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary and Costa Rica, as well as some US states.

Akara, however, maintains that the Chatree mine's safety and environmental regulations are up to international standards, describing the mine as "one of the world's safest and best practice gold mines" with an "impeccable health and safety record."

"We used a 130 ppm [parts per million] solution of Cyanide in the process, then detoxify it to less than 20 ppm — this is a very strict international standard in water control," Cherdsak Utharoon, Akara's general manager of external affairs, tells Mongabay. "But the actual solution from our plant has never been higher than 10 ppm, and when it stored in the tailing pond, the concentration will eventually go down to 0.2-0.25 ppm. Generally speaking, this concentration of cyanide is less than what is in our coffee cup."

#### *'I didn't even want to breathe'*

When Pisamai Riangpa was four months pregnant in 2015, a blood test taken at a government hospital showed elevated amounts of heavy metals in her body. Her manganese level was recorded at 1.39  $\mu\text{g/L}$ , above the normal reference range of 0.2-1.1  $\mu\text{g/L}$ .

"I felt dizzy and fatigued all the time but first thought it's a pregnancy side effect. It lasted for several years in me," she says.

Her son was also born with high manganese levels, and had to be hospitalised regularly in his first year. He is 6 years old now, and in good health, says Pisamai, who adds she believes his health has improved because the mine was shut down when he was a year old.

Pranom Chimpalee, who lives 0.5 km (0.3 mi) from the mine pit in Ban Nong Saeng village in Petchabun province, says her family has also suffered. Her neighbours have long since left, and her house stands among torn-down ruins.

Two years ago, her 80-year-old mother died after years of suffering a skin disease whose cause she was never able to determine. "There were burns and purulent wounds over her body," Pronam says. "She always cried in pain. I carried her on my motorcycle to the hospital 16 kilometres [10 mi] away. We could not afford better transportation and my mother was so frail that she could barely straighten herself. I had to bind her with my clothing to reach the hospital."

Akara denies allegations of heavy metal leaks, and says it has worked closely and carefully with the communities to make sure residents around the mine have a better life and are in good health. "Several blood tests showed no harm to anyone," Cherdsak says.

But a tearful Pranom says, "It's unbearable. I didn't want to even breathe. No one ever come to rescue us." She now lives with her 84-year-old uncle, who also has elevated levels of arsenic and manganese, and whose body is occasionally wracked with pain. "Sometimes, it is so much that he has tried walking to the road, hoping to be hit to death by any passing car," Pranom says.

Nirun, from the mining department, doesn't deny that heavy metal poisoning is a major issue in the region around the mine. However, he says this doesn't amount to proof the mine is responsible: areas rich in precious metals like gold and silver often also have high levels of heavy metals and other minerals occurring naturally in the soil and groundwater.

What's needed, Nirun says, is a concrete plan to ease the problem for the residents. However, nearly two decades after the mine began operations, no such plan exists.

### *Shut down by the junta*

In 2015, after years of complaints, conflicts and legal action, residents brought the case to the prime minister, Prayuth Chan-o-cha, a military general who seized power in a coup in May 2014.

In December 2016, Prayuth exercised his power under the interim charter to order the mine suspend all operations effective Jan. 1, 2017.

Citing the free-trade agreement between Australia and Thailand, Akara's parent company, Kingsgate, [announced in November 2017](#) that it had filed a suit against Thailand at an international arbitration tribunal, claiming the suspension order amounted to "unlawful expropriation." The company said it was seeking to recover "very substantial damages" and vowed to "vigorously prosecute" its claim.

The case is still pending, and the exact sum Kingsgate is seeking has not been made public. If the arbitration tribunal reaches a verdict, it will be legally binding. But the company has the right to revoke the case if negotiations with Thailand are successful.

In January 2022, Thailand granted the company permission to resume and to extend the concession to end in 2031. Another survey concession, covering nearly 61,000 hectares (150,000 acres), was also awarded to Akara.

Prayuth has dismissed allegations made by opposition politicians that the permission was granted in exchange for Kingsgate Consolidated dropping its case against the country.

### *Bringing political and market pressure to bear*

The news that mining operations will resume brought renewed outcry among dismayed residents.

In March, two months after Kingsgate announced plans to relaunch operations, Preamsinee was among a group of residents who rushed to parliament to meet with opposition politicians and ask for help.

Opposition MP Jiraporn Sindhuprai, from the Pheu Thai Party, and for years a prominent anti-mine voice, told Mongabay she plans to highlight the issue during a no-confidence debate scheduled for May, which will be televised nationwide.

In the meantime, the villagers have vowed to take any action necessary to prevent the mine from reopening.

Lertsak Khamkongsak, an environmentalist and leader of the Commons' Party, which was founded years ago by anti-gold-mining protesters, says residents will take legal action against anyone who allows the Chatree mine to reopen while the case is still under the international arbitration. This list, Lertsak says, includes "the director general of the Department of Primary Industries and Mines, and the permanent secretary of the Ministry of Industry, to name a few."

And while Kingsgate says it needs hefty funding to restart the mine and has asked Thai government for support in raising the money, Lertsak has a different idea.

"We will protest at Thailand Stock Market, where Akara has long made efforts to list itself, to notify the public and investors of their hostile [actions] and ask them to refrain from supporting this hazardous business," he says.





Manit, who still lives a half-mile from the mine tailing storage facility, tells Mongabay he dreads the resumption of mining activities. “I will now have to sleep with the cyanide pond, breathing it in every single day like I used to.”

The height of the tailings dam concerns him too. Such dams [can and have collapsed](#) with [devastating human and environmental consequences](#).

### ***Reopening, but not any time soon***

Kingsgate says it expects to open more mine pits in the area, which could extend its operations for well over three decades.

Bur company representative Cherdsak tells Mongabay it will be months before operations can resume. “The earliest may be before the end of this year,” he says. “Covid-19 made everything more difficult and much slower. Machine and repair pieces required a longer time to deliver. Everything will start not early like we expect. There have been over five years of halting, we have lots of brushing up to do.”

Though he dismisses all the allegations regarding environmental contamination, Cherdsak says it will take hard work to get the locals understand and accept the mine.

Nirun Yingmahisaranon, of the mining department, also says the mine has caused long and deep conflicts in nearby communities.

While many have joined protests and lawsuits, not all local people are unhappy the mine will reopen. In its heyday, the Chatree gold mine employed more than 800 workers on the ground.

Wisoot Kaefoi, 54, says he is eagerly waiting to go back to work as a truck driver in the mine, a job he held for 13 years. He says he is concerned that after five years’ absence he will be seen as too old for the job by his boss. The health risks don’t concern him, he says.

Wisoot dismisses the claims against the mine as greedy, and says the long-running protests are driven only by people seeking money. “Those who claimed to have health issues live miles away when I have sat with the ore every single day,” he says. “If there must be someone who is sick, it should be me.” Wisoot says he will support the reopening of the mine, which he says will benefit local workers and their families.

### ***New requirements for mining operations***

Amid the ongoing debate over Akara’s mine, the Thai government has introduced a new National Gold Policy. New regulations include a requirement that mining firms undertake extensive studies to establish baseline environmental and human health indicators to serve as benchmarks for ongoing testing and monitoring. The act also calls creates a community protection mechanism, and stipulates that gold should also be refined within the country instead of being exported raw.

In addition, Thailand’s newly amended Mineral Act now requires community consent for any new concessions. The act creates local committees, including representatives from the community, government agencies and the company, empowered to allow or suspend concessions.

It also calls for taxes and royalties to be paid at the local level rather than going exclusively to the central government. The act will also mandate that developers establish a relief fund in case of any negative impacts, and provides stiffer fines and penalties, including jail time, for violations.

Nirun, who is now under fire as the person who originally granted the permission for the Chatree gold mine, says he is optimistic. “Under new laws and regulations, the investor



could operate with confidence and it will ease the public concern over the safety of their health and their environment.”

Now that it has been reinstated, the Chatree mine complex will stand as the only gold mine in Thailand.

A second, much smaller mine located five hours’ drive away, which was shuttered under the same order in 2016, will not be reopening. Protests, including months of road blockades, hampered operations and led to the bankruptcy of the mine company. Lertsak was the leader of that movement. He says he is bracing to launch a similar movement against Chatree, too.

“I do hope we would not be forced to reach that day.”

*This story was published with permission from [Mongabay.com](https://www.mongabay.com).*



13 MAY 2022, FRIDAY



# NEWS ALERTS

# NEWS CLIPPINGS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE





### ***Ginamit na campaign materials, maayos na itapon - DENR***

Hinikayat ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna ang mga kandidato ng 2022 national at local elections na iinisin at itapon ng maayos ang kanilang campaign materials alinsunod na rin sa nakasaad sa Republic Act (RA) 9003 o ang Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

"Win or lose, these candidates must consider the long-term consequences of their campaign materials in the environment. Therefore, they must encourage their supporters and volunteers to take down these materials, especially those made of plastic, and dispose these properly," sabi ni Sampulna.

Anyang DENR sa pakikipagtulungan na rin ng local government units (LGUs) ay handang tumulong sa Commission on Election (Comelec) upang matiyak na magkakaroon ng resolusyon na mag-aatas sa mga kandidato na tanggalin ang kanilang election materials matapos ang bawat campaign period.

"We will make sure that the existing environmental laws, such as RA 9003, will strengthen the resolution," dagdag ni Sampulna.

Sinabi rin ni Sampulna sa mga kandidato na buuin ang kanilang grupo upang maglinis ng boluntaryo sa halip na maharap sa posibleng paglabag pagkatapos ng election season.

Inirekomenda rin ni Sampulna ang pagsunod sa recycling at upcycling ng campaign materials upang mabawasan ang mga by-products na dadalhin sa mga dumpsites.

Naglabas na rin ng advisory ang Department of the Interior and Local Government na miyembro ng National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) sa lahat ng LGUs upang paalalahanan sa mahigpit na pagpapatupad ng mga probisyon sa RA 9003. (*Angie dela Cruz*)





NEW USE FOR CAMPAIGN MATERIALS

# 'TARP CHALLENGE' URGES BENGUET FOLK TO CLEAN UP

By EV Espiritu  
@InqNational



LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—Dean Cuanso, a resident of this vegetable trading town, was upset when he saw piles of discarded campaign tarpaulins after the midterm elections in 2019.

Worried that it would be the same situation again after Monday's national and local elections, Cuanso, who has been engaged in the manufacture and sale of home items made from recycled materials, decided to launch the "Eco-tarp Recycling Challenge" on social media, for residents to collect and reuse discarded campaign materials.

In just days, his call generated huge interest from environmental advocates and small business owners who saw potential in recycled products.

Cuanso and his wife, Libay, own and operate Accents and Petals, an upcycling company they formed in 2007, which has produced items like recycled bouquets made of denim, jute sacks and corn husk that have graced events like weddings and birthday parties.

According to Cuanso, his family used to live in nearby Baguio City, where he would visit construction sites in search of metal parts and broken tiles so he and his friends could build robots and action figures.

### Part of life

He said recycling had always been part of his life, and Libay, the company's chief designer, grew up repurposing trash into usable items in grade school.

Cuanso said he and his wife lived for a while in Metro Manila, and their first successful items at the time were tin cans turned into découpage home decorations. "This is the art of



**MADE FROM TRASH** A worker makes flowers out of trash, a project of couple Dean and Libay Cuanso who built the upcycling company Accents and Petals. —EV ESPIRITU

dressing up the cans," he said.

The positive feedback from neighbors encouraged the couple to turn their passion into a full-blown business, "because we will never run out of raw materials," he said.

"Trash is everywhere," Cuanso said.

The couple is now producing decorative flowers made of tarpaulins thrown away after May 9.

In Quezon province, an environmentalist group asked candidates and their supporters to take down their campaign materials and dispose of these properly.

"Now that the election is over, we're all facing an urgent challenge—how to get rid of voluminous campaign materials around us, most of them are threats to the environment," said Jay Lim, project officer of Tanggol Kalikasan.

In Cebu City, Marilou Paredes, acting election officer of the city's south district, urged candidates and their supporters to help in cleanup efforts.

Reelected Mayor Michael Rama said he had formed a task force to respond to the request of the Commission on Elections.

—WITH REPORTS FROM DELFIN T. MALLARI JR. AND NESTLE SEMILLA INQ





## 2022 ELEKSIYON MAS MARAMING BASURANG INIWAN

MAS marami umanong basura mula sa campaign materials ang mahahakot sa Metro Manila ngayong 2022 elections, kumpara noong halalan ng 2019.

Ayon sa Metropolitan Manila Development Au-

ahensiya at ang EcoWaste Coalition sa mga kandidato na magkusa na at pangunahan ang pagbabaklas ng mga ikinabit na campaign materials.

Kaugnay nito ay umape-la si Department of the Inte-

nang tama ang mga election propaganda material, alinsunod sa environmental laws at local ordinances at regulations laban sa illegal dumping, open burning, at littering.

Hinihikayat din niya ang paggamit ng barangay at LGU material recovery facilities para mangolekta at mag-restore ng mga reusable materials gayundin sa pagbuo ng mga makara-ago at ligtas na estratehiya sa pag-recycle o pag-upcycle i.g reusable campaign waste materials.

"Impose the responsibility to the organizers of political activities, to ensure that waste generated by their activities, and their attendees will be properly managed and disposed of," ayon pa kay Año.

"Hinihimok din po natin ang ating mga kababayan na makiisa sa clean up drive ng kanilang LGUs at barangay. We have done our part in exercising our right to vote. Let's continue to participate in governance through our simple ways of cleaning up our neighborhood from election litter," anang kalihim.

Binigyang-diin pa ni Año na may masamang epekto sa public health at environment ang maling disposal sa mga campaign propaganda na gawa sa plastics at iba pang non-biodegradable materials. **(Damien Horatio Catada/Dolly Cabreza)**



(Patrick Adalin)

thority, mula noong May 7, nakakuha na sila ng 180.7 na tonelada ng basura sa National Capital Region, at patuloy pa rin ang paghahakot nila hanggang sa susunod na linggo.

Noong 2019 midterm elections, nasa 200 tonelada ang nakolektang campaign materials.

Karamihan sa mga nahakot ngayong taon at mga tarpaulin pero nabawasan na umano ang mga paraphernalia na gawa sa papel.

Dadalhin ang mga basura sa solid waste granulator ng MMDA sa Tondo, Maynila para gawing bricks o hollow blocks.

Nanawagan naman ang

rior and Local Government (DILG) Secretary Eduardo Año sa lahat ng local government units (LGUs) at mga kandidato ang lahat ng campaign waste materials sa kanilang nasasakupan sa loob ng tatlong araw.

"Clean-up of election litter is the first order of business after the polls. Aside from incumbent LGU officials, we urge all candidates, winners and non-winners alike, to take it upon themselves to lead in the removal of their campaign materials," pahayag ni Año.

Sa kanyang paabiso sa mga local chief executive (LCE), hinikayat niya ang mga ito na i-dispose



### 3-araw na ultimatum ng DILG

# KALAT NG MGA KANDIDATO, LGUs PINALILINIS

**BINIGYAN** ng Department of Interior and Local Government ang lahat ng LGU's at mga kandidato nang hanggang tatlong araw para linisin ang kanilang mga nasasakupan mula sa kalat na kanilang iniwan ng katatapos na eleksyon.

"Clean-up all campaign materials in 3 days," ani DILG Secretary Eduardo Año.

Aniya, dapat na linisin na ang mga nagkalat na campaign waste materials.

"Clean-up of election litter is the first order of business after the polls. Aside from incumbent LGU officials, we urge all candidates, winners

and non-winners alike, to take it upon themselves to lead in the removal of their campaign materials," giit ni Año.

"Impose the responsibility to the organizers of political activities, to ensure that waste generated by their activities, and their attendees will be properly managed and disposed of," dagdag pa nito.

Kasabay nito, hinimok din ng kalihim ang publiko na makilisa sa clean up drive ng kanilang LGUs at barangay.

"We have done our part in exercising our right to vote. Let's continue to participate in governance through our simple ways of clean-

ing up our neighborhood from election litter," diin ni Año.

Gayundin, ipinaalala pa ng kagawaran na sa ilalim ng Section 10 of Republic Act (RA) No. 9003, known as the "Ecological Solid Waste Management Act", says that pursuant to Republic Act (RA) 7160 or the Local Government Code, the LGUs shall be primarily responsible for the implementation and enforcement of the provisions of RA 9003 within their respective jurisdictions. Segregation and collection of solid waste shall be conducted at the barangay level specifically for biodegradable, compostable and reusable

wastes: Provided, that the collection of non-recyclable materials and special wastes shall be the responsibility of the municipality or city."

Sa pagtataya ng Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), inaasahan na ang posibleng mas maraming basura mula sa campaign materials ang mahakot sa Metro Manila ngayong 2022 kumpara noong 2019.

Nabatid na mula Mayo 7, nakalikom na umano ang MMDA ng 180.87 tonelada ng campaign materials sa National Capital Region at magpapatuloy ang paghakat hanggang sa sustinod na Linggo.

Noong 2019 midterm elections, umabot sa 200 tonelada ang nakalap na campaign materials.

"Tingin ko mas marami ngayon," ani Francis Martinez ng MMDA Metro Parkway Clearing Group.

Dadalhin umano ang mga campaign material sa solid waste granulator ng MMDA sa Tondo, Maynila para gawing bricks o hollow blocks.

Hinikayat naman ng environmental group na EcoWaste Coalition na i-reuse at gawing kapakinabang ang mga campaign material.

Ilang campaign poster mula sa tarpaulin ang ginagawang bag at pruwede pang pagkakitaan.

Kasama ang MMDA, panawagan ni EcoWaste Coalition National Coordinator Aileen Lucero sa mga kandidato na magkusang iligpit ng kanilang mga ikinabit.

"Ang unang magagawa ng kandidato ay sila mismo ang manguna sa pagkolekta nito. Huwag na nilang iaasa sa MMDA o doon sa ibang ahensya," ani Lucero.

**VERLIN RUIZ**



**PINAGTUTULANGANG** baklasin ng mga supporter ng kandidatong nanalo sa nakalipas na halalan ang campaign materials matapos magpalabas ng kautusan ang DILG na kinakailangan baklasin ang mga posters a loob ng 3-araw kung saan pagmumultahin ng malaking halaga kapag sumalungkat sa nasabing memorandum.

**MHAR BASCO**





**BASURA NG HALALAN.** Itinuturo ni Environmental Officer Oliver Villamena ang tambak na election campaign materials sa loob ng Marikina City Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) araw ng Miyerkoles (May 11, 2022). Lumikha ang lungsod ng task force na gagawa ng post-election clean up para tanggalin ang lahat ng campaign materials. (PNA photo by Ben Briones)



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# Daily Tribune

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PHOTOGRAPH BY LOR BULACAN FOR THE DAILY TRIBUNE  
RECYCLING pet bottles are being urged in various cities in the National  
Capital Region to ensure that the environment will be protected.



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## **P84-M illegally-mined 'fool's gold' seized in Samar**

**By Hector Lawas**

AGENTS of the National Bureau of Investigation seized illegally-mined gemstone pyrite or "fool's gold" with an estimated value of P84 million and arrested six persons in Hinabangan, Samar.

NBI Officer-In-Charge Eric Distor said the operation stemmed from an intelligence report regarding unlawful extraction of high grade mineral pyrite from a closed mining site in Hinabangan town without the required permit from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Series of surveillance operations by the NBI-Samar District Office have confirmed the illegal mining activity.

The operatives also discovered that trucks have been transporting the ore pyrite to Bgy. Pequit, Paranas, Samar for temporary stockpiling.

On May 2, the NBI and DENR flagged down three cargo wing-van trucks moving out of the stockyard. For failure to present the necessary Ore Transport Permit (OTP) from the DENR, operatives seized the ore pyrite, with an approximate volume of 56,000 kilograms and an estimated value of P84 million.

The suspects were presented for inquest before the Office of Prosecutor of Samar for violation of Section 103 (theft of high-grade minerals) of Republic Act 7942 (Mining Act of 1995).



**'FOOLS GOLD.'** The seized illegally-mined ore pyrite worth P84 million. Photos courtesy of the NBI Public Information Office





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## P84-M 'fool's gold' seized

By JEFFREY DAMICOG

Illegally mined pyrite, also called "fool's gold," worth P84

million were seized from six persons in Samar, the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) said.

**(Turn to Page 2)**

## P84-M ...

(From Page 1)

The NBI said those arrested last May 2 were Marcelo O. Villa Jr, Jason Roy Tenedero, Mia M. Laudes, Roger M. Nueva, Cleo Dorado, and a certain "Albert."

They were caught by agents of the NBI's Samar District Office (NBI-SAMDO) in the act of transporting ore pyrite in three cargo wing-van trucks out of a stockyard in Barangay Pequit in Paranas, Samar.

"For their failure to present the necessary Ore Transport Permit (OTP) from the DENR (Department of Environment and Natural Resources) when

asked by NBI-SAMDO, operatives of the NBI in the presence of Barangay Kagawads with PENRO (Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office), CENRO (City Environment and Natural Resources Office) and PNP (Philippine National Police) Paranas Municipal Police Station, seized the Ore Pyrite with an approximate volume of 56,000 kilograms with an estimated value of P84,000,000 and arrested the Subjects," the NBI said.

"On May 4, 2022, the six arrested individuals were presented for inquest proceedings before the Office of Prosecutor of Samar for violation of Section 103 (theft of high-grade minerals) of

Republic Act No. 7942 (Mining Act of 1995)," it also said.

Google says "Pyrite is called 'fool's gold' because it resembles gold to the untrained eye. While pyrite has a brass-yellow color and metallic luster similar to gold, pyrite is brittle and will break rather than bend as gold does. Gold leaves a yellow streak, while pyrite's streak is brownish black."

The NBI said that prior to the operation, it received "an intelligence report regarding unlawful extraction of high-grade mineral, Ore Pyrite, from an old and closed mining site in Hinabangan, Samar and transported to an unknown destination without the required permit from the DENR."





# Rody creates transition committees

By ALEXIS ROMERO

President Duterte has created a committee to ensure a

proper and orderly transition to the next administration.

Administrative Order No.

47 signed by Duterte last May 10 formed the presidential transition committee (PTC) and

internal transition committees in departments and agencies in the executive branch.

The PTC will be led by Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea and will be composed of Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Karl Chua, budget department officer-in-charge Tina Rose Canda, Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III and Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr.

The Office of the Cabinet Secretariat and the Presidential Management Staff will provide technical and secretariat support to the committee.

"The duly elected president and his incoming cabinet members should be given full support and cooperation by the outgoing cabinet to facilitate their assumption into office," Duterte said in the order.

"There is a need to create a transition committee that will work closely with the representatives of the president-elect to ensure a proper and orderly transition of government into the next administration," he added.

Latest partial and unofficial poll results show former senator and presumptive president, Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and his running mate, Davao City Mayor and presumptive vice president, Sara Duterte-Carpio, holding commanding leads over their opponents.

The PTC will serve as the overall and central coordination committee of all entities under the executive department with regard to the transition to the new administration. It will also oversee the preparation and implementation of the transition activities of all state agencies to ensure continuity and maintain the efficiency of government services.

The order also directed all departments, agencies, bureaus, offices and other government instrumentalities to constitute their respective

internal transition committees within five days from the effectivity of the order.

The internal transition committees were tasked to oversee the crafting and implementation of systems and procedures for transition to ensure continued operations of their respective departments.

"We will work closely with the representatives of the incoming administration to ensure a peaceful and orderly transfer of power. Since we still have no proclaimed winner, official talks need to be put on hold for the moment," Medialdea said during a meeting with Duterte and some Cabinet members last Wednesday.

Medialdea assured the public that the executive branch is ready to turn over the government to the next president, but would continue to perform its duties in the coming weeks.

Duterte said he wanted to meet with members of the transition committee to discuss the impact of the conflict in Ukraine, which was driven by Russia's invasion.

He previously predicted that the next president would face difficulties if the conflict between Ukraine and Russia drags on and pushes up fuel prices even further.

"But it would be good for us to meet this - well, not all, but select members of the committee or maybe all of them. We still have about one or two meetings because of the fallout in Ukraine," the President said.

"Oil is a very dynamic thing from the time it is... sucked from the bowels of the Earth until it reaches end users... It's a very dynamic thing and so many problems to solve. The war in Ukraine might be an attrition one... And it could last long or it could be over if (Russian President Vladimir) Putin backs out," he added.





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## UNDERWATER CLEANUP.

Leading up to the celebration of Earth Day this year, AboitizPower subsidiary Therma Visayas Inc., in partnership with the Aboitiz Foundation, organizes an underwater garbage cleanup with volunteer group 'Scubasureros' in Barangay Bato in Toledo City, Cebu.







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## Cambodian fishermen hook giant endangered stingray

AJP — Cambodian fishermen on the Mekong River got a shock when they inadvertently hooked an endangered giant freshwater stingray four metres long and weighing 180 kilos, scientists said on Wednesday.

The female leviathan, one of Southeast Asia's largest and rarest species of fish, was caught by accident last week in Stung Treng province when it swallowed a smaller fish that had taken a baited hook.

An international team of experts on the US-funded Wonders of the Mekong project worked with the fishermen to unhook the ray before weighing and measuring it and returning it unharmed to the river.

The giant Mekong is a crucial habitat for a vast array of species large and small, but project leader Zeb Logan, a fish biologist from the University of Nevada, said the river's underwater ecosystem was poorly understood.

"They are unseen worlds, underappreciated and out of sight," he said in a statement issued by his university.

More than 1,000 fish species call the Mekong home and the stingray is not the only giant lurking in the muddy waters — the giant catfish and giant barb also reach up to three metres long and 270 kilos in weight.

The study group said in the statement that the remote location where the ray was caught has pools up to 80 metres deep and could harbour even bigger specimens. But they also warned that underwater video footage showed plastic waste even in the deepest stretches of the Mekong, along with "ghost nets" — abandoned by fishers but still able to snare fish.



13 MAY 2022, FRIDAY



# NEWS ALERTS

# COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE





# PH logs 109 new Covid-19 cases on May 11: OCTA

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor May 12, 2022, 2:34 pm



(PNA file photo)

**MANILA** – The country logged 109 new cases of Covid-19 on May 11, bringing the total tally to 3,687,428, the OCTA Research Group said Thursday.

In a tweet, OCTA Research Group fellow Dr. Guido David said the figure is lower but close to the forecast of 120 cases.

Citing data from the Department of Health, David said there were 3,328 active cases and no new deaths were recorded.

The death toll stood at 60,439.

About 418 new recoveries bringing the total number of recovered cases to 3,623,661.

Earlier, Dr. Rontgene Solante, Vaccine Experts Panel member, said an uptick in cases is expected a week or two weeks after the national election.

Solante added there had been super spreader events prior to the election day such as political sorties where minimum public health standards were violated.

As of May 11, a total of 68,526,134 Filipinos are now fully-vaccinated against Covid-19.

A total of 13,519,545 eligible individuals have received their booster shots. **(PNA)**



13 MAY 2022, FRIDAY



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
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




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