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# NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE





# DENR to monitor Tampakan open-pit mine when ops resume

[Gaea Katreena Cabico](#) - Philstar.com May 18, 2022 | 5:02pm



MANILA, Philippines — The environment department's Mines and Geosciences Bureau committed to strictly monitor the environmental protection and rehabilitation obligations of the Tampakan copper and gold project, feared to destroy watershed ecosystems in Mindanao, once it resumes operations.

Acting environment chief Jim Sampulna made the commitment Wednesday following the move of the South Cotabato government to lift a ban on open-pit mining in the province despite opposition from environmentalists, religious groups, and local stakeholders.

The development removed the final regulatory obstacle for the long-delayed Tampakan project, which is described as "one of the largest undeveloped copper-gold deposits in the world." Critics of the project, however, said the policy reversal will endanger the environment and the residents.

"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," Sampulna said.

He added that the agency will require Sagittarius Mines, Inc. (SMI), the proponent of the project, to invest in equipment and manpower to ensure mitigation in case of any adverse impacts from the mining operations.

According to DENR-MGB Director Wilfredo Moncano, there are technologies that can address the potential impacts of the mining operations. He also said there is a policy that requires mining firms to provide funds in all stages of operations necessary for environmental protection and enhancement.

The mines bureau is ordered to create a multipartite monitoring team that will be responsible for the conduct of quarterly environmental monitoring and audit of the mining company's operations.

It is also set to convene a committee to oversee the management and utilization of the fund for SMI's environmental protection program, progressive rehabilitation, and social development through livelihood activities for residents residing close to the project site.



In December 2021, the Duterte administration lifted the nationwide ban on open-pit mining in a bid to bring more money into the Philippines after the economic slowdown brought by the COVID-19 pandemic. He also lifted a nine-year-old ban on new mining agreements in April of the same year.

Duterte's successor, Ferdinand 'Bongbong' Marcos Jr., earlier said "sustainable" mining could be done in the country, but he was wary of the open-pit mining method because of its environmental impacts.



## Senator defends Tampakan mine project

By [Philippine News Agency](#)

May 20, 2022

SEN. Francis Tolentino said the Tampakan copper-gold project of Sagittarius Mines Inc. (SMI) in Tampakan, South Cotabato will be beneficial to residents.

Tolentino said on Thursday the Tampakan copper-gold project will be "cost-effective" and safe.

"The open-pit mining extraction is cost-effective because the excavation will be shallow and the mine will be easily extracted," he said in the "Sa Ganang Mamamayan" program of Net25.

Tolentino, however, said the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) should see to it that the rehabilitation plan will be properly implemented.

"What I can see here, just like maybe the outlying communities, follow the rehabilitation plan if DENR has. DENR should monitor, DENR must not ignore. They should always focus," he said.

After the Tampakan copper-gold project halted four years ago, President Rodrigo Duterte signed in April 2021 the lifting of the moratorium on open-pit mining.

The South Cotabato Provincial Board also lifted its ban on open-pit mining giving the SMI a go-signal to proceed with its stalled \$5.9-billion project.

DENR Acting Secretary Jim Sampulna vowed they will ensure that SMI will comply with its rehabilitation obligations and environmental protection, assuring that the environment will not be sacrificed.

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

According to SMI, the Tampakan project is noted as one of the largest untapped copper and gold minefields in Southeast Asia.

The mining company expects the project to yield an average of 375,000 tons of copper and 360,000 ounces of gold per year.





# Hundreds march vs open-pit mining in South Cotabato

ABS-CBN News

Posted at May 19 2022 01:06 PM



*Photo by Chat Ansagay*

KORONADAL CITY — Hundreds of individuals on Thursday joined a solidarity march against open-pit mining in South Cotabato.

Initiated by the Diocese of Marbel, the march along Alunan Avenue, Koronadal City was a call to South Cotabato Governor Reynaldo Tamayo Jr. to veto a resolution by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan to lift the ban on open-pit mining in the province.

On Monday, the council agreed to amend the province's environment law to allow open-cut mining, particularly in the town of Tampakan.

"The barangay (village) wanted the project, the municipality wanted the project, only the provincial level of the council had the problem," said Wilfredo Moncano, director of industry regulator Mines and Geosciences Bureau.

"With this lifting of the ban, there's no more problem."

The Tampakan project had been described by its developer Sagittarius Mines as "one of the largest undeveloped copper-gold deposits in the world."

The said project, which began in 1995, has an estimated value of \$5.9 billion, but has been delayed by the said ban. It needs go signal from the provincial government so that it could secure a Declaration of Mining Project Feasibility.

Rene Pamplona of the Alliance to Stop Mining accused the South Cotabato government of ignoring warnings about the negative effects of the mine on the local community, particularly farmers who rely on irrigation for their crops.

"They railroaded the whole process. They made themselves technical experts," Pamplona said.

"The amendment allows all forms of mining, including open-pit, in the province. And the future of the province was decided in less than 15 minutes," Father Jerome Millan of the Diocese of Marbel earlier said.



*Photo by Chat Ansagay*

Open-pit mining directly extracts minerals on the ground and differs from other methods that require tunneling or underground mining.

The Philippines is one of the world's biggest suppliers of nickel ore and is also rich in copper and gold, but the government estimates 95 percent of its mineral resources remain untapped.

Mining revenues contribute less than one percent of GDP to the economy, according to the latest available government data.

A nationwide ban on open-pit mines was lifted last year in a bid to revitalize the country's coronavirus-battered economy.

It was imposed in 2017 when the then-environment minister blamed the sector for widespread ecological damage.

Manila has since reversed course, encouraging mining investments to shore up government revenues as lockdowns and quarantine restrictions ravaged the economy.

In April 2021, President Rodrigo Duterte -- who had previously threatened to shut down the sector completely -- lifted a 9-year ban on new mining deals set by his predecessor following public backlash over a series of devastating accidents.

— **With reports from Chat Ansagay and Agence France-Press**



## IPs join call to stop quarries and resorts in Masungi

Published May 19, 2022, 2:58 PM

by [Manila Bulletin](#)

Antipolo, Rizal – An indigenous Dumagat-Remontado tribe joined mounting calls to cancel the Mineral Production Sharing Agreement (MPSAs) inside the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape (UMRBPL) and the Masungi Geopark Project (MGP).

Some 100 leaders and members of the Dumagat-Remontado of Antipolo released a petition on May 19, 2022 asking President Rodrigo Duterte, Department of Environment and Natural Resources OIC Secretary Jim Sampulna, and Rizal Governor Rebecca Ynares to save the Susong Dalaga mountain from quarrying. They said the Susong Dalaga mountain is sacred to their community and is part of their heritage. It is also included in their ancestral domain.

“Nababahala kaming malaman na ang mahal naming bundok ay napapaloob sa dalawang quarry na mayroong MPSA sa pangalan ng Rapid City at Quarry Rock,” the statement said. “Kung ganoon ay maglalaho ang Susong Dalaga dahil miminahin ang bato at papatagin ang bundok. Ang mga ilong at tubig na handog ng Susong Dalaga ay matutuyot,” it added.

Based on the areas covered by the two MPSAs, the quarries would level down about 1,000 hectares of mountains within the protected area including the Susong Dalaga shrine sacred to the indigenous people. A deep scar, 400 meters high, 1,200 meters wide, and 5,000 meters long, on the mountains immediately fronting Marcos Highway, would be created.

The tribe also expressed worry about the floods and landslides that would destroy their homes and farms, and impact even those living in downstream areas.

The floods and landslides that ravaged San Mateo, Rodriguez, Marikina, Cainta, Pasig and other towns and cities during typhoons Ondoy, Rolly, and Ulysses started from these mountains.

Thus, the group urged government officials and the relevant quarry companies to withdraw their plans to quarry Susong Dalaga. They also asked that resorts and other destructive activities be similarly stopped and removed from the MGP and the protected area.

“Kanselahin, patigilin, at paalisin ang mga quarry, resort, at iba pang mapanirang gawain sa Susong Dalaga at karatig-lupa na bahagi ng lupang ninuno at protected area. Igalang ho nating lahat ang Susong Dalaga,” they said.

The same tribe earlier expressed its desire to conserve the area together with partners such as the award-winning Masungi Georeserve Foundation.

Source: [https://mb.com.ph/2022/05/19/ips-join-call-to-stop-quarries-and-resorts-in-masungi/?fbclid=IwAR1T4s-7RW7RmyUJYX1BR3v\\_9UZk1ltm7M833aIMmR9q0yFZnQ2nJTYvhoY](https://mb.com.ph/2022/05/19/ips-join-call-to-stop-quarries-and-resorts-in-masungi/?fbclid=IwAR1T4s-7RW7RmyUJYX1BR3v_9UZk1ltm7M833aIMmR9q0yFZnQ2nJTYvhoY)





# IPs join call to stop quarries and resorts in Masungi

Thursday, May 19, 2022 Journal Online



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# Pena: Month of the oceans

ROX PENA

ESSUE

May 19, 2022

E-SSUE is back after my mandatory leave of absence due the election campaign. A word of thanks to all the people who helped me in my campaign as a returning councilor of Mabalacat City. It was a difficult and challenging fight, but it was made easier by all the people who contributed to this victory. Again, thank you from the bottom of my heart. To my fellow Mabalaqueños, rest assured that I will do my best to serve you and our beloved city.

Last Monday, I treated my campaign team to a beach outing in Morong, Bataan. I chose a resort which I already visited a couple of times. The owner is a kapampangan from Guagua. To my disappointment, the place is no longer what it used to be. The water is not pristine anymore. Plastics, cigarette butts and trash litter the place. The whole stretch of the coastline is now occupied with resorts.

Such is the sorry state of our beaches. According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), at least 14 million tons of plastic end up in the ocean every year, and plastic makes up 80 percent of all marine debris found from surface waters to deep-sea sediments. Marine species ingest or are entangled by plastic debris, which causes severe injuries and death. Plastic pollution threatens food safety and quality, human health, coastal tourism, and contributes to climate change.

Other than trash, our oceans are faced with many environmental problems. According to the National Geographic, these threats include oil spills, global warming which is causing sea levels to rise and causing coral bleaching and pesticides and nutrients used in agriculture ending up in the coastal waters resulting in oxygen depletion that kills marine plants and shellfish.

Factories and industrial plants also discharge sewage and other runoff into the oceans. There are also invasive species such as poisonous algae, cholera, and countless plants and animals that have entered harbor waters and disrupted the ecological balance. The biggest problem is the depletion of fish stocks. It affects the livelihood of millions of people. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization estimates that 31.4 percent of fish stocks are either fished to capacity or overfished.

To create awareness on the need to protect our oceans, the World Oceans Day was established by the United Nations. It is celebrated every June 8. In the Philippines however, the Month of the Ocean (MOO) is celebrated annually during the month of May by virtue of Presidential Proclamation No. 57 issued in 1999. Activities to be conducted in observance of the MOO aims to highlight the importance and significance of conservation, protection, and sustainable management of Philippine coastal and marine resources.

Let's do our part in protecting our oceans. One simple step we can do is to make sure our trash doesn't end up in rivers and creeks, which will eventually drain into the ocean.

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1929468/pampanga/opinion/pena-month-of-the-oceans>



# Pagbaklas sa mga nakapaskil pa rin na election paraphernalia, target tapusin ng MMDA ngayong linggo

By **Bombo Marlene Padiernos** -May 19, 2022 | 11:27 PM

Tinatarget ngayon ng Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) na baklasin na ang lahat ng mga campaign paraphernalia na nakapaskil sa buong Metro Manila sa pagtatapos ng linggong ito.

Sa datos ng kagawaran, sa kasalukuyan ay nasa kabuuang sa 470 toneladang na ng mga campaign materials na ang nakolekta na ng kagawaran na mula noong Mayo 9.

Samantala, bagama't wala nang nakitang nakapaskil na mga election materials ang DILG sa ilan sa kanilang mga binisitang lugar ay patuloy na nanawagan si DILG Usec. Epimaco Delsing III sa publiko na agad na iulat sa kagawaran sakaling may mamataan pa rin na mga nakapaskil na mga ganito dahil matagal na aniyang natapos ang deadline na kanilang itinakda sa mga LGU upang baklasin ang mga ito.

Ayon kay Epimaco, pagpapaliwanagin ng DILG ang mga LGU na bigong makasunod dito atsaka nito pagdedesisyunan ang susunod na aksyon nila dito depende kung magiging katanggap-tanggap man ang paliwanag ng mga ito.

Magugunita na una rito ay nanawagan at nagbabala na rin sa lahat ng mga kumandidato si Comelec Commissioner Rey Bulay na tulungan ang mga LGU at MMDA na magligpit ng lahat ng kalat na iniwan ng nagdaang eleksyon.





## Campaign materials in Baliuag recycled

The National Irrigation Administration and the local government continue with their weekly clean-up drive of the irrigation canals, providing continuous water for the town's farmlands

Published 3 hours ago on May 20, 2022 04:00 AM

By [Jonas Reyes](#)



BALIUAG, Bulacan — The Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Offices (MENRO) here announced that it has removed and collected most of the campaign posters in the town as it aims to recycle them to provide livelihood.

The dismantling and collection of the said campaign materials used in the recent elections are part of the Eco-Livelihood Program and will be turned into colorful eco-bags.

MENRO stated that tarpaulins that are not recycled will be turned over to the Central Material Recovery Facility and after that, the campaign materials will be processed and compressed using a bailing machine and will be sent to the recycling facility.

The agency stated that the eco-bags made from recycled campaign materials will be sold for P50 to P100 at the Baliuag Pasalubong Center of the Baliuag Climate Change Center. The earnings will be given to beneficiaries of the livelihood program that maintains the cleanliness and sanitation of the town.

The dismantling of campaign materials by candidates from the recent elections is in line with mandate of the Baliuag Environmental Code, Department of Environment and Natural Resources and Commission on Elections.

Meanwhile, the National Irrigation Administration and the local government continue with their weekly clean-up drive of the irrigation canals, providing continuous water for the town's farmlands.

The villages of Sabang, Subic, Tarcan, Tangos, Tibag, Bagong Nayon, Pinagbarilan and Sta. Barbara were the first beneficiary villages that were part of the clean-up drive. The drive also included areas such as the Baliuag-Pulilan Bypass road, parks and monuments.



# Tone-toneladang basura, nasamsam!

**RESPONDE** - [Gus Abelgas](#) - Pang-masa May 20, 2022 | 12:00am

ILANG araw matapos ang isinagawang halalan noong Mayo 9, hindi pa rin pala tuluyang nalilinis ang mga ikinabit na campaign materials ng mga kumandidato.

Kaya nga nanawagan na ang Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) sa Commission on Elections (Comelec) na atasan na ang mga tumakbo noong nagdaang halalan na alisin na ang kani-kanilang ikinabit na campaign materials.

Nanalo man umano o natalo, lahat umano ay may obligasyon para linisin ang kanilang kinalat.

Sa loob ng nakalipas na sampung araw matapos ang halalan, nasa 600 na tonelada ng campaign materials ang nasamsam sa ginawang paglilinis sa NCR pa lamang.

Hindi pa yan 100 porsiyento na nalilinis kaya asahang madadagdagan pa ang mga ito.

Target ng DILG na sa linggong ito matapos ang paglilinis sa Metro Manila, habang naghihintay pa sila ng update sa kanilang regional offices.

Iyan talaga ang hirap, pagkatapos ng halalan kahit pa makiusap sa mga tumakbo, mistulang wala nang naririnig.

Masusumpungan kung saan-saan na lamang nakatambak ang mga campaign materials na pinangangambahan pa ngang maging sanhi pa ng pagbaha.

Lalo na nga't idineklara na ng PAGASA ang pagpasok ng tag-ulan sa bansa.

Kung hindi agad malilinis, pwede pa ngang bumara ito sa mga daluyang tubig.

Meron naman kasing ilan, ibinaba o binaklas ang mga nakakabit at nakabiting campaign materials pero hindi naman hinakot at nakatambak lang sa kung saan-saan.

Matagal nang nagbigay-taning dito ang DILG, pero mukhang marami pa rin ang wala nang paki.



- Headline
- Editorial
- Column
- Opinion
- Feature Article



### Upcycling campaign materials: tarpaulin bags | UB

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# Coast Guard notes 'increasing presence' of Filipino fishers on Pag-asa Island

(Philstar.com) - May 19, 2022 - 2:38pm



In this photo released by the Philippine Coast Guard on May 19, 2022, coast guard personnel are shown handing out assistance packages to fishermen in Pag-asa Island in the West Philippine Sea — the part of the South China Sea within the Philippines' exclusive economic zone.

MANILA, Philippines — Amid run-ins with foreign vessels, the Philippine Coast Guard disclosed it observed the "increasing presence" of Filipino fishermen on Pag-asa Island in the West Philippine Sea — the part of the South China Sea within the Philippines' exclusive economic zone — it said Thursday.

In a statement sent to reporters Thursday afternoon, the PCG said it monitored around 25 Filipino fishing boats conducting fishing activities on the island's vicinity waters during the deployment of the largest Coast Guard contingent in the West Philippine Sea from May 12 to 14.

PCG Commandant, CG Admiral Artemio Abu said the significant increase of Filipino fishermen in the WPS "proves that the PCG's intensified presence boosts their confidence and makes them feel safe and protected while fishing in these areas' waters."

"Through our continuous modernization, we ensure that our kababayans can freely explore our marine resources while protecting our marine environment for the future generations," the Coast Guard Commandant said.

To recall, the PCG also installed five navigational buoys carrying the Philippine flag in four critical islands in the West Philippine Sea. The PCG said it "checked the condition" of the fishermen and provided relief supplies and COVID-19 kits to support their fishing operations.

So far in 2022, the Philippine Coast Guard has reported at least four incidences of China Coast Guard vessels conducting close distance maneuvering while Philippine patrol boats were on maritime patrol in the shoal. It called these incidents a clear violation of the 1972 International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea.

At one point in 2021, the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs was filing daily diplomatic protests "against the incessant deployment, prolonged presence, and illegal activities of Chinese maritime assets and fishing vessels in the vicinity of the Pag-asa islands" which numbered in the hundreds.

During the same deployment over the weekend, Abu said he still observed other foreign vessels in the area.



"Several Vietnamese fishing boats, Chinese fishing vessels, and China Coast Guard vessels were not so far from their position, specifically at the vicinity waters off Subi Reef," he said in an earlier statement.

"My guidance to them, we will challenge them. But according to the Coast Guard Fleet, the WPS is peaceful and the ships of Vietnam and China have shown respect for our mission," he added.

National Task Force for the West Philippine Sea Chairman and National Security Adviser, Secretary Hermogenes Esperon underscored the need to encourage Filipino fishermen to continue their fishing ventures in the WPS, adding that the construction of a fuel depot and ice storage plant on Pag-asa island is the government's effort to assist Filipino fishers in the area. Transportation Secretary Arthur Tugade has directed the PCG to guarantee that Filipino fishermen may enjoy the rich marine resources and be safe to come home to their families. The PCG is an attached agency under the DOTr.

"The PCG will always be in line with the direction of the national government to protect the country's sovereign rights and safeguard every Filipino at sea," CG Admiral Abu ended. — **Franco Luna**



## Smart Infinity's Infinite Legacies spotlights Stephanie Kienle-Gonzalez and her push for environment conservation



BY **BMPLUS** MAY 19, 2022



Philux, Inc. Founder and Managing Director Stephanie Kienle-Gonzalez

With environmental waste as one of the most pressing issues in the country, Infinite Legacies TV Docuseries will soon release its third episode featuring Philux, Inc. Founder and Managing Director Stephanie Kienle-Gonzalez and her efforts to address this on May 29, 5:30pm on Signal TV's One News Channel.

Infinite Legacies is the ongoing TV documentary series of Smart Communications Inc.'s luxury postpaid brand Smart Infinity in partnership with Signal TV, which pays tribute to today's inspiring Changemakers and how they are vastly contributing to their respective industries.

Gonzalez is at the helm of Philux, a homegrown luxury furniture label which champions Filipino craftsmanship and design sensibilities. Her definitive fashion sense and Filipino-Swiss heritage translate into a deep aesthetic appreciation, which is expressed in her dedication to her craft. She is passionate about empowering the self-sufficiency of Philux's local artisans, as well as advocating an environmentally conscious and purposeful lifestyle.

"Having Stephanie as one of our Changemakers, Smart Infinity expands its footprint in fostering impactful advocacies. We see how our members achieve great success in their fields and pay it forward to society, and it is also part of our commitment to support and empower them to positively contribute to the world," shares Sofie Borromeo-Alvarez, AVP and Brand Head for Smart Infinity.

She adds, "Beyond providing a rewarding mobile experience with exceptional product offerings, exclusive lifestyle privileges, and priority customer service, Smart Infinity showcases its limitless support for the Changemakers and their advocacies through the Infinite Legacies documentary series."

### **Uplifting the environment**

Philux, together with Smart Infinity, has partnered with Green Antz Builders, an award-winning environment-conscious company which repurposes waste into construction materials. Its mission is to create sustainable and environmentally responsible communities, which aligns with Gonzalez's personal advocacy.





The partnership will help divert plastic wastes from landfills and oceans by having bins stationed in three Smart store locations. The plastic wastes which will be collected in the bins will travel to the Eco Hub, Green Antz's Modern Recovery Facility (MRF) and manufacturing plant for green building materials. The stations will include collaterals on which wastes are accepted and where exactly they will go, cultivating a Circular Economy instead of a linear, material-disposing economy.

Help contribute to Smart Infinity's plastic drive cause, ongoing since Earth Day last April 22 until May 22 at the following Smart store locations: SM North EDSA, Rockwell, ODS Converged BGC World Plaza.

Also catch Stephanie Kienle-Gonzalez's story on *Infinite Legacies*, which will air on May 29, Sunday, 5:30PM in Signal TV's OneNews channel, the Signal Play app, or the Smart GigaPlay app. Learn more about the Changemakers leading the way for positive change in the Philippines.

For more information on Smart Infinity's offers and *Infinite Legacies* docuseries, visit [www.smart.com.ph/infinity](http://www.smart.com.ph/infinity) and follow @smartinfinity on Instagram.

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2022/05/19/smart-infinitys-infinite-legacies-spotlights-stephanie-kienle-gonzalez-and-her-push-for-environment-conservation/>



## From a ‘sin city’ to eco-city: Mayor Calixto-Rubiano presents ecological transformation plan for Pasay

BY **CLAUDETH MOCON-CIRIACO** MAY 19, 2022

Pasay City Mayor Emi Calixto-Rubiano disclosed a plan to make Pasay an eco-city like Singapore where technology and innovation comes hand-in-hand with environmental consciousness and awareness.

The mayor said that they have already taken the first step to achieve that goal by turning the city’s bleak and dirty “esteros” into eco parks where ventilation is of priority, and where greens take up a majority of space.

“Pasay may have a lot of areas to be rehabilitated, but trust that in our leadership, these are to be transformed into picturesque spaces that we can proudly call our own,” Calixto-Rubiano told the BusinessMirror in an interview.

She added that such initiative is further strengthened by the unwavering confidence of a lot of companies who are eager to invest and take up space in the city.

“The Mall of Asia complex, for one, is at its peak in being the melting pot of international and local collaborations, which provide employment and sustainability not only to our local economy, but to our public as well,” Calixto-Rubiano said.

With her “decades-worth of public service experience,” the mayor said, it would come as an advantage for her.

She also thanked her team and the city as a whole, “We are coming out to the new normal very strong.”

Likewise, the mayor also underscored one major project in the pipeline which is their in-city housing project.

“It’s a high rise development for displaced families. Aside from that, it will house community centers, health centers, senior citizen centers,” she said, adding that it will be a “landmark project” of her administration.



# TINGNAN: Apoy lumalabas sa poso ng tubig sa Antique

ABS-CBN News

Posted at May 19 2022 03:24 PM

MANILA -- Isang poso ng tubig ang pinag-uusapan ngayon sa Brgy. Budbudan, Hamtic, Antique dahil sa paglabas ng apoy mula rito.

Sa video na ipinadala ni Shem Lantin, makikita ang pagliyab ng apoy mula sa isang bahagi sa poso.

Ani Lantin, taong 1983 pa ginawa ang poso ng tubig sa kanilang lugar. At tuwing pagkatapos gamitin ito ay may lumalabas umanong mga bula, na kapag sinindihan ay umaapoy.

Nawawala rin ang apoy kapag naubos na ang mga bula sa poso, dagdag niya.

Ayon sa lola ni Lantin na si Rita Rendon, matagal na nilang ginagamit ang tubig na lumalabas sa poso at wala naman silang naramdaman o nalalashang kakaiba rito.

Patuloy na ginagamit ng mga residente ang poso. Dito sila kumukuha ng tubig na kanilang iniinom, at ginagamit sa pagsasaing, pagluluto, pagliligo at paglalaba.

Kasalukuyang inaalang ng Municipal Environment and Natural Office ng Hamtic ang dahilan at kung saan nanggagaling ang apoy.

Noong 2013, naging usap-usapan rin sa lalawigan ng Rizal ang isang posong naglalabas ng apoy.

Ayon sa isang eksperto noon, posibleng may hydrogen sulfide sa tubig, na indikasyon na malapit ang pinagmumulan ng tubig sa isang natural gas deposit sa ilalim ng lupa.

--ulat ni Rolen Escaniel

Source: [https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/05/19/22/tingnan-apoy-lumalabas-sa-poso-ng-tubig-sa-antique?fbclid=IwAR29QODC4K-B-NU6Y3DCbJ9C33uvGD2oMH2\\_m5KFQzrPYfdl\\_6p8E29oIOs](https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/05/19/22/tingnan-apoy-lumalabas-sa-poso-ng-tubig-sa-antique?fbclid=IwAR29QODC4K-B-NU6Y3DCbJ9C33uvGD2oMH2_m5KFQzrPYfdl_6p8E29oIOs)





# Pollution kills more than 9M people each year globally: study

May 19, 2022, 8:23 pm



**ANKARA** – Despite declines in deaths from household air and water pollution, pollution still kills more than 9 million each year, or one in six deaths worldwide, according to research published Wednesday in a top medical journal.

"Over the past two decades, deaths caused by the modern forms of pollution have increased by 66 percent, driven by industrialization, uncontrolled urbanization, population growth, fossil fuel combustion, and an absence of adequate national or international chemical policy," the study in *Lancet Planetary Health* said.

More than 90 percent of pollution-related deaths happen in low- and middle-income countries.

Air pollution causes over 6.5 million deaths each year globally, while lead and other chemicals are responsible for 1.8 million deaths.

Increases in pollution-related deaths are especially evident in south Asia, east Asia, and southeast Asia.

In Africa, household air pollution and water pollution are still the main causes of pollution-related disease and death.

"Although high-income countries have controlled their worst forms of pollution, only a few low-income and middle-income countries have been able to make pollution a priority, devoted resources to pollution control, or made progress," the research said.

Researchers in the study said urgent attention is required to control pollution and prevent pollution-related disease, adding that most countries have done little to deal with this enormous public health problem.

The triad of pollution, climate change, and biodiversity loss are closely linked but they are largely ignored in the international development agenda, the researchers said, adding: "Successful control of these conjoined threats requires a globally supported, formal science-policy interface to inform intervention, influence research, and guide funding." (*Anadolu*)



# Climate change indicators hit record highs in 2021 — UN

[Robin Millard](#) - Agence France-Presse May 18, 2022 | 5:11pm



A formerly sunken boat rests on a now-dry section of lakebed at the drought-stricken Lake Mead on May 10, 2022 in the Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Nevada.

Mario Tama/Getty Images/AFP

GENEVA, Switzerland — Four key climate change indicators all set new record highs in 2021, the United Nations said Wednesday, warning that the global energy system was driving humanity towards catastrophe.

Greenhouse gas concentrations, sea level rise, ocean heat and ocean acidification all set new records last year, the UN's World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said in its "State of the Global Climate in 2021" report.

The annual overview is "a dismal litany of humanity's failure to tackle climate disruption", UN chief Antonio Guterres said.

"The global energy system is broken and bringing us ever closer to climate catastrophe.

"We must end fossil fuel pollution and accelerate the renewable energy transition before we incinerate our only home."

The WMO said human activity was causing planetary-scale changes on land, in the ocean and in the atmosphere, with harmful and long-lasting ramifications for ecosystems.

## Record heat

The report confirmed that the past seven years were the top seven hottest years on record.

Back-to-back La Nina events at the start and end of 2021 had a cooling effect on global temperatures last year.

Even so, it was still one of the warmest years ever recorded, with the average global temperature in 2021 about 1.11 degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial level.

The 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change saw countries agree to cap global warming at "well below" 2C above average levels measured between 1850 and 1900—and 1.5C if possible.

"Our climate is changing before our eyes," said WMO chief Petteri Taalas.

"The heat trapped by human-induced greenhouse gases will warm the planet for many generations to come. Sea level rise, ocean heat and acidification will continue for hundreds of years unless means to remove carbon from the atmosphere are invented."



## 'Consistent picture of warming world'

Four key indicators of climate change "build a consistent picture of a warming world that touches all parts of the Earth system", the report said.

Greenhouse gas concentrations reached a new global high in 2020, when the concentration of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) reached 413.2 parts per million (ppm) globally, or 149 percent of the pre-industrial level.

Data indicate that they continued to increase in 2021 and early 2022, with monthly average CO<sub>2</sub> at Mona Loa in Hawaii reaching 416.45 ppm in April 2020, 419.05 ppm in April 2021, and 420.23 ppm in April 2022, the report said.

Global mean sea level reached a new record high in 2021, rising an average of 4.5 millimetres per year throughout 2013 to 2021, the report said.

GMSL rose by 2.1 mm per year between 1993 and 2002, with the increase between the two time periods "mostly due to the accelerated loss of ice mass from the ice sheets", it said.

## Signs in the seas

Ocean heat hit a record high last year, exceeding the 2020 value, the report said.

And it is expected that the upper 2,000 metres of the ocean will continue to warm in the future—"a change which is irreversible on centennial to millennial timescales", said the WMO, adding that the warmth was penetrating to ever deeper levels.

The ocean absorbs around 23 percent of the annual emissions of human-caused CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere. While this slows the rise of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations, CO<sub>2</sub> reacts with seawater and leads to ocean acidification.

The UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change concluded with "very high confidence" that open ocean surface acidity is at the highest "for at least 26,000 years".

Meanwhile the report said the Antarctic ozone hole reached an "unusually deep and large" maximum area of 24.8 million square kilometres in 2021, driven by a strong and stable polar vortex.

Guterres proposed five actions to jump-start the transition to renewable energy "before it's too late".

Among them, he suggested ending fossil fuel subsidies, tripling investments in renewable energy and making renewable energy technologies, such as battery storage, freely-available global public goods.

"If we act together, the renewable energy transformation can be the peace project of the 21st century," Guterres said.





# World's oceans at most acidic level in 26,000 years, climate report warns

Reuters / 06:50 AM May 19, 2022



A bleaching coral is seen in the place where abandoned fishing nets covered it in a reef at the protected area of Ko Losin, Thailand June 20, 2021. (REUTERS/File Photo)

The [world's oceans](#) grew to their warmest and most acidic levels on record last year, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said on Wednesday, as United Nations officials warned that war in Ukraine threatened global climate commitments.

Oceans saw the most striking extremes as the WMO detailed a range of turmoil wrought by climate change in its annual "State of the Global Climate" report. It said melting ice sheets had helped push sea levels to new heights in 2021.

"Our climate is changing before our eyes. The heat trapped by human-induced greenhouse gases will warm the planet for many generations to come," said WMO Secretary-General Petteri Taalas in a statement.

The report follows the latest U.N. climate assessment, which warned that humanity must drastically cut its greenhouse gas emissions or face increasingly catastrophic changes to the world's climate.

Taalas told reporters there was scant airtime for climate challenges as other crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and war in Ukraine, grabbed headlines.

Selwin Hart, U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres's special adviser on climate action, criticised countries reneging on climate commitments due to the conflict, which has pushed up energy prices and prompted European nations to seek to replace Russia as an energy supplier. **DANGEROUS INCREASE**

"We are ... seeing many choices being made by many major economies which, quite frankly, have the potential to lock in a high-carbon, high-polluting future and will place our climate goals at risk," Hart told reporters.

On Tuesday, global equity index giant MSCI warned that the world faces a dangerous increase in greenhouse gases if Russian gas is replaced with coal.

The WMO report said levels of climate-warming carbon dioxide and methane in the atmosphere in 2021 surpassed previous records.



Globally, the average temperature last year was 1.11 degrees Celsius above the preindustrial average – as the world edges closer to the 1.5C threshold beyond which the effects of warming are expected to become drastic.

“It is just a matter of time before we see another warmest year on record,” Taalas said.

Oceans bear much of the brunt of the warming and emissions. The bodies of water absorb around 90% of the Earth’s accumulated heat and 23% of the carbon dioxide emissions from human activity.

The ocean has warmed markedly faster in the last 20 years, hitting a new high in 2021, and is expected to become even warmer, the report said. That change would likely take centuries or millennia to reverse, it noted.

The ocean is also now its most acidic in at least 26,000 years as it absorbs and reacts with more carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

Sea level has risen 4.5 cm (1.8 inches) in the last decade, with the annual increase from 2013 to 2021 more than double what it was from 1993 to 2002.

The WMO also listed individual extreme heatwaves, wildfires, floods and other climate-linked disasters around the world, noting reports of more than \$100 billion in damages.

*gsg*

Source: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1599577/worlds-oceans-at-most-acidic-level-in-26000-years-climate-report-warns?fbclid=IwAR1eZ-UkgYIxz4AkErJf88hxgN5Rs3iZBJCFhvF8OpOthRyIluGKK5GGfR8>



GMA News

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Giant freshwater stingray, na-rescue sa Cambodia

Na-rescue ng ilang mangingisda ang isang giant freshwater stingray sa Mekong River, Stung Treng province, Cambodia na may haba na 4 na metro at may bigat na 396 pounds.

Nakuha raw ang pagi sa lambat ng mga mangigisda, kung saan ipinaalam nila ito kay Zeb Hogan, isang fish biologist sa University of Nevada, at ang kaniyang team na nagsagawa ng expedition sa liblib na parte ng ilog.

Kuwento ni Hogan sa Reuters, tumulong siya sa pagpapalaya sa pagi matapos itong ilagay sa isang tarp.

Ibinahagi rin ni Hogan na bihira lang makita ang mga giant freshwater stingray sa lugar.

PHOTOS: University of Nevada/Handout via Reuters

See Translation



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## Chamber of Mines welcomes reopening of Tampakan

By Othel V. Campos

THE Chamber of Mines of the Philippines said Thursday it looks forward to the reopening of the stalled Tampakan copper-gold project following the lifting of the ban on open pit mining in South Cotabato province.

COMP said the local government unit's environment code is now aligned with national laws on mining, allowing open pit extraction method used by thousands of mines worldwide.

"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," said Chamber of Mines of the Philippines chairman Michael Toledo.



Chamber of Mines of the Philippines chairman Michael Toledo

COMP said global practices allow open pit mines to be operated safely and

can be rehabilitated properly to create alternative and productive land use after the life of mine.

Toledo said Tampakan could be another powerful project that would lift the local and regional economy in South Cotabato, adding to the benefits of similar mining tenements in Silangan and Kingking.

The mining project is expected to spur economic activities, create employment, open up new business opportunities and promote social development programs in education and health.

"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," Toledo said.





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# South Cotabato gov vows review of environment code

About 3,000 protesters hit lifting of open-pit mining ban, seek veto of provincial board's amendments to 12-year-old prohibition

By Bong S. Sarmiento  
@InqNational

KORONADAL CITY—Outraged by the lifting of the open-pit mining ban which had been in effect in South Cotabato province in the last 12 years, about 3,000 residents in this city and surrounding towns trooped to the provincial capitol here on Thursday calling on the provincial governor to veto the measure.

South Cotabato Gov. Reynaldo Tamayo Jr. faced the crowd, which included the elderly and youth groups, and announced the creation of a technical working group (TWG) to study the recent decision of the provincial board to amend the province's environment code.

"Today, we will create a TWG that will study the amendments made by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan to our environment code," Tamayo told the crowd gathered outside the provincial capitol following a closed-door meeting with a team headed by Marbel Bishop Cerilo Casicas.

As of Thursday noon, Tamayo said his office had yet to receive an official copy of the amended environment code, which he could either veto or allow to lapse into law by not signing it 15 days after receipt.

He said he would base his decision on the recommendations of the TWG, taking into account "what is right and [what is] for the greater welfare of the people."

### 'Voice of the people'

The governor also said that before he would make a decision, he would discuss the recommendations of the TWG with both the anti- and pro-mining groups.

Casicas said they welcomed the decision of Tamayo to create a TWG, adding that "the governor showed sincerity

during their meeting."

"But in the end, we hope he will decide based on the wisdom of the people ... The most powerful voice is not of the governor's but the voice of the people," the prelate said at a press conference.

Casicas said Tamayo informed them during the meeting that the amended environment code had already reached his office but the Sangguniang Panlalawigan recalled it "for some reasons."

Lawyer Noel Ben, director for legal aid and community extension services of Notre Dame of Marbel University, said the amendment to the environment code would not be final until the governor acted on it within the prescribed period, or 15 days from his office's receipt of the measure.

"The passage of the amended environment code is still at their (Sangguniang Panlalawigan) level," according to Ben, who is helping the Diocese of Marbel in legal matters.

Casicas said they were hoping that with the outrage expressed by different sectors, the provincial board would no longer transmit a copy of the controversial measure to the Office of the Governor.

### Unmoved

Board Member Hilario de Pedro VI, main author of the proposal to lift the ban on open-pit mining in the province, appeared unmoved by the public backlash generated by the board's decision.

"You have expressed your suspicions, outrage, dismay and outright condemnation of

our decision as a collegial body. You are entitled to that and you are also entitled to know the real reasons," he said in a post on Facebook, which generated mostly negative comments.

De Pedro claimed that the environment code violated the 1987 Constitution.

In 2020, however, Judge Vicente Peña, acting presiding judge of Regional Trial Court 11th Judicial Region Branch 24 here, said in a 31-page decision that the code's Section 22 (b), which bans open-pit mining in South Cotabato, was legal and consistent

with Department Administrative Order No. 2017-10, the Local Government Code of the Philippines and the Constitution.

The late former Environment Secretary Gina Lopez issued DAO 2017-10 which banned the open-pit method of mining for copper, gold, silver and complex ores in the country.

### Strict monitoring

The lifting of the ban effectively removed the obstacle that stalled the \$5.9-billion Tampakan project, Southeast Asia's largest untapped copper and gold minefield pursued by Sagittarius Mines Inc. (SMI).

But the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has vowed to implement a strict monitoring of the Tampakan copper-gold project on its environmental protection and rehabilitation commitments once it resumes operations.

"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





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**CONCERNS** Antimining advocates gather outside the South Cotabato provincial capitol in Koronadal City to voice their concerns about the impact of mining activities on the province's water supply and natural environment. —BONG S. SARMIENTO

mining and environmental laws, rules and regulations," said Acting Environment Secretary Jim Sampulna in a statement.

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

Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) Director Wilfredo Moncano said SMI had complied with all major requirements to support the mining operation.

The MGB will create a multipartite monitoring team that will oversee the conduct of quarterly environmental monitoring and audit of the mining company's operations to ensure that it is within environmental laws, the DENR said.

It will also convene the Mine Rehabilitation Fund Committee to supervise 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.

The DENR said the committee would likely be composed of officials and personnel from the DENR and its regional bureaus, community representatives, civic and nongovernment organizations, local governments and the contractor or permit holder.

Earlier, Chamber of Mines of the Philippines said the decision of the South Cotabato provincial board to lift the open-pit mining ban would help revitalize the mining industry and help in the country's economic recovery more than two years after the coronavirus pandemic disrupted economic activities around the world. —WITH A REPORT FROM FRANCES MANGOSING INQ





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# President's winning team

**“Bongbong could use the template of his father and his predecessor. Hire the best, the most industrious, the servant leaders.”**

By noon of 30 June 2022, presumptive President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. will start his reign as the 17th President of the Philippines.

His rise to the apex of power is historic in that he was elected by an unprecedented majority, and the added significance was that it finally brought the yellow regime and its trademark to a closure with the humbling defeat of the Liberal Party chairperson Leni Robredo and party president Kiko Pangilinan.

It is a classic irony and a twist of fate that the one who dealt the final blow was the man that bears the name of the ousted leader who had been pilloried from the time he was shanghaied by the United States (US) to Hawaii, to his death and beyond. Ferdinand Marcos Jr. himself had been subjected to a magma of debasing insults and diatribes.

BBM had been beaten to the pulp by his adversaries and their wrecking crew but, in the process, denigrated the silent numbers of school dropouts, the thousands who made it in the university of hardknocks and those who, unlike Robredo, do not have a litany of degrees from exclusive schools.

All these are beyond us now. By noon on the last day of June, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, will go home to Davao City on the first available flight. Citizen Digong will leave a big shoe for his successor President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to fill.

Bongbong could use the template of his father and his predecessor. Hire the best, the most industrious, the servant leaders. He is off to a good start. Vice President-elect Inday Sara Duterte for the Department of Education; former Metropolitan Manila Development Authority chairperson Benhur Abalos for the Department of the Interior and Local Government.

Two vital Cabinet positions, the Department of Finance and the Department of Transportation are manned by Secretary Carlos Dominguez and Art Tugade respectively. If BBM is indeed true to his pledge for continuity, he should ask these two to keep their posts.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), sad to say, was the least performing agency in the Duterte administration.

Despite the fact that the government has given the department a wide range of power and opportunities to be one of the important pillars



SOUTHERN OPTICS  
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that could support the government's economic recovery program, and the lead agency that would conserve the natural resources, still the agency failed miserably in performing its role.

I will not go far.

In Davao del Norte, illegal logging activities have been taking place under the noses of DENR officials. It became too flagrant that someone must have brought the malfeasance to the central office of DENR. A task force against illegal logging was eventually organized and easily brought to court the alleged perpetrators which include a city mayor.

But this is just a note in the compendium of illegal logging activities in the province which only the DENR officials are not aware of. Dismiss everybody for a starter.

Mindanao is a region in the country that is abundant with metallic and non-metallic resources. In the bowels of its earth lie the motherlode of gold and copper

**“The Department of Environment and Natural Resources, sad to say, was the least performing agency in the Duterte administration.”**

and untapped natural gas. And where there is gas, oil deposits are not far behind. Joey Salceda says the government should have a revenue of P300-billion plus to service its debt, well the mining sector alone can address that.

Gen. Roy Cimatu is a fine army general from Ilocos Norte who was appointed by President Duterte to the position. Sadly he is a square peg in the position.

This time maybe, presumptive President Marcos Jr. may consider somebody with roots in the Ilocos but is a true blue Mindanaon. Someone who looks like Atty. Edison “Ed” Batacan, Dean of the College of Law, professor of law on environment and natural resources.

Dean Batacan is managing partner of Batacan, Montejo, Vicencio and Valdez Law Firm in Davao City. The screening committee will be surprised to discover Batacan's other impressive credentials which he does not flaunt.

Ed Batacan heads the army of volunteer lawyers for the UniTeam all over Mindanao that kept an eagle eye on legal issues that could arise before, during, and after the 9 May elections. Batacan's involvement in the political campaign of BBM started in the 2016 polls when he joined Alyansang Duterte Bongbong (AIDuB).

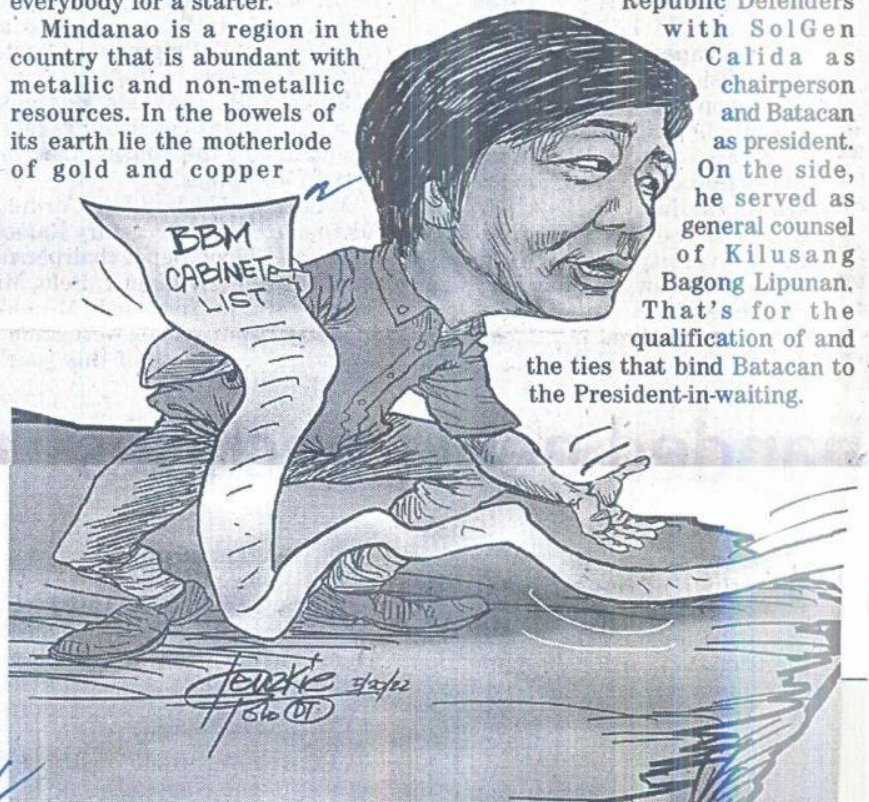
The group was founded by lawyer Jose Calida (now Solicitor General) and the late Admiral Ruben Lista (appointed later as President of Philippine National Oil Company). AIDuB later metamorphosed into

Republic Defenders with SolGen

Calida as chairperson and Batacan as president.

On the side, he served as general counsel of Kilusang Bagong Lipunan. That's for the qualification of and

the ties that bind Batacan to the President-in-waiting.







# A call to love our planet

**T**he Climate Change Commission (CCC) conducted a series of activities last April in commemoration of Earth Month and Earth Day 2022 aimed at increasing awareness on and promoting climate change action and countering environmental degradation.

The CCC produced and released a special Earth Day video covering messages from climate leaders and advocates, including President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, CCC Chair-Designate and Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III, Secretary Robert E.A. Borje, Deputy Speaker Loren Legarda, and National Panel of Technical Experts Chairperson Dr. Doracie Zoleta-Nantes.

The CCC also launched a 12-day artcard series on social media entitled, "12 Ways over 12 Days toward

climate-resilient, sustainable living" from April 10-22 to promote 12 simple climate adaptation and mitigation practices individuals and communities can undertake to address climate change.

On April 18, the CCC conducted its first-ever coastal clean-up at the Las Piñas-Parañaque Wetland Park (LPPWP) and to generate greater consciousness and actions on responsible consumer behaviour by reducing plastic consumption and observing waste management.

On Earth Day, April 22, the CCC co-organized the "Pagyabong 2022: An Enrichment Tree Planting Activity" held at the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center (NAPWC) Arboretum.

Thereafter, the CCC, together with The Climate Reality Philippines and

the Office of Deputy Speaker Loren Legarda, facilitated the launch of "Stories For A Better Reality," a monthly webinar series aimed at tackling climate issues, promoting initiatives and solutions, and informing policy and action framed from the perspective of the youth.

This webinar evolved from the weekly Stories for A Better Normal aired from May 2020 to February 2022.

Finally on Earth Day, the awarding ceremony of the "Klimathon: Our Race Toward A Net Zero Reality" was held. This is a joint project of the CCC and Nestlé Philippines to highlight the capability of young Filipino innovators to develop and showcase sustainability-focused solutions that can help address current issues and challenges relating to the climate crisis.







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## Issues and opportunities to deal with

I thank my friend Ben Kritz for his



STEPHEN CUUNJIENG

column yesterday (Thursday) on a very bizarre Tuesday for the Philippines with the three events he described. Truly, only in the Philippines.

As enough are bloviating with or without insight into personalities and reasons behind the winning and losing campaigns and crowing or crying, I will take another path. I will try to deal with issues that the incoming administration should deal with. >CuunjiengA5

### ■ CUUNJIENG FROM A1

## Issues and opportunities to deal with

In some cases, because of urgency and need, in others because of opportunity. I will start with one of the latter.

As the civilized world (neanderthal critics exempted, including the one in this paper) moves toward carbon neutrality what is one of the key linchpins? The end of the multi-century dominance of the internal combustion engine. What does that entail? Three simultaneous developments. Power generation is moving to fully renewable. Civilized consensus is this is a migration not an exodus. Fossil fuel plants fueled by coal and peaking plants powered by oil will remain but as much as possible no more new building of the same. Plus, eventual replacement by renewable power generation. Natural gas and to a lesser extent nuclear are transition energy sources. Eventually wind, solar, geothermal, hydro and whatever other renewable energy sources will be the new sources and eventually replace fossil fuels and the transition energy sources.

### Linchpins

What are the other linchpins? One is that users and uses of energy need to become more energy efficient. The other is transportation and machinery, which when possible, needs to move from the internal combustion engine which is oil-driven through gasoline, diesel and the like to hybrid and eventually electric machinery and vehicles with power sourced from an electricity grid that is powered by renewable energy.

California is on its way there. California has an objective to achieve 5 million zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs) on the road by 2030 and 250,000 electric vehicle charging stations by 2025 as directed in the Executive Order (EO) B-48-18. Further, by 2035, all new cars and passenger trucks sold in California must be ZEVs (EO N-79-20). Given the size and importance of that market, as California goes, so does the rest of the US. My source is the California Public Utilities Commission website.

Hence, when California raised minimum mileage standards, the car industry adopted it for all vehicles sold in the US and globally soon after. No car manufacturer present in the US can exclude the California market.

Hence for the automobile and vehicle market, what California mandates becomes the standard for the US and globally. The biggest car market in Europe, Germany, is moving in the same direction. The biggest car market in Asia — China — has mandated that by 2030, 40 percent of all new vehicles sold be electric. Japan has mandated that by 2030 all new vehicles be at least 30 percent more fuel-efficient. That means hybrids and electric vehicles are the future. Farewell, fossil fuel-powered internal combustion engines.

I had a Prius in the US that I bought in 2006. I brought it back to Manila in 2010 and drove it with pride and got compliments for doing so. I sold in it 2016 as it was getting too old and while I would have preferred to replace it with another Prius (electric vehicles were not yet affordable then), the lack of service support and parts thanks to the Aquino 3rd administration not following the lead of other countries like Thailand and Singapore and Hong Kong where tax breaks were provided to help lower the gap in prices, made them cost inefficient. Go to Bangkok, Hong Kong and Singapore, so many vehicles there are hybrid and electric. Am happy the Duterte administration partly remedied that, but more is needed, including infrastructure like fast charging stations.

That is not my main point but the context behind it. What is needed to transition to this green economy? I quote from the IEA:

“At least 30 times as much lithium, nickel and other key minerals may be required by the electric car industry by 2040 to meet global climate targets, according to the International Energy Agency (IEA).”

“These metals are among a handful that are considered vital in the manufacture of solar panels, wind turbines and other clean energy technologies.

“Overall, the Paris-based organization says the production of these key minerals may need to quadruple over the next two decades to achieve the Paris Agreement target of limiting warming to ‘well below’ 2 C, or expand by as much as six times to reach net-zero globally by 2050.” (Source: Carbon Brief, May 5, 2021)

### Green minerals

Copper is also one of the key minerals. Hence, the new nomenclature — green minerals which include copper and nickel. Both are abundant in the Philippines. What has happened to nickel and copper prices as a result? For copper in the last five years as per Bloomberg, prices per pound have gone from about \$250 to \$412.50 with a high of \$501. What about nickel? Per ton nickel has gone from about \$10,000 to about \$18,500.

Guess what? The Philippines was a major producer of copper and nickel and remains a decent producer. However, the restrictions imposed by the PNoy administration — which were carried on until recently by the Duterte administration which reversed some of the restrictions — reversed the mining renaissance started during the Ramos administration and carried on by the Arroyo administration. That halted progress in production.

I recommend a full reversal by the incoming Marcos administration with responsible environmental safeguards and the opening of adjacent and new areas for study, exploration and production, besides encouraging heightened production from operating mines. Ironically for the knee-jerk anti-mining advocates, we need these minerals and others to move to an environmentally sustainable era.

What is the alternative? To go back to being “village people” who have to walk or take animal transport to move? Back to 1 horsepower, Cadillac and rickshaws?





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Besides this, what is needed? Medium- and long-term investment in capturing more of the processing chain for these metals. Belatedly, toward the end of the Marcos administration, a copper smelter was finally completed. There were issues on overpricing of construction and underpricing of the purchase of copper concentrate.

I have no reliable detail on that, but the first Aquino administration following the Washington consensus, instead of repricing the purchase price, if true, sold the smelter for cents on the dollar to Glencore. It is running at full capacity and cannot even smelt the total copper concentrate output as is of the Philippines. I have done mining deals but do not claim to be an expert. Perhaps an additional copper smelter can be built for processing nickel as well as Indonesia does for both. In fact, Indonesia has required more processing to be done in the country to capture the higher value for intermediate and finished products.





# Pollution behind 1 in 6 global deaths in 2019 — study

By KELLY MACNAMARA

**P**ARIS (AFP) — Pollution caused some nine 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, 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, one in six premature deaths globally — or nine 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 totalling \$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.

Prevailing global winds transport air pollution from east Asia to North America, from North America to Europe, and from Europe to the Arctic and central Asia.

Meanwhile, cereals, seafood, chocolate and vegetables produced for export in developing countries can be contaminated as a result of soil and water polluted with lead, arsenic, cadmium, mercury and pesticides.

This "increasingly threatens global food safety", the report said, adding that "toxic metals found in infant formula and baby foods are of particular concern."

Fuller said the threat of pollution — particularly air and lead pollution — is underappreciated, with more attention focused on the health implications of microplastics.

"We can show a million people dying from lead pollution right now — more than die from malaria, more than die from HIV — and that's not even discussed," he said.



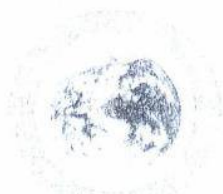


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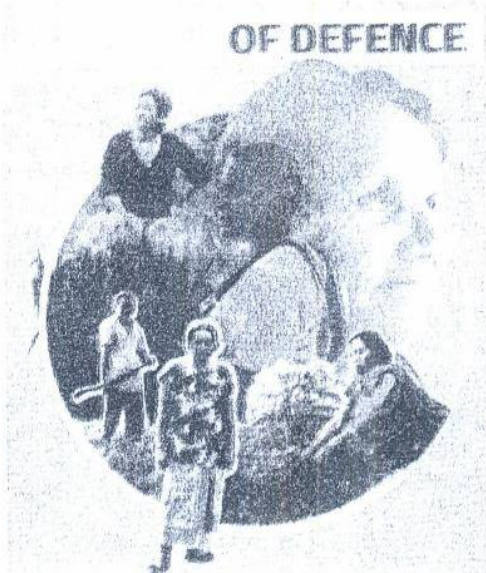
EnvironmentMB@gmail.com



### ELEVENTH HOUR

THE CLIMATE REALITY  
PROJECT PHILIPPINES

## Vigilance at all times



**W**hat does a Marcos administration mean for a country among the most vulnerable to the climate crisis?

First, Ferdinand Marcos, Jr.'s efforts to promote and support the rights of climate and environmental defenders will dictate the progress of the climate movement in the country.

A vibrant democracy is a key ingredient to addressing the climate crisis. It must be noted, however, that a report released by international watchdog Global Witness last year revealed that the Philippines was the third deadliest country for environmental defenders in the world in 2020.

Facing the public through debates to explain his platform was not part of Marcos' strategy and campaign, which makes it hard to assess his stance on this important issue.

And so these questions linger in our minds: Will his administration support the Environmental Defense Bill pending in Congress? Will he put in place mechanisms to ensure

The latest report from Global Witness revealed that over half of the lethal attacks it recorded in the Philippines were directly linked to the environmental defenders' opposition to mining, logging, and dam projects.

that climate and environmental advocates are heard and consulted?

Second, the presumptive president's success or failure in implementing climate policies will decide who survives and thrives in this country.

Hit by the tropical cyclones and other weather extremes that are becoming more frequent and destructive as global warming continues, the Philippines experiences escalating losses and damages year after year. This vicious cycle could only be addressed by deploying science and evidence-based solutions and by ensuring that the global community follows through with its commitment to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels—the threshold needed for vulnerable communities to survive amid the impacts of climate change.

►B-11



## Buwaya na 100-anyos, umagaw ng record ni Lolong

KAPAG nabanggit ang mga buwaya maaari maisip ng marami si Lolong na nahuli noong 2011 sa bayan ng Bunawan, Agusan del Sur ngunit sa kanyang pagpanaw noong 2013 ay naibalik ang world record bilang largest crocodile sa unang may hawak nito na si Cassius.

Nanalagi si Cassius sa Marineland Crocodile Park sa Queensland, Austria at ngayon ay may hawak ng record bilang pinakamalaking buwaya na nahuli. Ayon sa tala, tinatayang nasa 100-anyos na siyang nabubuhay.

Si Cassius ay sumuskat ng 5.48m o 17ft 11in na kasing haba ng dalawang lamesa ng pingpong. Bukod sa bigatin nitong laki, ganoon din

ang kanyang timbang na 1,200 kgs o 2,645 lbs—katumbas nito ang bigat ng dalawang taxi.

Gayunman, mas malaki pa rin ang yumaong si Lolong sa sukat na 6.17 m o 20 ft 3 in.

Sabi ng eksperto sa Guinness World Records kung pagkukumparahin si Cassius at si Lolong sa ibang saltwater na bu-

waya — ang kadalasang laki ng iba ay 4.9m kapag lalaki at maaaring 7m naman kapag babae.

Kaya nga lang, si Lolong ay pumanaw dahil sa congestive heart failure. Habang si Cassius sa ngayon, ay naging atraksiyon na sa nasabing wildlife park. **(Nethaniah Jan Lim)**



(Guinness World Records)





# Coast Guard notes increased presence of Filipino fishermen on Pagasa Island

BY RENE ACOSTA  
@reneacostaBM

**F**ILIPINO fishermen are returning to the waters of Pagasa Island in bigger number as the government sustains its presence there through the conduct of regular patrols by the military, Philippine Coast Guard and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.

The increased sightings of fishermen in waters surrounding the island, where the seat of the local government of the Municipality of Kalayaan is located, was reported by the Coast Guard on Thursday, confirming the "increasing presence" of Filipino fishermen in Pagasa Island.

"During the deployment of the largest Coast Guard contin-

gent in the West Philippine Sea [WPS] from 12 to 14 May 2022, they monitored around 25 Filipino fishing boats conducting fishing activities on the island's vicinity waters," the Coast Guard, through its spokesman Commodore Armand Balilo, said.

The strong presence of Chinese paramilitary ships, including from China's maritime militia in Pagasa Island, which is part of the Kalayaan Island Group, and in the West Philippine Sea, has in the past discouraged Filipino fishermen from venturing into the disputed waters.

The local fishermen also felt threatened and intimidated.

The Coast Guard said that during its ships' missions, they checked on the conditions of the Filipino fishermen and provided relief supplies and

Covid-19 kits to support the Filipinos in their fishing operations.

According to Coast Guard Commandant Admiral Artemio Abu, the significant increase of Filipino fishermen in the West Philippine Sea proved that the PCG's intensified presence boosted their confidence and made them feel safe and protected while fishing in those waters.

"Through our continuous modernization, we ensure that our *kababayans* can freely explore our marine resources while protecting our marine environment for the future generations," he said.

National Task Force for the West Philippine Sea (NTF-WPS) Chairman and National Security Adviser Secretary Hermogenes Esperon has underscored the need to encour-

age Filipino fishermen to continue their fishing ventures in the West Philippine Sea.

He also noted that constructing a fuel depot and ice storage plant on Pagasa Island is part of the national government's effort to assist Filipino fishermen in the area.

The Coast Guard recently constructed an oil depot in the Kalayaan.

Meanwhile, Department of Transportation (DOT) Secretary Arthur P. Tugade has directed the Coast Guard to guarantee that Filipino fishermen may enjoy the rich marine resources and be safe to come home to their families.

"The Coast Guard will always be in line with the direction of the national government to protect the country's sovereign rights and safeguard every Filipino at sea," Abu said.





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## TREE OF LIFE (PART 2)

**KAHAPON** bilang bahagi ng ating obserbasyon ng "National Heritage Month" batay sa Presidential Proclamation No. 493 ngayong buwan ng Mayo sa pangunguna ng NCCA o ng National Commission for Culture and the Arts ay tinatalakay natin ang "Tree of Life" na Punong Niyog. Narito ang ating pagpapatuloy.

Ang sabaw na dating natatapon lamang ay ginagamit na pamatid uhaw at pang-alis bato ang sabaw ng buko.

Buhat sa pag-aaral na Dr. Eufemio Macalalag, Jr., isang urologist, lumabas na ang namumuong bato sa ating mga kidney ay puwedeng matunaw at maiwasan

sa pag-inom ng sariwang buko juice buhat sa bukong may pito hanggang siyam na buwang edad. Tinawag niya itong "Bukolysis."

Mula rin dito ay nabubuo ang nata de coco na paboritong dessert o pamatid umay matapos ang kainan.

Ginagawa ring pamalit sa dextrose ang sabaw ng buko dahil mabisa itong pamatid gutom. At masusi pang pinag-aaralan sa ngayon ang bisa nito para labanan ng ating katawan ang matinding radiation.

May silbi rin ang balat ng buko na ginagamit bilang bunot na pampakintab ng mga sahig. Sa masusing pagsasaliksik, lumabas mula dito ang bagong industriya,



REIMATE OPINION

## ANG INYONG LINGKOD

NI DR. HILDA C. ONG

ang coco coir na ginagawang bag, sako, tali o lubid, fishing net, doormats, basahan, at maging mattress o higaan.

Bahagi rin ng kusinang Pilipino ang gata na dagta buhat sa kinudkod na niyog. Inihahalo ito sa laing, ginataan, ube halaya, at buko pie. Buhat dito ang coconut jam.

Produktong buhat din sa puno ng niyog o buko ang tuba at lambanog, mga inuming nakakalasing, lubhang popular ito sa kabisayaan at sa mga lalawigan ng Laguna

at Quezon.

Ginagawang lamesa, upuan, iba pang gamit sa bahay ang katawan o puno nito na maasahan din naman sa tibay. Karaniwang ginagamit sa mga construction site ang coco wood bilang pamalit sa kahoy o torso.

Isa sa mga modelong yari sa riyog ay ang Coconut Palace na sinasabing simbolo ng kahusayan nating mga Pilipino sa arkitektura ang pagkakalikha sa palasyong ito noong 1978 mula sa disenyo at konsepto ni Francisco Manosa. Mamamalas dito ang pagpapahalaga natin sa punong puwedeng magangat sa ating estado bilang isa sa maunlad na bansa sa buong mundo sa hinaharap.

Ang puno ng niyog ay hindi lamang mahalaga dahil sa ekonomikal na biyaya nitong hatid kundi sa napag-usapan natin, napakaraming gamit nito sa ating pang-araw-araw na buhay.



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*Editorial*

**Baha, basura  
at dengue**

**I**DINEKLARA na ng Philippine Atmospheric, Geo-physical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) na umpisa na ng tag-ulan. Pinagbasehan ng PAGASA sa pagdedeklara ng rainy season ang limang sunud-sunod na pag-ulan sa bahagi ng Luzon at Visayas kasama ang Metro Manila.

Isa lamang ang ibig sabihin nito, maghanda na ang mamamayan sa baha, basura at dengue. Ang tatlong ito ang mga nangungunang problema sa panahon ng tag-ulan partikular sa Metro Manila. Taun-taon, ang mga problemang ito ang pinapasan ng mamamayan.

Hindi masolusyunan ang pagbaha sa Metro Manila. Marami nang ginawang proyekto na ginastusan nang malaking halaga subalit nananatili pa rin ang pagbaha. Kaunting ulan lang at baha agad. Kabilang sa mga kalye na laging binabaha ay ang Araneta Avenue sa Quezon City, España Blvd., Taft Avenue at Rizal Avenue sa Maynila.

Basura ang itinuturong dahilan kaya may pagbaha sa mga nabanggit na kalsada. Maraming basurang plastic sa drainages, estero at iba pang daluyan ng tubig. Wala nang umaagos na tubig sa mga estero at kanal dahil sa rami ng basurang plastic.

Ang mga walang disiplinang mamamayan ang dapat sisihin sa pagkalat ng basura. Tapon dito, tapon doon ang ginagawa nila kaya tumatambak sa mga daanan ng tubig. Hindi lamang mga plastic na basura gaya ng botelya ng softdrink, cup ng noodles, sachet ng shampoo, toothpaste tube, 3-in-1 coffee at nadagdag ang mga ginamit na face masks.

Kapag maraming tambak ng basura, dito namumugad ang mga lamok na nagdadala ng dengue. Paboritong tirahan at inilitugan ng mga lamok ang basurang plastic na may tubig. Sa report ng Department of Health (DOH), idineklara na ang dengue outbreak sa Zamboanga City kung saan may naitala ng 900 kaso mula Enero 1 hanggang Abril 1, 2022.

Sa bilang na ito, 11 na umano ang namamatay at karamihan ay mga bata. Bukod sa Zamboanga, may mga kaso rin ng dengue sa Davao Region, Western Visayas at Cagayan Valley. Sintomas ng dengue ang mataas na lagnat na tumatagal ng isang linggo, kulay kapeng ihi, pagkakaroon ng pantal-pantal sa balat at pananakit ng katawan.

Ipagpatuloy ng Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) ang paglilinis sa drainages at estero upang maiwasan ang pagbaha. Magkaroon ng disciplina ang mamamayan sa pagtatapon ng basura upang hindi magbaha. Maglinis ng kapaligiran para hindi mabuhay ang mga lamok na may dengue.





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Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Environment and Natural Resource  
COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
CALACA

### NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office at Calaca, Batangas will accept oral or written bids not later than 11:00 AM on July 25, 2022 for the lessee for Industrial Port purposes of the tract of land herein below described:

Location	Brgy. San Rafael, Calaca, Batangas
Description	Miscellaneous Lease Application No. 041007-5
Area	11,200 sqm
Applied for by	Southbay Bulk Terminal, Inc. represented by Connie C. Mandanog

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 land plus one per centum (1%) of the value of the proposed and / or existing improvements. In order that a person may be entitled to participate in a bidding, he must be a qualified public land applicant, and must, before the commencement of the same, make a deposit of equivalent to three (3) months rental. Only deposit in cash, money order treasury warrant, certified checks, cashier's check 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 right is reserved to reject any or all bids.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ISAGANI C. AMATORIO  
CENR Officer



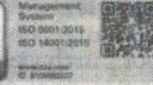
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Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
**ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU**  
DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City 1116  
Tel.Nos. (832) 8539 4378  
Website: [www.emb.gov.ph](http://www.emb.gov.ph) Email: [recordsco@emb.gov.ph](mailto:recordsco@emb.gov.ph)



**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

On the ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) REPORT of the EXPANSION OF SAN NICOLAS SHOAL SEABED QUARRY PROJECT of VIL MINES, INC. (VMI) located in the offshore of the municipalities of Ternate, Naic, Tanza, Noveleta, and Rosario, Province of Cavite.

Notice is hereby given to all parties who wish to give their opinion regarding the implementation of the EXPANSION OF SAN NICOLAS SHOAL SEABED QUARRY PROJECT to attend Public Hearing that is scheduled as follows:

Date	Time	Venue
08 June 2022	9:00 AM <i>(Registration will start at 8:30 AM)</i>	Mount Sea Resort, 163 Marseilla, Rosario, Cavite

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

The following is the project information:

Proponent	VIL Mines, Inc.
Project Name	Expansion of San Nicolas Shoal Seabed Quarry Project
Project Location	Offshore of the municipalities of Ternate, Naic, Tanza, Noveleta, and Rosario, Province of Cavite.
Nature of the Project	Resource Extractive Industry
Extraction Rate	1,600,000 cubic meters of Marine Sand
Project Area	8,530.22 hectares under GSQP No. OMR002-2019-IV and EPA-IVA-127B

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

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

<b>EMB Region IV-A</b> 6th Floor DENR by the Bay Bldg., 1515 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila Tel. No. (02) 8522-8177	<b>Municipality of Ternate</b> Ternate Municipal Hall, Governor's Drive, Barangay Poblacion 1-A, Ternate, Cavite (046) 443-2329
<b>Municipality of Naic</b> Municipal Hall, Barangay Ibayo Silangan, Naic, Cavite (046) 507-0541	<b>Municipality of Tanzass</b> Municipal Hall, A. Soriano Highway Daang Amaya I, Tanza Cavite (046) 437-1076
<b>Municipality of Noveleta</b> Noveleta Municipal Hall, Poblacion, Noveleta, Cavite (046) 438-1107	<b>Municipality of Rosario</b> Rosario Municipal Hall, Rosario, Cavite (046) 438-2690

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

Protect the environment... Protect life...



20 MAY 2022, THURSDAY



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

## **COVID-19 NEWS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**





# Daily COVID-19 cases may breach 500 due to Omicron subvariant — expert

Philstar.com May 19, 2022 | 1:49pm



Voters queuing at a poll precinct at Pinyahan Elementary School amid sweltering heat and malfunctioning of vote counting machines at Diliman, Quezon City on election day, May 9, 2022.

Philstar.com / Jazmin Tabuena

MANILA, Philippines — There is a "high chance" that the confirmed local transmission of the BA.2.12.1 Omicron sub-variant in parts of the country will eventually lead to an uptick in coronavirus cases, though the country is still protected by its vaccinated population, an infectious disease expert said Thursday.

This comes after the Department of Health confirmed Tuesday local transmission of the new Omicron sub-variant is happening in Metro Manila, Puerto Princesa City in Palawan, and Western Visayas.

Speaking at the Laging Handa briefing Thursday morning, Dr. Rontgene Solante, a member of the government's Vaccine Expert Panel said that the uptick could translate to up to as high as over 500 cases per day, especially in dense urban areas like the National Capital Region.

"There is a high chance that the cases will go up but I don't think it will affect our hospitalization rate... The virus is highly transmissible but for the general population, it may not cause more severe infections. What we're looking at is the more vulnerable populations; if there will be an uptick it will be among [them]," he said.

"We expect that cases will increase, especially in areas with low vaccination rate. It is important to note that the sublineage has a high transmissibility rate. Vulnerable are populations that have no vaccination at all."

On Wednesday, the Department of Health reported 103 new cases — below the OCTA Research Group's forecasted 170 — along with zero deaths and 345 recoveries.

According to the OCTA Research Group, there are still 2,241 active cases in the country, good for a 1.0% nationwide positivity rate.

Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said that the new sub-variant is likely to be more transmissible, but its presence will not necessarily translate to a new wave in cases because of the number of vaccinated individuals in the country.

She also pointed out that there is still no evidence suggesting that BA.2.12.1 causes more severe disease.





But Solante on Thursday also cast fear over what he said was the waning immunity among Filipinos in general as the effects of vaccination wear off and more people have to get boosted. He added that lower testing numbers as of late may mean a less accurate picture of the overall situation.

"Even if you're vaccinated, that's another factor that will contribute also to the increase in the cases... there's more reason to believe that [the cases] can go up because of the superspreader events for the past days and weeks," he said.

Solante also asserted the importance of vaccination, particularly for the eligible population to get their boosters for additional protection, as well as general compliance with health protocols as the election season winds down.

"These months are critical because if there is community transmission then we will know for sure that cases will go up because of the sub-variant," he said in Filipino.

Second boosters for senior citizens and healthcare workers were recently approved by the government. Solante said that this was mainly because for this subset of the population, the protective effect against severe infection is stronger.

— **Franco Luna with report from Gaea Katreena Cabico**



# 40.6M Filipinos yet to receive COVID-19 boosters — DOH

Philstar.com May 19, 2022 | 5:25pm



Medical workers prepare Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 coronavirus vaccines during an inoculation drive at a school gym in Taguig City, suburban Manila on December 6, 2021.

AFP / Ted Aljibe

MANILA, Philippines — Around 40 million Filipinos eligible for COVID-19 boosters have yet to receive additional shots, the Department of Health said Thursday.

In a message to reporters, the DOH said there are 54.4 million individuals due for booster doses.

Of the figure, 25% or 13.7 million people have been boosted.

“There are 40.6 million left to be boosted,” the agency said.

Health authorities have been urging Filipinos to get boosters which provide additional protection against COVID-19 variants.

The DOH announced Wednesday that senior citizens and frontline health workers may now receive booster jabs.

Health authorities started giving second boosters doses to immunocompromised adults in April.

Latest data from the government showed that 68.6 million Filipinos have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19. — **Gaea Katreana Cabico**

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2022/05/19/2182264/406m-filipinos-yet-receive-covid-19-boosters-doh>



20 MAY 2022, THURSDAY



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Please click this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IuYHr2ODxEU>

MANILA

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maraming salamat po, keep safe everyone

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MANILA BAYWALK DOLOMITE BEACH

MANILA BAY NAKAKAGULANTANG! DATING TAMBAKAN NG MGA GULONG ITO NA NGAYON! Miz July

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maraming salamat po, keep safe everyone

#SaveManilaBay

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Engr. berto

May 17 at 4:12 PM · 🌐



Yung sinasabi nilang isang bagyo lang ay lusaw na, ngayon ay makukumpleto na ang 500 metrong habang beach front!

Manila Baywalk Dolomite Beach Update

May 17, 2022

See Translation



Dj THUR, Danilo Manangcay and 58K others

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