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DENR

NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR namahagi ng titulo ng lupa sa Northern Mindanao



May 18, 2022 @ 6:33 PM 12 hours ago

NORTHERN MINDANAO – Upang mapaganda ang buhay ng mga naninirahan sa lalawigan namahagi ng mga titulo ng lupa ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa pamamagitan ng “Handog Titulo” program sa 415 kwalipikadong benipisyaryo sa rehiyon noong Mayo 6.

Nabatid sa ginanap na ceremonial turnover sa DENR Region 10 Multi-Purpose Court sa Cagayan de Oro City, 200 benipisyaryo mula sa Bukidnon ang nakatanggap ng Original Certificates of Title (OCT), 10 sa Camiguin, 20 sa Lanao del Norte, 35 sa Misamis Occidental at 150 sa Misamis Oriental.

Bunsod nito nagpahayag ng pag-asa si DENR Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna na ang mga titulo ng lupa ay makatulong na mapaganda ang buhay ng mga benipisyaryo.

“More than just providing security of tenure to landowners, I encourage all patentees of agricultural lands to make their land productive. Make this a tool to improve the quality of your lives and that of your children,” sabi ni Sampulna.

Samantala dagdag pa ng Environment chief na dapat pangalagaan ng mga benepisyaryo ang kanilang mga titulo upang hindi ito masira ng sunog or ulan at hindi mawala. “Please take care of it.”



DENR namahagi ng titulo ng lupa sa Northern Mindanao

Kaugnay nito ayon pa sa DENR ang distribusyon ng titulo ng lupa noong Mayo 6 ay bahagi ng 4,000 free patents na target na maipamahagi sa Northern Mindanao bago matapos ang 2022.

Bukod sa agricultural free patents, kabilang din sa distribusyon ang residential at special free patents.

Kaugnay nito hinikayat naman ni DENR Undersecretary for Legal, Administration, Human Resources and Legislative Affairs Ernesto D. Adobo, Jr. ang mga benipisyaryo na gamitin ng tama ang mga titulo ng lupa upang mapalago ang 'economic activity.'

Ayon kay DENR-Northern Mindanao Regional Executive Director Henry A. Adornado, ang land titling program ay isinasagawa alinsunod sa direktiba ni Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte na bilisan ang pagproseso at pag-isyu ng public land patents sa mga kuwalipikadong benipisyaryo. *Santi Celario*

DENR Issues Land Patents to Long-Time Residents of Lanao Del Norte

[Wednesday, May 18, 2022 Journal Online](#)



Department of Environment and Natural Resources Region 10 Executive Director Henry A. Adornado (right) and Assistant Secretary for Field Operations-Western Mindanao Arleigh J. Adorable (middle) award the Original Certificate of Title (OCT) to retired teacher Nimfa R. Lawas of Suarez, Iligan City for the land she has been occupying since 1982. Lawas also received the OCTs on behalf of her fellow recipients from Lanao del Norte and thanked the [DENR](#) for assisting them in the land titling process. DENR Region 10 distributed a total of 415 land patents to beneficiaries from Bukidnon, Camiguin, Lanao del Norte, Misamis Occidental, and Misamis Oriental as part of its Handog Titulo Program. It was held at the [DENR](#) Regional Office in Cagayan de Oro City on May 6.

Source: <https://journal.com.ph/denr-issues-land-patents-to-long-time-residents-of-lanao-del-norte/>



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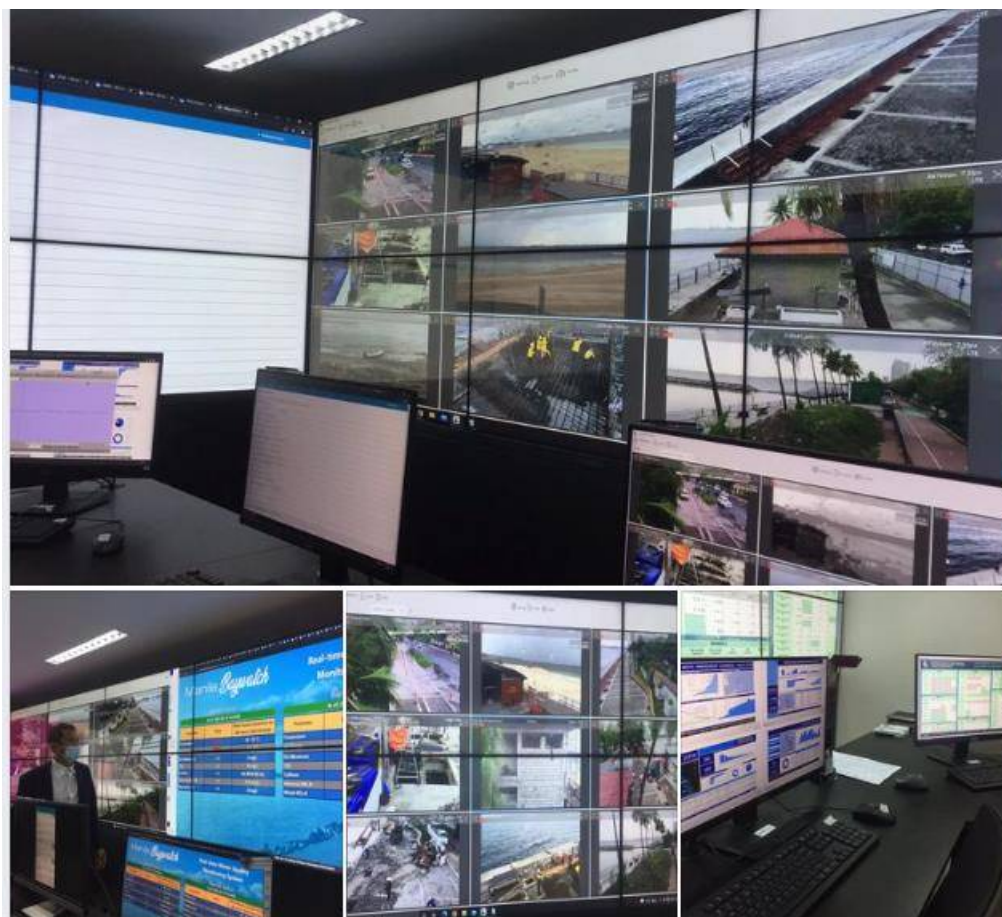
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Philippines state-controlled media · 13 hrs · 🌐



TINGNAN: Binuksan na ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang Environmental Data Center ng ahensiya, kung saan real-time na makikita ang kalidad ng tubig at hangin sa iba't ibang lugar sa bansa pati ang solid waste management status ng mga lokal na pamahalaan.

Ginawa na ring moderno ng DENR ang online website nito, kung saan puwede nang makapag-apply ng mga permit at makita ang status ng mga application. | via Clay Pardilla



Source:

<https://www.facebook.com/100067118364824/posts/pfbid02OKOSnKaKCTA4tkWWDiQYbcmSEbjDjvGeH1xN9Bcc52t1egGEqW9MRwLfjbHoVuYg9I/?d=n>



DENR to strictly monitor Tampakan mine



By [Eireene Jairee Gomez](#)

May 19, 2022

THE [Department of Environment and Natural Resources](#) (DENR), through the Mines and [Geosciences Bureau](#) (MGB), committed to strictly monitor the Tampakan copper-gold project on its environmental protection and rehabilitation obligations once it resumes operations.

Environment and Natural Resources Acting Secretary [Jim Sampulna](#) made the commitment following the amendment of the Environment Code of South [Cotabato](#), particularly on the lifting of the open-pit mining ban, which was approved on third and final reading by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of South Cotabato on May 16.

The move signals [Sagittarius Mines Inc.](#) (SMI), the proponent of the Tampakan copper-gold project, to proceed with the development of the area, and eventually, commercial extraction of minerals.

"The environment will not be sacrificed. We will see to it that the soon-to-commence Tampakan copper-gold project will be strictly monitored in compliance with applicable mining and environmental laws, rules and regulations," Sampulna said.

"We will also require SMI to invest in equipment and manpower to ensure mitigation in case of any adverse impacts from the mining operation," he added.

For his part, DENR-MGB Director [Wilfredo Moncano](#) assured that there are existing modern technologies that can address the potential environmental impact of the mining operations.

"We also have the DENR policy that requires mining companies to provide funds in all stages of the mining operation necessary for environmental protection and enhancement," he said.

The DENR-MGB is tasked to create a multipartite monitoring team that will be responsible for the conduct of quarterly environmental monitoring and audit of the mining company's operation to ensure it is in line with environmental laws.



DENR to strictly monitor Tampakan mining

By [Jed Macapagal](#)

-May 19, 2022

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) will strictly monitor the operations of the Tampakan copper-gold project in Mindanao following the lifting of the open pit mining ban in South Cotabato.

Jim Sampulna, DENR acting secretary, said the lifting of the ban signals Sagittarius Mines Inc. (SMI), proponent of the Tampakan copper-gold project, to proceed with the development of the area and to commercially extract minerals.

"The environment will not be sacrificed. We will see to it the soon-to-commence Tampakan copper-gold project will be strictly monitored in compliance with applicable mining and environmental laws, rules, and regulations," Sampulna said.

Sampulna added MGB will also require SMI to invest in equipment and manpower to ensure mitigation in case of any adverse impacts from the mining operation.

Wilfredo Moncano, MGB director, said modern technologies can address the potential environmental impact of the mining operations in Tampakan.

"We also have the DENR policy that requires mining companies to provide funds in all stages of the mining operation necessary for environmental protection and enhancement," Moncano added.

The MGB said all other major requirements to legally support the mining operation had been complied with by SMI, including the Environmental Compliance Certificate and the Certification Precondition from the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples after the Free and Prior Informed Consent process was undertaken and a memorandum of agreement was signed with indigenous peoples.

The DENR is tasked to create a multipartite monitoring team that will be responsible for the conduct of quarterly environmental monitoring and audit of the mining company's operation to ensure it is in line with environmental laws.

It is also set to convene the Mine Rehabilitation Fund Committee to oversee the management and utilization of the funds for SMI's Environmental Protection and Enhancement Program, progressive rehabilitation, and social development through livelihood activities for residents living close to the project area.

Source: https://malaya.com.ph/news_business/denr-to-strictly-monitor-tampakan-mining/



DENR keeps keen eyes on mining in S. Cotabato



by [Rio N. Araja](#)

[May 18, 2022, 10:30 pm](#)

in [National, News](#)

Reading Time: 2 mins read

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Wednesday vowed to strictly monitor the Tampakan copper-gold project on its environmental protection and rehabilitation obligations once it resumes operations in South Cotabato.

DENR Secretary Jim Sampulna cited the amendment of the Environment Code of South Cotabato, particularly on the lifting of the open-pit mining ban, which was approved on third and final reading by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of South Cotabato last May 16.

The move gave the Sagittarius Mines Inc. the green light to proceed with the development of the area and eventually commercial extraction of minerals.

The mining firm is the proponent of the Tampakan copper-gold project.

"The environment will not be sacrificed. We will see to it that the soon-to-commence Tampakan copper-gold project will be strictly monitored in compliance with applicable mining and environmental laws, rules, and regulations," Sampulna said.

"We will also require SMI to invest in equipment and manpower to ensure mitigation in case of any adverse impacts from the mining operation," he added.

Mines and Geosciences Bureau chief Wilfredo Moncano gave assurance that there are existing modern technologies that could address the potential environmental impact of the mining operations.

"We also have the DENR policy that requires mining companies to provide funds in all stages of the mining operation necessary for environmental protection and enhancement," he said.



Tampakan mining project to generate revenue in fight vs pandemic–MGB



[BYJONATHAN L. MAYUGA](#)

MAY 18, 2022

The Tampakan Copper-Gold project in South Cotabato is expected to generate much-needed government revenues that will boost the country's coffers in the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic, an official of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said.

Director Wilfredo Moncano of the DENR's Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) told the BusinessMirror that he is elated by the decision of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan (SP) of South Cotabato to amend the province's Environmental Code, which effectively lifted open-pit mining ban and paved the way for the resumption of the \$5.9-billion mining project.

"I am happy that it turn out this way because the mining project will not only generate the much-needed economic activities, additional government revenues to fight the pandemic and help the economy recover, among other benefits," he told the BusinessMirror in text message.

Moncano said the resumption of the Tampakan project will also encourage other investors—both foreign and local — to invest in the country because the mining sector has the support of not only the national but also of the local government.

On Tuesday, Moncano announced during the Executive Committee meeting of the DENR that members of the SP of South Cotabato have voted for the lifting of the ban.

Twice postponed, he said the votes lifting the ban would clear the only hurdle remaining in the realization of the development of one of the largest copper-gold reserves in Southeast Asia.

Legal compliance

"All the major requirements to legally support the mining operation had been complied with. The ECC [Environmental Clearance Certificate] has been reinstated, the Certification Precondition from the NCIP [National Commission on Indigenous Peoples] after a MOA [memorandum of agreement] was signed by the company and the IPs [indigenous peoples] were some of the issues that prevented its development and of course, the prior provincial ordinance ordering the ban," he explained.

However, Moncano said the resumption of the Tampakan project or even the lifting of the open-pit mining ban in South Cotabato does not mean that the environment will be sacrificed.

"On the contrary, this will strengthen the resolve of the regulator, DENR-MGB, and the mining company as a proponent, to require the latter to invest in equipment and personnel to look after the mitigation of any adverse impact from the mining operation," he said.

According to Moncano, there are already existing modern technologies that can address the identified environmental impacts and the policy that requires mining companies to provide funds in all stages of the mining operation necessary for environment protection and enhancement.

"These are funds that were not required in the old law but now, this is strictly implemented. So, everyone is assured that what happened in the past will not happen in the future," he assured.



Tampakan mining project to generate revenue in fight vs pandemic–MGB

Chamber lauds lifting of ban

The lifting of the ban on open-pit mining in South Cotabato aligns the local government unit's environment code with national laws on mining, which allow open-pit mining method of extracting minerals used by thousands of mining companies worldwide, the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (COMP) said in a news statement.

COMP, which represents big players in the country's mining industry, said open-pit mines can be operated safely according to globally accepted standards and can be rehabilitated properly in a manner that provides alternative and productive land use after the life of the mine.

"We laud this decision by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of South Cotabato as it paves the way for the development of the Tampakan Copper-Gold project," COMP Chairman Michael Toledo said.

Sustainable employment, better opportunities

According to COMP, with the Tampakan project, better opportunities lie ahead in South Cotabato and other areas from big-ticket mining projects.

"Together with Silangan and Kingking—two other copper-gold projects in Mindanao—Tampakan would be a powerful vehicle to achieve a vibrant, multi-faceted local and regional economy that provides sustainable employment, business opportunities, and access to education, health, infrastructure, and other social development programs that will improve and enhance the quality of life of those living in these projects' host and neighboring communities, including their children," he added.

Bigger government revenues

According to Toledo, when these projects go full swing, they can increase yearly national government revenues by P12 billion a year, local government revenues by P1.5 billion, exports by almost \$2 billion and social expenditures by close to P800 million per year.

COMP said that for Phase 1 or the first 10 years of Tampakan's operations, national taxes are estimated to reach P68 billion; local taxes, P4 billion; royalty for indigenous peoples, P4.8 billion; Social Development and Management Program, P2.6 billion.

"The Tampakan project will be an essential post-pandemic economic recovery tool whose actual and potential benefits far outweigh the potential negative impacts," Toledo said.

"We believe no other sector is likely to provide a more responsible and sustainable alternative."

Meanwhile, COMP said it welcomes any regulatory changes that would allow the revitalization of mining in our country.

The recent easing of mining policies, including this move by the South Cotabato local government, would increase the investment appetite for the industry.



Tampakan mining project to generate revenue in fight vs pandemic-MGB

"We thank President Rodrigo Duterte for creating the regulatory environment that allows such local legislation to be enacted," Toledo said. "We look forward to further growth under the new administration and are ready to contribute to economic growth, even as we continue to be fully mindful of our environment, social, and governance performance for the benefit of present and future generations of Filipinos." -30-



DENR to watch Tampakan closely after province lifts open-pit ban

May 18, 2022 | 8:15 pm



PHILIPPINE STAR FILE PHOTO

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said it will closely monitor the Tampakan open-pit copper-gold project in South Cotabato to ensure its compliance with rules protecting the environment.

"The environment will not be sacrificed. We will see to it that the soon-to-commence Tampakan copper-gold project will be strictly monitored in compliance with applicable mining and environmental laws, rules, and regulations," DENR Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna said in a statement.

On Monday, the South Cotabato provincial government lifted its ban on open-pit mining, following the amendment of the province's Environment Code.

The lifting of the ban clears the way for Tampakan, a project of Sagittarius Mines, Inc. (SMI), to proceed with operations.

Mr. Sampulna said the department "will also require SMI to invest in equipment and manpower to ensure mitigation in case of any adverse impacts from the mining operation."

Mines and Geosciences Bureau Director Wilfredo G. Moncano said technology can address the potential environmental impact of open-pit mining.



DENR to watch Tampakan closely after province lifts open-pit ban

“We also have the DENR policy that requires mining companies to (set aside) funds in all stages of the mining operation necessary for environmental protection and enhancement,” he said.

The bureau is set to convene the Mine Rehabilitation Fund Committee to oversee the use of the funds set aside for SMI’s environmental protection and enhancement program, progressive rehabilitation, and social development activities.

Mr. Moncano said SMI is compliant with all other major requirements to legally operate.

On Tuesday, Mr. Sampulna signed an administrative order setting guidelines for responsible practices to preserve terrestrial and marine biodiversity near mine sites.

“With this new order, we believe that mining companies will be more mindful of their practices in utilizing the country’s natural and mineral resources,” he said.

“We have repeatedly mentioned in the past that mineral extracting operations can be done responsibly, that the rich biodiversity within the mine site can be protected. Thus, this order is expected to support our responsible mining initiative,” he added.

The administrative order requires mining contractors and permit holders to include biodiversity measures in their respective environmental work programs, environmental protection and enhancement program, and final mine rehabilitation or decommissioning plan.

The order also requires mining companies to integrate biodiversity conservation and protection into their Social Development and Management Program (SDMP).

SDMPs are five-year plans required of mining contractors and permit holders, outlining their support for the development of host and neighboring communities. — Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson



Tampakan open-pit mining bantay-sarado ng DENR



May 18, 2022 @ 6:10 PM 13 hours ago

SOUTH COTABATO – Nangako ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa pamamagitan ng Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) na mahigpit nilang babantayan ang Tampakan copper-gold project para sa proteksiyon ng kapaligiran at obligasyon sa rehabilitasyon kapag nagsimula na muli ang operasyon nito.

Ipinahayag ni DENR Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna ang pangakong ito matapos na amyendahan ang Environment Code ng South Cotabato partikular na ang pag-alis ng open-pit mining ban na inaprubahan sa ikatlo at huling pagbasa ng Sangguniang Panlalawigan ng South Cotabato noong Mayo 16.

Sa pamamagitan nito, nagkaroon ng hudyat ang Sagittarius Mines, Inc. (SMI), ang proponent ng Tampakan copper-gold project na ipagpatuloy ang 'development' ng lugar maging ang 'commercial extraction' ng mina.

"The environment will not be sacrificed. We will see to it that the soon-to-commence Tampakan copper-gold project will be strictly monitored in compliance with applicable mining and environmental laws, rules, and regulations," saad ni Sampulna.

"We will also require SMI to invest in equipment and manpower to ensure mitigation in case of any adverse impacts from the mining operation," dagdag nito.



Tampakan open-pit mining bantay-sarado ng DENR

Kaugnay nito samantala, tiniyak naman ni DENR-MGB Director Wilfredo Moncano na mayroong modernong teknolohiya na magagamit para maibsan ang maaaring maging epekto sa kapaligiran ng mining operations.

“We also have the DENR policy that requires mining companies to provide funds in all stages of the mining operation necessary for environmental protection and enhancement,” sabi nito.

Samantala naatasan din ang DENR-MGB na bumuo ng ‘multipartite monitoring team’ na magiging responsable sa pagsasagawa ng quarterly environmental monitoring at audit ng operasyon ng mining company upang matiyak na sumusunod ito sa environmental laws.

Bunsod nito bubuo din ng Mine Rehabilitation Fund Committee (MRFC) na siyang titingin sa pamamahala at paggamit ng pondo para sa SMI’s Environmental Protection and Enhanced Program, progressive rehabilitation at social development sa pamamagitan ng livelihood activities para sa mga residenteng naninirahan malapit sa project area. *Santi Celario*



`Dolomite Beach' bawal pang languyan

NEWS

By [Abante Tonite](#) Last updated May 18, 2022



Ipinagbabawal pa rin ang mga recreational activity gaya ng pag-swimming sa `Dolomite Beach' sa Manila Bay dahil nakitaan pa ito ng fecal coliform.

Inilahad ito sa webinar na isinagawa ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) kung saan pinag-usapan ang progreso sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay kabilang ang pagbaba ng fecal contamination sa katubigan nito.

Ayon kay Glenn Alvin Gustilo, Development Management Officer II ng DENR, naobserbahan nila noong Mayo 4 ang pagbaba ng level ng fecal coliform sa tatlong istasyon ng `Dolomite Beach'.

Subalit hindi pa aniya umaabot ito sa SB level o sa klasipikasyon na puwede nang payagan ang publiko na mag-swimming, skin diving at ang pagpupunla ng mga bangus at iba pang klase ng isda sa ilang lugar ng Manila bay.

Sinabi ni Gustilo na papayagan lamang sa `Dolomite Beach' ang mga recreational activity kapag bumaba sa 100 mpn per 100ml ang coliform level nito. (Dolly Cabreza)

Source: <https://tonite.abante.com.ph/dolomite-beach-bawal-pang-languyan/>



DILG-Davao reminds poll bets to remove campaign materials



[RALPH LAWRENCE G. LLEMIT](#)

May 18, 2022

THE Department of the Interior and Local Government-Davao Region (DILG-Davao) has reminded local government units (LGUs) and election candidates to remove all campaign-related waste materials.

DILG-Davao Director Alex Roldan told SunStar Davao in a phone interview that the central office had already issued an advisory reminding the LGU and candidates to take down their campaign paraphernalia within three days after the election, but these materials have not yet been removed in some areas.

"Kung di na siya himuon, mahimo na siyang gamiton na ebidensya (If they won't do it, it can be used as evidence) for dereliction of duty sa mga local government," he said.

Roldan said some LGUs in the region were already "60 to 70 percent compliant" to the order.

Interior Secretary Eduardo Año said in an advisory that candidates are also reminded that the disposal of the election materials should coincide with "environmental laws and local ordinances and regulations against illegal dumping, open burning, and littering."



DILG-Davao reminds poll bets to remove campaign 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," Año said in the advisory.

Commission on Elections-Davao Region (Comelec-Davao) assistant regional director Gay Enumerables also reminded candidates to start removing their posters now that the election is over.

Outgoing Davao City Mayor and presumptive Vice President Sara Duterte-Carpio on Monday, May 16, also urged Dabawenyos to report election campaign materials that have not yet been removed or taken down by candidates in the 2022 local and national elections.

The mayor cited Executive Order No. 15, Series of 2022, mandating local candidates to retrieve, re-use, and recycle all national and local election campaign paraphernalia.

"Kung atoaang kaiguunan nga Dabawenyo dunay makita [na paraphernalia] pwede nilang ipadala sa atoa ang picture sa Davao City Disaster Radio na account na messenger para mapadala nato sa mga kandidato para ma-retrieve nila ilang materials (Should you see any paraphernalia you can send the picture to Davao City Disaster Radio messenger account so that we can send it to the candidates for them to retrieve their materials)," Mayor Sara said.

She, however, noted that the teams of the local candidates have already started cleaning up streets and poster areas.

The mayor also issued E.O. 15 s. 2022 in April mandating all local candidates to create their respective teams to retrieve, re-use, and recycle all local and national election paraphernalia in the city of Davao on May 10, 11, and 12, 2022.

The same order urges local and national candidates to be responsible in ensuring that their campaign materials are properly disposed of and managed after election day as this paraphernalia will no longer serve their purpose.

"There is a need to ensure that proper disposal of these campaign materials is observed to avoid contributing to more waste products and to promote effective waste management in the city," the EO reads.



DILG-Davao reminds poll bets to remove campaign materials

City Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro) head Engr. Marivic Reyes said that as of May 17, 2022, approximately 80 percent of the total campaign paraphernalia scattered across Davao City had been collected for proper disposal.

Reyes said the segregation of campaign materials is underway and those recyclables will be recycled. The non-reusable campaign materials will end up in the city landfills. The reusable materials will be handed over to local livelihood organizations that can recycle them into usable products. (With reports from CIO)



Editorial: Recycling election garbage

EDITORIAL

www.sunstar.com.ph/cebu



May 18, 2022

- A A +

The election season in the Philippines has definitely contributed to the waste problem in the country.

Even prior to the official start of the campaign period, some incumbent politicians seeking reelection, veterans seeking a comeback and rookies seeking political power had posted tarps or installed gargantuan billboards with their humongous images along major thoroughfares. When the official period kicked in, new materials came in with their faces, including their number on ballots and positions they were running for.

The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) recently directed local government units to clean up the election garbage, while local election officials urged politicians and their supporters to pull down their campaign rubbish. They should be heeded.

Politicians' posters and tarps posted everywhere have always been sore to the eyes; they have always been rubbish during pre-election, election and post-election periods.

A nongovernmental organization in Mandaue City has made a laudable move—collecting tarps to turn them into school bags. Its move has turned the eyesore to something good to see.



Editorial: Recycling election garbage

Kaabag Mandaue Foundation has initiated its program "Tarps to School Bags" with help from other groups, including the personnel of the Mandaue City College Technological Entrepreneurial Skills Training Center who made the sample bags.

Kabaag has received tarps from politicians and political parties, and the foundation's president Karla Victoria Cortes has said she's grateful for the support.

The bags will be given to schoolchildren whose parents cannot afford to buy new ones.

Local government units (LGUs) could perhaps replicate Kabaag Foundation's initiative as they have the manpower and resources. The DILG could also direct LGUs to copy Kaabag's move.

In the incoming new Congress, lawmakers should consider a complete ban on campaign posters, tarps and billboards for the sake of the environment; however, eradicating physical election materials is a long shot, considering Congress is dominated by traditional politicians who love medieval ways of campaigning.

The legislature could perhaps pass a law mandating candidates in the future to recycle their election rubbish for something good.



MMDA starts estero clean-up drive with onset of wet season



[BY CLAUDETH MOCON-CIRIACO](#)

MAY 18, 2022

[Nonie Reyes](#)



File photo shows a floating backhoe of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) during a clean up drive at one of the tributaries of Estero de Tripa de Gallina near Tramo Bridge, Aurora Avenue, Barangay 156 in Pasay City. The MMDA is set to conduct a similar clean up drive with the onset of the rainy season this year.

The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) has started the clean up and dredging operations of Metro Manila's waterways in preparation for the onset of the rainy season.

In a radio interview on Wednesday, MMDA Chairman Romando Artes said that part of their preparations are: cleaning up of esterros; removing campaign materials to prevent it from blocking the drainage; rehabilitation of the pumping stations; and construction of new pumping stations under the Department of Public Works and Highways.

To prevent the pumping stations from malfunctioning, Artes assured that necessary power and fuel are in place.

There are 30 pumping stations in the metropolis.

Artes added that trash or garbage traps were installed to block garbage from entering and damaging the agency-manned pumping stations.

"Pinapapalitan ang makina nito na parte ng rehabilitation sa ilalim ng World Bank project. [The machines of these pumping stations are being replaced as part of the rehabilitation under a World Bank project]," he added.



MMDA starts estero clean-up drive with onset of wet season

Aside from the regular maintenance of the pumping stations, desilting and dredging of rivers are also regularly conducted by the MMDA to prevent flooding.

Likewise, the MMDA chief appealed to the public to properly dispose of garbage, which usually causes flooding.



Forest ranger mauled, hacked in Zamboanga



By [AI Jacinto](#)

May 19, 2022

ZAMBOANGA CITY: A forest ranger was seriously hurt after three alleged illegal loggers attacked him with a bolo at a mangrove forest in Zamboanga City, police said on Wednesday.

Police said 42-year old [Edison Faustino de los Reyes](#) was patrolling the mangrove forest when he chanced upon the men illegally cutting trees at the reservation area. The trio quickly ganged up on [de los Reyes](#) and hacked him in the head before escaping. The attack occurred before dusk Monday in [Simariki Island](#), which is part of Talon-Talon village.

One of the attackers had been identified as [Che Ganih](#) and is now being hunted by the police, including his cohorts.

"Investigation revealed that prior to the incident, the victim was conducting roving patrol at mangrove area as part of his duty as OCENR ([Office of the City Environment and Natural Resources](#)) employee, he caught the suspects in the act of cutting and stealing mangrove trees. Upon sensing the presence of the victim, the suspects allegedly mauled and hacked the victim with a still unknown weapon. As a result, the victim sustained hack wounds on his head and the assailants fled towards the inner portion of Simariki Island," Maj. Shellamie Chang, regional police spokeswoman, said.

Simariki Island is mostly surrounded by mangroves and sandbars, and a popular destination for picnickers. The island is also a bird sanctuary.



Urban gardening encouraged as global food crisis looms

By Stephanie Sevillano May 18, 2022, 2:57 pm



GLOBAL FOOD CRISIS. Agriculture Secretary William Dar warns of a looming global food crisis as the Ukraine-Russia conflict continues, in a phone patch interview in the Laging Handa public briefing on Wednesday (May 18, 2022). He also urged the public to help farmers and fishers to increase food production by growing their own food in the urban setting. (*Screengrab*)

MANILA – Agriculture Secretary William Dar urged the public on Wednesday to help increase food production in the country by trying urban farming methods, as he warns of a looming global food crisis.

In the Laging Handa public briefing, Dar said the community should help the farmers and fishers to ensure food sustainability in the coming months.

“We must be prepared, each Filipino, if possible, let’s all plant, raise, fish, here in urban areas. If there’s a way to increase the production of our farmers and fishers, let’s do it. We also have to do it, we, as citizens, the planitito, and plantita,” he said in mixed Filipino and English.

Symptoms of the brewing crisis are slowly felt through increasing farm input prices, for instance, several prices of fertilizers have tripled, while prices for some poultry feeds have doubled.

“We are looking at the second semester of the year. Are you seeing the input prices? There are limited sources in the global food market, and so we should have advanced planning, so that’s why we have been warning and doing solutions,” he said in Filipino.

Dar, meanwhile, clarified that the country has a sufficient supply of rice, vegetables, and fish for now. However, he said the next administration must put a premium on cushioning the impact of the inevitable limitation of food resources, considering the effects of the pandemic and the continuing Ukraine-Russia conflict.

He then reiterated the next administration’s deep need to adopt and strengthen the National Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization and Industrialization Plan (NAFMIP), mentioning it may materialize the potential of the Philippines to be a “mega-industry for agriculture.”



Urban gardening encouraged as global food crisis looms

In the global setting, an estimated 1.7-billion people, the majority from developing economies, are expected to suffer greatly from “food insecurity, energy prices, and debt burdens,” according to the United Nations (UN) Task Team for the Global Crisis Response Group.

“Given elevated levels of socioeconomic stress following the COVID -19 crisis and unfolding impacts of climate change, just one of these channels is enough to trigger collapse – debt distress, food shortages, or blackouts. Of these 1.7 billion people, 553 million are already poor, and 215 million are already undernourished,” the task team indicated in their April 2022 report.

The UN also noted that with the leading role of Russia and Ukraine in supplies of food, energy, and fertilizer, 107 economies will be affected, including 38 economies in Asia and the Pacific. (PNA)



Road to 1M trees: Therma South, RAFI continue efforts to expand carbon sink

[Wednesday, May 18, 2022 Journal Online](#)



One of the Carbon Sink Management Program (CSMP) beneficiaries from Matigsalug Manobo Tribal People Council of Elders Davao, Inc. (MAMATRIPCEDI) shares with Therma South, Inc. and RAFI team members his strategies in planting and nurturing the trees in his assigned area.

DAVAO CITY — Despite the pandemic, [AboitizPower](#) subsidiary [Therma South, Inc. \(TSI\)](#), together with Ramon Aboitiz Foundation, Inc. (RAFI) and its project partners, continues to make strides toward their goal of planting 1 million trees by 2024 as part of its Carbon Sink Management Program (CSMP).

“The goal of the CSMP is to establish a long-lasting and significant strategy for carbon sequestration to mitigate the emissions of the power plant, while enjoining our indigenous communities to be partners in environmental stewardship, forest protection and conservation, and working towards sustainable development goals such as life on land ,” TSI Reputation and Stakeholder Management Supervisor JK Huyatid said.

Established in 2015, the CSMP aims to create a carbon sink by forging partnerships with various indigenous peoples’ groups and communities in Davao City to reach the 1 million trees target. A carbon sink is any natural environment, like a forest or the ocean, which absorbs more carbon than it releases and thereby lowers the concentration of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

Road to 1M trees: Therma South, RAFI continue efforts to expand carbon sink



TSI and RAFI, together with community partners recently visited the existing CSMP sites in Marilog to check on the progress of the previously planted indigenous trees

“For this year, we target to produce and plant another 100,000 seedlings of mixed timber and fruit trees. We are also maintaining the 400,000 seedlings currently in the nursery which were planted from previous years,” RAFI Project Manager Reu Zabala said.

“The CSMP project has made a great impact on our community, and gave us an opportunity to rehabilitate and restore our ancestral domain,” MAMATRIPCEDI Project Administrator Datu Oscar Sarahan said.

Representatives from MACOEMMADACCI and MAMATRIPCEDI will undergo various training on project monitoring, farming and carbon computing this year as part of the CSMP program.

To date, TSI has planted and grown more than 700,000 trees in Marilog District, Davao City under the CSMP. This program is a testament to TSI’s support to the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations, particularly on Responsible Consumption and Production and Decent Work and Economic Growth.

AboitizPower subsidiary TSI operates the 300-megawatt (2×150 MW) Davao coal-fired power plant located along the boundary of Davao City and Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur. It utilizes the Circulating Fluidized Bed (CFB) technology and it is the first plant in the Philippines to build a “coal dome” to safely store coal and prevent fugitive dust emissions.



Road to 1M trees: Therma South, RAFI continue efforts to expand carbon sink

About AboitizPower

[AboitizPower](#) is the holding company for the Aboitiz Group's investments in power generation, distribution, and retail electricity services. It advances business and communities by providing reliable and ample power supply at a reasonable and competitive price, and with the least adverse effects on the environment and host communities.

The company is one of the largest power producers in the Philippines with a balanced portfolio of assets located across the country. It is a major producer of Cleanergy, the company's brand for clean and renewable energy with several hydroelectric, geothermal, and solar power generation facilities. It also has thermal power plants in its generation portfolio to support the country's baseload and peak energy demands.

The company also owns distribution utilities that operate in high-growth areas in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao, including the country's second and third largest private utilities.

AboitizPower, together with its partners, is the Philippines' largest owner and operator of renewable energy based on installed capacity. In the next 10 years, the company will significantly expand its Cleanergy portfolio, in support of the government's efforts to promote renewable energy in the country. AboitizPower will build an additional 3,700 MW of renewable energy, growing its existing Cleanergy capacity threefold by 2030.



Envi group: Tampak Open-Pit Mining to also affect Davao Gulf



Photo by IDIS

[KRIZZY J. DAUGDAUG](#)

May 18, 2022

DAVAO Gulf is in danger once the Tampak Open-Pit Mining in South Cotabato pushes through, said Atty. Mark Peñalver, executive director of Interfacing Development Interventions for Sustainability (Idis).

“Although the project is not here in Davao City, it will affect all connected watersheds... it will affect the marine ecosystem dire, dili pa nato sya mafeel outright but eventually mathreatened gyud ang biodiversity sa atong marine ecosystem sa Davao Gulf kung magpadayon man ang operation didto sa South Cotabato (The effect is not outright but it will eventually threaten the biodiversity of the marine ecosystem once the operation starts in South Cotabato),” Peñalver said.

The South Cotabato Sangguniang Panlalawigan on Monday, May 16, 2022 approved the proposal to overturn the controversial ban on open-pit mining, removing a decades-long stumbling block to the \$5.9 billion Tampak Open-Pit Mining project, which is Southeast Asia's largest unexplored copper-gold goldmine.



Envi group: Tampakan Open-Pit Mining to also affect Davao Gulf

Idis said in a statement that the open-pit mining project is expected to use groundwater resources that will transport highly toxic wastewater through a 150-km pipe from the Municipality of Malalag draining to Davao Gulf.

The group added that despite the treatment process presented, risks of overland flow, flooding disasters, and possible collapse of tailings ponds will impair marine and aquatic biodiversity including loss of habitat of the sea turtles residing in Davao Gulf due to developments. The gulf is home to the Hawksbill Sea Turtle that is classified under the IUCN Red List as critically endangered and Green Sea Turtle, which is endangered, as well as Olive Ridley and Leatherback which are classified vulnerable.

The fish stocks, and aquaculture in the coastal areas is also expected to be affected which is similar to the incident (siltation and discoloration) in Mapagba River in Banaybanay in January 2022.

“Not all legal is moral, dili pasabot nga nakakuha silag permit, then tama na ni sya, tan-awon nato dire ang general welfare sa mga katawhan, yes naay nakabenefit sa mga ginahatag sa mining industry but kinsa man to sila? Gagmay lang man pud to compared sa mga naapektuhan (permit does not mean it is right, we should consider general welfare of the people, and only few benefited from it over affected sectors).” Peñalver said.

According to Idis due to its geomorphological qualities (open-pit mining), connecting rivers and tributaries at the surface, and including groundwater reserves, what happens in one portion of the watershed will affect the entire watershed, from forests, agricultural, urban, and coastal to estuarine ecosystems.

Affected watersheds as identified by IDIS are in South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao, and Davao del Sur. It also poses a threat to the ecological integrities of Allah Valley (102,000 hectares) in Sultan Kudarat, the watershed of the Padada River (120,000 hectares) in Davao del Sur, and the watershed of the Marbel River (122,000 hectares) in the Province of Cotabato.

Meanwhile, Idis urged Dabawenyos to help them in stopping the approval of the Tampakan open-pit mining through signing the petition at <https://bit.ly/NoToTampakanMining>.

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1929413/davao/local-news/envi-group-tampakan-open-pit-mining-to-also-affect-davao-gulf>



Odd (wo)man out in Digong's Cabinet

By [Ramon T. Tulfo](#) (The Philippine Star)
- May 19, 2022 - 12:00am

Vice President Leni Robredo, one of the defeated presidential candidates, has urged her supporters to accept the voice of the electorate, an indication she has conceded although she hasn't said so yet.

In a "thanksgiving" event at the Ateneo de Manila University campus, Robredo said that she was setting up a volunteer network whose mission is to help "those in the fringes of society."

She did that – connect with volunteers and donors from the private sector – at the start of her term in 2016 but got sidetracked when she was appointed to the housing and urban development coordinating council.

However, President Digong Duterte kicked her out and later appointed her as co-chairperson of the Inter-Agency Committee on Anti-Illegal Drugs. She was also given the boot in that position.

From where I sit, the "Davao Group" in Malacañang drove a wedge between her and the President. Pinag-away sila (They were pitted against each other).

Yes, Leni was an odd man (or woman) out in the Duterte Cabinet, but that could have been solved by having open dialogues with her. After all, she was doing what a member of the opposition was expected to do: check and balance.

If the President didn't want any opposition within his circle, why did he give her positions of trust in the first place?

What happened to Robredo also happened to the late Gina Lopez, who was secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The Davao Group influenced the Commission on Appointments (COA) to give Lopez's appointment the thumbs down.

The powerful commission, composed of selected senators and congressmen/women, was influenced by the Davao Group and presidential cronies who have interests in mining, which was anathema to Lopez, an environmentalist.

Needless to say, I could not go directly to Digong even if I was performing my job as a special envoy to China. The Davao Group blocked me at every turn from seeing Digong who, I learned from some insiders, would sometimes ask for me. He was told that I could not be reached even if I am always available to chat with my bosom friend.

I could only see the President when I persisted, which was few and far between.

The Davao Group isolated Digong from the rest of the world.

* * *



Odd (wo)man out in Digong's Cabinet

Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) chairman and former Mandaluyong mayor Benhur Abalos would make an excellent secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG).

The impending appointment of Abalos as DILG chief has been announced by presumptive president Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos.

Abalos is an astute politician and excellent leader.

"We have seen how he ably steered the COVID-19 pandemic response in the National Capital Region which has resulted in the downward trend of coronavirus cases and the successful rollout of the vaccination program in Metro Manila," said Eduardo Año, the guy he would replace at the DILG.

Let's hope Benhur Abalos makes the ill-disciplined Philippine National Police (PNP) toe the line.

The PNP is under the supervision of the DILG chief who is also ex-officio chairman of the National Police Commission, a policy-making and disciplinary body.

A disciplined police force leads to a reduced crime rate.

* * *

If less and less water flows out of the Angat Dam, blame it on illegal quarrying in its watershed.

The dam supplies water to Metro Manila.

Illegal quarrying in the Angat Dam watershed straddling the towns of Angat and Norzagaray in Bulacan has led to the erosion of the areas around the dam.

Trees that hold the soil in the watershed have been cut to give way to illegal quarrying.

The mayor of one of the towns in Bulacan is reported to be the quarry operator.

Corrupt personnel of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) have not stopped the quarrying because they receive bribes from the mayor.

Presumptive congressman Salvador Pleyto is the source of the information.

Pleyto, who won over his five opponents in the newly created sixth district of Bulacan, said the illegal quarrying has complete disregard for the environment.

Nobody is stopping the quarrying. "The police, military and DENR people look the other way while Mother Nature is being violated," said Pleyto.

Pleyto's sixth district is composed of the towns of Sta. Maria, Norzagaray and Angat.

Norzagaray has a big indigenous Dumagat tribe settlement in Bgy. San Mateo.

Pleyto said it is ironic that despite their accessibility to the Angat Dam, the Dumagats have no water.



Odd (wo)man out in Digong's Cabinet

The presumptive congressman said his first order of business would be to plead with the provincial or national government to provide clean water to the tribe.

Pleyto has a heart for the indigenous people. I've known him since his days as a district engineer of the Department of Public Works and Highways in Mindoro Oriental in the early 1980s.

I was hunting wild game – which is now illegal – in 1983 when I first met Pleyto, who employed Mangyans, indigenous people in Mindoro, on a road construction project.

He was the first district engineer in Mindoro to employ Mangyans on a rotation basis.

When members of a Mangyan tribe received their weekly pay every Saturday, they would not report for work on Mondays, prompting him to hire another tribe to do the roadwork.

The Mangyan tribesmen that went absent would report the following week to replace the tribesmen that replaced them. This would be repeated every week, said the former district engineer Pleyto.

"I'll spend the remaining years of my life serving the less fortunate among my constituents, and they include the Dumagat tribes," the 80-year-old newly elected congressman of Bulacan said.



Legarda says to address climate issues as she returns to Senate

Raffy Cabristante, ABS-CBN News

Posted at May 18 2022 08:58 PM | Updated as of May 18 2022 10:56 PM



Loren Legarda at the proclamation of the winning Senatorial candidates at the PICC on May 18, 2022. *Mark Demayo, ABS-CBN News*

MANILA — Antique Rep. Loren Legarda is set to return to the Senate after winning her fourth term in the 2022 senatorial race.

"I look forward to my fourth term in the Senate po ngayon. [Ako] ang pinaka-senior po, hindi po sa edad, kundi po sa pang-apat kong termino sa Senado ngayon," Legarda said in her speech on Wednesday after being proclaimed as senator-elect.

(I am the most senior, not because of age, but because I am getting my fourth term in the Senate now.)

Legarda says to address climate issues as she returns to Senate

She said she looks forward to working with the newer, first-term senators-elect, who she expects to bring "a fresh perspective to the current problems facing the Senate today."

"Noong 1998, ako po ang Benjamin of the [upper] house. Pinakabatang senador, aaminin ko, 38 years old ako noon," Legarda said, referring to the biblical character who was the youngest among Jacob's sons.



Legarda says to address climate issues as she returns to Senate

(Back in 1998, I was the the Benjamin of the upper house. I admit I was the youngest senator; I was only 38 years old back then.)

"And I can say that the problems of 1998 still persist today. Pero mas malala po ngayon dahil sa twin crises facing us," she added, referring to the COVID-19 pandemic and the climate crisis.

(But the problems are worse today because of the twin crises facing us.)

She said that in her new term as senator, she would push for measures to address the country's climate problem, as well as craft "green, sustainable, and resilient" recovery methods from the pandemic.

"Inaalay ko po ang aking karanasan sa tatlong termino sa Senado, inaalay po naming lahat ang aming sipag, at alam at sakripisyo po para maibsan po natin ang mga pangangailangan ng taong bayan," Legarda said.

(I dedicate my three-term experience in the Senate, and all of us dedicate our hard work, wisdom, and sacrifices to address the needs of our people.)

Legarda finished second in the 2022 Senate race with 24,264,969 votes, trailing actor and fellow Senator-elect Robin Padilla.

Once she is sworn into office on June 30, Legarda will be serving her fourth stint in the Senate. She previously served as senator from 1998 to 2004 and from 2007 to 2019.

She is the only female politician in the country to top 2 senatorial elections, first in 1998 and then in 2007.

Legarda also ran for vice president twice but lost both times, first in 2004 in tandem with the late actor Fernando Poe Jr., and then in 2010 with then-senator Manny Villar.



COP26 chief: Leaders must do more to honour climate promises

Published
2 days ago

COP26 climate summit president Alok Sharma says world leaders must deliver on the promises they made

Global leaders have not done enough to honour commitments made at the COP26 climate summit, its president has said.

Alok Sharma said more must be done to hit the targets agreed in Glasgow, warning that failure would be "an act of monstrous self-harm".

Six months on from the event, he said countries needed to "up the pace" in the push towards carbon-neutral energy.

Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon also issued a warning over climate change, during a trip to the US.

She said that a failure to hit targets agreed at COP26 would be "catastrophic" for the planet.

[Is the UK on track to meet its climate targets?](#)

[What was agreed at COP26?](#)

[UN scientists: It's 'now or never' to fix climate change](#)

Mr Sharma, a minister in the UK government's cabinet office, was in Glasgow to mark six months from last year's UN conference.

He said it was understandable that climate change was no longer on the front pages, amid the war in Ukraine and the cost-of-living crisis.

But he said these issues "should increase, not diminish, our determination to deliver on what the world agreed in Glasgow".



COP26 chief: Leaders must do more to honour climate promises



IMAGE SOURCE,GETTY IMAGES

Image caption,
Glasgow was the host of the COP26 summit

The summit was aimed at hammering out agreements that would hold average global temperature rises under 1.5C.

However, scientists warn that there is a 6-10% chance of meeting this threshold, and that even if pledges are fully delivered the temperature rise will be closer to 2C.

Mr Sharma said "the window of time we have left to act is closing fast", with climate change "already wreaking havoc".

He said: "Progress is of course welcome, but frankly we need to up the pace. Leaders have not done enough to deliver on their Glasgow commitments, and that must change.

"We need every nation to pick up the pace. We need every leader to show that their words were not hollow, that their commitments were made with integrity, and that they recognise that though the immediate challenges we face are grave, we will only inflame them if we falter.

"It is leaders who made promises, it is leaders who must honour them."

COP26 chief: Leaders must do more to honour climate promises



Analysis By Justin Rowlatt Climate editor

It isn't surprising Alok Sharma is worried about the world honouring the climate promises made in Glasgow in November.

Food, energy and finance costs are soaring around the world.

Sri Lanka and Peru have already seen protests prompted by rising fuel, fertilizer and food costs.

A United Nations insider told me last week it has a watchlist of 35 other countries it fears are also on the verge of widespread unrest, even uprisings.

The worry is climate promises will be put on the backburner while leaders deal with more immediate crises.

Many countries which had made net zero pledges are now considering licensing new oil and gas projects - including the UK.

At the same time, oil and gas companies are enjoying bumper profits.

It has put paid - at least in the short run - to the idea that tumbling renewable energy prices would see the returns on fossil fuel investments collapse.

Mr Sharma's message today was that these headwinds must not derail the Glasgow Pact.

Leaders have to honour their commitments and show, he said, that the international system is still taking the world towards "a cleaner, safer and more prosperous future."

Mr Sharma told BBC Scotland that in the final moments of the Glasgow talks "I genuinely thought there was a point where we weren't going to get a deal".

He said "we have to be hopeful" that global temperature rises can be held down, while warning that "we need to act now".

Ms Sturgeon also highlighted her fears about the climate emergency when she addressed the Brookings Institute in Washington DC.



COP26 chief: Leaders must do more to honour climate promises

She said: "Six months on from COP26, the world looks very different, but many of the challenges we faced then remain.

"As things stand, the world is on course to exceed both 1.5C of global warming and the 2C threshold - and scientific consensus is overwhelming that this will be catastrophic.

"We need to move at pace to develop clean energy sources and act in a way which shows solidarity with communities in our countries who might otherwise get left behind, and with the global south."



IMAGE SOURCE,PA MEDIA

Image caption,

Nicola Sturgeon is focusing on climate change as part of her trip to the US

Last week [US climate envoy John Kerry](#) said the war in Ukraine had not wrecked the Glasgow Climate Pact agreed in November.

Both Mr Sharma and Ms Sturgeon referenced the Russian invasion, with the Scottish first minister saying it is "forcing countries in Europe to rethink long-held assumptions about energy policy and energy security".



COP26 chief: Leaders must do more to honour climate promises

And Mr Sharma highlighted the "danger of energy systems powered by foreign fossil fuel", calling instead for a focus on "low cost home grown renewables the price of which cannot be manipulated from afar".

According to a UN report, [the world is on track to warm by 3.2C this century](#) if countries only follow through on commitments made before the Glasgow summit.

This would lead to "unprecedented heatwaves, terrifying storms, and widespread water shortages".

To avoid that fate, the world must keep the rise in temperatures at or under 1.5C this century, researchers have said, and reach peak CO2 emissions by 2025.



Trapping CO₂ from the air is a costly bet to beat climate change — but money is flowing in anyway

Large corporations and governments are pumping billions into the technology decades away from maturity. How money should be split between emissions reductions today and carbon removal down the road is a fine balancing act, experts say.



World largest direct air capture plant in Iceland, built by Swiss firm Climeworks. Image: Climeworks.

By [Liang Lei](#)

6 minute read May 18, 2022

Sieving carbon dioxide from the skies to fight climate change is still just hot air based on today's numbers.

The 19 direct air capture (DAC) plants globally capture 10,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide in a year, according to the International Energy Agency (IEA). That is the same amount the United States emits in about a minute.

The facilities don't run cheap either. The largest DAC plant in the world, situated in Iceland with a capacity to trap 4,000 tonnes of CO₂ a year, charges US\$600-800 per tonne, making it one of the world's most expensive climate solutions.

Source: <https://www.eco-business.com/news/trapping-co2-from-the-air-is-a-costly-bet-to-beat-climate-change-but-money-is-flowing-in-anyway/>



9M patay kada taon sa polusyon – pag-aaral



May 18, 2022 @ 3:00 PM 16 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines- Pumalo sa 9 milyon kada taon mula noong 2015 ang namamatay dahil sa lumalalang outdoor air pollution at toxic lead poisoning dulot ng environmental contamination, batay sa mga siyentista nitong Martes.

Tumaas ng 7 porsyento ang pollution-related deaths mula 2015 hanggang 2019 dahil sa polusyon sa hangin mula sa industry processes na sinabayan ng urbanization, ayon sa pagsisiyasat ng mga siyentista sa datos ng global mortality at pollution levels.

“We’re sitting in the stew pot and slowly burning,” ani Richard Fuller, co-author ng pag-aaral at pinuno ng global nonprofit Pure Earth. Subalit hindi katulad ng climate change, malaria, o HIV, “we haven’t given (environmental pollution) much focus.”

An earlier version of the work published in 2017 also estimated the death toll from pollution at roughly 9 million per year — or about one of every six deaths worldwide — and the cost to the global economy at up to \$4.6 trillion per year. That puts pollution on par with smoking in terms of global deaths. COVID-19, by comparison, has killed about 6.7 million people globally since the pandemic began.

Batay sa pagsusuri, napag-alaman na ang mga pagkasawi mula sa traditional pollutants ay unti-unti nang nababawasan. Subalit nanatili itong malaking problema sa Africa at iba pang developing countries. Kabilang ang Chad, Central African Republic at Niger sa tatlong bansa na may pinakamaraming pollution-related deaths, batay sa datos.



9M patay kada taon sa polusyon – pag-aaral

Nabanggit din sa pag-aaral ang 10 bansa na pinaka-apektado ng pollution-related deaths:

Chad;

Central African Republic;

Niger;

Solomon Islands;

Somalia;

South Africa;

North Korea;

Lesotho;

Bulgaria; at

Burkina Fas. RNT/SA

PAGASA announces start of rainy season

By GMA News

Published May 18, 2022 4:55pm



In an advisory, the state weather bureau said the country's current weather system has satisfied the criteria for the onset of the rainy season.

The rainy season in the Philippines has officially started, PAGASA announced Tuesday.

In an advisory, the state weather bureau said the country's current weather system has satisfied the criteria for the onset of the rainy season.

"The presence of a frontal system and the occurrence of severe thunderstorms have brought widespread rains during the last five days in areas under Type I climate and other parts of the country. Moreover, southwesterly wind flow was also observed during the past few days. This satisfies the criteria of the start of the rainy season over the western sections of Luzon and Visayas," said PAGASA.

It also said intermittent rain—associated with the Southwest Monsoon—will begin affecting Metro Manila and the western sections of the country. Monsoon breaks which can last for several days or weeks may likewise occur.

Meanwhile, the ongoing La Niña may continue affecting several parts of the country and increase the likelihood of above-normal rainfall conditions in the coming months, it added.

"Despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, DOST-PAGASA will continue to monitor the day-to-day weather and long-term climate situation and provide updates when significant changes occur," said PAGASA.



PAGASA announces start of rainy season

Weather report

Meanwhile, the frontal system and the southwesterly surface windflow will bring rain over parts of extreme northern Luzon and the western sections of northern and Central Luzon, PAGASA said.

Based on the 4 p.m. weather forecast, Batanes, Babuyan Islands, and Ilocos Norte will experience cloudy skies with rains due to frontal system with possible flash floods or landslides due to moderate to at times heavy rains.

Metro Manila, CALABARZON, Bataan, Zambales, Pampanga, Bulacan, and the rest of Ilocos Region will have cloudy skies with scattered rain showers and thunderstorms caused by southwesterly surface windflow.

The rest of the country will experience partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rain showers or thunderstorms with possible flash floods or landslides during severe thunderstorms.

The wind speed forecast for extreme northern Luzon will be moderate to strong moving northeast, while coastal water conditions will be moderate to rough.

Meanwhile, the rest of the country will experience light to moderate wind speed, while slight to moderate coastal water conditions.

The sun will rise at 5:28 a.m. on Thursday. — Sundy Locus and Richa Noriega/BM,

19 MAY 2022, Thursday



DENR

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR to strictly monitor Tampakan mining

BY JED MACAPAGAL

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) will strictly monitor the operations of the Tampakan copper-gold project in Mindanao following the lifting of the open pit mining ban in South Cotabato.

Jim Sampulna, DENR acting secretary, said the lifting of

the ban signals Sagittarius Mines Inc. (SMI), proponent of the Tampakan copper-gold project, to proceed with the development of the area and to commercially extract minerals.

"The environment will not be sacrificed. We will see to it the soon-to-commence Tampakan copper-gold project will be strictly monitored in compliance with applicable mining and environmental

laws, rules, and regulations," Sampulna said.

Sampulna added MGB will also require SMI to invest in equipment and manpower to ensure mitigation in case of any adverse impacts from the mining operation.

Wilfredo Moncano, MGB director, said modern technologies can address the potential environmental impact of the mining operations in Tampakan.

"We also have the DENR policy that requires mining companies to provide funds in all stages of the mining operation necessary for environmental protection and enhancement," Moncano added.

The MGB said all other major requirements to legally support the mining operation had been complied with by SMI, including

See DENR Page A2

DENR

the Environmental Compliance Certificate and the Certification Precondition from the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples after the Free and Prior Informed Consent process was undertaken and a memorandum of agreement was signed with indigenous peoples.

The DENR is tasked to create a multipartite monitoring team that will be responsible for the conduct of quarterly environmental monitoring and audit of the mining company's operation to ensure it is in line with environmental laws.

It is also set to convene the Mine

Rehabilitation Fund Committee to oversee the management and utilization of the funds for SMI's Environmental Protection and Enhancement Program, progressive rehabilitation, and social development through livelihood activities for residents living close to the project area.



DENR to strictly monitor Tampakan mine

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), through the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), committed to strictly monitor the Tampakan copper-gold project on its environmental protection and rehabilitation obligations once it resumes operations.

Environment and Natural Resources Acting Secretary Jim Sampulna made the commitment following the amendment of the Environment Code of South Cotabato, particularly on the lifting of the open-pit mining ban, which was approved on third and final reading by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of South Cotabato on May 16.

The move signals Sagittarius Mines Inc. (SMI), the proponent of the Tampakan copper-gold project, to proceed with the development of the area, and eventually, commercial extraction of minerals.

"The environment will not be sacrificed. We will see to it that the soon-to-commence Tampakan copper-gold project will be strictly monitored in compliance

with applicable mining and environmental laws, rules and regulations," Sampulna said.

"We will also require SMI to invest in equipment and manpower to ensure mitigation in case of any adverse impacts from the mining operation," he added.

For his part, DENR-MGB Director Wilfredo Moncano assured that there are existing modern technologies that can address the potential environmental impact of the mining operations.

"We also have the DENR policy that requires mining companies to provide funds in all stages of the mining operation necessary for environmental protection and enhancement," he said.

The DENR-MGB is tasked to create a multipartite monitoring team that will be responsible for the conduct of quarterly environmental monitoring and audit of the mining company's operation to ensure it is in line with environmental laws.

EIREENE JAIREE GOMEZ



DENR keeps keen eyes on mining in S. Cotabato

By Rio N. Araja

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Wednesday vowed to strictly monitor the Tampakan copper-gold project on its environmental protection and rehabilitation obligations once it resumes operations in South Cotabato.

DENR Secretary Jim Sampulna cited the amendment of the Environment

Code of South Cotabato, particularly on the lifting of the open-pit mining ban, which was approved on third and final reading by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of South Cotabato last May 16.

The move gave the Sagittarius Mines Inc. the green light to proceed with the development of the area and eventually commercial extraction of minerals.

The mining firm is the proponent of the Tampakan copper-gold project.

“The environment will not be sacrificed. We will see to it that the soon-to-commence Tampakan copper-gold project will be strictly monitored in compliance with applicable mining and environmental laws, rules, and regulations,” Sampulna said.

“We will also require SMI to invest in equipment and manpower to ensure mitigation in case of any adverse impacts from the mining operation,” he added.



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DENR to watch Tampakan closely after province lifts open-pit ban

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said it will closely monitor the Tampakan open-pit copper-gold project in South Cotabato to ensure its compliance with rules protecting the environment.

"The environment will not be sacrificed. We will see to it that the soon-to-commence Tampakan copper-gold project will be strictly monitored in compliance with applicable mining and environmental laws, rules, and regulations," DENR Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna said in a statement.

On Monday, the South Cotabato provincial government lifted its ban on open-pit mining, following the amendment of the province's Environment Code.

The lifting of the ban clears the way for Tampakan, a project of Sagittarius Mines, Inc. (SMI), to proceed with operations.

Mr. Sampulna said the department "will also require SMI to invest in equipment and manpower to ensure mitigation in case of any adverse impacts from the mining operation."

Mines and Geosciences Bureau Director Wilfredo G. Moncano said technology can

address the potential environmental impact of open-pit mining.

"We also have the DENR policy that requires mining companies to (set aside) funds in all stages of the mining operation necessary for environmental protection and enhancement," he said.

The bureau is set to convene the Mine Rehabilitation Fund Committee to oversee the use of the funds set aside for SMI's environmental protection and enhancement program, progressive rehabilitation, and social development activities.

Mr. Moncano said SMI is compliant with all other major requirements to legally operate.

On Tuesday, Mr. Sampulna signed an administrative order setting guidelines for responsible practices to preserve terrestrial and marine biodiversity near mine sites.

"With this new order, we believe that mining companies will be more mindful of their practices in utilizing the country's natural and mineral resources," he said. —

Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson

FULL STORY



Read the full story by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or by typing the link

bit.ly/Tampakan051922



AFTER PROVINCIAL OPEN PIT MINING BAN LIFTED

REGULATORS VOW STRICT OVERSIGHT OF TAMPAKAN MINE

By Jordeene B. Lagare
@jordeenelagare

As South Cotabato lifted the provincial ban on open pit mining, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) vowed to strictly monitor the Tampakan copper-gold project once its development resumes.

Earlier, the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of South Cotabato reversed the moratorium on open pit mining, clearing Sagittarius Mines Inc.'s (SMI) last hurdle to finally proceed with its stalled \$5.9-billion project and subsequently, the commercial extraction of minerals.

In a statement, acting En-

vironment Secretary Jim Sampulna said the DENR will see to it that SMI will comply with its environmental protection and rehabilitation obligations.

SMI will also be required to invest in equipment and manpower "to ensure mitigation in case of any adverse impacts from the mining operation."

B3

REGULATORS VOW STRICT OVERSIGHT

FROM B1 "The environment will not be sacrificed. We will see to it that the soon-to-commence Tampakan copper-gold project will be strictly monitored in compliance with applicable mining and environmental laws, rules and regulations," added Sampulna.

The Tampakan mine is touted as one of the largest untapped copper and gold mines in Southeast Asia and among the biggest of its kind worldwide. It has the potential to yield an average of 375,000 tonnes per annum of copper and

360,000 ounces per annum of gold in concentrate throughout its expected 17-year life.

The project, covering an area of approximately 10,000 hectares, is situated between the towns of Tampakan, South Cotabato, and Kiblawan, Davao del Sur, in southern Mindanao.

The Chamber of Mines of the Philippines lauded the decision of South Cotabato's local government, saying this would help revive the mining industry and the entire country overcome the adverse economic impacts of the coronavirus pandemic. **INQ**



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DENR issues guidelines

By CATHERINE TALAVERA

on responsible mining

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is strengthening measures to protect terrestrial and marine biodiversity in mining operations.

DENR Acting Secretary Jim Sampulna issued administrative Order (DAO) 2022-04, which provides guidelines on responsible mining.

"With this new order, we believe that mining companies will be more mindful of their practices in utilizing the country's natural and mineral resources," Sampulna said.

"We have repeatedly mentioned in the past that mineral extracting operations can be done responsibly, that the rich biodiversity within the mine site can be protected. Thus, this order is expected to support our responsible mining initiative," he said.

The DAO requires mining contractors, permit holders, and permittees to include biodiversity measures in their respective environmental work program, environmental protection and enhancement program, and final mine rehabilitation and/or decommissioning plan.

According to the DENR, the biodiversity measures will be integrated in all stages of mining operations, including exploration, development and utilization, closure, decommissioning, and rehabilitation.

Meanwhile, the order also mandates the progressive rehabilitation or temporary revegetation of disturbed areas, to be undertaken at every stage of mining operation to restore mined-out areas and allow regeneration of the biodiversity to preserve "ecosystem goods and services."

It also prompts mining companies to integrate biodiversity

conservation and protection in their Social Development and Management Program (SDMP).

SDMP is the five-year plan of mining contractors and permit holders, which contains plans to support the development and empowerment of host and neighboring communities.

Among the SDMP mea-

sures identified by the DAO are the inclusion of biodiversity-friendly enterprises, propagation of native plants, development of green parks, promotion of agroforestry, and other wealth creation projects that will create green jobs to augment livelihood during and after mining.

The DENR's Biodiversity

Management Bureau, the Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau, and their regional counterparts are also mandated to take part in relevant committees such as the contingent liability and rehabilitation fund steering committee, mine rehabilitation fund committee, and multipartite monitoring team.



Miners welcome lifting of open pit mining ban

The Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (COMP) welcomed the decision of South Cotabato's provincial legislative board to lift the ban on open pit mining as it would pave the way for the development of the Tampakan copper gold project, which is seen to boost economic activity in the Mindanao region.

"Together with Silangan and Kingking - two other copper-gold projects in Mindanao - Tampakan would be a powerful vehicle to achieve a vibrant, multi-faceted local and regional economy that provides sustainable employment, business opportunities, and access to education, health, infrastructure, and other social development programs that will improve and enhance the quality of life of those living in these projects' host and neighboring communities, including their children," COMP chairman Michael Toledo said in a statement.

"When these projects go full swing, they can increase yearly national government revenues by P12 billion a year, local government revenues by P1.5 billion, exports by almost \$2 billion, and social expenditures by close to P800 million per year," he said.

The Tampakan project of Sagittarius Mines Inc. has the potential to yield an average of 375,000 tons of copper and 360,000 ounces of gold in concentrate per annum over the proposed 17-year life of the mine.

According to COMP, national taxes to be generated from phase 1 or the first 10 years of the Tampakan project's operations are estimated to reach P68 billion.

Local taxes are estimated to reach P4 billion, royalty for indigenous peoples at P4.8 billion, and Social Development and Management Program at

P2.6 billion.

"The Tampakan project will be an essential post-pandemic economic recovery tool whose actual and potential benefits far outweigh the potential negative impacts," Toledo said.

In March, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Acting Secretary Jim Sampulna said the government would respect the outcome of the public hearings called by the provincial board on the proposed amendments to the Environment Code.

COMP said the lifting of the ban on open pit mining in South Cotabato aligns the local government unit's environment code with national laws on mining, which allow this primary method of minerals extraction used by thousands of mines worldwide.

"Open pit mines can be operated safely, according to globally accepted standards, and can be rehabilitated properly in a manner that provides alternative and productive land use after the life of the mine," COMP said.

Last December, former DENR secretary Roy Cimatu issued an order, lifting the ban on the open-pit method for mining for copper, gold, silver, and complex ores in the country.

COMP said it welcomes any regulatory changes that would allow the revitalization of mining in the country. It said the recent easing of mining policies, including this move by the South Cotabato LGU, would increase investment appetite for the industry.

"We look forward to further growth under the new administration and are ready to contribute to economic growth, even as we continue to be fully mindful of our environment, social, and governance performance for the benefit of present and future generations of Filipinos," he said. - Catherine Talavera



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Group condemns lifting of mining ban

THE Davao-based environmental group Interfacing Development Interventions for Sustainability (IDIS) has strongly condemned the swift amendment of the Environment Code of South Cotabato, specifically the lifting of the ban on open-pit mining.

The IDIS, in its statement Tuesday, said the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of South Cotabato did not consider the magnitude of the effects of their action on the people and the environment, not only in South Cotabato.

The group said this will affect the multiple watersheds of South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao and

Davao del Sur. It will also threaten the ecological integrities of 102,000-hectare Allah Valley in Sultan Kudarat, the 120,000-hectare watershed of the Padada River in Davao del Sur, and the 122,000-hectare watershed of the Marbel River in the Province of Cotabato.

Watersheds are geographical ecological units and what happens in one part of the watershed will also influence nearby forests, agricultural, urban, and coastal to estuarine ecosystems. This is because of geo-morphological characteristics as well as the connected rivers and

tributaries at the surface, and the groundwater reserves.

Open-pit or strip mining is a metallic mining method assessed as one of the most extensively difficult to mitigate and manage. Its impacts do not focus on one contained area alone. It also requires mass deforestation and removing 20-30 meters of the laterite zone to access the metallic resources underneath.

This large-scale industry demands enormous hectares of land for operational processes from stripping, extraction, and tailings treatment, to ship loading and refinery.

The Tampakan Open-Pit Mining will also use groundwater resources and transport highly toxic waste water through a 150-km pipe from the Municipality of Malalag draining to Davao Gulf. There may be a treatment process. However, the risks of overland flow, flooding disasters, or possible collapse of tailings ponds will impair marine and aquatic biodiversity, fish stocks, and aquaculture in the coastal areas. This will be similar to the incident in Mapagba River in Banaybanay, Davao Oriental in January 2022.

RUTH PALO



DMCI plans merging its mining subsidiaries

By JAMES A. LOYOLA

Diversified engineering conglomerate DMCI Holdings, Inc. is considering the merger of its two mining subsidiaries, Semirara Mining and Power Corporation and DMCI Mining, which are now highly profitable due to surging global prices.

During the firm's annual stockholders' meeting, DMCI Chairman Isidro A. Consunji said "We are currently studying whether it will create value for our two sets of stockholders."

He added that they are looking of transferring or consolidating DMCI Mining into Semirara will create value for both the stockholders of Semirara and the stockholders of DMCI Holdings which owns DMCI Mining.

Aside from its existing nickel mine in Zambales and coal assets in Semirara island, Consunji said DMCI has "several properties in Palawan that are awaiting permits that will lead to an MPSA (Mineral Production Sharing Agreement)."

In Zambales, he said DMCI has a property for chromite as well as some other adjacent areas that are diversified.

While prices are elevated for commodities including nickel and coal because of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, Consunji said there are various challenges such as Covid surges as well as high inflation and interest rates that may affect the profitability of their businesses.

"This year is a hard one to call. While these events are raising the prices of coal, nickel and electricity, they are also

disrupting demand, supply chains and economic activities," he noted.

Consunji added that, "At this point, the only thing we can conclude is that market volatility and uncertainty will remain elevated for the rest of the year." Meanwhile, DMCI has elected Roberto L. Panlilio, Bernardo M. Villegas, and Cynthia R. del Castillo as independent directors during its Annual Stockholders' Meeting.

They will take the seats of outgoing Executive Director Herbert M. Consunji and Independent Directors Antonio Jose U. Periquet and Honorio O. Reyes-Lao, who were all tapped to serve as advisors to the Board.

Panlilio is the former Country Chairman for the Philippines of J.P. Morgan, a global leader in financial services while Villegas is an economist, educator, author, columnist and director in several corporations and foundations.

Del Castillo is a Senior Partner and Executive Board member of Romulo Mabanta Buenaventura Sayoc and De Los Angeles. She is the first female independent director of DMCI Holdings and her appointment raises the company's total female board representation to nearly half (4 out of 9).

"We are happy to welcome our new independent directors and advisors to the board. With their diverse backgrounds, professional expertise and exceptional qualifications, the Board can better navigate the increasingly complex and uncertain business environment," said Consunji.



Up climate-change mitigation, biz owners urged

ACTING Environment and Natural Resources Sec. Jim O. Sampilna has urged businesses to step up efforts in switching to sustainable actions to combat the effects of climate change and environmental destruction in celebration of the Earth Day on April 22.

With this year's theme "#InvestInOurPlanet," Sampilna encouraged manufacturing companies, food businesses, and market vendors to join ef-

forts to minimize the use of non-biodegradable and single-use plastics for packaging, which are the major contributor to the country's residual and solid waste.

In a statement, Sampilna stressed that small actions, such as recycling and re-using materials, are helpful, but industries should also take part as they are also producers of plastic waste.

"Using small plastic packaging like sachets and plastic bottles is still ram-

nant in our country today. I am urging all manufacturing firms to come up with their own recovery project where they will retrieve and buy back these plastic wastes from their consumers for cash or even food items like rice and groceries," he said.

The DENR chief also called on food companies to switch to food packaging that is reusable or biodegradable, as these wastes, when not properly disposed of, end up in creeks, rivers, and oceans.



'Dolomite Beach' bawal pang languya

Ipinagbabawal pa rin ang mga recreational activity gaya ng pag-swimming sa 'Dolomite Beach' sa Manila Bay dahil nakitaan pa ito ng fecal coliform.

Inilahad ito sa webinar na isinagawa ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) kung saan pinag-usapan ang progreso sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay kabilang ang pagbaba

ng fecal contamination sa katubigan nito.

Ayon kay Glenn Alvin Gustilo, Development Management Officer II ng DENR, naobserbahan nila noong Mayo 4 ang pagbaba ng level ng fecal coliform sa tatlong istasyon ng 'Dolomite Beach'.

Subalit hindi pa aniya umaabot ito sa SB level o sa klasipikasyon

na puwede nang payagan ang publiko na mag-swimming, skin diving at ang pagpupunla ng mga bangus at iba pang klase ng isda sa ilang lugar ng Manila bay.

Sinabi ni Gustilo na papayagan lamang sa 'Dolomite Beach' ang mga recreational activity kapag bumaba sa 100 mpn per 100ml ang coliform level nito. **(Dolly Cabreza)**



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Forest ranger mauled, hacked in Zamboanga

ZAMBOANGA CITY: A forest ranger was seriously hurt after three alleged illegal loggers attacked him with a bolo at a mangrove forest in Zamboanga City, police said on Wednesday.

Police said 42-year old Edison Faustino de los Reyes was patrolling the mangrove forest when he chanced upon the men illegally cutting trees at the reservation area. The trio quickly ganged up on de los Reyes and hacked him in the head before escaping. The attack occurred before dusk Monday in Simariki Island, which is part of Talon-Talon village.

One of the attackers had been identified as Che Ganih and is now being hunted by the police, including his cohorts.

"Investigation revealed that prior to the incident, the victim was conducting roving patrol at

mangrove area as part of his duty as OCENR (Office of the City Environment and Natural Resources) employee, he caught the suspects in the act of cutting and stealing mangrove trees. Upon sensing the presence of the victim, the suspects allegedly mauled and hacked the victim with a still unknown weapon. As a result, the victim sustained hack wounds on his head and the assailants fled towards the inner portion of Simariki Island," Maj. Shellamie Chang, regional police spokeswoman, said.

Simariki Island is mostly surrounded by mangroves and sandbars, and a popular destination for picnickers. The island is also a bird sanctuary.

Last year, Mayor Beng Climaco ordered an investigation into the alleged exploitation of natives in the area.

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Pollution behind 1 in 6 global deaths in 2019 – study

PARIS: Pollution caused some 9 million people to die prematurely in 2019, according to a new global report published Wednesday, with experts raising alarm over increasing deaths from breathing outside air and the “horrifying” toll of lead poisoning.

Human-created waste in the air, water and soil rarely kills people immediately, but causes instead heart disease, cancer,

➤ **DeathsA8**

DEATHS FROM A1

Pollution

respiratory problems, diarrhea and other serious illnesses.

The Lancet Commission on pollution and health said the impact from pollution on global health remains “much greater than that of war, terrorism, malaria, HIV, tuberculosis, drugs and alcohol.”

Pollution is an “existential threat to human health and planetary health, and jeopardizes the sustainability of modern societies,” it added.

In general, the review found, air pollution — accounting for a total of 6.7 million deaths globally in 2019 — was “entwined” with climate change because the main source of both problems is burning fossil fuels and biofuels.

“If we can’t manage to grow in a clean and green way, we’re doing something terribly wrong,” said the report’s lead author Richard Fuller, of the Global Alliance on Health and Pollution, adding that chemical pollution also harms biodiversity — another major global threat.

“These things are terribly connected and strategies to deal with one have ripple effects all the way through,” he said.

Overall, 1 in 6 premature deaths globally — or 9 million — were caused by pollution, a figure unchanged since the last assessment in 2015.

Researchers noted a reduction in mortality linked to indoor air pollution, unsafe drinking water and inadequate sanitation, with major improvements seen in Africa.

But early deaths associated with industrialization — outdoor air and chemical pollution — are on the rise, particularly in southern and eastern Asia.

Ambient air pollution caused some 4.5 million deaths in 2019, according to the study, published in *Lancet Planetary Health*, compared with 4.2 million in 2015 and just 2.9 million in 2000.

Chemical pollution is also increasing, with lead poisoning alone causing 900,000 deaths. Even that, the report warned,

is likely a “substantial undercount” in light of new research suggesting there is no safe level of exposure.

Harmful to children

Algeria banned lead in petrol in 2021, the last country to do so.

But people continue to be exposed to the toxic substance, largely due to unregulated recycling of lead-acid batteries and e-waste. Contaminated culinary spices are also a culprit.

“The fact that lead is getting worse, mostly in poorer countries, and ramping up in terms of the number of deaths, is horrifying,” said Fuller.

Heart disease is the cause of almost all early deaths from exposure to lead, which hardens arteries, said Fuller.

But elevated lead levels in blood — estimated to affect hundreds of millions of children — also harm brain development and are linked to serious losses of cognitive function.

The report said lead is also linked to a spike in behavioral disorders and diminished economic productivity, with global economic losses estimated at almost \$1 trillion annually.

In Africa, economic losses from lead-related IQ loss are equivalent to about four percent of gross domestic product, while in Asia it amounts to two percent.

Silent killer

Overall, excess deaths due to pollution have led to economic losses totaling \$4.6 trillion in 2019, or around six percent of global economic output, researchers said.

Low- and middle-income countries are by far the most affected, with more than 90 percent of deaths in these regions.

There is also increasing evidence of pollution crossing national boundaries in wind, water and the food chain.

Wealthier nations that have reduced domestic outdoor air pollution effectively “displace” it overseas to countries with higher levels of manufacturing, the report said.

AFP



Enforcing digitalization of payments in government

ON May 12, 2022, the Office of the President released Executive Order 170, Series of 2022, which mandates all government agencies to adopt digital payment systems for government disbursements and collections.

This means that all government agencies, local government units and other government instrumentalities are ordered to use safe and efficient digital disbursement in the payment of goods, services and other disbursements, including in the distribution of financial assistance, as well as in the payment of salaries, wages, allowances and other compensation to employees. They are also ordered to use secure payment processing solutions to ensure that various digital payment methods are accepted.

The Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA) sees this latest issuance as another gain in the nation's fight against red tape. This order leaves government agencies with no excuses to not establish digital payment systems for the transacting public.

The EO cited Section 2 of Republic Act 11032, or the "Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018," saying that the acceptance of digital payments in government collections will promote efficient delivery of government services, expedite transactions, boost revenue, and reduce the risk of corruption.

President Rodrigo Roa Duterte has repeatedly expressed his desire for the implementation of e-governance in the Philippines, most recently in his sixth and final State of the Nation Address (SONA) in 2021. From the start of his term, President Duterte has directed government agencies to simplify their processes and make it more convenient for the public to transact with the government from the comfort of their own homes.

The challenge for the proper implementation of the EO falls on the efficiency and the effectiveness of its implementation. As they say, a law or a policy is only as good as its enforcement. Despite the many policies and regulations requiring the automation and use of digital platforms, agencies still struggle, either intentionally or unintentionally, to implement such technological reforms. ARTA remains ready and willing to help the technical working group (TWG) monitor compliance with the EO based on our mandate as stated in RA 11032. However, the TWG may consider that an effective way to enforce reform such as digitalization in government is through the carrot and stick method, or the provision of incentives to compliant agencies and the enforcement of harsher penalties against non-compliant agencies.

ARTA is advocating for the inclusion of digital payments in the benchmarks for the distribution of the performance-based bonus, which has always been one of the most effective incentives in the government. We were able to enforce compliance for



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the submission of the Citizen's Charter across government agencies and LGUs with this incentive. The use of digital payments may also be considered as a criterion in awarding the Seal of Good Local Governance and in evaluation of the Cities and Municipalities Competitiveness Index. For our part, we will certainly include this in our guidelines for scoring in our Report Card Survey (RCS).

On the other hand, there should also be an agency assigned to crack the whip, if necessary, on non-compliant government agencies. Government agencies that will not utilize digital payments may face charges for violation of Republic Act 6713, or the "Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees," and RA 3019, or the "Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act." In this regard, the cooperation of the Office of the Ombudsman and the Civil Service Commission will be primary for its immediate enforcement. Further, the Commission on Audit may also consider having an active role in auditing the compliance service standard for government agencies, the details of which may be further supplemented.

ARTA has been consistently promoting the use of digital payments in the government through the release of several issuances since 2020. Among these are ARTA Memorandum Circular 2020-06, Series of 2020 which indicates the guidelines on the issuance and/or reinstatement of permits and licenses under the "new normal." These guidelines stated that digital payments for licenses, permits and other fees may be used. The Authority has also released ARTA Memorandum Circular 2021-01 Series of 2021 or the issuance of the Whole-of-Government Reengineering Manual, which mandates government agencies to submit their reengineering reports for the streamlining and automation of government services.

The Authority has also issued the Philippine Good Regulatory Principles (PGRP), a set of guidelines and core principles on how to promote proportionate, consistent, accountable and targeted regulations through effective dialogue between regulators and regulated entities, the first of its kind in the country. Among the 10 principles are continuous evaluation, meaning regulators should subject regulations to regular review and evaluation for continued relevance, efficiency, and effectiveness and to keep pace with the change from emerging technologies.

We have also issued the Whole-of-Government (WOG) Reengineering Manual and the Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA)

Manual that are both geared toward streamlining, reengineering and digitization of processes.

In a bid to make the services of LGUs more convenient to the public, RA 11032 mandated the establishment of business one-stop shops (BOSS) and electronic BOSS (EBOSS) which should be able to accept online payments using online payment facilities and other payment gateways or alternative digital payment options.

ARTA has also supported digitalization efforts initiated by the Congress. The House economic affairs committee tapped ARTA to join the national digital transformation strategy TWG. The Authority also backed Senate bill 1764, or the proposed "Use of Digital Payments Act," authored by Sen. Sonny Angara, which mandates the use of digital payments in the collection of taxes, fees, tolls, imposes and other revenues, and in the payment of goods, services, and other disbursements. Through this measure, government payments such as cash aid will also be directly transferred to the beneficiaries' bank accounts. The Authority has also been tapped to join the national digital transformation strategy technical working group in Congress.

A little over a month is left before President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, our visionary and once-in-a-lifetime leader, steps down from office. We can see that even in the last days of his term, streamlining, reengineering and automation of government services remains to be among his top priorities. This new EO may be the culmination of all the administration's digitalization efforts and may be a part of the National Strategy for Financial Inclusion from 2022 to 2028 and the Information Systems Strategic Plan from 2020 to 2023. Through these efforts, we can be sure that the Philippines' ease of doing business and the efficient delivery of government services will be one of the Duterte administration's lasting legacies to the Filipino people.

We would like to call on the incoming administration to mandate government agencies to undergo briefings and training programs on the Regulatory Management System (RMS) and the Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA). This is also indicated in Section 5 of RA 11032. We now have a window of opportunity to ensure the full implementation of digitalization in our government. But as I have always said, we cannot automate without first streamlining and reengineering.

We would like to reiterate our commitment to the Filipino people: that no matter the changes in the country's administration and political landscape, ARTA will continue working toward the realization of the dream for digitalization in the government.

The author is director-general of the Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA).



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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE
CENRO RXI, Bangkal, Davao City
Telephone No. (082) 287-2695

LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

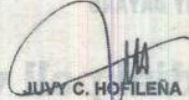
Notice is hereby given that Community Environment and Natural Resources Office, Davao City will accept oral or written bids not later than ten (10:00) o'clock A.M. on **June 14, 2022** for the lease for **commercial** purposes of the tract of land herein below described:

Location	: Panacan, Davao City
Description	: Lot 1, Mlc-11-001242-D
Area	: 5,340 square meter
Appraisal of Land	: Php 11,990.00 kada metro kwardrado o Kabuuang Php. 64,026,600.00
Value of Existing & Proposed Improvements	: Php. 52,364,621.15
Applied for by	: DAVAO MODERN PORT TERMINAL, INC. Rep. by James Lee Ang

The successful bidder if other than the applicant must reimburse the latter of the expenses for the publication of the notice of lease and the survey of the land.

The right to lease the land will be awarded to the person offering the highest annual rental, which shall not be less than three per centum (3%) of the value of the land plus one per centum (1%) of the value of the proposed/existing improvements. In order that a person may be entitled to participate in the bidding, he must be a qualified public land applicant, and must, before the commencement of the same, make a deposit equivalent to at least three (3) months rental. Only deposit in cash, money order, treasury warrant, certified checks, cashier's or manager's check can be accepted. A person bidding in representation of another may do so under a duly executed power of attorney. During the bidding, the bidder has to make an additional deposit every time his bid is raised, to complete the three (3) months rental, otherwise such bid as raised shall not be accepted. The government reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Davao City, Philippines, April 28, 2022.


JUDY C. HOFILEÑA
 OIC, CENRO Officer




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 Republic of the Philippines
 Department of Environment and Natural Resources
COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE
 CENRO RXI, Bangkal, Davao City
 Telephone No. (082) 287-2695

LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

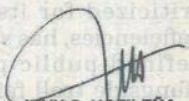
Notice is hereby given that Community Environment and Natural Resources Office, Davao City will accept oral or written bids not later than ten (10:00) o'clock A.M. on June 14, 2022 for the lease for **commercial** purposes of the tract of land herein below described:

Location	: Panacan, Davao City
Description	: Lot 2-A, Mlc-11-001241-D
Area	: 2,310 square meter
Appraisal of Land	: Php 11,990.00 kada metro kwardrado o Kabuuang Php. 27,696,900.00
Value of Existing & Proposed Improvements	: Php. 385,200.00
Applied for by	: DAVAO MODERN PORT TERMINAL, INC. Rep. by James Lee Ang

The successful bidder if other than the applicant must reimburse the latter of the expenses for the publication of the notice of lease and the survey of the land.

The right to lease the land will be awarded to the person offering the highest annual rental, which shall not be less than three per centum (3%) of the value of the land plus one per centum (1%) of the value of the proposed/existing improvements. In order that a person may be entitled to participate in the bidding, he must be a qualified public land applicant, and must, before the commencement of the same, make a deposit equivalent to at least three (3) months rental. Only deposit in cash, money order, treasury warrant, certified checks, cashier's or manager's check can be accepted. A person bidding in representation of another may do so under a duly executed power of attorney. During the bidding, the bidder has to make an additional deposit every time his bid is raised, to complete the three (3) months rental, otherwise such bid as raised shall not be accepted. The government reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Davao City, Philippines, April 28, 2022.



JUVY C. HOFILEÑA
 OIC, CENR Officer



TITLE: _____

PAGE _____

DATE _____



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE
CENRO RXI, Bangkal, Davao City
Telephone No. (082) 287-2695

PAGPAPAUPA NG LUPANG PUBLIKO


Ipanabigay alam sa madia na ang Community Environment and Natural Resources Office, Davao City ay tatanggap ng selyado o nakaşulat na alok sa ika alas 10:00 ng umaga sa ika 14 ng Hunyo 2022 para paupahan ang isang sukat na lupang publiko na inilarawan sa ibaba nito:

Lugar	: Panacan, Davao City
Deskripsyon	: Lot 2-A, Mic-11-001241-D
Sukat	: 2,310 square meter
Tasahan ng Lupa :	: Php 11,990.00 kada metro kwardrado o Kabuuang Php. 27,696,900.00
Halaga ng nakatayo	: Php. 385,200.00
At itatayong Proyekto	: DAVAO MODERN PORT TERMINAL, INC.
Aplikante	: Rep. by James Lee Ang

Ang karapatan na upahan ng nasabing lupa ay ibibigay sa tao o partido na makapagbigay ng pinakamataas na upa sa isang taon na hindi bababa sa tatlong porsyento (3%) sa halaga ng lupa at isang porsyento (1%) sa halaga ng itatayong estruktura. Upang ang isang tao ay makakasama sa isasagawang subasta, kailangang siya ay karapat dapat na aplikante at kailangan bago magsimula ang subasta ay nakadeposito siya ng halagang katumbas ng tatlong buwang upa. Ang deposito ay kailangang salaping papel, money order, cashier's or manager's check, ang siya lamang tatanggapin. Ang isang tao na sumali sa sabasta na nagrerepresenta ng ibang tao ay makakasali lamang kung mayroon siyang pahintulot na ibinigay sa pamamagitan ng kaukulang pahintulot na nilagdaan ng Notaryo Publiko. Sa panahon ng subasta, ang taong sumali ay makaroon ng dagdag na deposito kapag ang kayang alok ay itinataas para makupleta ang kabuuang tatlong buwang upa. Ang karapatang tumanggi o tanggihan ang anumang alok o sa lahat ng alok ay palaging nakalaan para sa mapahalaan.

Ang magwawagi sa alok na ito kung hindi siya ang aplikante ay kinakailangang tutumbasan ang kabayaranang nagugol sa pagpapalathala ng panawagang ito at sa pagpapasukat ng lupa.

Lungsod ng Dabaw, Abril 28, 2022.


JUVY C. HOFILÉÑA
 OIC, CENR Officer



TITLE: _____

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DATE _____



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE
CENRO RXI, Bangkal, Davao City
Telephone No. (082) 287-2695

PAGPAPAUPA NG LUPANG PUBLIKO

Ipanabigay alam sa madla na ang Community Environment and Natural Resources Office, Davao City ay tatanggap ng selyado o nakasulat na alok sa ika alas 10:00 ng umaga sa ika 14 ng Hunyo 2022 para paupahan ang isang sukat na lupang publiko na inilarawan sa ibaba nito:

Lugar	: Panacan, Davao City
Deskripsyon	: Lot 1, Mlc-11-001242-D
Sukat	: 5,340 square meter
Tasahan ng Lupa :	: Php 11,990.00 kada metro kwardrado o Kabuuang Php. 64,026,600.00
Halaga ng nakatayo	: Php. 52,364,621.15
At itatayong Proyekto	
Aplikante	: DAVAO MODERN PORT TERMINAL, INC. Rep. by James Lee Ang

Ang karapatan na upahan ng nasabing lupa ay ibibigay sa tao o partido na makapagbigay ng pinakamataas na upa sa isang taon na hindi bababa sa tatlong porsyento (3%) sa halaga ng lupa at isang porsyento (1%) sa halaga ng itatayong estruktura. Upang ang isang tao ay makakasama sa isasagawang subasta, kailangang siya ay karapatdapat na aplikante at kailangan bago magsimula ang subasta ay nakadeposito siya ng halagang katumbas ng tatlong buwang upa. Ang deposito ay kailangang salaping papel, money order, cashier's or manager's check, ang siya lamang tatanggapin. Ang isang tao na sumali sa sabasta na nagrerepresenta ng ibang tao ay makakasali lamang kung mayroon siyang pahintulot na ibinigay sa pamamagitan ng kaukulang pahintulot na nilagdaan ng Notaryo Publiko. Sa panahon ng subasta, ang taong sumali ay makaroon ng dagdag na deposito kapag ang kayang alok ay itinataas para makupletang ang kabuuang tatlong buwang upa. Ang karapatang tumanggi o tanggihan ang anumang alok o sa lahat ng alok ay palaging nakalaan para sa mapahalaan.

Ang magwawagi sa alok na ito kung hindi siya ang aplikante ay kinakailangang tutumbasan ang kabayaranang nagugol sa pagpapalathala ng panawagang ito at sa pagpapasukat ng lupa.

Lungsod ng Dabaw, **Abril 28, 2022.**

JUVY C. HOFILEÑA
OIC, CENR Officer

19 MAY 2022, Thursday



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Booster shots effective protection vs. Omicron subvariant: VEP

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor May 18, 2022, 1:55 pm



(File photo)

MANILA – Booster shots of the Covid-19 vaccine are an effective protection against the Omicron BA.2.12.1 subvariant, the vaccine expert panel (VEP) said Wednesday.

In a televised public briefing, VEP chairperson Dr. Nina Gloriani said the protection from the primary series of Covid-19 vaccines is not enough against Omicron subvariants BA.1 and BA.2.

"[The] mRNA vaccines, very clear after two doses, *ang efficacy nitong mga bakuna bumababa hanggang* 10 percent against Omicron variant. *Pag binigyan ng* third dose, two to four weeks after *bababa rin ito* to about 59 to 75 percent. After another two months *bababa pa ng* 51 to 64 percent and after three months na sa 49 [to] 50 percent *na lang* (their efficacy goes down to 10 percent against Omicron variant. When given third dose, two to four weeks after, it will also go down to about 59 to 75 percent. After another two months, it will go down to 51 to 64 percent and after three months to 49 [to] 50 percent)," she said.

The Department of Health earlier confirmed the [local transmission of the Omicron subvariant BA.2.12.1](#).

Studies abroad show that waning immunity is also present even after the first booster or third dose, she added.

Earlier, the VEP recommended the administration of the second booster or fourth dose not only for the immunocompromised but also for individuals with comorbidities and senior citizens.



Booster shots effective protection vs. Omicron subvariant: VEP

"That was our initial recommendation that was approved by the FDA [Food and Drug Administration] kaya lang meron tayong HTAC [Health Technology Assessment Council] na nagtitingin sa socio-economic benefits ng mga bakuna (but HTAC studies the socio-economic benefits of vaccines)," Gloriani said.

The HTAC has recommended a second booster shot for the elderly and healthcare workers.

It is just waiting for one more requirement from the World Health Organization before it could issue the guidelines for the elderly and healthcare workers. (PNA)



PAGSUSUOT NG FACE MASK, KAILANGAN PA RING IPAGPATULOY AYON SA ISANG EKSPERTO

by [Rashid Locsin](#) May 18, 2022 0 comment



Kailangan ipagpatuloy ang pagsusuot ng face mask kahit na bumubulusok ang kaso ng COVID-19 sa bansa.

Ito ang naging pahayag ni Infectious Disease Expert na si Dr. Rontgene Solante na posibleng hindi na kailanganin pa na magsuot ng face mask kung patuloy na makapagtatala ng mas mababa pa sa 200 ang arawang kaso sa susunod na dalawa hanggang tatlong buwan.

19 MAY 2022, Thursday



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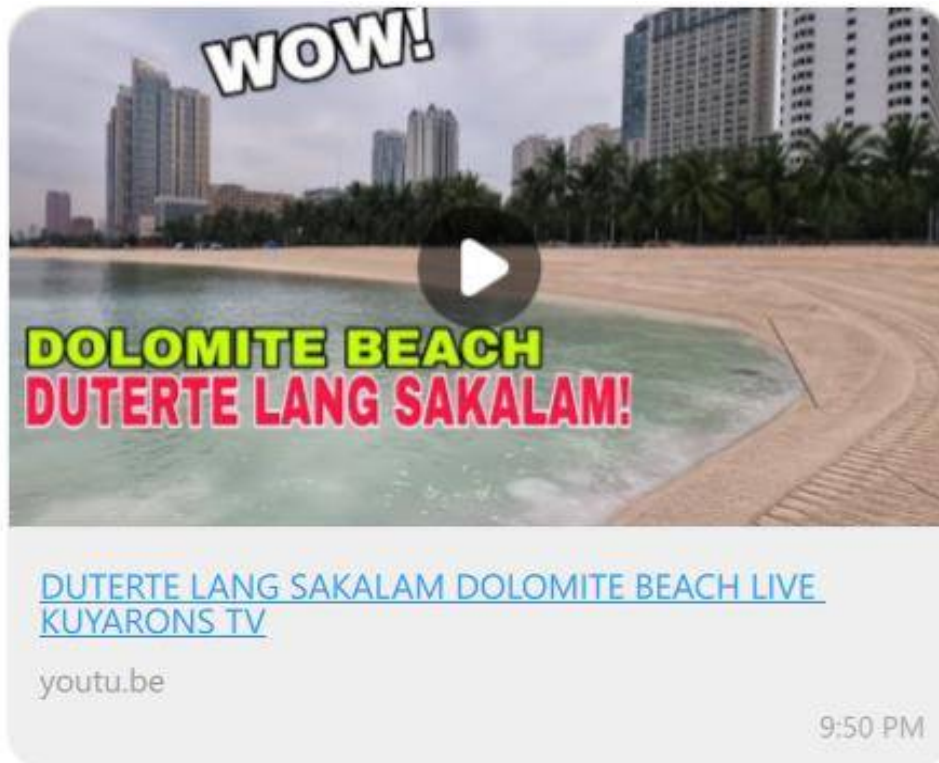
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A Philippine provincial government has lifted a ban on open-pit mining, removing the final regulatory obstacle for a long-delayed copper and gold project in the country's restive south, a Senior Official said.

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