

15 MAY 2022, SUNDAY



NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR reminds public on importance of ocean conservation on Month of the Ocean

IAN OCAMPO FLORA

May 12, 2022

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is reminding the public on the importance of the conservation of ocean waters as it joins this year's celebration of the Month of the Ocean.

"This year, we celebrate MOO with the theme, 'Protect and Restore Ecosystems and Biodiversity'," the DENR said.

The theme was adopted from UNESCO's Ocean Decade Challenge 2, which is anchored in the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) message, "The Science We Need for the Ocean We Want."

The theme aims to understand the effects of multiple stressors on ocean ecosystems and develop solutions to manage and restore ecosystems and rich biological diversity found therein under changing environmental and social conditions.

The celebration of #MOO2022 is a good opportunity to launch the major theme of Ecosystem Restoration which aims to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems on every continent and in every ocean.

The Month of the Ocean (MOO) is celebrated annually every month of May by virtue of Pres. Proc. No. 57, issued in 1998.



DENR frees Philippine Serpent Eagle



ZAMBOANGA. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources releases back to the wild a Philippine Serpent Eagle on Wednesday, May 11, at the Cogon Ecotourism Park in Dipolog City, the capital of Zamboanga del Norte. A photo handout shows a DENR personnel hold the eagle in preparation for the raptor's release to the wild. (SunStar Zamboanga)

May 13, 2022

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has released back to the wild a Philippine Serpent Eagle in the province of Zamboanga del Norte, a DENR official announced Friday, May 13.

Roservirico Tan, DENR regional information officer, said the Serpent Eagle was released Wednesday, May 11, at the Cogon Ecotourism Park in Dipolog City by personnel from the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro) of Manukan, Zamboanga del Norte.

Tan said the raptor was successfully retrieved by personnel of Cenro-Manukan after they received a message from the daughter of Florante Romende, a resident of East Poblacion village, Manukan, regarding a bird he rescued in their area.

"Cenro Manukan personnel immediately responded to retrieve the wildlife which was identified as a Philippine Serpent Eagle," Tan said.

He said the eagle was subjected to physical examination and observation and found to be in good condition, hence, the office released it at Cogon Ecotourism Park in Dipolog City.

Philippine Serpent Eagles are classified as "Least Concern" by the International Union of Conservation of Nature (IUCN), but their population trend is observed to be decreasing.

They are protected under Republic Act 9147, otherwise known as the "Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act." (SunStar Zamboanga)

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1928919/zamboanga/local-news/denr-frees-philippine-serpent-eagle>



ABS-CBN News

11h · 🌐



TINGNAN: Ibinalik na sa natural nitong tahanan sa Maasim Eco Park ang isang tarsier na itinurn-over ng pulisya sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources matapos ma-rescue sa Barangay Kabatiol sa Maasim, Sarangani.

Ayon kay Forester Abdul Cariga, community environment and natural resources officer ng bayan, hindi naman nanghihina at walang sugat ang tarsier. (📷: DENR Soccsksargen) | via Hernel Tocmo

BASAHIN ang mga kaugnay na ulat: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/patrol/tag/wildlife>



👍❤️ 111

15 Comments 4 Shares



The Tree of Fortune

Issuance of a government permit paves the way for cultivation, propagation of 'wood of the gods' in Philippines

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA MAY 15, 2022



Agarwood chips.

DO it right and a P12.5-million investment in agarwood production today, through the establishment of a one-hectare *Aquilaria* tree farm, can potentially yield as much as P500 million after 10 years, says Australian businessman Benjamin Mead, founder and CEO of Iba Botanicals Inc.

Along with his business partner, former Department of Agriculture Secretary Luis "Cito" Lorenzo Jr., Mead was first to invest in agarwood production in the Philippines.



Agarwood-producing *Aquilaria malaccensis* seedlings at a tree nursery.

Iba Botanicals, which is based in Zambales, has started selling imported agarwood seedlings. In five to six years, the company is expected to sell its own seedlings to prospective buyers.

Huge demand, big opportunity

"USING even the most conservative projection, it is an extremely profitable opportunity. What I want to do is encourage the people to plant because we want to grow the industry and we can see very strong demand for Philippine agarwood," Mead added.

Agarwood-importing foreign markets include Middle Eastern countries, China, India and Japan. The tree by-product is also used for perfumes, and countries in Europe are expected to source their raw materials in the Philippines, given that the country's agarwood is the most sought-after among agarwood products even in the black market.

Estimated to be worth \$8 billion a year on a global scale, the birth of the agarwood industry in the Philippines essentially began only last year when the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), through the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB), granted the first-ever Wildlife Culture Permit to Iba Botanicals.

It has also secured the necessary import permits and went through a rigid process to secure its permit from the Bureau of Plant Industry under the Department of Agriculture.



Mead: "Using even the most conservative projection, it is an extremely profitable opportunity. What I want to do is encourage the people to plant because we want to grow the industry and we can see very strong demand for Philippine agarwood."

The firm produces essential oils and is a pioneer in the business of producing essential oils from ylang-ylang (*Cananga odorata*), vetiver grass (*Vetiveria zizanioides*), and Elemi, which is produced from the resin of the Pili tree (*Canarium luzonicum*).

Also known as the "wood of the gods," agarwood is reputedly the most expensive forest product in the world.

A kilogram of premium quality agarwood, sought for its fragrant resinous heartwood from the Aquilaria tree that naturally grows in the wild in the Philippines, can fetch up to P5 million.

Grown in plantations, each Aquilaria tree can produce from four to six kilos of agarwood that can fetch from a range of P75,000 to P100,000 per kilogram.

Native tree species

INTERVIEWED by the *BusinessMirror*, Lorenzo Jr., chairman of Iba Botanicals, said the company is targeting to plant within the year at least 60 hectares of *Aquilaria malaccensis*, a species that naturally occurs in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand and the Philippines.

This early, Iba Botanicals has already sold seedlings to some 1,000 buyers. Iba Botanicals sells seedlings at P1,000 each, which are about 25 centimeters to 30 centimeters tall, but the price goes down depending on the quantity being purchased.

Easily, Lorenzo and Mead said that with the incorporation of the Agarwood Association of the Philippines, the areas planted to *Aquilaria malaccensis* can reach 1,000 hectares in a couple of years, noting that the Philippines is known to produce premium-quality agarwood.

Because of the huge demand for agarwood, *Aquilaria malaccensis* is threatened with extinction due to habitat loss, and in the case of the Philippines, due to the absence of a legal source, and rampant tree poaching to harvest agarwood in the wild.

The trading of *Aquilaria malaccensis* is strictly regulated under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and it requires special permits to import or export CITES-listed species.

The DENR-BMB also strictly prohibits the harvesting of the species, its seeds, or seedlings from the wild as it is already on the endangered list and will stop at nothing to apprehend those in the illegal trade of agarwood-producing trees and their most expensive products.



Sure buyers

IBA Botanicals has been working with some of the largest buyers of essential oils and these are multibillion-dollar companies that are willing to buy huge volumes of chips and oil products that are of premium quality, says Mead.

“The way we do this is with best practice mentality and traceability, we do it the right way,” he said.

Moreover, Mead said they are currently working with the University of the Philippines-Los Baños and are set to formalize the partnership to optimize the agronomic practices and work together on the inoculation techniques so that farmers will get the most return.

There are about 12 species of agarwood or *Aquilaria* trees that produce agarwood. But Iba Botanicals decided to focus on the *malaccensis* species because it grows in Bukidnon and produces high volumes of top-quality agarwood. More important, the inoculation technique is well understood, thereby reducing the risk of failure.

In the Philippines, Iba Botanicals Inc. said the company is working to secure the right of first refusal or be the first buyer of agarwood from its partners.

Advocacy

“WE as a country have a lot of catching up to do when it comes to reforestation and environmental initiatives. It is not just a function of responding to climate change but rather we pretty much used a lot of our tree resources that we need to replenish,” Lorenzo said, adding that nurturing the agarwood industry in the Philippines is now one of his advocacies.

“It is also difficult to plant anything for the sake of the environment because it is not sustainable since there’s no steady stream of benefactors that could supply a permanent tree crop,” he said.

According to Lorenzo, *Aquilaria malaccensis* is already acclimatized to Philippine tropical conditions for hundreds of years, making it ideal species for plantation forests.

“There have been efforts before in Mindanao to bring in different trees like pine trees from New Zealand, but it was not sustainable for a host of reasons,” says Lorenzo, adding that one factor is due to the fact that the species is not endemic to the Philippines.

New agriculture

ACCORDING to Lorenzo, starting it right is important in doing business with agarwood production, adding that a systematic and very organized approach that adheres to the rules of engagement by those in the business every step of the way is paramount, citing the case of Iba Botanicals when it started to produce essential oils in the Philippines.

“The corresponding process...the user processor...consumers—they have studied it and they are consistent and [there is] no shortcut,” says Lorenzo, describing Iba Botanicals’ way and assurance of producing premium-quality essential oils using the best practices developed through years of research and partnership with the communities and other stakeholders.

“Now, we are encountering a new way at agriculture and forestry. This new way is looking at an endemic species. It’s been localized or native to the Philippines. It, however, is endangered so all the permits have to be followed, not harvested in the wild,” says Lorenzo.

A known technology

MEAD was previously involved in the agarwood business in Laos prior to securing the permit from the DENR-BMB for the establishment of the *Aquilaria malaccensis* in the Philippines. To do it right, Iba Botanicals provides training and seminars to prospective buyers twice a week and even guides potential partners in securing the necessary permits, especially the legal



sourcing of agarwood-producing species for forest plantation establishments or even backyard tree farming.

“The vision is not just to plant agarwood and create a new high-value agroforestry industry but also to relieve poaching pressures in the wild,” he said.

Also, he said, this will pave the way for imparting and perfecting the best practices, consistent practices, and traceability.

“With agarwood, it can be worth so much money if it is done right,” Mead asserts.

Image credits: [Iba Botanicals Inc.](#), [Cenro Masinloc](#)



There's money in used election materials

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA MAY 15, 2022



Members of EcoWaste Coalition show the various products made from tarpaulins used during the elections.

After the challenge of picking the right candidates for various national and local positions ended on May 9, the Philippines is now faced with an equally difficult challenge: how to dispose of the tons of materials produced during the elections.

Posters and streamers made of tarpaulin, leaflets, flyers, comics, sample ballots and other campaign collaterals like ballers and fans were everywhere. Eventually, they will all end up in trash cans further aggravating the problem of proper waste disposal.

The Philippines generates around 59,846 tons of waste per day, according to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The huge volume of waste goes up every time there's a huge event like the annual religious pilgrimages during the Holy Week, visits to public and private cemeteries during All Saint's Day and All Soul's Day, Christmas and New Year celebrations, and the national and local elections held every three years.

During the 2016 mid-term election, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) reported having hauled more than 30 truckloads of post-election garbage.

Digitized election

Over the years, the volume of garbage produced by candidates, including papers for their posters, single-use plastic for flaglets flags and small banners; cloth for huge streamers, have been rendered obsolete by tarpaulins.

"Digitization of the election results in lesser garbage year after year," said Crispian Lao, vice chairman of the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC), told the BusinessMirror during a telephone interview on May 11.

Lao said that in the earlier elections the streets of Metro Manila were flooded with campaign materials, including sample ballots, after elections.

"Now, we see less and less of these kinds of garbage because of the prohibition of their distribution in polling precincts during elections," said Lao, who represents the private sector in NSWMC.

Bad news for the environment

Tarpaulin, or tarp, a large sheet of strong, flexible, water-resistant material, such as cloth or polyester coated with polyurethane, or made of plastics, such as polyethylene, are currently often used by businesses to advertise their products.



Because it is tough and durable, and now very affordable, politicians have now been using tarp for their election propaganda.

Undersecretary Jonas R. Leones of the DENR's Policy, Planning and International Affairs observed that this year's election was particularly special due to the increased number of voters, as well as candidates.

Tarpaulin, however, is bad news for the environment, especially if they are produced in volumes and are not properly disposed of.

Leones said it contains toxic chemicals, and the paint used is equally deadly.

"Tarpaulins are temporary [election] campaign materials. So if they end up in landfills, they become residual waste. If they end up in water bodies, they cause pollution and cause flooding," Leones added.

Biggest in history

The May 9 elections had the highest number of candidates. Besides the president and vice president, up for grabs were 12 seats for the Senate; 316 seats for the House of Representatives; 81 governors and vice governors; 782 seats for the provincial boards; 146 seats for both city mayors and vice mayors; and 1,650 seats for city councils; and 1,488 both for municipal mayors and vice mayors plus the 11,908 seats for municipal councils in all the municipalities.

For the two highest positions in the country alone, 10 vied for president and nine for vice president, which required thousands of kilograms of tarpaulins to generate awareness about their candidacies.

"Politicians were heavily invested to advertise themselves to get elected," Leones told the BusinessMirror in a telephone interview on May 11. "Then we also have the election for seats for party lists," he added.

Good news for recyclers

The good news is that tarpaulin is a recyclable, reused and repurposed material. There's no need for it to go directly to the sanitary landfill or end up clogging canals and waterways. People can make money out of it.

Lao and Leones said the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) is doing right in recycling tarpaulins and other post-election garbage to drastically cut down the volume of waste generated in the elections.

"There are organizations that make bags out of tarpaulins," Lao said.

He added that there are many ways to use tarpaulin at home and can also be used as fuel, or material to make cement, Leones said.

'Cleanup your mess'

Lao and Leones said the local government units helped a lot by being responsible enough to remove the campaign materials and think of ways of how to properly disposed of them.

Two days after the election, zero-waste-advocacy organizations, have pitched for the safe reusing and repurposing of campaign materials.

In a news release, the EcoWaste Coalition appealed to both winning and losing candidates to take the lead in cleaning up their mess.



Proper disposal

The group said politicians are supposed to prevent their campaign materials from being thrown around dumped in the oceans or burned. “Regardless of your poll standing, we appeal to all candidates to exemplify your concern for Mother Earth and for public welfare by finding ways to prevent your publicity materials from ending up in waste dumps and furnaces and, God forbid, the oceans,” Aileen Lucero, national coordinator of EcoWaste Coalition.

For her part, Miss Philippines Earth 2021 Naelah Alshorbaji said: „Happy or not with the outcome [of the elections], it remains our responsibility to clean up after ourselves and to do due diligence: recycling and upcycling where possible. Give a second life to durable materials used, and responsibly dispose of non-useable items as per your local waste management rules.“

Alshorbaji likewise reminded everyone not to burn any item because it contributes to the emission of toxic chemicals, which are hazardous to health.

The call was made during an event in Quezon City that was attended by the MMDA led by Director Francis Martinez.

The group showed how paper-based campaign materials can be creatively reused or repurposed. Sample ballots were turned into notepads with the use of a binding glue, fastener, ribbon or string.

Cardboard posters were cut to make bookmarks, envelopes, folders, nameplates and other school needs.

Polyethylene plastic posters were reused as book and notebook covers, and the sturdier polyvinyl chloride tarpaulin posters were cut and sewn into bags of various sizes.

Tarpaulins were also made into bags, shoe, shoulder, laundry and toiletry bags, as well as waist bags for electricians and janitors.

They were also transformed into aprons, letter and tool organizers, and waste sorters.

Tarps can also be repurposed as awnings or canopies for homes and stores, upholstery material, and as a protective shield against sun and rain for jeepneys, pedicabs and tricycles, the group said.

However, the EcoWaste Coalition advised the public to only reuse or repurpose tarps for non-food and non-child applications as tarps may contain hazardous chemicals, particularly cadmium and phthalates, leaching and contaminating the food or expose children to chemical risks.

To make the reusing or repurposing of campaign materials easier, the group reiterated its plea to prohibit the use of cadmium, phthalates, and other toxic chemical additives in plastics, and for the authorities to require the use of recyclable, non-toxic campaign materials in future elections.



Jellyfish bumaha sa dalampasigan ng Boracay

Bayan Mo, Ipatrol Mo Posted at May 14 2022 10:07 PM



Watch more News on [iWantTFC](#)

Sandamakmak na jellyfish ang tumambad sa mga turista sa Boracay nitong Sabado ng hapon.

Inanod sa tabing dagat ang mga jellyfish, na dahilan kung bakit naglagay ng red flag warning ang awtoridad para sa mga turista.

Makati at mahapdi kasi sa balat kapag nahawakan ang jellyfish o dikya, kaya tigil muna sa pagsi-swimming ang mga tao.

Nagpicturan at naglakad-lakad na lang sa white beach ang mga tao imbes na maligo at magtampisaw.

Ang iba, umupa na lang ng crystal kayak para magpapictorial imbes na lumusong sa dagat.

Source: https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/05/14/22/jellyfish-bumaha-sa-dalampasigan-ng-boracay?fbclid=IwAR2R-0pJPvRkNnhc86w-nRRSeQSY_F76NwOIVbVojtpHEwBRTWGBq2eqmDA



ABS-CBN News

10h · 🌐



TINGNAN: Libo-libong dikya ang naglitawan sa dalampasigan ng Boracay Sabado. Sa video na ibinahagi ni Allan Boracay Benignos, makikita ang napakaraming maliliit na dikya sa pampang.

Ayon kay Boracay Interagency Rehabilitation Management Group General Manager Martin Despi, inaaalam pa ng Bureau Fisheries and Aquatic Resources ang sanhi ng pagdami ng dikya at kung ano'ng uri ng dikya na naglitawan.

Inabisuhan na ng BIARMG ang mga turista na mag-ingat at kung maaari ay iwasan muna ang maligo sa lugar kung saan maraming dikya. | via Rolen Escaniel

Para sa iba pang mga balita, magtungo lamang sa news.abs-cbn.com.



👍 😬 🤢 2.5K

963 Comments 491 Shares



ASEAN-US Summit: PH calls for cooperation on climate crisis, maritime security

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published May 14, 2022 7:27:11 PM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, May 14)— The Philippines has called for regional cooperation on various issues including climate crisis, maritime security, and post-pandemic recovery during its participation in the ASEAN-US Special Summit this week.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. — who led the Philippine delegation in place of President Rodrigo Duterte — joined other Southeast Asian leaders to tackle ways to address these global issues and other challenges, the Philippine Embassy in Washington said in a [statement on Saturday](#).

Locsin highlighted the importance of transitioning to clean energy to address the climate crisis.

"We are particularly interested in safe, clean, and affordable nuclear power options such as small nuclear modular reactors, which are capable of being built and transported to far-flung energy starved areas," Locsin said during the summit, which was also attended by top US officials including President Joe Biden.

"We have yet to develop domestic energy sources in safe, clean ways. But we need American assurance of being left in peace to find and develop our energy sources without threats from a bullying neighbor that sets conditions no sovereign country can submit to," he added.

The special summit was mounted in a bid to improve ties between the regional bloc and the United States.

Source: <https://www.cnnphilippines.com/news/2022/5/14/ASEAN-US-Summit-Philippines-Locsin-statement.html>



BSP taps large-scale miners for gold sourcing

[Lawrence Agcaoili](#) - The Philippine Star May 14, 2022 | 12:00am



BSP Governor Benjamin Diokno led the recent signing of a purchase agreement with Australian-owned OceanaGold Philippines Inc. OGPI was represented by its president and general manager Joan Adaci-Cattiling during the signing ceremony.

The STAR / Mong Pintolo, File

MANILA, Philippines — The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) is expanding its sources of gold by tapping large-scale mining companies on top of small-scale miners to promote livelihood, productivity and sustainable gold production.

BSP Governor Benjamin Diokno led the recent signing of a purchase agreement with Australian-owned OceanaGold Philippines Inc. OGPI was represented by its president and general manager Joan Adaci-Cattiling during the signing ceremony.

Diokno said the BSP aims to be the preferred gold buyer of both large and small-scale miners.

“It forms part of the BSP’s efforts to promote livelihood, productivity and sustainable gold production by expanding BSP’s gold sourcing beyond small-scale mining to include large-scale miners,” the central bank said.

The BSP refines and converts all gold purchases into good delivery gold bars via its mint and refinery operations department, forming part of the country’s foreign exchange buffer or gross international reserves (GIR).

Under the agreement, the unit of the Brisbane-based OceanaGold will offer for purchase not less than 25 percent of its annual doré gold bar production at fair market prices.

OGPI operates a mine in the Nueva Vizcaya-Quirino area under a Financial or Technical Assistance Agreement (FTAA) with the government.

The mining company was awarded a fresh 25-year deal in July last year after its FTAA for the Didipio mine expired in June 2019.

Beyond 2022, the Didipio mine is expected to produce as much as 120,000 ounces of gold and 12,000 to 14,000 tons of copper per year

Aside from the Philippines, the other operating assets of OceanaGold include the Macraes and Waihi operations in New Zealand as well as the Haile Gold Mine in the US.



The BSP continues to step up its gold purchases via reforms to lure small-scale miners and sellers away from the black market.

Latest data showed the gold purchases by the central bank reached 115,800 troy ounces in 2020, more than 11 times the 10,207 troy oz purchased in 2019.

From an average annual volume of almost one million troy oz, gold purchases by the BSP plunged steadily after the Bureau of Internal Revenue issued Revenue Regulation 7-2008 in 2008, slapping taxes on the sale of gold and other metallic mineral products extracted or produced by small-scale miners.

The BSP first asked the Department of Finance (DOF) in 2008 to reconsider the regulation that also assigned the BSP to not only collect the two percent excise tax on the sale of gold, but also to act as a withholding agent for the 10 percent creditable withholding tax.

The BIR eventually issued RR 6-2012, slapping a five percent withholding tax and two percent excise tax on the gold purchases of the BSP from small-scale miners.

In 2017, President Duterte signed Republic Act 10963 or the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN) Law, doubling the excise tax rate to four percent, while the creditable withholding tax was placed at one percent.

The imposition of the excise and withholding taxes encouraged small-scale gold miners and traders to sell their output to the black market since the price is higher.

In 2019, RA 11256 - An Act Strengthening the Philippines' Gross International Reserves – exempted accredited small-scale miners and traders from paying income and excise tax for gold sold to the BSP.

The BSP also has programs in the pipeline including lowering the processing costs and minimizing the turnaround time to further increase purchases of gold and to discourage small-scale miners from selling their gold in the black market.

It is looking at reducing the assaying and refining fees charged to small-scale miners to encourage them to sell their gold to the BSP.



5K kilos of trash collected in Zambo City's 'BasuRun 2022'

By Teofilo Garcia, Jr. **May 14, 2022, 4:48 pm**



BASURUN 2022. Some 600 runners from different sectors join the "BasuRun 2022" on Saturday (May 14, 2022) in Zamboanga City. The participants of the fitness and clean-up drive collected some five cubic meters or 5000 kilos of garbage during the activity, which is in line with the observance of the National Ocean Month. *(Photo courtesy of City Hall PIO)*

ZAMBOANGA CITY – The participants of the 3-kilometer fitness and cleanup drive dubbed "BasuRun 2022" have collected some five cubic meters or 5,000 kilos of garbage.

Organized by the Office of the City Environment and Natural Resources (OCENR) in collaboration with the Zamboanga Trail Runners, some 600 runners joined the event on Saturday.

Gerry Pollisco of the OCENR said the participants came from three points — east, west, and central areas with the east coast group collecting the most volume of garbage with two cubic meters.

"The first 100 runners received medals and all participants were given certificates of participation," Pollisco said.

He added that the participants came from a cross-section of the community.

The activity was in line with the observance of the National Month of the Ocean, which highlights the importance of conservation, protection, and sustainable management of the country's coastal and marine resources.

The Philippines' Month of the Ocean is celebrated annually in May under Presidential Proclamation No. 57 signed by then-President Joseph Estrada in 1998. **(PNA)**



Mindanao forest conservation stories featured on 'Kwentong Kalikasan'

BY BUSINESSMIRROR MAY 15, 2022



Children and adults draw what they think forests look like in the future.

To put a human face on the issues affecting the country's forests, the Association of Young Environmental Journalists (AYEJ), in collaboration with Forest Foundation Philippines, has launched a new project that aims to highlight ecosystem restoration, preservation and conservation through visual storytelling and video advocacy.

Kwentong Kalikasan is a video advocacy initiative that seeks to feature the stories and works of individuals, scientists, conservationists, champions, and emerging advocates of forest landscapes through a video series in the hopes of multiplying, amplifying and creatively documenting the positive impact of forest conservation work.

Power of visual storytelling

Kwentong Kalikasan is a two-component series. The first is a seven-episode TV-magazine show composed of a series of intimate indoor conversations. It features stories of Mindanaoans on forest conversation, indigenous narratives, biodiversity, science, the environment and everything in between.

The second is a seven-part Mini-Documentary Series that will feature profiles of emerging advocates and personalities in the Bukidnon-Misamis Oriental area, zooming in on the human dimension of solutions-making in forest landscape issues.

Moreover, the project hopes to immortalize the work being done in forest conservation and the people behind it.

The episodes will be launched twice a month that started in April and will end in October this year on the Facebook pages of AYEJ and Forest Foundation.

Traveling film fest

Following the roll-out of videos, AYEJ will hold a Traveling Film Festival by the end of the year, where it will screen the episodes in and around communities and schools in Bukidnon and Misamis Oriental.

AYEJ is an environmental development communication non-profit based in Cagayan de Oro City committed to enabling communities to be ecologically literate and proactive toward a more livable planet.

They have been doing capacity-building initiatives and knowledge product development with partners such as the Department of Education's Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Service, Internews and the US Embassy in the Philippines.

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2022/05/15/mindanao-forest-conservation-stories-featured-on-kwentong-kalikasan/>



Young filmmakers garner awards with climate-change awareness film

BY **BUSINESSMIRROR** MAY 14, 2022



Still from 'Tanaw'

TANAW, a 10-minute short film on the many conflicting sides of the controversial quarrying businesses and their impact in the lives of farmers, workers and locals, bagged a total of four awards at the recently concluded Klima Filmfest (KFF).

Created by Playback Multimedia, a start-up production that aims to preserve and tell stories through films and photographs, Tanaw was directed and co-written by Kaila Ysavi Bergonio—a digital filmmaking (DFilm) student from De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde, together with Fred Autor—a multimedia arts student from Far Eastern University-Alabang.

DFilm major Allynna Santiago served as the assistant director, production manager, sound and production designer.

The young student-filmmakers met through Cine Sundays—an online film community founded by director Dan Villegas, with one goal: remind viewers of the many facets and causes of climate change, as well as the urgency to address it, through the youngsters' creativity and skills.

Tanaw follows Aira Mendoza (Andrea Mari Bool)—a 17-year-old Humanities and Social Science senior high-school student assigned to write a research paper about the reasons for climate change. Her mother, a retired barangay captain and an environmental activist, was motivated to dig for the truth behind the quarrying businesses. In turn, she becomes educated and unbiased in her advocacy.

In her directorial debut, Bergonio delved not just on the impact of environmental issues in the world, but also on the different roles of society in addressing concern. She unraveled the many facades of the problem, and invited the audience to understand the diverse perspectives of people involved—especially those torn between providing food for the family and saving the environment.

“We, as members of the youth and the future caretakers of the Earth, must not remain silent. We should not forget to act, especially when we have the power and access to education and information,” she added. “We should be open to healthy discourse, so that we can step forward and fully recognize our capabilities and power to stand up for something we believe in. We [must also] educate ourselves more to start a change—to be present in a crisis, be more critical, and involve ourselves.”



Bergonio shared that the film also serves as a nudge that while there is a bigger culprit behind climate change, each small individual effort is still crucial in saving the planet: “The consequences of our actions toward our surroundings have long been discussed, and we have long acknowledged to pledge and do better to save the Earth and create a better environment for future generations. It is now up to us to make a difference, be vigilant, and be enlightened in times like these.”

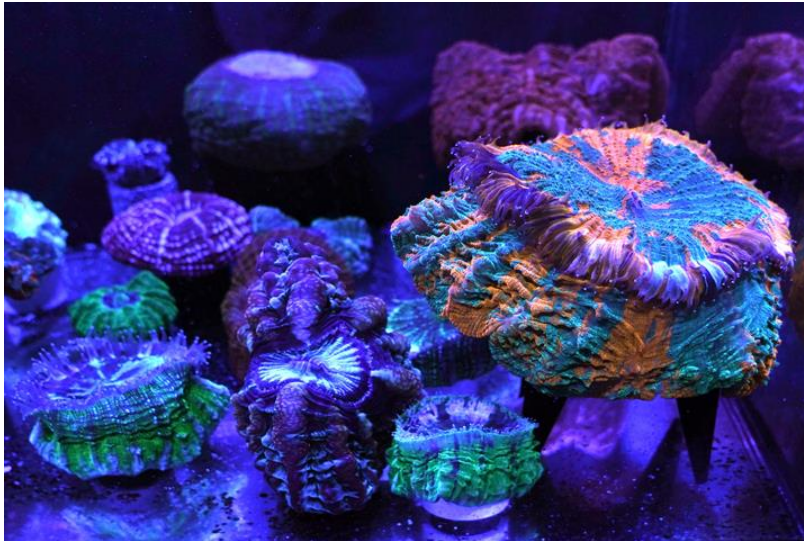
The second edition of the KFF, which provided a platform and mobilized young Filipino filmmakers to highlight the importance of local climate solutions and climate-adaptation stories, earned *Bool* the Best Performance award. *Tanaw* was recognized with the Best Screenplay and Gender-Responsive citations. The film was second runner-up overall in the festival.

Winners took home cash gifts as well as trophies made from recycled materials. KFF is a joint initiative of the Climate Change Commission and the Oscar M. Lopez Center—a science-based institution committed to building a climate-informed society.



Coral reefs provide stunning images of a world under assault

BY ASSOCIATED PRESS MAY 15, 2022



A variety of fluorescent and fleshy solitary stony corals are on display at the Coral Morphologic lab in Miami on March 2. Coral Morphologic was founded by marine biologist Colin Foord and musician J.D. McKay to raise awareness about dying coral reefs, presenting the issue through science and art.

MIAMI—Humans don't know what they're missing under the surface of a busy shipping channel in the "cruise capital of the world."

Just below the keels of massive ships, an underwater camera provides a live feed from another world, showing marine life that's trying its best to resist global warming.

That camera in Miami's Government Cut is just one of the many ventures of a marine biologist and a musician who've been on a 15-year mission to raise awareness about dying coral reefs by combining science and art to bring undersea life into pop culture.

Their company, Coral Morphologic, is surfacing stunning images, putting gorgeous closeups of underwater creatures on social media, setting time-lapsed video of swaying, glowing coral to music and projecting it onto buildings, even selling a coral-themed beachwear line.

"We aren't all art. We aren't all science. We aren't all tech. We are an alchemy," said Colin Foord, who defies the looks of a typical scientist, with blue hair so spiky that it seems electrically charged. He and his business partner J.D. McKay sat down with The Associated Press (AP) to show off their work.

One of their most popular projects is the Coral City Camera, which recently passed 2 million views and usually has about 100 viewers online at any given time each day.

"We're going to actually be able to document one year of coral growth, which has never been done before in situ on a coral reef, and that's only possible because we have this technological connection right here at the port of Miami that allows us to have power and internet," Foord said.

The livestream has already revealed that staghorn and other corals can adapt and thrive even in a highly urbanized undersea environment, along with 177 species of fish, dolphins, manatees and other sea life, Foord said.

"We have these very resilient corals growing here. The primary goal of us getting it underwater was to show people there is so much marine life right here in our city," Foord said.



McKay, meanwhile, sounds like a Broadway producer as he describes how he also films the creatures in their Miami lab, growing coral in tanks to get them ready for closeups in glorious color.

“We essentially create a set with one of these aquariums, and then obviously there’s actors—coral or shrimp or whatever—and then we film it, and then I get a vibe, whatever might be happening in the scene, and then I soundtrack it with some ambient like sounds, something very oceanic,” McKay explained.

Their latest production, “Coral City Flourotour,” will be shown on the New World Center Wallscape this week as the Aspen Institute hosts a major climate conference in Miami Beach.

Foord is speaking on a panel about how the ocean’s natural systems can help humans learn to combat impacts of climate change. The talk’s title? “The Ocean is a Superhero.”

“I think when we can recognize that we’re all this one family of life and everything is interconnected, that hopefully we can make meaningful changes now, so that future generations don’t have to live in a world of wildfires and melted ice caps and dead oceans,” Foord told the AP.

Their mission is urgent: After 500 million years on Earth, these species are under assault from climate change. The warming oceans prompt coral bleaching and raise the risk of infectious diseases that can cause mass die-offs in coral, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Stronger storms and changes in water chemistry can destroy reef structures, while altered currents sweep away food and larvae.

“Climate change is the greatest global threat to coral reef ecosystems,” NOAA said in a recent report.

That gets at the second part of Coral Morphologic’s name. “What does it mean to be morphologic? It really means having to adapt because the environment is always changing,” Foord said.

The staghorn, elkhorn and brain coral living in Government Cut provide a real-world example of how coral communities can adapt to such things as rising heat and polluted runoff, even in such an unlikely setting as the port of Miami.

Their video has documented fluorescence in some of the coral, an unusual response in offshore waters that Foord said could be protecting them from solar rays.

“The port is a priceless place for coral research,” Foord said. “We have to be realistic. You won’t be able to return the ecosystems to the way they were 200 years ago. The options we are left with are more radical.”

Beyond the science, there’s the clothes. Coral Morphologic sells a line of surf and swimwear that takes designs from flower anemones and brain coral and uses environmentally sustainable materials such as a type of nylon recycled from old fishing nets.

“We see the power of tech connecting people with nature. We are lucky as artists, and corals are benefitting,” Foord said. AP

image credits: [AP/Lynne Sladky](#)

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2022/05/15/coral-reefs-provide-stunning-images-of-a-world-under-assault/>

15 MAY 2022, SUNDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Seized lumber handed 'Odette' victims

The recipients include the cities of Kabankalan, Sipalay, and San Carlos as well as the municipalities of Ilog and Hinoba-an, which will receive more than 8,000 board feet each

BACOLOD CITY – The Negros Occidental provincial government received on Friday some 42,400 board feet of lumber from the Office of Civil Defense-Western Visayas (OCD-6) that will be used for the shelter needs of Negrenses affected by typhoon "Odette."

The *Philippine News Agency* reported that the lumber came from felled trees at the national government's dam project site in Calinog, Iloilo.

OCD-6 information officer Cindy Ferrer said they facilitated the assistance in partnership with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

"This emphasizes the strong partnership of government agencies in the rehabilitation and recovery efforts for the typhoon victims," she added.

During the turn-over rites held at the Panaad Park and Stadium here, the donated lumber was received by Zeaphard Caelian, head of the Provincial Disaster Management Program Division, through OCD-6 Operations Section chief Melissa Bantias and forester III Philip Lechoncito of the DENR-Bago City.

The recipients include the cities of Kabankalan, Sipalay, and San Carlos as well as the municipalities of Ilog and Hinoba-an, which will receive more than 8,000 board feet each, the *PNA* said.

Ferrer said the lumber from Iloilo will complement the shelter materials provided by the concerned local government units and other stakeholders.

"This will truly help rebuild the houses of the affected families," she added.

The cities of Kabankalan and Sipalay along with the towns of Ilog and Hinoba-an, all situated in the sixth district in southern Negros, were the worst hit in Western Visayas during the onslaught of typhoon "Odette" on 16 December last year.



TITLE :

PAGE

By Romar Miranda
@RVMirandaINQ

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—A civic movement in Palawan's quaint island town of Coron has a reason to rejoice after scoring a big win for the environment when President Duterte heeded its call to stop the 50-hectare reclamation project that threatened to wipe out the marine biodiversity in the globally renowned tourist destination.

Marion Raagas, one of the conveners of Sagip Coron Palawan (SCP), a group that aims to stop the environmental destruction caused by the Coron Bay Development Project, described the crusade as a "roller-coaster ride" as they raced against time to stop the project before it caused further irreversible damage to Coron Bay in the northern tip of Palawan, a popular diving destination and a flashpoint for marine conservationists.

"*Sobrang bilis ng pangyayari* (It happened so fast) and I always believe that there's Divine providence in all these. We want to do our part for the environment, not just for Coron, but for the whole nation," Raagas told the Inquirer in a recent interview.

On March 22, the President ordered the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA) to stop the reclamation and quarrying operations in Coron.

Two days later, on March 24, lawyer Janilo Rubiato, general manager and chief executive officer of the PRA, issued a cease-and-desist order (CDO) against the project, directing the provincial government and other private joint venture partners to stop its operations until certain conditions were met.

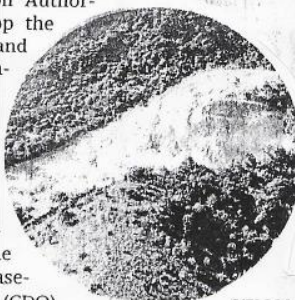
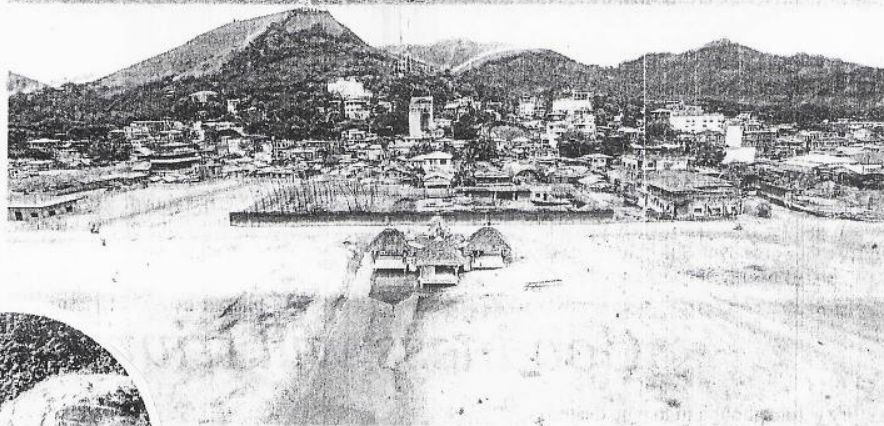
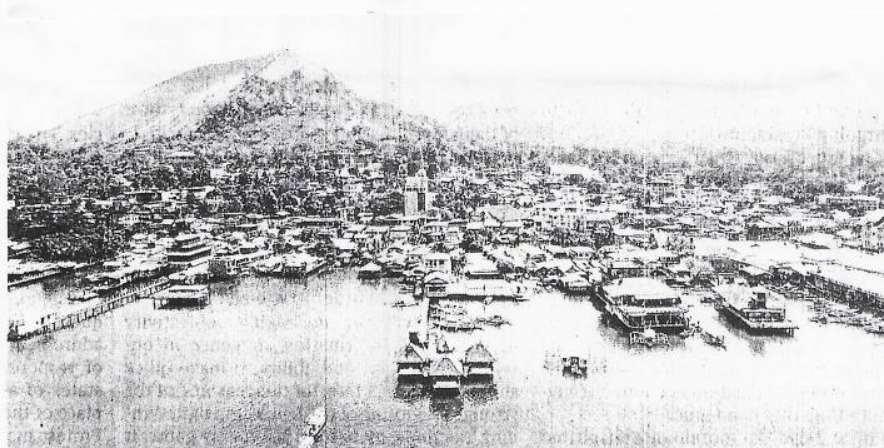
The reclamation project, which was near completion, was later found to be operating without necessary permits such as an area clearance and a revoked environmental compliance certificate from the DENR, according to the initial report of the joint investigation by the DENR's Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) and the PRA.

Duterte action

Bob Magallanes, who was born and raised in Coron and the cohead of Sagip Coron movement, said that as early as Janu-

Saving Coron

People's initiative stops destructive reclamation project in Palawan



LANDSCAPE CHANGE Top photo shows the coastline of the town center of Coron, Palawan, in 2013. Another photo taken in 2021 shows the same area already reclaimed using soil from quarried hills (left). The project will serve as an expansion for hotels, condominiums, shopping centers, docking stations and other tourism-related facilities.

ary 2021, they had been seeking dialogue with the local government in an attempt to stop the project at the municipal level but they were not getting heard.

Magallanes said the project was "poorly designed and executed," and that it could only result in environmental destruction. "Should we reach the point where it is the youth who should pay for the current generation's sins and cruel acts on the environment?" he asked.

Over the past year, SCP had been working hard to get the government to listen to their objection to the project and for the national leadership to declare the reclamation illegal, forfeit it in favor of the state and for government agencies

to begin rehabilitating areas already damaged by the reclamation, said lawyer Julito "Sarge" Sarmiento, SCP legal counsel.

That they emerged victorious was nothing short of a miracle, the prime movers of Sagip Coron said, considering that local officials led by Mayor Mario Reyes were bent on going ahead with the project without consideration of the sentiment raised by locals.

Essentially, the antireclamation advocates were just lucky that Mr. Duterte had heard of the objection directly from Raagas, a member of the President's campaign team when he ran for office in 2016.

It was Raagas who helped orchestrate the meeting between the President and Ma-

gallanes, who happened to be Raagas' motocross buddy.

Consultation

Coron Councilor Philip Andrew Astor, who chairs the municipal council's environment committee, denied the group's allegations that the project did not go through proper consultations with residents.



TITLE: *Saving* Coron ...

PAGE _____



MURKY Coron's pristine blue waters turn murky from dump-and-fill activities in three coastal villages.

"Prior to the commencement of the 50-hectare reclamation project, covering the areas of Barangays 2, 3 and 5, necessary requirements were complied with by the provincial government," read Astor's response to SCP's complaint in a letter dated March 14.

The municipal government also claimed that the project was endorsed for implementation as early as 2007 by the previous local administration.

"A project profile of the Coron Bay Reclamation Project was submitted to this office that underwent careful and thorough review before said project was endorsed for implementation in 2007 by the administration during that time," Astor said.

Right now, however, even the provincial government, which initiated the joint venture project in 2017 under the administration of now outgoing Gov. Jose Alvarez, is no longer on the municipality's side.

Lawyer Christian Jay Cojamco, Palawan's provin-

cial information officer, said the provincial government had stopped all reclamation-related activities in Coron as early as February 2021, ahead of the CDO issued by the PRA.

"Thus, even before the [PRA] issued its CDO dated March 24, all reclamation activities in the said area have already been stopped. At any rate, the provincial government of Palawan stays committed to comply with the CDO issued by [the] PRA until all issues have been resolved," Cojamco said.

Fight continues

With the 2022 elections now over, Sagip Coron said that it would continue fighting to preserve the environment, regardless of who is in power.

But while a new leadership at the provincial government will take over, with Vice Gov. Dennis Socrates assuming as governor in June, Coron will continue to have the same leadership, with the reelection of Reyes, who will serve his third and last term.

Raagas, however, said there was no letup in their fight to preserve Coron.

"This is our lifelong commitment. We are not afraid to die for this. We are not afraid to fight for what's right," he added.

For Anabelle Roble, an indigenous peoples leader, fighting for the environment is a noble task not just for herself, but for the future of her community.

Roble, one of the Tagbana leaders from the village of Bulalacao in Coron, has been consistently going up against private firms that endangered the future generations that depend on local industries, such as farming and fishing, which heavily rely on the critical environmental balance.

"Our life depends on how well we preserve our natural resources. It's not just for us but for our children and their children's children. We are not afraid because we are doing this for our future generation. They have to respect us because this is about our home," she said. INQ



GOING GREEN

Sagip Coron Palawan leads a tree-planting activity during the celebration of Earth Day last month hoping to turn into green the barren reclaimed area in the town.



Free patent on residential lots

Dear PAO,
May I be enlightened as to the meaning of "free patent"? Can it be applied to residential lots? If yes, may I know the requirements?

Reineer



DEAR PAO
**PERSIDA
ACOSTA**

Dear Reineer,
The answer to your question is found in the provisions of Act 141, otherwise known as the "Public Land Act" and Republic Act 10023, otherwise known as the "Residential Free Patent Act of 2009." Succinctly, Section 11 of the Public Land Act indicates that free patent is a mode of disposition of public agricultural land whereby an incomplete or imperfect title over a parcel of land is administratively legalized. For brevity, Section 11 of the afore-mentioned law reads:

"SECTION 11. Public lands suitable for agricultural purposes can be disposed of only as follows, and not otherwise:

"(1) For homestead settlement

"(2) By sale

"(3) By lease

"(4) By confirmation of imperfect or incomplete titles:

"(a) By judicial legalization

"(b) By administrative legalization (**free patent**)." (Emphasis and underscoring supplied)

Pursuant to the Residential Free Patent Act of 2009, free patent can now be applied to public agricultural lots zoned as residential land. Consequently, in order to qualify for residential free patent, the requirements under Section 1 and Section 3 of the Residential Free Patent Act must be satisfied, viz.:

"Section 1. Qualifications. - Any **Filipino citizen** who is **an actual occupant of a residential land** may apply for a Free Patent Title under this Act: Provided; That in highly urbanized cities, the land should not exceed two hundred (200) square meters; in other cities, it should not exceed five hundred (500) square meters; in first class and second class municipalities, it should not exceed seven hundred fifty (750) square meters; and in all other municipalities, it should not exceed one thousand (1,000) square meters; Provided, further, That the land applied for is not needed for public

service and/or public use.

"Section 3. Application. - The application on the land applied for shall be supported by a map based on an **actual survey** conducted by a licensed geodetic engineer and approved by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and a **technical description** of the land applied for together with supporting **affidavit of two (2) disinterested persons** who are residing in the barangay of the city or municipality where the land is located, attesting to the truth of the facts contained in the application to the effect that the applicant thereof has, **either by himself or through his predecessor-in-interest, actually resided on and continuously possessed and occupied, under a bona fide claim of acquisition of ownership, the land applied for at least ten (10) years and has complied with the requirements prescribed in section 1** hereof." (Emphasis and underscoring supplied)

Thus, applying the preceding provisions of law, a Filipino citizen who is in actual possession/occupation for at least 10 years of an alienable and disposable public land zoned as residential lots may submit an application for the issuance of free patent. In this connection, a qualified applicant with a complete application may file before the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro) whose jurisdiction covers the area where the parcel of land subject of the application is situated (See Section 2.17 of DENR Administrative Order 12-10).

We hope that we were able to answer your queries. Please be reminded that this advice is based solely on the facts you have narrated and our appreciation of the same. Our opinion may vary when other facts are changed or elaborated.

Editor's note: Dear PAO is a daily column of the Public Attorney's Office. Questions for Chief Acosta may be sent to dearpao@manilatimes.net



TITLE: _____

PAGE _____

EDITORIAL

Post-election cleanup

It's time for a cleanup after the bruising elections, not just of the emotional wounds inflicted on the candidates and their supporters but of the physical remains of the campaign.

The cleanup, said the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), should be the first order of business after every election and candidates themselves must take the initiative to remove their campaign materials and dispose of them properly. Jay Lim of the environmental advocacy group *Tanggol Kalikasan* said the urgent challenge after elections is always how to get rid of voluminous campaign materials that only worsen the country's existing waste problem.

In the 2019 midterm elections, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) said it collected 29 truckloads equivalent to 200.37 tons of campaign-generated waste. More garbage is expected to be collected this year with 19 candidates in the highly contested presidential and vice presidential races on top of other national and local posts. A cleanup drive by environment group *EcoWaste Coalition* already yielded 71 truckloads or about 252 tons of election garbage only two days after last Monday's elections.

While TV advertisements take up the bulk of campaign expenses and even as social media campaigns have increasingly become the norm, political parties and individual candidates still allot a substantial budget for collaterals such as tarpaulins, posters, flyers, stickers, and other similar campaign materials for those who do not have access to these platforms. Most of the election waste end up as junk that could clog canals and waterways and cause floods, or fill garbage dumps for years if they are made of non-biodegradable materials. "The single-use plastic waste generated during the campaign causes choking of drainage, ingestion by stray animals, land and water pollution, thereby causing adverse impact on human health and the environment," said Mark Peñalver, executive director of *Interfacing Development Interventions for Sustainability*.

As early as October last year, several environmental groups appealed to the Commission on Elections (Comelec) to initiate pro-environment measures in the 2022 elections. *EcoWaste Coalition* said the Comelec should champion much-needed policies and practices to minimize garbage and plastic pollution during campaign and election periods. "We have also observed the rampant use of campaign materials that are hardly reused or recycled, particularly plastic tarpaulins, posters and bunting, as well as the confetti thrown in *miting de avance*," said the groups that also included *Greenpeace Philippines*, *Mother Earth Foundation*, *Zero Waste Philippines*, *Oceana Philippines*, and *NASSA/Caritas Philippines*. They asked the Comelec to make it mandatory for parties and candidates to use recyclable and reusable materials free of hazardous chemical substances, and to conduct a compulsory post-election cleanup.

But there is no lack of such policies or the need to come up with new ones. In 2013, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, DILG, and Comelec already signed a joint memorandum circular that enjoined political parties and candidates to put up campaign materials only in common areas to avoid eyesores and minimize waste generation, and steer clear of hazardous materials in their campaign and election propaganda.

Aside from existing government policies, environmental groups have also reached out to help. The *EcoWaste Coalition* is working with MMDA in the "Oplan Baklas 2022" cleanup drive, funded by the World Bank, which aims to collect election paraphernalia and other junk, bring them to sanitary landfills, and then sort them out. Tarpaulins and plastic waste will be processed in a waste granulator into ecobricks, which will then be used in the rehabilitation of sidewalks and parks in Metro Manila; some of the tarpaulins will also be turned over to *EcoWaste* to be made into ecobags.

In Benguet, a resident has launched the "Eco-tarp Recycling Challenge" calling on neighbors to collect and reuse discarded campaign materials such as tarpaulins and turn them into items like decorative flowers. *Limkaco*, a leading manufacturer of signage products, has also suggested several ways to reuse tarpaulins such as upcycling them into raised garden beds, sunshades and tents, beanbags, and mixed-use bags.

Indeed, there are enough policies to promote environment-friendly elections just as there are varied ways to reuse campaign materials so they won't end up as harmful waste. It's all but a matter of implementation and political will. The newly elected leaders have a lot of challenges to tackle as they begin their terms, but first they must do their part in cleaning up their campaign mess.



TITLE: _____

PAGE _____

Upcycling election trash

AN environment advocacy organization pitched for the safe reusing and repurposing of campaign materials to conserve resources and minimize the volume of post-election garbage to be disposed of.

The EcoWaste Coalition appealed to both winning and losing candidates to take the lead in preventing campaign materials from being thrown in landfills, burned in cement kilns and incinerators or dumped in the oceans.

"Regardless of your poll standing, we appeal to all candidates to exemplify your concern for Mother Earth and for public welfare by finding ways to prevent your publicity materials from ending up in waste dumps and furnaces and, God forbid, the oceans," said Aileen Lucero, National Coordinator, EcoWaste Coalition.

"Dumping and burning campaign materials will be a huge waste of resources, including energy, consumed in making the seemingly incalculable number of posters, leaflets and other popular paraphernalia used for the May 2022 national and local polls," she said. "It will further result in environmental pollution."

For her part, Miss Philippines Earth 2021 Naelah Alshorbaji said: "Happy or not with the outcome, it remains our responsibility to clean up after ourselves and to do due diligence: recycling and upcycling where possible. Give a second life to durable materials used and responsibly dispose of non-useable items as per your local waste management rules."

In addition to decreased garbage vol-

ume, reusing and repurposing campaign materials will reduce disposal costs, prevent releases of chemical pollutants into the environment, conserve resources and instill environmental awareness and responsibility among our people, the EcoWaste Coalition said.

During the event, the group showed how paper-based campaign materials can be creatively reused or repurposed. For example, sample ballots were turned into instant notepads with the use of a binding glue, fastener, ribbon or string. Cardboard posters were cut to make bookmarks, envelopes, folders, name plates and other school needs.

Polyethylene plastic posters were reused as book and notebook covers, and the sturdier polyvinyl chloride (PVC) plastic tarpaulin posters were cut and sewn into carry bags of various sizes. Tarps, as these materials are also called, were also made into useful ball, shoe, shoulder, string, laundry and toiletry bags, as well as waist bags for electricians and janitors. They were also transformed into aprons, letter and tool organizers, and waste sorters.

Tarps can also be repurposed as awnings or canopies for homes and stores, upholstery material, and as a protective shield against sun and rain for jeepneys, pedicabs and tricycles, the group said.

However, the EcoWaste Coalition advised the public to only reuse or repurpose tarps for non-food and non-child applications as tarps may contain hazardous chemicals, particularly cadmium and phthalates, which may leach and contaminate the food or expose children to chemical risks.



Campaign poster, tarps irerecycle sa Caloocan

Inihayag ni Caloocan City Department of Public Safety and Traffic Management (DPSTM) at City Environmental Management Department (CEMD) chief Engr. Jay Bernardo na dadalhin sa recycle center ang mga tarpaulins at campaign posters na binaklas at tinanggal sa lungsod.

Ayon kay Bernardo, i-rerecycle ang mga tarpaulins at campaign

posters na maaaring gawing bag at basahan na dagdag kita naman sa mga mamamayan ng Caloocan.

Idinagdag pa nito na plano niyang palakasin ang recycle center sa lungsod upang mas mahikayat pa ang mga residente na maging creative at magkaroon ng dagdag hanapbuhay.

Dalawang araw matapos ang halalan ay agad

na inutos ni Bernardo ang paglilinis at pagtatanggal ng mga campaign posters upang hindi na maka-abala sa mga motorista.

Aniya, umaabot sa 10 toneleda ang kanilang nakuhang mga campaign paraphernalia sa South at North Caloocan. Kinailangan pang gamitan ng tubig at eskoba ang mga posters na nakadikit sa pader. *(Doris Franche)*



TITLE:

PAGE

TVI conducts underwater cleanup drive in Toledo

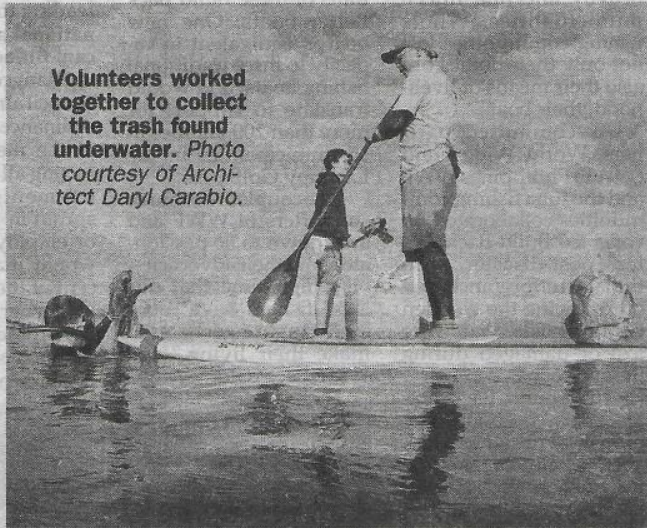
LEADING up to the celebration of Earth Day this year, AboitizPower subsidiary Therma Visayas, Inc. (TVI), in partnership with the Aboitiz Foundation, organized an underwater garbage cleanup recently with its volunteer "Scubasureros" in Barangay Bato, Toledo, Cebu.

"Scubasurero is a term coined from 'scuba diving' and 'basurero' or garbage collector," said 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."

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.

"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 TVI Procurement Operations Specialist Relyn Lazaro.

"Marine life in the area is so rich, but we need to



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

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," said Deligencia.

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.



TITLE:

PAGE

DATE

PH calls for maritime security, climate crisis, post-COVID recovery cooperation

THE Philippines called for regional cooperation on maritime security, the climate crisis, and post-pandemic economic recovery during the ASEAN-US Special Summit.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin, Jr. joined eight other leaders from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to discuss mutual priorities in the region, such as clean energy transformation and sustainable infrastructure, and ways to address global issues and emerging challenges.

The second day of the Summit featured a working lunch hosted by U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris and plenary sessions chaired by President Joseph Biden, Jr. and VP Harris.

Locsin led the Philippine delegation to the Special Summit, as the representative of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, who

skipped the Summit as a courtesy to the Philippine President-elect.

He was joined by Philippine Ambassador to the United States Jose Manuel G. Romualdez, Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Theresa Lazaro, Assistant Secretary Ed Espiritu, and Assistant Secretary Angela Ponce, and officials from the Office of the President and the Philippine Embassy in Washington D.C.

In his intervention, Locsin highlighted America's role in peace and stability in Southeast Asia.

"President Biden, your participation gives substance to the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to being a strong, reliable, and dependably present partner in the region; and of America as a force for good and stability in Asia and the rest of the world. That is why the Philippines fully supports the elevation

of ASEAN-U.S. relations to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership," he said.

He also welcomed the U.S. Indo-Pacific Strategy as it places Southeast Asia at the center of the regional security architecture and recognizes synergies with the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific.

"We look forward to the political launch of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF). For that to work, inclusiveness in participation is essential," he added. The Philippines is among a number of ASEAN countries participating in the launch of IPEF.

Locsin stressed that integral to the response to the climate crisis is the transition to clean energy. The Philippines expects the ASEAN-US Energy Ministerial Meeting to advance initiatives on clean and alternative energy sources, including new and emerging clean fuels energy

innovation, and more efficient energy technologies.

"We are particularly interested in safe, clean, and affordable nuclear power options such as small nuclear modular reactors, which are capable of being built and transported to far-flung energy-starved areas," he added.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the Ukraine crisis showed the need for the ASEAN region to strengthen its infrastructure, connectivity, and supply chains.

The Philippines welcomes the progress made in implementing the master plan for ASEAN Connectivity 2025 but recognizes that more needs to be done.

Locsin said, "The infrastructural components need more focus on infrastructure compliant with environmental and climate standards, and are also commercially viable."

Cristina Lee-Pisco



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

THE EXPONENT OF SINCE 1908 PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

6
PAGE

UPPER
LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

05-15-22

TITLE:

PAGE

DATE



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU
DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City 1116
Tel. Nos. (832)827-1817, 828-3725, Fax No. (832)920-3258
Website: www.emb.gov.ph Email: records@emb.gov.ph



Management System
ISO 9001:2015
ISO 14001:2015
www.tuv.com
TUV RHEINLAND



April 28, 2022

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR No. 003
Series of 2022

SUBJECT: AMENDING SECTION 5 OF MC 2016-008¹ RELATIVE TO THE ISSUANCE OF PERMIT TO OPERATE (PTO) TO ALL STANDBY GENERATOR SETS (G.S.) WITHOUT REQUIRING SOURCE EMISSION TESTING

Pursuant to Section 1 of DAO 2004-26 in relation to DAO 2000-81 of R.A. 8749, otherwise known as the Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999, this Memorandum Circular is hereby issued.

Section 1. Definition of terms.

- Peaking Power Plants refers to facilities using Generator Sets that run only when there is high demand for electricity².
- Standby G.S. refers to a backup electrical system that operates during an outage to transfer the electrical load and supply power to circuits³. Maximum Power available from the G.S. to energize variable electric load in which operation should not exceed a cumulative of 200 hours annually⁴.
- Source Emission Testing⁵

Section 2. Standby G.S. is not required to conduct source emission testing.

Standby G.S., regardless of capacity⁶, under the following circumstances, shall not be required to conduct source emission testing for permitting and compliance monitoring purposes:

- Operating **not more than 200 hours annually, provided it operates not more than 3 hours per day nor more than three (3) days per week**, for light Commercial and Industrial Operation (Hotels, Malls, Banks, Buildings, Schools, Telecommunication towers, Fuel Dispensing Facilities, Manufacturing Firms among others)
- During (a) Emergency Hospital Operations; (b) Rescue and Medical Missions related to Natural Calamities; (c) Conflict Areas such as War, Terrorist Attacks, and the like; or (d) All activities affecting National Security

In lieu of source emission testing as a permitting requirement, the applicant shall include in the OPMS the approved estimation methods, such as calculations using internationally recognized Emission Factors, the schedule and duration of preventive maintenance, and monthly records of power interruption.

Section 3. Generator Sets that are still required to conduct source emission testing.

All G.S. used in Peaking Power Plants and all G.S. using Bunker Fuel Oil (BFO), regardless of operating hours, are still required to conduct source emission testing before the issuance of the Permit to Operate (PTO).

Section 4. Submission of updated EMOP.

All applicants covered under Section 2 of this Memorandum Circular shall be required to submit to the respective EMB Regional Offices their updated Environmental Monitoring Plan (EMOP) within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this Memorandum Circular.

Section 5. Suspension or Revocation of Permit and Administrative Penalties.

The Bureau may suspend or revoke any existing and valid permit if there is failure or inaccurate information submitted in the permit application, such as operating beyond standby operating hours without prejudice to the imposition of administrative fines pursuant to Section 47 of RA 8749.

Section 6. Repealing Clause.

Section 5 of MC 2016-008 with respect to source emission testing for PTO of Standby Generator Sets is hereby amended. All other issuances, orders, and instructions inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 7. Separability Clause.

If any of the provisions of this Memorandum Circular is declared invalid, illegal or unconstitutional, all other provisions stated herein shall remain valid and not be affected thereby.

Section 8. Effectivity.

This Memorandum Circular shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation and upon acknowledgment of receipt of a copy thereof by the Office of the National Administrative Register (ONAR), UP Law Center.

Digitally signed by
ENGR. WILLIAM P. CUÑADO
Purgatorio

¹ <https://air.emb.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/EMB-MC-2016-008.pdf>

² Electricity Peaking Stations by Clarke Energy retrieved on 2019-08-06.

³ Robert B. Hickey Electrical Construction Databook, McGraw Hill, 2002 ISBN 0-07-137349-7, Chapter 14

⁴ ISO 8528-4 International standards for Reciprocating Internal Combustion Engine driven alternating current generating sets

⁵ Section 4(b) of DAO 2013-026

⁶ <https://air.emb.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/MC-2016-003.pdf>

15 MAY 2022, SUNDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



14 kaso ng Omicron subvariant natukoy ng DOH

By [Danilo Garcia](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon) - May 14, 2022 - 12:00am



Artist's rendition of the coronavirus disease.
Pixabay / fernandozhiminaicela

MANILA, Philippines — May 14 na kaso ng mas nakakahawang COVID-19 Omicron BA.2.12.1 ang natuklasan ng Department of Health (DOH) sa Metro Manila at Puerto Princesa sa isinagawang 'genome sequencing'.

Sinabi kahapon ni Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire na dalawa sa mga kaso ay nadiskubre sa Metro Manila.

Nilinaw ng opisyal na ang dalawang kaso ay parehong nakakumpleto na ng 'isolation' at ngayon ay wala nang mga sintomas.

Tinamaan ang dalawa ng naturang sub-variant ng COVID-19 sa kabila na bakunado at may booster shot pa silang pareho.

May 39 close contacts ang dalawa na tinitingnan ang DOH ang status ng pagpapabakuna nila at resulta ng kanilang COVID-19 tests.

Samantala, may 12 pang kaso ng BA.2.12.1 ang natukoy naman sa Puerto Princesa. Parte sila ng 14 na turista at isang lokal na nagpositibo sa COVID-19 noong Abril 29.

Lahat naman sila ay wala nang sintomas at nakarekober na. Ang 28 nilang 'close-contacts' ay nagnetatibo na rin sa COVID-19 tests habang bineberipika ang kanilang vaccination status.

Una nang natukoy ng DOH ang isang kaso ng BA.2.12 sa isang Finnish national na bumisita sa Baguio at Quezon City. Nakarekober na rin ang dayuhan at nakauwi na ng Switzerland.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/metro/2022/05/14/2180989/14-kaso-ng-omicron-subvariant-natukoy-ng-doh/amp/>



Medical experts, private sector to tackle Omicron

(The Philippine Star) - May 15, 2022 - 12:00am



Health workers attend to patients at the Mandaluyong City Medical Center on January 5, 2022.
Walter Bollozos

MANILA, Philippines — Following the emergence of new, more infectious Omicron subvariants BA.4 and BA.5 in countries that closely mirror the Philippines' pandemic experience, medical and data experts are set to meet tomorrow to discuss what can be done to head off a new version of the highly contagious Omicron variant, described as more infectious than the "stealth Omicron" subvariant BA.2.

The meeting was called by Presidential Adviser for Entrepreneurship Joey Concepcion and will be attended by Vaccine Expert Panel members led by Dr. Nina Gloriani, medical and data experts from OCTA Research led by Fr. Nic Austriaco, Dr. Maricar Limpin and leaders of Philippine business.

"It's incumbent upon the private sector to assist the incoming government at this time," said Concepcion. "COVID is still very much around and we have to stay focused more than ever so we can keep the economy open."

Two other Omicron sublineages BA 2.12 and BA.2.12.1 were recently detected in the country, but those infected have not shown any severe disease.

"This is protection given by vaccines and boosters," said Concepcion.

"But with the increased mobility in the last few weeks, specially now that we are welcoming more visitors from overseas, we must keep an eye out for BA.4 and BA.5," he added.

The new versions are almost identical and are more transmissible than the BA.2 subvariant. It is now responsible for the spike in South Africa's COVID cases, reported to have tripled since mid-April despite the fact that the country has a high vaccination rate.

Initial reports said that those who have been vaccinated or have previously contracted the Omicron variant did not require hospitalization or die from the disease.

However, Alex Sigal, a professor at the Africa Health Research Institute in South Africa, was quoted in a report as saying that those infected with COVID prior to Omicron but are unvaccinated will not have much immunity.

South Africa is closely watched by Philippine medical experts as it mirrors the behavior of the virus here.



Virologists here said the unvaccinated have no immunity against the two variants.

“We have to stay ahead of these variants and subvariants,” said Concepcion. “The preventative measure we see for now is vaccinations and boosters.”

“We cannot go to heightened alert levels anymore as our economy will suffer. The additional debt for our pandemic response was not in our plans from before, and it added to the capital expenditures we needed to build infrastructure.”

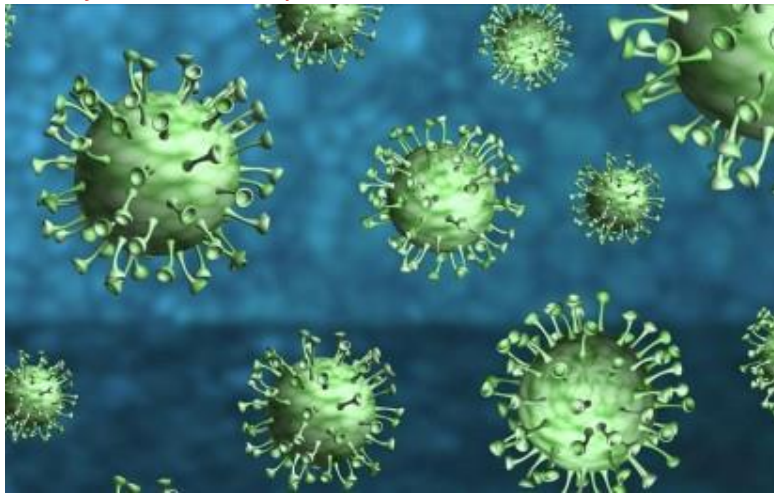
The conflict in the Ukraine is pushing up commodity prices, raising fears of stagflation wherein consumers can no longer afford the sky-high prices, causing the economy to stall.

“We cannot raise alert levels, but we can raise immunity levels,” Concepcion said. “We saw how opening the economy has raised our GDP to 8.5 percent in the first quarter. We need to maintain that.”



Too early to declare BA2.12.1 local transmission

By Joyce Ann L. Rocamora **May 14, 2022, 4:47 pm**



MANILA – The Department of Health (DOH) on Saturday said it is premature to declare a local transmission of the BA2.12.1 Omicron subvariant in the Philippines without enough evidence.

Two local cases were detected in the National Capital Region (NCR) and 12 in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan in April.

The two NCR cases are relatives who traveled to a province to get vaccinated and have no history of travel abroad.

All 14 patients only had mild symptoms and have already recovered.

"It's too early for us to say that there is local transmission. *Kailangan natin ng enough evidence para ma-ipakita natin at ma-analyze kung talagang mayroon na tayong* (We need enough evidence to analyze if we have already have) local transmission," DOH Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said in a "Laging Handa" briefing.

Vergeire said the DOH continues to conduct surveillance to identify the source of infection.

"*Itong patuloy na pag-i-ingat, pagbabakuna, at surveillance system na maayos ang kailangan nating ma-ihanda sa ngayon para hindi na natin makitang kumalat pa at tumaas ang mga kaso* (We need to continue being cautious on top of getting vaccinated and maintaining a good surveillance system so that we can prevent a spike in cases)," she said.

"The best way to go would be to receive a booster if you are eligible so that you can get adequate protection," she added.

Vergeire clarified that the World Health Organization has yet to classify BA2.12.1 as a variant of concern or interest but reminded the public to remain vigilant.

Citing initial studies, she said the subvariant is 23 to 27 percent more transmissible than the original Omicron variant.

The detection of 14 BA2.12.1 cases did not cause any significant increase in the number of cases in NCR and "has not yet translated into an increased transmission in hospitals", Vergeire said. **(PNA)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1174453>



DOH eyes vaccination of 77 million individuals by end-June

Philstar.com May 14, 2022 | 5:59pm



This March 2021 photo shows a health worker holding the syringe of a COVID-19 vaccine.
The STAR / Michael Varcas, file

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Health is targeting the vaccination of 77 million Filipinos against COVID-19 by the end of June, when President Rodrigo Duterte's six-year term ends.

"Our target would be 77 million individuals by the end of June. This accounts for 85% of our targeted eligible population, which is 90 million," Department of Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said in Filipino during a Laging Handa briefing on Saturday.

So far, the government was able to inoculate 68.5 million Filipinos with the life-saving COVID-19 jabs.

Vergeire added that they were able to vaccinate 7,407 individuals in vaccination sites located beside polling precincts during the 2022 polls.

"This is something small compared to our daily achievements, but it's good that we saw people who were interested and willing to get their vaccines, braving the heat after [casting their votes] in the election," she said.

DOH Secretary Francisco Duque III earlier said [he does not foresee another lockdown caused by a surge related to the 2022 national and local elections.](#)

During the conduct of the elections, however, over 4,500 violations related to minimum public health standards were recorded by the Department of the Interior and Local Government and the national police force, Vergeire said.

She explained that these violations may be largely comprise of the improper wearing of face masks and physical distancing.

The country has logged an additional 181 COVID-19 infections on Friday, bringing up the total caseload to 3.69 million. — Angelica Y. Yang

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2022/05/14/2181123/doh-eyes-vaccination-77-million-individuals-end-june>

15 MAY 2022, SUNDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

VLOGS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Please click this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7QXhaZW3lso>

MANILA

PANALO SA GANDA MANILA BAY DOLOMITE BEACH 05-14-2022

10,871 views...

431

DISLIKE

SHARE

THANKS

CLIP

SAVE

...



KUYARONS TV

101K subscribers

SUBSCRIBE

Panalo sa ganda manila bay dolomite beach 05-14-2022

#manilabay

#dolomitebeach

SHOW MORE



Please click this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1CNG6FAaSGc>

#ManilaBayUpdate #DolomiteBeach #BattleForManilaBay

MGA HALAMANG DAGAT SA DOLOMITE BEACH BUHAY NA BUHAY NA!

4,014 views...

182

DISLIKE

SHARE

THANKS

CLIP

SAVE

...



engr. berto

197K subscribers

JOIN

SUBSCRIBE

#ManilaBayUpdate #DolomiteBeach

#BattleForManilaBay

SHOW MORE



Please click this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kA3dNs20CvE>

#ManilaBayUpdate #DolomiteBeach #BattleForManilaBay

SARGASSUM, MGA HALAMANG DAGAT SA DOLOMITE BEACH!

2,013 views...

122

DISLIKE

SHARE

THANKS

CLIP

SAVE

...



engr. berto

197K subscribers

JOIN

SUBSCRIBE

#ManilaBayUpdate #DolomiteBeach

#BattleForManilaBay

SHOW MORE



Please click this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tCet1xHpmx4>

MANILA BAYWALK DOLOMITE BEACH

MANILA BAY INARARO NA BACK TO BACK DOLOMITE SAND AT DOLOMITE PEBBLES! Miz July

3,501 views • 14 May 2022

146

DISLIKE

SHARE

CLIP

SAVE

...



Miz July

76.4K subscribers

SUBSCRIBE

Manila Bay Update, May 13,2022

maraming salamat po, keep safe everyone

[#SaveManilaBay](#)

SHOW MORE




Please click this link:


<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=be29zlhTkYw>


#manilabay #rehabilitation


Manila Bay Update: May 14, 2022


11,717 views • 14 May 2022

 293

 DISLIKE

 SHARE

 CLIP

 SAVE

...



PINOY BLOGGER PH

30.2K subscribers

JOIN

SUBSCRIBE

#manilabay #rehabilitation

SHOW MORE



Please click this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sLW0feI11OU>

#manilabay #rehabilitation

Manila Bay Update: May 14, 2022

4,880 views • 14 May 2022



112



DISLIKE



SHARE



CLIP



SAVE



PINOY BLOGGER PH

30.2K subscribers

JOIN

SUBSCRIBE

#manilabay #rehabilitation

SHOW MORE



- Headline
- Editorial
- Column
- Opinion
- Feature Article



Please click this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4gaLErDTgF8>

MANILA BAYWALK DOLOMITE BEACH

MANILA BAY UPDATE PEBBLES SA DOLOMITE BEACH PINATAG NA | MAY 14 2022

381 views • 14 May 2022

👍 18 🗨️ DISLIKE ➦ SHARE ✂️ CLIP ⌵ SAVE ...



CHEFMOTO VLOG
1.45K subscribers

SUBSCRIBE

#manilabaydolomitebeach
#manilabayrehabilitationupdate
#battleofmanilabay

SHOW MORE