

21 MAY 2022, Saturday



NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Sampulna Welcomes Tuddao as DENR-IAS Director

[Friday, May 20, 2022 Journal Online](#)



Department of Environment and Natural Resources ([DENR](#)) Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna (middle) hands over the DENR flag to newly-designated Internal Audit Service (IAS) OIC Director Vicente B. Tuddao (right) during the turnover ceremony of the IAS Directorship on May 12, 2022. Tuddao served as the Assistant Regional Director for Technical Services of DENR MIMAROPA prior to his new assignment. He replaces IAS outgoing director Al O. Orolfo (left) who was assigned as director of the [DENR](#) Foreign Assisted and Special Projects Service. IAS is composed of the Management Audit and Operations Audit divisions. It is tasked to render assistance and advise the Secretary on all matters relating to operations and management controls; conduct management and operations audits of the Department's functions, programs, projects and activities and determine the degree of compliance with its mandate, policies, government regulations, among others.



DENR distributes land titles in Northern Mindanao

[May 19, 2022](#) min read

FINALLY, A LANDOWNER! Recipients of free land title proudly display the signed documents with DENR officials during the awarding ceremony.

By Rjhay E Laurea

MANILA — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has awarded land titles to 415 qualified grantees in Northern Mindanao recently through its “Handog Titulo” program.

In a ceremonial program last May 6 at the DENR Region 10 Multi-Purpose Court in Cagayan de Oro City, Original Certificates of Title (OCTs) were distributed to 200 grantees in Bukidnon, 10 in Camiguin, 20 in Lanao del Norte, 35 in Misamis Occidental, and 150 in Misamis Oriental.

DENR Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna said he hopes that the land titles will help the lives of the recipients.

“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,” said Sampulna.

The land titles were part of the 4,000 free permits aimed to be distributed in Northern Mindanao before the end of 2022. Apart from agricultural free permits, the grant also has residential and special free rights.

DENR Undersecretary for Legal, Administration, Human Resources, and Legislative Affairs Ernesto D. Adobo urged the grantees to make good use of the land titles to help spur economic activity.

“This title—this piece of paper—is a good vehicle for the patentees to spark economic activity. There are financial institutions where you can get a loan and make use of your piece of land to the maximum and to be able for your piece of land to produce the desired revenue,” said Adobo.

DENR-Northern Mindanao Regional Executive Director Henry A. Adornado said the land titling program was tackled in line with President Rodrigo Roa Duterte’s directive to rush the job and issuance of public land patents to qualified grantees.

To back the government’s 10-point socioeconomic agenda, the Handog Titulo program of the DENR also aims to spur socio-economic development, mostly in the countryside. (EGR/ai/mtvn)



Govt must exercise caution in considering mining expansion

May 21, 2022

THE recent decision of the provincial board of South [Cotabato](#) to lift the ban on open-pit mining in that province was disappointing, and raises concerns that a new, reckless push to expand mining under an incoming administration perceived to be more favorable to it may be under way. President-elect [Ferdinand Marcos Jr.](#) and his yet to be named economic and environmental managers should be wary of these efforts and exercise caution in considering whether or not to allow more mining in the [Philippines](#).

The proposed mining project directly affected by the decision of the South Cotabato authorities is the Tampakan Copper-Gold Project of Sagittarius Mines Inc. ([SMI](#)), located about 50 kilometers north of [General Santos City](#). The mining site is said to contain nearly 3 billion tons of low-grade copper ore and about 18 million ounces of gold, and would become the largest mine in the Philippines if it became operational.

The project has also been one of the most vigorously contested in the country. In 2010, the province of South Cotabato derailed SMI's plans by imposing the now-lifted ban on open pit mining, which was reinforced by a nationwide ban in 2017. The latter was lifted last year as part of the government's Covid-19 recovery plan. In the meantime, SMI had run afoul of the authorities in the municipality of Tampakan, which in 2020 canceled a development agreement with the mining firm, calling it "lopsided against residents and the community."

In terms of its potential impact on the area, the Tampakan project would generate a great deal of economic benefits in the form of direct revenues and jobs, but at a steep social and environmental cost. Development of the mine site would displace an estimated 4,000 members of the B'laan indigenous community from their ancestral land, and result in the clearance of more than 3,900 hectares of forest. The mine would also break into the aquifer, according to some environmental assessments, affecting groundwater supplies and rivers in the region.

Critics have also bitterly condemned the "underhanded" way in which the South Cotabato provincial government rescinded its ban, just a week after the general election when the public's attention was naturally directed elsewhere. The implication is that some politicians in the provincial government acted in bad faith; whether that is actually true or not, a decision on a matter having such a long-term effect on the province should have been delayed until after the new term of office began.

The Tampakan project is emblematic of the conundrum mining presents to the Philippines generally: The potential economic benefits are too significant to dismiss completely, but those benefits cannot be collected without some degree of permanent harm being done to the environment and communities.

We believe the best way to solve this riddle would be for the government to approach mining with caution, not necessarily with skepticism, but with a clear and consistently enforced set of standards that must be met before mining is possible. Communities should not be displaced, particularly indigenous communities that are an irreplaceable part of our national culture and heritage.



Govt must exercise caution in considering mining expansion

Rigorous environmental protections must be in place, including end-to-end plans for mitigating environmental impact and rehabilitating mining areas, before any approval is granted, and special attention should be given to preventing adverse impacts on freshwater supplies, which are becoming critical all over the country.

Finally, mining must be a value-added economic activity; simply harvesting the country's finite mineral resources and exporting them, which is all that is done now due to the lack of downstream industries in the Philippines, is pure exploitation. Any mining development should be carried out in conjunction with the development of industries that can maximize the value of our national treasure. Mining imposes costs on the country that are permanent no matter how carefully mining is done; any benefits from mining, therefore, should benefit future generations as much as it does those who are only looking for short-term profits. We do not believe that is impossible, but if it cannot be assured, then mining should be avoided.



shutterstock.com • 428739817

MASIPAG MINDANAO

SUPPORTA SA PANGUMA SA MINA

THE BIG STORY
PROTESTS CONTINUE OVER THE DECISION TO RESTART OPEN-PIT MINING AT TAPAKAN PROJECTS

one news

[ONE News - Protests continue over the decision to restart open-pit mining at Tampakan projects | Facebook](#)

facebook.com

Source:

<https://www.facebook.com/385030801902812/posts/1403950043344211/?app=fbl>



DILG: Comelec dapat atasan ang mga kumandidato alisin ang kanilang campaign materials

By [Mer Layson](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon)
- May 20, 2022 - 12:00am



Election campaign tarpaulin materials were brought to Marikina City Environment and Management Office recovery area for proper disposal after the removal operation from different barangay in Marikina City.

Walter Bollozos

MANILA, Philippines — Dapat umanong hikayatin ng Commission on Elections (Comelec) ang lahat ng kandidato sa katatapos na May 9 polls na alisin na ang kani-kanilang mga campaign materials.

Ayon kay Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Undersecretary Jonathan Malaya, nanalo man o natalo ang kandidato ay responsibilidad nitong magtanggap ng campaign materials na kanilang ipinaskil noong nakalipas na panahon ng kampanyahan.

"Sana mahikayat ng Comelec ang mga kandidato..Manalo man o matalo, magkaroon ng programa ang Comelec kung saan pagsasama-samahin niya lahat ng mga kandidato at sila 'yung mag-iikot para magtanggap ng mga campaign material," ani Malaya sa panayam sa telebisyon.

Matapos na makipag-team up sa iba't ibang local government units at Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), iniulat ng DILG na mayroon nang tinatayang 600 toneladang mga campaign materials ang kanilang naalis sa National Capital Region (NCR) hanggang nito lamang Mayo 19 o 10 araw matapos ang halalan.

Target ng ahensiya na matapos ang pagsasagawa ng post-election cleanup sa NCR ngayong linggong ito.

Samantala, naghihintay pa umano ang DILG ng update mula sa kanilang regional offices hinggil sa estado ng cleanup ng campaign materials sa mga lalawigan.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/metro/2022/05/20/2182406/dilg-comelec-dapat-atasan-ang-mga-kumandidato-alisin-ang-kanilang-campaign-materials/amp/>



'TRAPALIT': Where do campaign tarps go? In Biñan, they end up in gardens, fish hatchery

Published May 20, 2022, 2:42 PM

by [Carla Bauto Deña](#)

BIÑAN CITY, Laguna – Where do campaign tarpaulins go now that the election is over and they have served their purpose?

Here in Biñan City, they get a reincarnation – as seedling bags and breeding containers for fish.



Tomato seedlings in seedling bags made of recycled campaign tarpaulins (Carla Bauto Deña / MANILA BULLETIN)

The Office of the City Agriculturist has recently launched a program called Trapalit. According to Organic Sector City Agriculturist Gladys C. Caspe, for every tarpaulin donated to the office, the donor gets a vegetable seedling, a set of vegetable seeds, and a bag of fertilizer.



'TRAPALIT': Where do campaign tarps go? In Biñan, they end up in gardens, fish hatchery



Vermicast and vegetable seeds distributed by Biñan City Agriculture Office in exchange for campaign tarpaulins
(Carla Bauto Deña / MANILA BULLETIN)

"Kasama rin sa conservation and preservation initiatives ng aming opisina. At least, hindi na madagdagan ang basura, makabawas, and then beneficial pa (It's part of the conservation and preservation initiatives of our office. At least, we lessen waste and use it for something beneficial)," City Agriculturist Antonio P. Aguilar told the Manila Bulletin in an interview on Friday, May 20.

Some of the tarpaulins are sewed into small bags used to distribute vegetable seedlings.



'TRAPALIT': Where do campaign tarps go? In Biñan, they end up in gardens, fish hatchery



Seedling bags made of recycled campaign tarpaulins (Carla Bauto Deña / MANILA BULLETIN)

Bigger pieces, on the other hand, are attached to plastic crates and are used to breed ornamental fish such as swordtail, guppy, and molly. Fish Sector Agricultural Technologist Dennis Caponpon Dechetan explained that their office breeds fish for aquaponics.



A fish breeding container made of recycled campaign tarpaulin and a plastic crate (Carla Bauto Deña / MANILA BULLETIN)



'TRAPALIT': Where do campaign tarps go? In Biñan, they end up in gardens, fish hatchery

Alongside the in-house tarpaulin upcycling program, the office will also donate a part of the collected tarps to Anahaw Laguna, which turns them into farming items, such as rice drying mats.

A boom in urban agriculture during the pandemic

The agriculture office has seen a spike in home gardening since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. In fact, they have recorded a 300 percent increase in requests for gardening materials since 2020.

"Nagkaroon na ng initiative ang tao, let's say survival mode, na meron silang makukunan ng food na hindi bibili. Kukunin na lang from their own backyard (People had the initiative, let's say survival mode, to have a food source and they would not need to buy. They can get it from their own backyard)," city agriculturist Aguilar said.



shutterstock.com - 428239812



BALIUG, NAGRESIKLO NG CAMPAIGN MATERIALS AT NAGSAGAWA NG CLEAN-UP DRIVE

Sa bayan ng Baliuag, sa pangunguna ng pamahalaang bayan, niresiklo ang mga campaign materials na ginamit sa nagdaang halalan upang mapakinabangan ang mga ito.

WWW.GOPHILIPPINES.COM

[GO Bulacan](#)
facebook.com

6:25 AM

Source:

<https://www.facebook.com/100066665920039/posts/345714834327378/?app=fbl>



Aboitiz Construction, Iloilo LGU team up for a coastal clean-up drive



Published 16 hours ago
on May 20, 2022 01:34 PM
By [TDI](#) [@tribunephil](#)



About 50 volunteers from Aboitiz Construction, Local Government Units (LGUs) of Iloilo City and other volunteers from the private sector teamed up with the Iloilo City Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) for a coastal clean-up drive in Barangay Sto. Niño Norte, Iloilo City recently.



Aboitiz Construction, Iloilo LGU team up for a coastal clean-up drive

Over 160 kilograms of solid wastes that include plastic and paper rubbish were collected by the volunteers, properly segregated and disposed accordingly. About 50 environment-friendly posters were also hung around the barangay vicinity to remind the residents of the campaign.

"We are grateful to Aboitiz Construction for their participation in this activity. This proves that both public and private sectors should work hand in hand in promoting environmental sustainability," said Mary Jean Irisari, CENRO Environmental Management Specialist.

"Staying true to our core value of Responsibility, we partner with LGUs in fulfilling our commitment towards environmental sustainability. We encourage our team members to volunteer and embody our mission to build a better future," said Nina Ylagan-Pedro, Aboitiz Construction's Vice President for Corporate Affairs and Services.

The Aboitiz Group has championed and aligned with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). The SDG #12 which refers to Responsible Consumption and Production is Aboitiz's anchor in developing a unified waste management framework called 'Wealth out of Wastes.' The Aboitiz Group advocates its initiatives like the Waste Management Program to its host communities. Like Aboitiz Construction, its recent coastal clean-up drive fully supports CENRO's program to conduct information education campaigns for local residents. This is to reinforce the commitment to proper waste segregation, proper wastes disposal, recycling and reduction of domestic wastes.

Last year, Aboitiz Construction organized capacity building programs that focused on effective solid waste management for government officials of Brgy. Pinamucan Ibaba and Simlong in Batangas City and Brgy. Buanoy in Balamban, Cebu. The company also donated materials to support the waste management efforts of the said barangays.

Aboitiz Construction is currently building a 6,000 square-meter storage warehouse for La Filipina Uy Gongco Corporation (LFUGC) in Brgy. Ingore, Lapaz, Iloilo City. As LFUGC introduces new agricultural products in the market, this new warehouse will help in their inventory and logistics management.



Tourist arrival sa Boracay, naglalaro sa 6-K-8K bawat araw

By [Bombo Radyo Kalibo](#)

-May 19, 2022 | 8:42 PM

KALIBO, Aklan—Nananatiling mataas ang tourist arrival sa isla ng Boracay sa kabila ng nararanasang Habagat at mga pag-ulan sa lalawigan ng Aklan.

Ayon kay Malay tourism officer Felix Delos Santos, naglalaro sa 6,000 hanggang 8,000 bawat araw ang domestic tourist arrival.

Batay sa datos, mula Mayo 1 hanggang 7, nakatala sila ng kabuuang 100,302 na bilang ng mga turistang pumasok sa isla.

Sa nasabing bilang, halos 10 porsiyento nito ay mga dayuhan.

Nangunguna ang mga bakasyunista mula sa Amerika, Europe, Germany, UK, at ilang Asian countries gaya ng Korea.

Matumal pa aniya ang pasok ng mga Chinese tourist dahil sa mataas na kaso ng Covid-19 sa kanilang bansa partikular sa Shanghai.



Study: Global pollution kills 9 million people a year

May 20, 2022

A NEW study blames pollution of all types for nine million deaths a year globally, with the death toll attributed to dirty air from cars, trucks and industry rising 55 percent since 2000.

That increase is offset by fewer pollution deaths from primitive indoor stoves and water contaminated with human and animal waste, so overall pollution deaths in 2019 are about the same as 2015.

The United States is the only fully industrialized country in the top 10 nations for total pollution deaths, ranking seventh with 142,883 deaths blamed on pollution in 2019, sandwiched between Bangladesh and Ethiopia, according to a new study in the journal *The Lancet Planetary Health*.

Tuesday's pre-pandemic study is based on calculations derived from the Global Burden of Disease database and the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation in Seattle. India and China lead the world in pollution deaths with nearly 2.4 million and almost 2.2 million deaths a year, but the two nations also have the world's largest populations.

When deaths are put on a per population rate, the United States ranks 31st from the bottom at 43.6 pollution deaths per 100,000. Chad and the Central African Republic rank the highest with rates about 300 pollution deaths per 100,000, more than half of them due to tainted water, while Brunei, Qatar and Iceland have the lowest pollution death rates ranging from 15 to 23. The global average is 117 pollution deaths per 100,000 people.

Silent killer

Pollution kills about the same number of people a year around the world as cigarette smoking and second-hand smoke combined, the study said.

"Nine million deaths is a lot of deaths," said Philip Landrigan, director of the Global Public Health Program and Global Pollution Observatory at Boston College.

"The bad news is that it's not decreasing," Landrigan said. "We're making gains in the easy stuff and we're seeing the more difficult stuff, which is the ambient (outdoor industrial) air pollution and the chemical pollution, still going up."

It doesn't have to be this way, researchers said.

"They are preventable deaths. Each and every one of them is a death that is unnecessary," said Dr. Lynn Goldman, dean of the George Washington University School of Public Health, who wasn't part of the study. She said the calculations made sense and if anything, was so conservative about what it attributed to pollution, that the real death toll is likely higher.



Study: Global pollution kills 9 million people a year

The certificates for these deaths don't say pollution. They list heart disease, stroke, lung cancer, other lung issues and diabetes that are "tightly correlated" with pollution by numerous epidemiological studies, Landrigan said. To then put these together with actual deaths, researchers look at the number of deaths by cause, exposure to pollution weighted for various factors, and then complicated exposure response calculations derived by large epidemiological studies based on thousands of people over decades of study, he said. It's the same way scientists can say cigarettes cause cancer and heart disease deaths.

"That cannon of information constitutes causality," Landrigan said. "That's how we do it."

Mainstream thought

Five outside experts in public health and air pollution, including Goldman, told The Associated Press the study follows mainstream scientific thought.

Dr. Renee Salas, an emergency room doctor and Harvard professor who wasn't part of the study, said "the American Heart Association determined over a decade ago that exposure to (tiny pollution particles) like that generated from the burning of fossil fuels is causal for heart disease and death."

"While people focus on decreasing their blood pressure and cholesterol, few recognize that the removal of air pollution is an important prescription to improve their heart health," Salas said.

Three-quarters of the overall pollution deaths came from air pollution and the overwhelming part of that is "a combination of pollution from stationary sources like coal-fired power plants and steel mills on one hand and mobile sources like cars, trucks and buses. And it's just a big global problem," said Landrigan, a public health physician. "And it's getting worse around the world as countries develop and cities grow."

In New Delhi, India, air pollution peaks in the winter months and last year the city saw just two days when the air wasn't considered polluted. It was the first time in four years that the city experienced a clean air day during the winter months.

That air pollution remains the leading cause of death in South Asia reconfirms what is already known, but the increase in these deaths means that toxic emissions from vehicles and energy generation is increasing, said Anumita Roychowdhury, a director at the advocacy group Centre for Science and Environment in New Delhi.



Study: Global pollution kills 9 million people a year

"This data is a reminder of what is going wrong but also that it is an opportunity to fix it," Roychowdhury said.

Pollution deaths are soaring in the poorest areas, experts said.

Political will

"This problem is worst in areas of the world where population is most dense (e.g. Asia) and where financial and government resources to address the pollution problem are limited and stretched thin to address a host of challenges including health care availability and diet as well as pollution," said Dan Greenbaum, president of the Health Effects Institute, who wasn't part of the study.

In 2000, industrial air pollution killed about 2.9 million people a year globally. By 2015 it was up to 4.2 million and in 2019 it was 4.5 million, the study said. Toss in household air pollution, mostly from inefficient primitive stoves, and air pollution killed 6.7 million people in 2019, the study found.

Lead pollution—some from lead additives which have been banned from gasoline in every country in the world and also from old paint, recycling batteries and other manufacturing—kills 900,000 people a year, while water pollution is responsible for 1.4 million deaths a year. Occupational health pollution adds another 870,000 deaths, the study said.

In the United States, about 20,000 people a year die from lead pollution-induced hypertension, heart disease and kidney disease, mostly as occupational hazards, Landrigan said. Lead and asbestos are America's big chemical occupational hazards, and they kill about 65,000 people a year from pollution, he said. The study said the number of air pollution deaths in the United States in 2019 was 60,229, far more than deaths on American roads, which hit a 16-year peak of nearly 43,000 last year.

Modern types of pollution are rising in most countries, especially developing ones, but fell from 2000 to 2019 in the United States, the European Union and Ethiopia. Ethiopia's numbers can't quite be explained and may be a reporting issue, said study co-author Richard Fuller, founder of the Global Alliance on Health and Pollution and president of Pure Earth, a non-profit that works on pollution clean-up programs in about a dozen countries.

The study authors came up with eight recommendations to reduce pollution deaths, highlighting the need for better monitoring, better reporting and stronger government systems regulating industry and cars.

"We absolutely know how to solve each one of those problems," Fuller said. "What's missing is political will." (AP)

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1929599/cebu/lifestyle/study-global-pollution-kills-9-million-people-a-year>



Tipping points: how close is the world to a climate calamity domino effect?

"We have a choice about the speed of sea-level rise." The Eco-Business Podcast talks to climate scientist Professor Ben Horton about how close the world is to reaching crucial climate tipping points, and what can be done to stop runaway climate change.

By [Robin Hicks](#)

2 minute read May 20, 2022

Melting ice sheets. Dying coral reefs. The Amazon turning into savannah. These are known as tipping points, when an ecosystem is pushed to the brink by rising global temperatures, and a domino effect of climate disaster ensues.

Once tipping points are reached, it is much harder to prevent climate events spiraling out of control — even if global warming is kept at bay by keeping a lid on emissions.

Tipping points have long worried climate scientists, but recent studies have shown that some of these irreversible changes could happen sooner than expected. Some have started already. Rising temperatures are causing the melting of Arctic permafrost, which [releases methane](#) as it melts. Methane is a powerful greenhouse gas that causes further heating.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's [most recent report](#) warned that the planet has passed some crucial tipping points, and this will make adapting to climate change harder. The report warned: "Life on Earth can recover from a drastic climate shift by evolving into new species and creating new ecosystems. Humans cannot."

Singapore cannot survive 5 metres of sea-level rise. It will drown like a modern-day Atlantis.

Professor Benjamin Horton, director, Earth Observatory of Singapore



Tipping points: how close is the world to a climate calamity domino effect?



Professor Benjamin Horton, Earth Observatory of Singapore. Image: [NTU](#)

Joining the Eco-Business podcast to talk about tipping points is Professor Benjamin Horton, director of the Earth Observatory of Singapore, and a professor at the Asian School of the Environment and Nanyang Technological University (NTU).

The Briton recently travelled to the Arctic to study the effects of global warming on the North Pole's ice sheets, and to understand how the melting ice could impact sea-level rise in Singapore.

"Last summer it was warmer in Svalbard [in the North Pole] than in Singapore. That shows you how crazy the climate is," he says.

"If we go beyond two degrees [above pre-industrial levels], we will start to invoke processes that can cause catastrophic sea level rise."

"If all of Greenland was to melt, sea-levels could rise by seven metres. If all of Antarctica melted, they could rise by 60 metres," he warns.

"We know we have to adapt. But we have a choice about how fast it's [sea-level rise] going to get," says Horton.

Tune in as we talk about:

What are the scariest tipping points?

What happens when Arctic ice disappears?

Climate impacts on Indigenous people

How much will sea-level rise vary by?

Nature-based solutions and tipping points

The need for a price on carbon

Source: <https://www.eco-business.com/podcasts/tipping-points-how-close-is-the-world-to-a-climate-calamity-domino-effect/>

Carbon footprint labels aim to steer more green buying

Companies are starting to label their products, from food and drink to cosmetics, to show how their products impact the climate – but will consumers understand?



A global push for carbon labelling was announced in February by cosmetics industry giants, including Estee Lauder Companies, Johnson & Johnson Consumer Health, L'Oréal Group and 33 others. Image: [JAPANKURU, CC BY-SA 3.0](#), via [Flickr](#).

[Thomson Reuters Foundation](#)

5 minute read May 20, 2022

Nutritional breakdowns, ethical trade branding, recycling information - and now estimates of a product's climate impact.

Consumers across the globe are starting to see a new kind of information on goods packaging, indicating the level of planet-heating gases emitted by making the items they are buying.

This fresh wave of efforts at "carbon footprint" labelling is being praised by some as empowering consumers to help tackle climate change - but criticised by others as confusing at best, and greenwashing at worst.

Danielle Nierenberg, co-founder of Food Tank, a US-based think-tank, said a carbon-labelling system has "been in the works for a while" but companies needed time to research it properly, "so we're just seeing it now".

Numi Organic Tea, a California-based company that sources 130 ingredients from 26 countries, will start putting carbon labels on its teas this summer, after tracking their emissions since 2015.

Carbon footprint labels aim to steer more green buying

Now is the time - consumers are interested. Even if they don't know what a gram of carbon is, it begins to develop the carbon literacy in our consumers and in society writ large.

Jane Franch, vice president for strategic sourcing and sustainability, Numi Organic Tea

Figuring out the teas' carbon footprint required studying farm management practices, processing equipment, energy use along the supply chain and more, said Jane Franch, company vice president for strategic sourcing and sustainability.

"That was the first step in our journey - wrapping our minds around what is the impact, and looking for places where we can reduce (it)," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

The effort has included pushing tea factories to start using cleaner energy and more energy-efficient equipment, she explained.

Numi packaging will carry a label that includes a single, product-specific number: a kilogram of carbon-dioxide equivalent, broken down by ingredients, transport, packaging and even the energy required to boil water at a tea-drinker's home.

"Now is the time - consumers are interested," Franch said. "Even if they don't know what a gram of carbon is, it begins to develop the carbon literacy in our consumers and in society writ large."

Numi joins a growing group of companies that have begun carbon labelling, particularly in the United States and Europe - from brands including plant-based-meat producer [Quorn](#) to electronics maker [Logitech](#) and household goods giant [Unilever](#).

There are also broader efforts, such as a global push announced in February for the cosmetics industry, which includes Estee Lauder Companies, Johnson & Johnson Consumer Health, L'Oréal Group and 33 others.

Some even want a system that is obligatory for all.

"Publishing the climate impact of food products should be mandatory and standardised, just as with nutrition labels," said a spokesperson for Swedish oat milks producer [Oatly](#), which is leading a petition to the German government on the issue.

Denmark and France are already looking at creating their own consumer carbon labels, while the European Union is aiming to come up with a draft for a broader eco-label by 2024.

'No longer niche'

The food and beverage industry is at the centre of the push for carbon labelling, given its outsize climate impact.

The global food system accounts for about a third of carbon emissions, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation.

But until recently, most efforts to reduce food-related emissions focused on production, said Edwina Hughes, head of the [Cool Food Pledge](#) at the World Resources Institute (WRI).

Carbon footprint labels aim to steer more green buying

"We've made loads of progress in the last 50 years, but we haven't looked at consumption as much. That's pretty significant - if you don't look at shifting diets, you won't get where you need to" in terms of curbing climate change, she said.

Some simple interventions appear to offer great potential.

For instance, adding messages at the top of menus nearly doubled the proportion of diners choosing plant-based dishes, according to WRI research published in February.

The Cool Food program runs a carbon labelling initiative that includes a "badge" on menu items, indicating that they meet nutritional standards and have a smaller carbon footprint than researchers say is needed to achieve key climate goals.

Panera Bread, which has 2,100 North American locations focusing on business lunches, was the first restaurant chain to adopt the badge, in 2020.

The company had measured its carbon footprint since 2016, but that information was not reaching consumers, said Sara Burnett, its vice president of food beliefs and sustainability.

"We know there are two sides to this coin - what we choose to put on the menu, how we source.

But the flip-side is consumers: they really impact our business significantly by what they choose," she added.

About half of Panera's online menu options carry the badge, with a goal of raising that to 60 per cent by 2025, including by working with supply chain vendors and developing new products.

"This is no longer something that is just the niche green consumers looking for responsibly sourced and raised products," Burnett said. "It's the everyday consumer that is now looking for that."

And consumers are starting to take notice, said Carmen Castillo, assistant general manager at MOM's Organic Market in Rockville, Maryland, near Washington DC.

"It's a newer label, and it creates conversation - people want to know what it means, if it's real and how it affects them," she added.

Too much information?

Little is yet known about how consumers react to carbon labels, although globally 54 per cent of respondents to a 2021 survey by environmental consultancy Carbon Trust said they would be more likely to pick a product with such a label over a similar one without.

Burnett said Cool Food-branded meals have sparked a particularly positive response on social media.

Yet some worry the flurry of efforts could muddy the waters.



Carbon footprint labels aim to steer more green buying

"This is a confusing time for consumers because there are all of these labels," said Food Tank's Nierenberg.

Many labels and certifications "put so much onus on the consumers" to understand and act, she said, warning of an increased risk of greenwashing or "climate-washing".

According to the European Commission, there are more than 450 environmental labels in use globally today, including about 80 reporting initiatives and methods for carbon emissions.

"Some of these ... are reliable, some not," it said in an online policy document.

Brands, too, are expressing concern.

"What we need is the adoption of a harmonised, global standard for eco-labelling so people don't get information overload," said Archana Jagannathan, senior director of sustainability for PepsiCo Europe, in emailed comments.

But too much focus on how labelling shapes buying behaviour may be missing the point, warned Michael P. Vandenberg, director of the Climate Change Research Network at the Nashville-based Vanderbilt Law School.

As carbon labelling sees substantial growth worldwide, there is evidence it works "even if consumer responses are limited", he noted.

Amid rising pressure from investors, governments, employees and clients, simply having a label can push companies to find efficiencies that reduce their carbon footprint, he said.

Already 80 per cent of the biggest firms in seven of the largest global sectors - including retail stores, auto manufacturing and lumber production - put environmental requirements in their supply-chain contracting, he added.

Carbon labelling is not a panacea, Vandenberg said.

"But (it) is a piece of a much larger system that can function even if the national government process is inadequate - which it is," he added.

This story was published with permission from [Thomson Reuters Foundation](https://www.thomsonreuters.com/foundation/), the charitable arm of Thomson Reuters, that covers humanitarian news, climate change, resilience, women's rights, trafficking and property rights. Visit <http://news.trust.org/climate>.



shutterstock.com • 428739817



Source:

<https://fb.watch/d7xUhypr6Y/>



shutterstock.com • 428739817



Source:

<https://fb.watch/d7xWGTLR3O/>

21 MAY 2022, Saturday



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

188
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

05-21-22

TIME:

PAGE:

DATE:



MARINE HABITAT Organic reef buds are put up in Subic Bay on Friday as part of a coral restoration project, initiated by Sangkalikasan Producer Cooperative, an environmental conservation organization. — COURTESY/STC PHOTO

MONTH OF THE OCEAN

**GROUPS STRENGTHEN EFFORTS TO PROTECT 'PAWIKAN'
NESTING SITE, CORAL REEFS IN SUBIC BAY**

By Joanna Rose Aglibot
@joannaglibotINQ

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—Carrying trash bags, local licensed scuba divers went into the waters off All Hands Beach Resort here on Friday to collect underwater garbage as part of a multisectoral initiative to protect the marine and coastal environment in this economic zone.

The divers were tapped by a group composed of officials from several government and private organizations who have been involved in the conservation of a major pawikan (marine

turtle) nesting site and the restoration of damaged coral reefs in Subic Bay since 2012.

Marife Castillo, Provincial Environment and Natural Resources (Penro) chief of Zambales, said the activity kicked off their celebration of the Month of the Ocean, which has been observed in the country annually since 1999.

Threatened

On Friday, a memorandum of agreement to protect Subic Bay's marine habitat was signed by Castillo on behalf of Penro and the representatives from the Subic Bay Metropolitan Au-

thority (SBMA), Sangkalikasan Producer Cooperative, the Philippine National Police Maritime Group and All Hands Beach.

The waters off All Hands Beach is among the seven major areas inside the free port that have been identified by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) as nesting sites for marine turtles.

According to the DENR, three of the seven species of sea turtle in the world can be found in Zambales province. These are the olive ridley sea turtles (*Lepidochelys olivacea*), green sea turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) and hawksbill sea tur-

bles (*Eretmochelys imbricata*).

Almost all the seven species of sea turtle have been classified as threatened or endangered due to poaching and ocean pollution.

Castillo said several adult olive ridley sea turtles lay eggs at All Hands Beach area every year.

"Female baby pawikan will always return to the beach where they were born to lay eggs in the next 20 to 25 years. So it's important to protect their nesting sites," she said on Friday during the launch of the coastal cleanup drive here.

Mark Ayrit, chair of Brighterday Subic Ltd. Inc. that oper-

ates All Hands Beach, said the resort had already released around 8,000 sea turtle hatchlings since it opened in 2012.

Reef buds

Sangkalikasan, an environmental conservation organization, has also been conducting a coral augmentation project at All Hands Beach by creating artificial coral reefs that serve as fish sanctuaries.

The group has been dropping organic reef buds some 50 meters from the beach area. Reef buds are a technology of artificial reef construction invented by the late Austrian geo-

scientist Dr. Harald Kremnitz and Filipino Benjamin Tayag Jr.

SBMA chair and administrator Rolan Paulino said intensifying their efforts to restore balance in the ecosystem would also be beneficial to the local tourism industry.

"We want to preserve the wildlife inside the Subic Bay Freeport while maintaining the area as the No. 1 tourist destination in Central Luzon," he said.

Police Col. Fernando Cunanan Jr., chief of the PNP Regional Maritime Unit 3, said his unit had arrested thousands for illegal poaching and at least 30 people involved in the illegal trade of wildlife. **INQ**



Subic pawikan nesting site seen

The agency will provide assistance in monitoring and managing marine turtle hatcheries and will solicit active participation of stakeholders in the project, rehabilitate degraded marine turtle habitats by enhancing recovery of mangroves and coral reefs, and installation of a wildlife enforcement officer.

BY JONAS REYES

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT – The Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) is pushing for the construction of a nesting site for marine turtles and a coral garden nursery as the agency and other stakeholders signed a memorandum of agreement (MoA) at the All Hands Beach Resort on Friday.

SBMA chairperson and Administrator Rolan Paulino said that the All Hands Beach Resort is now the recipient of the sea turtle nest preservation since many of these marine mammals lay their eggs at the beach of the resort.

He added that under the MoA, a coral garden nursery will be established at the waters of the beach resort that will increase the number of coral reefs in the waters of Subic Bay.

The two projects are in partnership with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO), Philippine National Police Regional Maritime Unit 3, Brighterday Subic Ltd. Inc., and the Sangkalikasan Producer Cooperative.

"The SBMA aims to balance the ecosystem with the tourism industry. We want to preserve the wildlife inside the Subic Bay Freeport while maintaining the area as the number one tourist destination in Central Luzon," Paulino said.

Meantime, PENRO Zambales director Marife Castillo said that the MoA signing for the preservation of the sea turtle nesting site and the construction of the coral nursery garden is timely.

As part of the agreement, the agency will provide assistance in monitoring and managing marine turtle hatcheries and will solicit active participation of stakeholders in the project, rehabilitate degraded marine turtle habitats by enhancing recovery of mangroves and coral reefs, and installation of a wildlife enforcement officer.

The SBMA aims to balance the ecosystem with the tourism industry. We want to preserve the wildlife inside the Subic Bay Freeport while maintaining the area as the number one tourist destination in Central Luzon.

According to Brighterday Subic Ltd. Inc. chairperson Mark Dayrit, the two projects will be done in their beach resort. Brighterday Subic is the owner of All Hands Beach Resort, and has been conducting pawikan preservation and sea turtle hatchling release since starting operation in 2012.

Under the MoA, the company will ensure the vigilant monitoring of pawikan sightings and coral augmentations. Dayrit added that the company will also provide logistical support to the SBMA Harbor Patrol in the conduct of maintenance and protection activities.

Meanwhile, Sangkalikasan Producer Cooperative is set to conduct baseline assessment and monthly monitoring of reef buds. The cooperative will spearhead the actual conduct of monitoring, maintenance and protection of the site of the coral nursery garden.



Subic pawikan nesting site seen

The agency will provide assistance in monitoring and managing marine turtle hatcheries and will solicit active participation of stakeholders in the project, rehabilitate degraded marine turtle habitats by enhancing recovery of mangroves and coral reefs, and installation of a wildlife enforcement officer.

BY JONAS REYES

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT – The Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) is pushing for the construction of a nesting site for marine turtles and a coral garden nursery as the agency and other stakeholders signed a memorandum of agreement (MoA) at the All Hands Beach Resort on Friday.

SBMA chairperson and Administrator Rolan Paulino said that the All Hands Beach Resort is now the recipient of the sea turtle nest preservation since many of these marine mammals lay their eggs at the beach of the resort.

He added that under the MoA, a coral garden nursery will be established at the waters of the beach resort that will increase the number of coral reefs in the waters of Subic Bay.

The two projects are in partnership with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO), Philippine National Police Regional Maritime Unit 3, Brighterday Subic Ltd. Inc., and the Sangkalikasan Producer Cooperative.

"The SBMA aims to balance the ecosystem with the tourism industry. We want to preserve the wildlife inside the Subic Bay Freeport while maintaining the area as the number one tourist destination in Central Luzon," Paulino said.

Meantime, PENRO Zambales director Marife Castillo said that the MoA signing for the preservation of the sea turtle nesting site and the construction of the coral nursery garden is timely.

As part of the agreement, the agency will provide assistance in monitoring and managing marine turtle hatcheries and will solicit active participation of stakeholders in the project, rehabilitate degraded marine turtle habitats by enhancing recovery of mangroves and coral reefs, and installation of a wildlife enforcement officer.

The SBMA aims to balance the ecosystem with the tourism industry. We want to preserve the wildlife inside the Subic Bay Freeport while maintaining the area as the number one tourist destination in Central Luzon.

According to Brighterday Subic Ltd. Inc. chairperson Mark Dayrit, the two projects will be done in their beach resort. Brighterday Subic is the owner of All Hands Beach Resort, and has been conducting pawikan preservation and sea turtle hatchling release since starting operation in 2012.

Under the MoA, the company will ensure the vigilant monitoring of pawikan sightings and coral augmentations. Dayrit added that the company will also provide logistical support to the SBMA Harbor Patrol in the conduct of maintenance and protection activities.

Meanwhile, Sangkalikasan Producer Cooperative is set to conduct baseline assessment and monthly monitoring of reef buds. The cooperative will spearhead the actual conduct of monitoring, maintenance and protection of the site of the coral nursery garden.



Aboitiz Group calls on Holistic Approach for greener EDSA

TO support efforts in transforming EDSA into a calmer, cleaner and green thoroughfare, the Aboitiz Group showcased its best practices and highlighted the role that the private sector plays in addressing the prevailing issues that plague the national traffic corridor during the recent Green Edsa Movement (GEM) webinar hosted by the Management Association of the Philippines (MAP).

The virtual event brought together stakeholders from the government, private sector, and non-profit organizations to discuss action points on turning Metro Manila's iconic highway into a thriving green, mobile green space.

"Transforming EDSA requires a holistic plan and we all have a part to play to help fulfill the mandate of the Green EDSA Movement and it is clear that we must all work together if we want to turn this into a reality," said Aboitiz Equity Ventures Chief Reputation & Sustainability Officer Ginggay Hontiveros-Malvar. "But above all else, we must approach this with a different attitude and mindset grounded on sustainability and climate justice. It is imperative that our pursuit of economic development must not come at the expense of the planet."

Launched in 2021, GEM recognizes the need for the expansion of the green canopy over Metro Manila for the physical and mental wellbeing of its users and as a means for climate change mitigation, as well as to improve the aesthetic appeal of the cityscape.

Moreover, the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) will play a vital role in the effort to convert EDSA into a sustainable green program with measurable targets and a timetable that the GEM will advocate and support.

"Better mobility is necessary as we recover from the economic recession brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic and it is high time we unclog, clean up, and transform the capital's major national traffic corridor to improve the quality of life in Metro Manila and rebuild our economy, stronger, better, and faster," she added.

The Aboitiz Group has been championing several efforts to address environmental challenges including strategies to address Climate Change. Long before the COP26 agreements and declarations, the company has already made strides in restoring and rehabilitating the forest ecosystem and biodiversity of the country through the Balabag Wetland Project in Boracay and the planting of 11.73 million trees in A-PARK.

Furthermore, the company piloted the BEST Bus in Davao City, a fleet of electric buses that provide sustainable, eco-friendly and inclusive public transport for communities which is already seeing replications in other areas.

"Through these and many more programs across the Group, Aboitiz team members are proactively campaigning for the UN Decade of Action 2021 to 2030... As we look to the future, we are confident that we will achieve significant gains through continued multi-sectoral collaborations and a clearly defined purpose of driving sustainable transformations for the benefit of people and the planet." Hontiveros-Malvar added.

Edd Reyes



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

Manila Standard

04
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

05-21-20

REF:

PAGE

DATE



COASTAL CLEAN-UP. About 50 volunteers from Aboltz Construction, local government units of Iloilo City and other volunteers from the private sector team up with the Iloilo City Environment and Natural Resources Office for a coastal clean-up drive in Barangay Sto. Niño Norte, Iloilo City. More than 160 kilograms of solid wastes that include plastic and paper rubbish were collected by the volunteers, properly segregated and disposed accordingly.



05-21-2024

DATE

TITLE: Pasig River and the expressway: from the perspective of history PAGE 1/2



PASIG RIVER. (Mark Balmores)

Pasig River and the expressway: From the perspective of history

By DREW RABADON

Pasig River is not only a passive geographical location in history, but it is also an active space and historical actor in the shaping of history. This is according to the work of Ms. Analyn B. Muñoz, doctorate student of history at the University of the Philippines-Diliman.

Her research on the Pasig River has become part of the discussions among heritage advocates who are voicing their opposition and concern over the proposed Pasig River Expressway (PAREX), a 19.37 km six-lane, all elevated expressway which will be built on top of the Pasig River with the aim of providing an alternative link to the business districts in Metro Manila.

What would the construction of an elevated expressway on top of one of the most important rivers in the metro look in its long history? An online interview with Ms. Muñoz, citing her previous presentations on the history of the Pasig River, enlightened us on the subject matter.

Pasig River in history

The formation of the Pasig River began 6,000 years ago, said Muñoz in a Webinar held by UP Manila for the Quincentennial Commemoration, even before the city of Manila had any land to stand on. In fact, along the banks of the river, studies have revealed the development of three bygone kingdoms in the country: Tundun, Sapa, and Manila.

During that time, the Pasig River or the Manila River, was the primary transport route. In a 2018 study of Muñoz presented at a Manila Studies Conference, she quoted a Spanish governor-general who said it was Manila's first highway, "if by highway, we meant a major transport route."

The river was also a major source of water and livelihood for those who lived near it. People used it for various reasons such as bathing and drinking, and the land around the river is very fertile which produced a lot of materials people could use for construction. Houses were also oriented towards the river because of the comfort it brings since almost everything you need can be found along its banks.

The industrialization brought about by the American period altered the development of transportation and prioritized the construction of paved roads and railways for motorized vehicles. The importance of the Pasig River — as a major transport route and source of comfort and livelihood — slowly diminished with the precedence of land-based transportation and the river continued to be polluted as the number of people increased in the city, Muñoz said in the interview.



The skewed historical development of transportation in the country led us to the problems we are facing today. With the prioritization of land-based transportation, we have neglected a major transportation route that once held together the very metropolis we live in through big and small boats traversing it.

**PAREX in the account
of Ilog Pasig**

One of the major problems heritage advocates and concerned citizens have against PAREX is its environmental impact. In a position paper of Renacimiento Manila against the proposed expressway, it cited the destructive impact of PAREX to the "existing life forms" found in the river and "losing the potential to rejuvenate them." Aside from this, the heritage group also mentioned the enormous carbon footprint that will delay the country's commitment to reduce it by 75 percent in accordance with the Paris Agreement.

Many heritage sites near or along the Pasig River are also put at risk with the construction and use of an expressway close to them. Renacimiento Manila has identified at least 200 cultural properties — both declared and presumed to be important cultural properties — that will be affected by the construction of the expressway along Santa Mesa, Makati, Mandaluyong, Taguig, and Pasig.

Why do we need to cover the river when the river itself could be considered as a unique mode of transportation, Muñoz asked during the interview. If we are to look at history, our major form of transportation was river-based before the shift to land-based transportation through motorized vehicles was prioritized.

Why not redevelop the river and re-accommodate river-based modes of transportation? Landscape Architect Paulo Alcazaren has been very vocal as well in his opposition to the elevated expressway and has proposed an alternative to it: a Pasig River Esplanade (PARES), similar to that of the Iloilo River Esplanade which he designed.

Without an explicit declaration, the Pasig River is presumed and rightfully understood by many as part of the country's natural heritage. It is central to our history and culture because, as history reveals, our identity and culture as Tagalogs as well as our beliefs are based on the river, according to Muñoz.

Therefore, I share the sentiments of Renacimiento Manila who said that the construction of PAREX is a "huge disrespect to the Filipino nation" — it is a disrespect to Philippine history and culture. To cover the Pasig River with an expressway is like burying its rich history and forgetting what was once central to our culture and way of life.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

Manila Standard

4
PAGE

8PPE
LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

MANNE
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

D5-21-22

FILE:

PAGE

DATE

Suzuki Burgman riders undertake cleanup ride in Pasig



joined a one-day clean-up drive and cleared the Rave Forest Adventure Park in Pasig City - the park of trash - to raise awareness about problems of rising levels of pollution.

The Burgman Experience

OVER 200 Suzuki Burgman Street riders joined a one-day clean-up ride at the Rave Forest Adventure Park in Pasig City to raise awareness about the pressing problem of rising levels of pollution that hurt the environment directly or indirectly.

The Suzuki Clean Up Ride is part of the Suzuki Helps, Aids & Rebuilds (SHARE) program and was participated by Suzuki Burgman Street Elite Riders Club PH's different chapters from Pasig, South Caloocan, Malabon, Quezon City, Laguna, Rizal, and Cavite as well as members of the press and the motovlogging community.

"By showcasing the Burgman Street in this manner, it solidifies the fact that the Burgman Street is a very important product to Suzuki Philippines," according to Nenuka Guba, Motorcycle Marketing Manager at Suzuki Philippines Inc.

Over 200 Suzuki Burgman Street riders

Interestingly, Burgman Street users were in unison with their praises about the scooter, which they said is the best in its segment - perfect for work, leisure travel, and long rides.

The Suzuki Burgman Street comes with a 125cc, 4-stroke, single-cylinder, SOHC, 2-valve engine that boasts of up to 53.50 km/L consumption. It has sufficient power for daily city rides, and its smooth CVT automatic makes riding effortless that it requires only a simple twist of the wrist to operate.

Burgman Street also churns out 8.58 hp and 10.2 Nm of torque. The air-cooled and fuel-injected (FI) engine is efficient and straightforward enough for daily tasks around the city, while remaining smooth and easy to operate. All of these at Php 78,900 pesos only.



05-21-22

DATE

FILE: Govt must exercise caution in considering mining expansion PAGE 1/2

Editorial

Govt must exercise caution in considering mining expansion

THE recent decision of the provincial board of South Cotabato to lift the ban on open-pit mining in that province was disappointing, and raises concerns that a new, reckless push to expand mining under an incoming administration perceived to be more favorable to it may be under way. President-elect Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and his yet to be named economic and environmental managers should be wary of these efforts and exercise caution in considering whether or not to allow more mining in the Philippines.

The proposed mining project directly affected by the decision of the South Cotabato authorities is the Tampakan Copper-Gold Project of Sagittarius Mines Inc. (SMI), located about 50 kilometers north of General Santos City. The mining site is said to contain nearly 3 billion tons of low-grade copper ore and about 18 million ounces of gold, and would become the largest mine in the Philippines if it became operational.

The project has also been one of the most vigorously contested in the country. In 2010, the province of South Cotabato derailed SMI's plans by imposing the now-lifted ban on open pit mining, which was reinforced by a nationwide ban in 2017. The latter was lifted last year as part of the government's Covid-19 recovery plan. In the meantime, SMI had run afoul of the authorities in the municipality of Tampakan, which in 2020 canceled a development agreement with the mining firm, calling it "lopsided against residents and the community."

In terms of its potential impact on the area, the Tampakan project would generate a great deal of economic benefits in the form of direct revenues and jobs, but at a steep social and environmental cost. Development of the mine site would displace an estimated 4,000 members of the B'laan indigenous community from their ancestral land, and result in the clearance of more than 3,900 hectares of forest. The mine would also break into the aquifer, according to some environmental assessments, affecting groundwater supplies and rivers in the region.

Critics have also bitterly condemned the "underhanded" way in which the South Cotabato provincial government rescinded its ban, just a week after the general election when the public's attention was naturally directed elsewhere. The implication is that some politicians in the provincial government acted in bad faith; whether that is actually true or not, a decision on a matter having such a long-term effect on the province should have been delayed until after the new term of office began.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

Found 1988

The Manila Times



PAGE



UPPER
LOWER



PAGE 1
STORY



BANNER
STORY



EDITORIAL



CARTOON

05-21-22

DATE

TITLE: Gov't must exercise caution in considering mining expansion PAGE 2/2

The Tampakan project is emblematic of the conundrum mining presents to the Philippines generally: The potential economic benefits are too significant to dismiss completely, but those benefits cannot be collected without some degree of permanent harm being done to the environment and communities.

We believe the best way to solve this riddle would be for the government to approach mining with caution, not necessarily with skepticism, but with a clear and consistently enforced set of standards that must be met before mining is possible. Communities should not be displaced, particularly indigenous communities that are an irreplaceable part of our national culture and heritage.

Rigorous environmental protections must be in place, including end-to-end plans for mitigating environmental impact and rehabilitating mining areas, before any approval is granted, and special attention should be given to preventing adverse impacts on freshwater supplies, which are becoming critical all over the country.

Finally, mining must be a value-added economic activity; simply harvesting the country's finite mineral resources and exporting them, which is all that is done now due to the lack of downstream industries in the Philippines, is pure exploitation. Any mining development should be carried out in conjunction with the development of industries that can maximize the value of our national treasure. Mining imposes costs on the country that are permanent no matter how carefully mining is done; any benefits from mining, therefore, should benefit future generations as much as it does those who are only looking for short-term profits. We do not believe that is impossible, but if it cannot be assured, then mining should be avoided.



DPS-Manila hauls 52.6 tons of election trash

THE Department of Public Services (DPS) in Manila has collected a total of 52.6 tons of discarded election paraphernalia from main thoroughfares, secondary roads and vicinity of public schools in the city's six districts.

DPS chief Kenneth

Amurao said each barangay in six districts of Manila were asked by the city government to open all reusable materials into eco bags and school bags.

Mayor Isko Moreno earlier ordered the DPS to clear all the streets of campaign materials to prevent them from end-

ing in riverways and esteros.

The mayor also encouraged barangay officials to help the city government in cleaning their covered area to prevent flooding now that the rainy season officially started in the country.

Several streets in Ma-

By Edd Reyes

nila used to be flood-prone area but due to continued cleaning and clearing operations conducted by the DPS, no major flooding incidents have happened since 2020.

Amurao said that since July 2019, different teams

of the DPS had been conducting daily cleaning and clearing operations in all the esteros and riverways every day.

The Estero Rangers were assigned to clean every creek and tributary while the Team Mandaragaw were tasked to clean the Manila Bay Roxas Boulevard daily.

The coastal areas of Baseco are now being guarded by the Baseco Beach Warriors, who were assigned to clean the area and prevent residents living nearby from throwing their trash into the seawater.

"Sa pagbubungkal at declogging naman ng mga drainage at canals,

katulong namin ang City Engineering Office araw-araw dahil yan ang direktiba ni Yorme," Amurao said.

Garbage collection is done daily aside from sweeping operations of DPS street sweepers, especially in public markets, so as not to turn the creeks into a trash can.



DPS-Manila hauls 52.6

tons of election trash

THE Department of Public Services (DPS) in Manila has collected a total of 52.6 tons of discarded election paraphernalia from main thoroughfares, secondary roads and vicinity of public schools in the city's six districts.

DPS chief Kenneth

Amurao said each barangay in six districts of Manila were asked by the city government to open all reusable materials into eco bags and school bags.

Mayor Isko Moreno earlier ordered the DPS to clear all the streets of campaign materials to prevent them from end-

ing in riverways and esteros.

The mayor also encouraged barangay officials to help the city government in cleaning their covered area to prevent flooding now that the rainy season officially started in the country.

Several streets in Ma-

By Edd Reyes

nila used to be flood-prone area but due to continued cleaning and clearing operations conducted by the DPS, no major flooding incidents have happened since 2020.

Amurao said that since July 2019, different teams

of the DPS had been conducting daily cleaning and clearing operations in all the esteros and riverways every day.

The Estero Rangers were assigned to clean every creek and tributary while the Team Mandaragaw were tasked to clean the Manila Bay Roxas Boulevard daily.

The coastal areas of Baseco are now being guarded by the Baseco Beach Warriors, who were assigned to clean the area and prevent residents living nearby from throwing their trash into the seawater.

"Sa pagbubungkal at declogging naman ng mga drainage at canals,

katulong namin ang City Engineering Office araw-araw dahil yan ang direktiba ni Yorme," Amurao said.

Garbage collection is done daily aside from sweeping operations of DPS street sweepers, especially in public markets, so as not to turn the creeks into a trash can.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

DEO
PAGE

UPPER
LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BARNEY
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

05-21-22

DATE

0521: Nayong Pilipino to Promote Mental Health

PAGE 1/2



THE tree planting drive is to help improve the mental health of the Covid-19 patients and the frontliners.



In partnership with the Department of Health, a tree-planting event for the project Sambayanihan aims to alleviate Covid-19 stress through green open space

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF NAYONG PILIPINO FOUNDATION
NPF deputy executive director for Marketing and Operations Dr. Jovetlee Pudan; DoH Health Promotion Bureau director Dr. Beverly Lorraine Ho; and DoH senior program officer Francis Paule.



NAYONG PILIPINO TO PROMOTE MENTAL HEALTH

The Nayong Pilipino Foundation (NPF) partnered with the Department of Health (DoH) in a tree-planting event on 6 May to bring mental health benefits to all.

The noise, pollution, overcrowding and the series of lockdowns are taking a toll on our mental health. The tree planting activities aims to help communities to stay afloat during the Covid-19 crisis.

Through the project Sambayanihan, a series of activities for the physical development of the 9.5-hectare property in the Entertainment City in Paranaque City, NPF spotlights the need for community involvement. Since its launch in 2021, NPF has partnered with both private and public institutions in multi-sectoral activities to establish the future NPF Cultural Park and Creative Hub, which is one of the last remaining green spaces in the middle of Metro Manila.

"When we launched our tree planting drive last year, our purpose was to help improve the

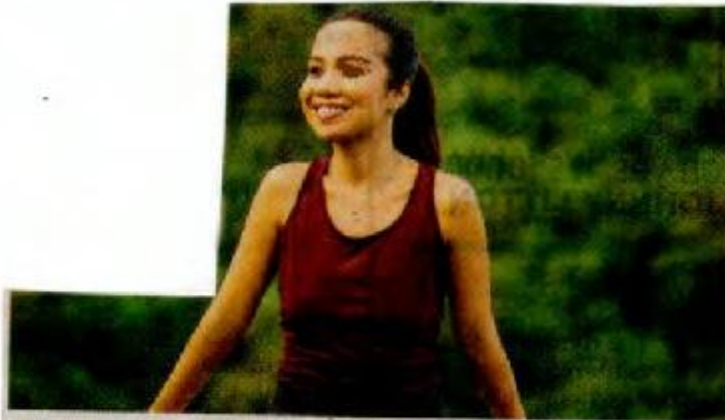
mental health of the Covid-19 patients and the frontliners stationed in the quarantine facility inside this property," said NPF deputy executive director for Marketing and Operations Dr. Jovertlee Pudan.

"Additionally, people who come here to get inoculated could appreciate nature and what it means for our well-being. Trees and green spaces have helped improve both our physical and mental health throughout the pandemic and will continue to do so in the new normal," he added.

"Isang sa mga objectives ng Universal Healthcare is to make sure na bawal Filipino, nababawasan 'yung risk na magkasakit and part nito ay pagkakaroon ng healthy environment. The project of the Nayong Pilipino Foundation is aligned with what DoH wants to do, which is to encourage people to go out and do physical activities and protect their mental health. They can only do that if we have open spaces," said DoH Health Promotion Bureau director Dr. Beverly Lorraine Ho.



WHAT'S THE SOUND OF SAVING THE PLANET?



Ann Dumaliang is a managing trustee of Masungi Georeserve Foundation. (Photo by Jilson Tiu)

The show usually starts with ambient sounds from nature: birds chirping, insects twittering, waves crashing against the shore. It could be the gentle start of a meditation podcast.

But then, a minute or so into National Geographic's 12-episode audio series *Expedition: Earth*, there might be a dead stop in the natural sound — or even a gunshot.

This is how the podcast dramatizes the threats to our environment. For Ann Dumaliang, managing trustee of Masungi Georeserve Foundation, just such a moment came when "development aggressors" encroached on park rangers camped out on the protected lands in Rizal early one morning in 2021 and shot two of them in the neck and head; a few millimeters in either direction, and the shots would have been fatal. There had been many threats before that, something Ann and her family have learned to live with.

"You know, it's incredibly saddening when these things happen," she says of the shootings and threats from illegal quarrying firms and developers, "but at the end of the day, who's going to do it, right? And what's at stake? Can we even afford *not* to do it?"

Think of Ann and hundreds of other eco warriors as frontliners for the future of the planet. This part of Asia contains the planet's highest biodiversity, yet ironically its forests are the most threatened by human development and encroachment. For the Philippines, 95 percent of which was once covered in forests, this bit of green life is now reduced to... three percent.

That's the storyline Nat Geo's *Expedition: Earth* series (launched last Earth Day) manages to convey by focusing on very localized stories and angles.

Ann's dad, Ben, an engineer, helped fight to create the Masungi Georeserve in Baras, Rizal. Since opening in 2016, its 2,000 hectares — half recovered from quarrying, the rest from land speculators — were given protection by the DENR, which named the Dumaliangs as caretakers. Ben's legacy is now passed onto Ann and their siblings — and really, to all Filipinos.

Growing up, Ann and sister Billie came to realize the importance of this relationship with nature early on. "My dad has always shown us the value of the outdoors," she says. "During the weekends, most of that free time was spent in the mountains and in nature — we weren't raised to spend a lot of our time in the city, except for when we need to be going to school, so that's a huge part of how he's grounded us." Eventually, she became a National Geographic Explorer.

What makes Masungi different from other ecoparks here is that,



05-21-22
DATE

TITLE: What's the Sound of Saving the Planet

PAGE 2/2



On the trails of Masungi Georeserve

instead of conserving the legally mandated 30 percent and allowing development in the remaining 70 percent, they've flipped the script: Masungi pledged to protect 70 percent of the forests, watersheds and wildlife species, with only ecotourism activities allowed in the remaining 30 percent.

The project has devoted that 30 percent to creating hiking trails and canopy walk bridges along with guides who help guests experience the beauty of protected Philippine lands firsthand. "It's about creating experiences that allow visitors to understand what stewardship is about," says Ann. "So it's not just for the sake of visiting a place; it's tourism that transforms you."

Even more important, Ann explains, is protecting Masungi's natural watersheds, which benefit millions of Metro Manila residents downstream. Watersheds are natural dividing ridges that help channel rainfall, streams and waterways to drainage areas, and eventually Manila Bay. But those watersheds are dwindling fast, especially since Typhoon Ondoy. She likens it to losing "10,500 natural dams" over a few years. Without them, Metro Manila experiences much faster flood-

ing, less-clean water and other environmental threats. "The watershed, even as it is incredibly important for wildlife and biodiversity, is really a disaster-risk mitigation infrastructure: whatever happens to these areas affects everyone downstream," notes Ann.

While Masungi has 100 fulltime rangers on staff, Ann says they still need "volunteers" to help patrol its 2,000 hectares (see link below). And even though the lands are protected by law, there's pushback — sometimes violent — from illegal operators, politicians, law enforcement and others. Then there's the fact that laws are rendered toothless if enforcement is only "on paper" and reports from the ground provide false, rosy pictures of the true environmental situation.

But the Dumaliangs are committed. "Imagine if government got to empower 10 other groups like Masungi, people who have a record for conservation, who are really passionate about conservation," she says. "You could technically recover that watershed in record time."

If the Expedition series drives home one point, it's that efforts such as the Dumaliangs' are happening all over Asia — whether protecting songbirds in Southeast Asia, freshwater fish in the Mekong, or waterways and dwindling forests in the Philippines — driven by individual efforts and passionate actions.

"That's the thing about conservation, it's not something that you achieve overnight," says Ann. "Forests regenerate themselves and, at 100 years, that's the pace of nature. And unfortunately, sometimes, that's also the pace of change."



National Geographic Expedition: Earth is hosted by Lily Sedaghat.

Visit <https://linktr.ee/expedition.earth> to tune into new "Expedition: Earth" podcast episodes every Friday at 5 p.m. "Expedition: Earth" is co-produced by Cignal, First Media, HK Cable TV, MNC Vision, Now TV, SKY Cable and TrueVisions.

If you'd like to volunteer to help at Masungi Georeserve Ecopark, visit bit.ly/2Aj29m9, or sign a petition to help stop illegal quarrying at Masungi at bit.ly/savemasungi.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

BusinessMirror

A fresh look at the Philippines



05-21-22
DATE

FILE:

PAGE:

Explore Banwa Private Island at its greenest

GREEN is on to every frequent traveler's best kept secret. It is the perfect opportunity to explore Banwa Private Island where nature is in full bloom. Green season means delights in the water and sunny mornings, ideal for swimming, hiking, nearby island adventures and outdoor activities. The

cool, fresh breeze makes the days more relaxing. Landing a paradise in whatever you do. Set in a pristine marine sanctuary in North-eastern Palawan, Banwa Private Island boasts an amazing beachfront villa wrapped in the shade of palm trees and raked in lush vegetation. Architecturally designed to sit in harmony

with nature, each villa truly offers the luxury of space for a pure tropical getaway. Wake up to the gentle hum of the waves, with the sun gleaming through the private veranda offering unobstructed views of the endless turquoise waters. Plan your island escape on Banwa Private Island offers

a seamless, attractive all-inclusive Green Season rates starting May 2022. For more information and inquiries, please contact the Reservations team through mobile: WhatsApp +63 97790 82564, send an email to reservations@banwaprivateisland.com, or visit www.banwaprivateisland.com.



Banwa Private Island



For the third time, Palaui Island is still a charm



Cape Engaño is a historic lighthouse located on Palaui Island.



The Siwanag Beach Cove is part of Engaño Cove.



The Doo Hermanson Islands are one of the best locations in Palaui to watch the sunset.



The interior of the lighthouse shows all of the Cape Engaño Lighthouse.



The coastal view was taken from the top of the lighthouse.



A DOT/MAP watches as the sunset approaches Siwanag Beach.



STORY & PHOTOS BY JENABEL RAMONE GU

MORE than a decade has passed since I first journeyed to Palaui Island. Back in those days, I was still in my earliest phase of exploring the Philippines. Cagayan Province, being in the farthest northeastern part of Luzon, seemed like a foreign country to me back then.

Locating it at the map, I set out, myself and a couple of female friends, on a trip that would leave a beautiful set of memories in my memory bank. After a 15-hour bus ride to Sta. Ana, Cagayan followed by a three-hour van ride, a half-hour boat ride, and finally, a three-hour trek, we pitched our tent on a foot of a hill where the old Cape Engaño Lighthouse stands. I consider my first travel to

Palaui Island as among the ones that captivated me into a life of wandering. Since then, a 15-hour bus ride felt nothing but a welcome and integral part of journeying. Therefore, Palaui Island, aside from its exceptional beauty, remains a special place.

The second time I made it to the island was in 2017, as part of Lakhay Noche, a media familiarization tour organized by NLEX to promote destinations in Northern

Luzon. Traveling by chartered bus from Manila, we visited several places in Cagayan Valley, capped off by a turbulent sea journey to Palaui and nearby Anguib Beach.

My Palaui trilogy provided me a different set of experiences at each turn and even for the third time, Palaui Island remains a charm.

Cagayan's Nature and Adventure Tourism Circuit

AFTER a two-year ban on visitors due to the pandemic, Palaui Island Protected Landscape and Seascapes finally reopened on March 9, 2022. This time, the Department of Tourism (DOT) and DOT Region 2 are currently promoting a nature and adventure tourism circuit in the region that would include this island.

The newly designed route aims to leverage the popularity of the island among adventure seekers and nature lovers and promote the province as part of an itinerary that can be completed in 3-5 days.

Invited by the DOT to join the Site Validation of the said tour-

ism route and in collaboration with a dozen tour operators, we tested the circuit by visiting the places and experiencing various activities to see if it would appeal to travelers and entice them to explore more of the province.

Other than Palaui Island, we visited a community in Cagayan where we went on a firefly watching tour in the evening and afterward, had dinner with the community participants of DOT's "Kalinaya" program—a culinary campaign that aims to promote local cuisine. On our third day, we experienced bait fishing with local fishermen where we witnessed their traditional method of catching the "espadita" or black seabirdfish. Also, part of the tour is the next day's morning hike to Bawacag Falls before capping it off with a heritage tour of Yuguagaran on our way back to the airport.

Right now, the itinerary is open to revisions and may include additional destinations in the future such as Anguib Beach and its surrounding mangrove forest.

The Hike to Cape Engaño Lighthouse

AS a protected area and national park managed by the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Palaui Island imposes a strict 100-visitors-per-day policy. During my first visit to the island, we entered through the community side facing Sta. Ana, this time though, visitors are only allowed to dock at the northeastern side in Siwanag Cove close to the Cape Engaño Lighthouse.

After a brief orientation with the community tour guides, I volunteered to be among the first group to climb the hill. Walking at a slow pace allowed me to take in the spectacular scenery to come to the lighthouse.

After almost 300 steps, I arrived at the lighthouse with our young guide, a lady Palaui native trained as a guide, almost out of breath but filled with awe and delight at the 360-degree picturesque view of the rolling hills and the blue waters of the

East's Ocean.

"Like a fine wine, this backdrop just gets better," I thought to myself. I found a spot to sit on the window sill of the Spanish colonial lighthouse built in 1892 and designed by Magin Pers y Pers, the same person who designed Cape Bojeador in Burgos, Ilocos Norte, and the Capones Island Lighthouse.

After a few minutes, I peeked to the view deck and lay on a grassy knoll. While staring intently at the mighty Pacific Ocean swells crashing on the walls of Doo Hermanson islets below, I gradually turn my head only to be met with a slideshow of postcard-like images of sloping hills, lush vegetation, deep crevices, blue skies, swaying grass, the rustic lighthouse, and so on.

It was at that moment when I felt the island of Palaui reacquaint itself with me once more. Acknowledging the universe of good karma, I answered back to the hissing wind in a whisper, "I'm happy to be here again."



p1

HOUSING IS A TOP PRIORITY

By Prof. Enrique M. Soriano III
@INQ_Property

To manage debt and unite a divided nation are some of the top priorities of presumptive president Ferdinand "Bong-bong" Marcos Jr., but these are obviously motherhood statements.

At this time, the transition team may have already recognized that the party is over and it is high time that everybody rolls up their sleeves. Our debt to GDP ratio is inching closer to abnormally high levels and in a recent survey splashed in social media, 4 out of 10 families who were interviewed felt they were poor.

With the current state of affairs tilting towards another recession as a result of internal (debt) and external (geopolitical) challenges, draconian measures are needed to keep the economy afloat. In a recent interview, Marcos said he will hit the ground running. Without a doubt, he should and he must. There is no time left. The next 24 months will define his presidency.

REAL AND AUTHENTIC NATIONAL HOUSING PLAN

According to a Habitat for Humanity report, "It is estimated that around 40 percent—in some cases, 75 percent—of the population in fast growing cities in developing countries is housed in squatter settlements without basic services. Cities are growing at an unexpected and exponential rate, often not aligned to urban planning and development. Many people are moving from rural areas to cities for work, and since the cities are not able to expand at the same pace, most of them end up in slums—overcrowded areas with inadequate access to safe water or sanitation, poor structural quality of dwellings and insecurity of tenure."

In the Philippines, 70 million people live in sub-standard housing, and this is projected to grow to 113 million people by 2030. Housing indicators are sliding backwards. Rapid urbanization is driving precarious construction in oftentimes precarious locations.

Generally speaking, housing can be considered affordable if its cost (mortgage or rent) is below the 30 percent of the household income. If a family pays more than 30 percent of their income for housing, it is considered a cost burden.

The pandemic alone displaced thousands of people, compromising their cash flow and forcing them to pay more than 50 percent of their annual household income on housing, thus living in conditions of unaffordability. Some borrowers are likely to default but that segment is on the affordable side.

What concerns me is the state of the informal settlers—those who have no credit standing and are classified as "unbankable". This de-

B4-2



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

B4-1
B4-2
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

SANITIZ
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

05-21-22

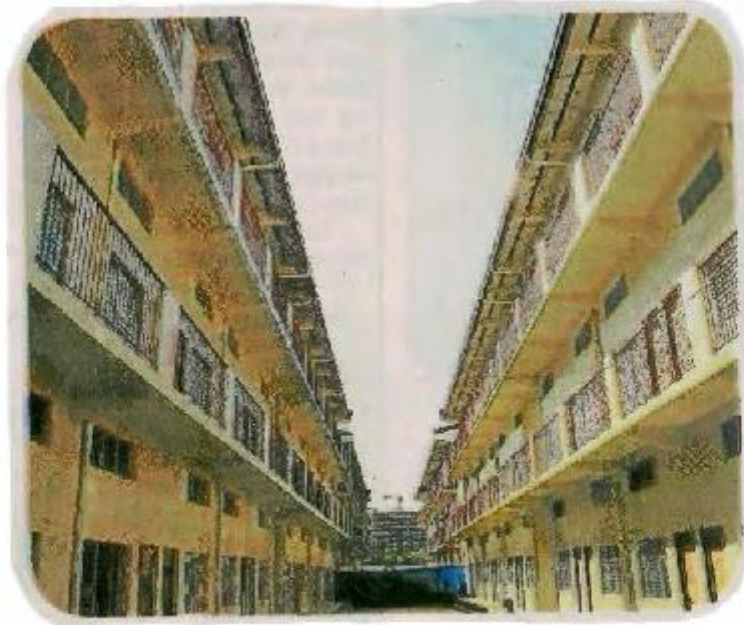
TITLE

PAGE 2/3

DATE

P.2

HOUSING IS A TOP PRIORITY



FROM B4-1

prived, vote-rich segment has suffered for decades and is in dire need of social housing support.

For the incoming administration to cover a wide swath of socialized housing policy initiatives, I would like to offer some pieces of advice by enumerating actionable plans related to a Housing and Recovery Initiative (HRI). This is a social program with an overarching objective of easing the burden of the majority of our population who are still living in filth and sub-normal conditions.

As of last count, seven million houses are needed to stem the tide of a growing base of informal settlers, and if we annualize the staggering shortfall, current capacity can only construct anywhere from 2 percent to 3 percent of what the country urgently needs. Every year, social housing continues to elude those who need them the most and it is getting worse.

HOUSING RECOVERY INITIATIVE (HRI)

The HRI goal is to ease the burden of housing costs over time by boosting the supply of housing multifamily dwelling in every town or city. The plan must include legislative and executive actions with the objective of closing the housing supply shortfall in 10 years, starting with the construction of thousands of housing units under a funding facility guaranteed by local government units and supported by dedicated financing institutions.

The Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) must play its part as the aggregator of all these services. Effectively, it must form the backbone of the housing ecosystem. The stakeholders (landowners, the contractors, construction suppliers, financial institutions, developers and the end users) can then fuel the initiative.

When aligned with oth-

er policies to reduce housing costs and ensure affordability, closing the gap will mean more affordable rents and more attainable homeownership. As part of the integrated HRI plan, the new leadership must collectively summon its energy to educate, promote, plan, enhance and initiate the following ac-

tion plans dedicated solely for lower income groups.

I am sharing some of the go-to action plans that the appointed executive and legislative branches can champion:

- Classify, identify and pilot slum areas and rehouse their residents in new standard



p3

Housing is a Top Priority

and sanitary housing;

- Re-introduce public housing construction of low-cost dwelling units;
- Re-visit government subsidies and strengthen rent control;
- Incentivize cities and towns that will initiate socially and environmentally centric land use policies;
- Enhance Pag-IBIG and other similar social institutions with financing mechanisms to further encourage private investors and developers to build more vertical and horizontal developments with emphasis on providing mandatory housing benefit for government workers, teachers, police and armed forces, among others;
- Revisit existing charters of regulators that have restrictive covenants so they can expand the scope and improve existing forms of financing,

with focus on multifamily, high density development;

- Promote the use of national, local, and COVID-19 recovery funds so it can be re-channeled to affordable housing supply;
- Provide additional tax credits to private developers engaged in constructing socialize housing;
- Enact laws to protect government-initiated supply of homes and other housing initiatives to make sure the beneficiaries are really the end users; and
- Work with the private sector to address supply chain challenges, price fluctuations and improve building efficiencies

The author is an executive director of W+B Advisory Group



p3

Housing is a Top Priority

and sanitary housing;

- Re-introduce public housing construction of low-cost dwelling units;
- Re-visit government subsidies and strengthen rent control;
- Incentivize cities and towns that will initiate socially and environmentally centric land use policies;
- Enhance Pag-IBIG and other similar social institutions with financing mechanisms to further encourage private investors and developers to build more vertical and horizontal developments with emphasis on providing mandatory housing benefit for government workers, teachers, police and armed forces, among others;
- Revisit existing charters of regulators that have restrictive covenants so they can expand the scope and improve existing forms of financing,

with focus on multifamily, high density development;

- Promote the use of national, local, and COVID-19 recovery funds so it can be re-channeled to affordable housing supply;
- Provide additional tax credits to private developers engaged in constructing socialize housing;
- Enact laws to protect government-initiated supply of homes and other housing initiatives to make sure the beneficiaries are really the end users; and
- Work with the private sector to address supply chain challenges, price fluctuations and improve building efficiencies

The author is an executive director of W+B Advisory Group



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

BusinessMirror

AbsolutelyBusiness



TITLE :

PAGE 1/4

05-21-22

DATE



FROM THE SEAS TO SPACE

China, US racing to make billions from mining the moon's minerals

BY BRUCE EINHORN

Bloomberg News

THERE'S going to be a new world order out there, and we've got to lead it," US President Joe Biden said after Russia's war in Ukraine upended global geopolitics. Far from Earth, that transition is already happening.

Just like in the era of Sputnik and Apollo more than half a century ago, world leaders are again racing to achieve dominance in outer space. But there's one big difference: Whereas the US and the Soviet Union hashed out a common set of rules at the United Nations, this time around the world's top superpowers can't even agree on basic principles to govern the next generation of space activity.

The lack of cooperation between the US and China on space exploration is particularly dangerous in an era where the cosmos are becoming more crowded. Billionaires like Elon Musk and Jeff Bezos along with emerging markets such as Rwanda and the

Philippines are launching more and more satellites to bridge the digital divide and explore commercial opportunities.

Who will set the rules?

THE stakes are even higher when it comes to the US and China, which are erecting economic barriers in the name of national security as ideological divisions widen over the pandemic, political repression and now Vladimir Putin's war. Their inability to cooperate on space risks not only an arms race, but also clashes over extracting potentially hundreds of billions of dollars' worth of resources on the moon and elsewhere.

"Our concern in the West is



FROM THE SEAS TO SPACE

China, US racing to make billions from mining the moon's minerals

more about who sets the rules of the road, particularly access to resources," said Malcolm Davis, a former official with Australia's defense department who now researches space policy at the Australian Strategic Policy Institute in Canberra.

"The biggest risk is you have two opposite set of rules," he said. "You could have a Chinese company on the moon in the 2030s claiming territory with a resource on it, in the same way the Chinese have claimed the entire South China Sea."

Geopolitics of space

THE geopolitics of space, once a frontier that brought rivals together for the good of humankind, are now mirroring the competition on Earth pitting the US and its allies against China and Russia. And just as Beijing and Moscow have blamed American military alliances in Europe and Asia for stoking tensions over Ukraine and Taiwan, Chinese state-run media has warned the US now wants to set up a "space-based Nato."

At the center of the dispute is the US-drafted Artemis Accords, a non-legally binding set of principles to govern activity on the moon, Mars and beyond. The initiative, which Nasa says is ground-

ed in the 1967 Outer Space Treaty, forms the foundation of the space agency's effort to put astronauts on the moon this decade and kick-start mining operations of lucrative lunar elements.

So far 19 countries have agreed to support the accords, including four—Romania, Colombia, Bahrain and Singapore—that signed up after Putin's invasion spurred a US-led effort to isolate Russia. Underscoring the divide, Ukraine was an early Artemis club member after President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's government signed in late 2020.

The accords are part of an effort by the Biden administration to establish "a broader and comprehensive set of norms" for space, Vice President Kamala Harris said in an April 18 speech at Vandenberg Space Force Base, about 250 km northwest of Los Angeles.

"As we move forward, we will remain focused on writing new rules of the road to ensure all space activities are conducted in a responsible, peaceful, and sustainable manner," she said. "The United States is committed to lead the way and to lead by example."

China and Russia have led opposition to the accords, vowing greater space cooperation in early February as part of a "no limits" partnership when Putin visited

President Xi Jinping in Beijing shortly before the war began. They are jointly promoting an alternative project on the moon they say is open to all other countries: the International Lunar Research Station.

One of China's main problems with the Artemis Accords is a provision allowing nations to design-

nate areas of the moon as "safety zones"—regions on the lunar surface that others should avoid. For the Americans and their Artemis partners, the exclusive areas are a way to comply with obligations under the Outer Space Treaty, which requires countries to avoid "harmful interference" in space.

CONTINUED ON A2



PAGE



UPPER
LOWER



PAGE 1
STORY



BANNER
STORY



EDITORIAL



CARTOON

REF:

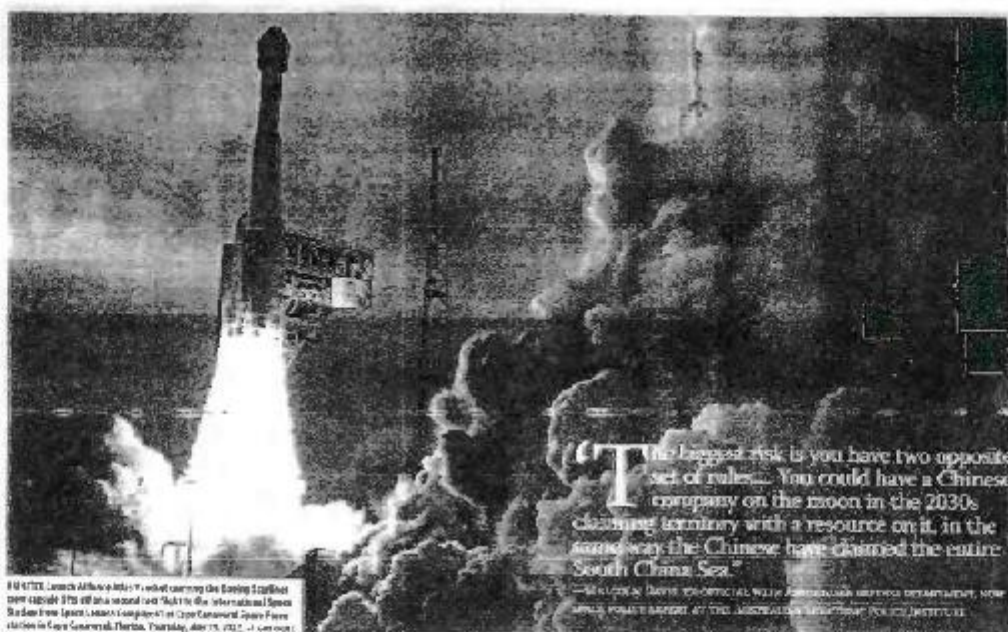
PAGE

3/4

05-21-22

DATE

FROM THE SEAS TO SPACE



ROCKET Launch Alliance's Atlas 7, which carries the Boeing Starliner crew capsule, lifts off for a second test flight to the International Space Station from Space Launch Complex 41 at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Cape Canaveral, Florida, Thursday, Aug. 15, 2022. (AP Photo)

The biggest risk is you have two opposite sets of rules. You could have a Chinese company on the moon in the 2030s claiming territory with a resource on it, in the same way the Chinese have claimed the entire South China Sea.

—MICHAEL BARRY, EX-OFFICIAL WITH AMERICAN DEFENSE DEPARTMENT, NOW SPEAKS POINT-BY-POINT AT THE AUSTRALIAN DEFENSE AND SECURITY INSTITUTE

CONTINUED FROM A1

To China, however, the safety zones are thinly disguised land grabs in violation of international law. Beijing wants any rule-making to be settled at the UN, where it can count on support from a wider group of countries eager for friendly ties with the world's second biggest economy.

"It's time the US woke up and smelled the coffee," the official *China Daily* proclaimed in a January editorial that criticized how NASA "invented" the concept of safety zones to allow governments or companies to reserve areas of the moon. "The world is no longer interested in its divisive, hegemonic schemes."

China has good reason to be suspicious of US efforts in space. American legislation first passed in 2011 prevents NASA from most interactions with its Chinese counterpart, and the US has blocked China from taking part in the International Space Station—a move that simply prompted Beijing to build its own.

"China was left out of that party and now it's going its own way," said Lincoln Hines, an assistant professor at the US Air War College who has studied the Chinese space program. "That raises the challenge as to whether you can have a coherent system of rules in outer space when you have two different visions of order and there isn't any cooperation."

Matching US capabilities

THE head of the Russian space pro-



05-21-22

TITLE:

PAGE

4/4

DATE

FROM THE SEAS TO SPACE

grap, Roscosmos director Dmitry Rogozin, in late April suggested that Russia had decided to quit the International Space Station because of Western sanctions on Russia from its invasion of Ukraine.

While Russia's space program was already in decline before Putin's war, China is swiftly moving toward Xi's goal of matching US capabilities in space. China became the first country to send a probe to the far side of the moon in 2019, and last year it became only the second nation after the US to land a rover on Mars.

On March 10, China launched a Long March rocket from the southern island province of Hainan to deliver cargo to the Hainan, the orbiting spacecraft that Beijing plans to complete this year—making China the only country to operate its own space station. The following month, Xi ordered officials to build a world-leading spacecraft launch site in Hainan.

Xi's 'eternal dream'

"To explore the vast cosmos, develop the space industry and build China into a space power is our eternal dream," Xi said in the introduction to a white paper on China's space program released in January, which said China plans to launch a robotic lunar mission around 2025. China may be able to send astronauts to the moon for the first time by 2030, Ye Peijian, chief designer of China's first lunar probe, told state media at the time.

"China wants really badly to be seen as the NASA of the future," said Michelle Hanlon, co-director of the Center for Air and Space Law at the University of Mississippi and editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Space Law*. "It wants to be that leader. China feels that it's China's time."

As the US, China and other nations target the moon, the need to establish rules to avoid conflict is becoming more urgent.

Nasa in April conducted tests for the launch of Artemis 1, the first American spacecraft to aim for the moon since Apollo 17 in 1972. While this mission will be fully robotic, Nasa's goal is to send astronauts to the moon around 2025—including the first woman—and build a base camp on the lunar surface.

Musk's Space Exploration Technologies Corp. will conduct a test flight from Texas in the next

few months of the company's new Starship rocket, which SpaceX plans to use to take humans to the moon and Mars.

Japan and South Korea, both Artemis Accords signatories, have lunar missions in the works. So does India, the largest space-faring nation yet to commit to either the American or the Sino-Russian teams. Putin also vowed last month to "restore the moon program."

"The moon is in play," said Steven Freeland, vice-chair of a working group on legal aspects of space resource activity for the UN's Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. Freeland, an emeritus professor of international law at Western Sydney University, expects to see the start of efforts to extract resources from the lunar surface by the end of the decade.

Unlike Earth, the moon may contain large amounts of helium 3, an isotope potentially useful as an alternative to uranium for nuclear power plants because it's not radioactive. Chinese state media in 2019 said the moon is "sometimes referred to as the Persian Gulf of the solar system," with experts believing 5,000 tons of coal could be replaced by about three tablespoons of helium-3.

While there's not yet proof that helium 3 can do what boosters claim, Chinese researchers are already looking for the element in moon rocks brought back to Earth in late 2020 by one of China's lunar missions. The moon could also prove valuable as a source of water, taken from ice at the lunar poles, to make rocket fuel that could power missions to Mars and other places in the solar system.

For now, the US appears to be ahead in winning over nations to its interpretation of rules for operating in space. As the Artemis Accords gain new signatories, China is still waiting for another leader besides Putin to team up on the International Lunar Research Station.

Chinese state media reported in March that negotiations were underway with the European Space Agency, Thailand, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia about taking part in the rival moon base. But Russia's war in Ukraine will likely make the project much less appealing to some nations.

The European Space Agency on March 17 suspended a plan

to send a Russian-made lander to Mars in September or October, following UK-based satellite operator OneWeb Ltd.'s cancellation of plans to launch its low-Earth orbit satellites aboard Russian rockets.

"The impact on the Russian space program is going to be disastrous," said Jonathan McDowell, an astrophysicist at the Center for Astrophysics, which is operated by Harvard University and the Smithsonian Institution.

Although China doesn't need Russian expertise, Xi's long-term strategic calculus means Beijing is unlikely to abandon Moscow in an effort to win more potential partners. Putin's top space official has already called for greater cooperation with China.

"We work well with our Chinese friends," Roscosmos director Rogozin said in an interview with Chinese state-run broadcaster CGTN released on April 4. "To be friends in space, we must be friends on Earth."

The same appears to hold true for adversaries. In a sign of what could go wrong without a common set of rules in space, the US and China traded accusations in recent months over two incidents last year involving satellites launched by Musk's SpaceX that Beijing said came dangerously close to its orbiting space station.

After China lodged a complaint with the UN, the US said a notification wasn't necessary—implying Beijing exaggerated the risk. That irked China even more, with Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian saying the US didn't reply to emails to discuss the incident and wasn't "showing the due responsible attitude as a space power."

The episode points to China's bigger problem with the Artemis Accords: Beijing is upset about being left out of the process and pressured to accept principles that were crafted by the US instead of at the UN, according to Jessica West, senior researcher and managing editor for the Space Security Index project at Project Ploughshares, the peace research institute of the Canadian Council of Churches.

The conflict over who makes the rules, she added, shows the world has lots of work left to avoid a clash in space.

"I'm not sure people expected the explosion of space activity that happened," West said. "We're just not adequately prepared."

21 MAY 2022, Saturday



DENR

NEWS

ALERTS

COVID-19

NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DOH, OCTA see uptick in Metro Manila COVID-19 cases

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published May 20, 2022 12:37:53 PM

Updated May 20, 2022 4:02:00 PM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, May 20) – The National Capital Region (NCR) has recorded an increase in new COVID-19 cases over the past week, OCTA Research reported on Friday.

The independent research group said the daily average number of new infections in Metro Manila rose to 71 from 59 – or by 19% – during the May 13-19 period, compared to the preceding week.

The Department of Health (DOH) confirmed the recent uptick in infections, but it said its data indicate the increase was just by 17%. DOH explained to CNN Philippines that its records show Metro Manila logged an average of 69 – not 71 – new cases daily the past week.

Meanwhile, OCTA also reported that the region's reproduction rate – or the number of people infected by a single case – climbed from 0.76 to 0.90, or from "low" to "moderate" classification.

It added that the one-week average daily attack rate – or the number of new cases daily per 100,000 population – slightly rose from 0.42 to 0.50.

NCR's positivity rate remained at 1.2%, with an average of 11,476 tests conducted daily, while its hospital care utilization rate also didn't move at 22%.

Overall, OCTA noted that NCR remains at "low risk" for COVID-19.

The health department also pointed out that the two-week growth rate in the region is still negative at -17%.

"Moreover, this slight increase in cases [does] not translate into increases in admissions or utilization rates which remain at low risk ranging 19-23% of total and ICU beds in the capital region," DOH said.



DOH, OCTA see uptick in Metro Manila COVID-19 cases

Based on the latest government data, the country has 2,139 active COVID-19 cases after 195 were added on May 19. This is out of a total of over 3.68 million people infected since the pandemic started.

Over 3.62 million patients have recovered, while 60,452 were confirmed to have been killed by the viral disease.



NCR daily Covid-19 average up 19% in recent week: OCTA

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor May 20, 2022, 4:55 pm



MANILA – The daily average of new Covid-19 cases in the National Capital Region increased by 19 percent for the week of May 13 to 19 compared to the previous week, the OCTA Research Group said Friday.

In a tweet, OCTA Research Group fellow Dr. Guido David said NCR's seven-day average of new cases for May 13 to 19 is 71 which is 12 cases higher compared to that of May 6 to 12 at 59.

"Its one-week average daily attack rate increased from 0.42 to 0.50 but remained very low, less than one. The reproduction number increased to 0.90 which is moderate from 0.76 which is low," David said.

NCR's positivity rate remained at 1.2 percent.

In a Viber message, the Department of Health (DOH) said that while cases in the NCR in the recent one week are slightly higher by 71 (17 percent) from the previous week, its two-week growth rate remains negative at -17 percent and its average daily attack rate is at 0.47 cases per 100,000 population as of May 19. "With these metrics, NCR remains at minimal risk case classification," the DOH said.

A slight increase in cases was also noted but this does not translate into increases in admissions or utilization rates which remain at low risk, ranging from 19 to 23 percent of total and intensive care unit beds in the NCR, the DOH added.

"Let's likewise get vaccinated and boosted for the added protection it provides against the Covid-19 virus. New Covid-19 virus variants may emerge and may cause a spike in cases if immunity is not secured through vaccination and boosters," it said. (PNA)

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1174985>

21 MAY 2022, Saturday



DENR

NEWS

ALERTS

VLOGS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Please click this link:


Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hJH6XNgl5RE>

MANILA BAYWALK DOLOMITE BEACH

MANILA BAY BINUNYAG NA PAG BUBUKAS NG DOLOMITE SAND BEACH! Miz July

4,145 views · May 20, 2022

👍 207 👎 DISLIKE ➦ SHARE ✂ CLIP ⌵ SAVE ...

 **Miz July**
77.6K subscribers

SUBSCRIBE

Manila Bay Update, May 19, 2022
maraming salamat po, keep safe everyone
[#SaveManilaBay](#)

SHOW MORE



Please click this link:

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zchrm6LLhPU>

#DuterteLegacy #DolomiteBeach #BattleForManilaBay
PORMA NG DOLOMITE BEACH GANITO PALA!

9,417 views · May 20, 2022

👍 453 👎 DISLIKE ➦ SHARE 💖 THANKS ✂️ CLIP ⚙️ SAVE ...

 **enr. berto**
197K subscribers

[JOIN](#) [SUBSCRIBE](#)

#DuterteLegacy #DolomiteBeach
#BattleForManilaBay

SHOW MORE



Please click this link:

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hA4x3jUdg8k>

#DuterteLegacy #DolomiteBeach #BattleForManilaBay
BAGSIK NG DOLOMITE MAPAPA-SPEECHLESS KA!

11,636 views · May 20, 2022

508 DISLIKE SHARE THANKS CLIP + SAVE ...

enr. berto
197K subscribers

[JOIN](#) [SUBSCRIBE](#)

#DuterteLegacy #DolomiteBeach
#BattleForManilaBay

SHOW MORE



Please click this link:


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

MANILA BAYWALK DOLOMITE BEACH

MANILA BAY WOW BIGLANG NAG LUNDAGAN! NGAYON LANG NASAKSIHAN! Miz July

5,835 views • May 20, 2022

👍 261 🗑️ DISLIKE ➦ SHARE ✂️ CLIP + SAVE ...

 **Miz July**
77.6K subscribers

Manila Bay Update,
manaring salamat po, keep safe everyone
#SaveManilaBay

SHOW MORE

SUBSCRIBE



Please click this link:


Source: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kG6DiIMFq_A

MANILA

MANILA BAY CLEAN UP DRIVE & TREE PLANTING TANZA MARINE TREE PARK NAVOTAS

5,369 views · May 20, 2022

👍 151 🗨️ DISLIKE ➦ SHARE 🙏 THANKS ✂️ CLIP + SAVE ...

 **KUYARONS TV**
101K subscribers

[SUBSCRIBE](#)

manila bay clean up drive & tree planting tanza marine tree park navotas
#manilabay
#manilabayupdate

SHOW MORE



Please click this link:


Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vzQOW1gG7OA>

MANILA

MANILA BAY TODAY 05-20-2022 DOLOMITE BEACH HANDANG HANDA NA

12,924 views • May 20, 2022

👍 518 💬 DISLIKE ➦ SHARE ❤️ THANKS ✂️ CLIP ➦ SAVE ...

 **KUYARONS TV**
101K subscribers

[manila bay today dolomite beach 05-20-2022 kuyarons tv](#)
[#manilabay](#)
[#dolomitebeach](#)

SHOW MORE

SUBSCRIBE



Please click this link:

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EKPo--BHkEA>

MANILA BAY
Manila Bay Update Today Live/May 20, 2022
738 views · Streamed live 22 hours ago
77 DISLIKE SHARE THANKS CLIP SAVE ...

Camilo Llemit Vlog
6.52K subscribers

#Manilabay #Manilabayupdatetoday #duteritelegacy

SHOW MORE

SUBSCRIBE



Please click this link:

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cw2k45t-dZ8>

#manilabay #rehabilitation
Manila Bay Update: May 21, 2022
1,571 views · May 21, 2022

👍 92 🗑️ DISLIKE ➦ SHARE ✂️ CLIP ⌵ SAVE ...

 **PINOY BLOGGER PH**
30.6K subscribers

[JOIN](#) [SUBSCRIBE](#)

#manilabay #rehabilitation
[SHOW MORE](#)



Please click this link:

Source: <https://youtu.be/jxmUeoUK1nw>

#Heksyon2022 #Nakatutok24Oras

NWRB, binabantayan ang posibleng pag-apaw ng mga dam ngayon tag-ulan at may La Niña | Saksi

1,251 views · May 21, 2022

👍 21 💬 DISLIKE ➦ SHARE ⌵ SAVE ...



GMA News ✓
11.6M subscribers

SUBSCRIBE

Binabantayan ng National Water Resources Board ang mga dam ngayong tag-ulan na.

Saksi is GMA Network's late-night newscast hosted by Arnold Clavio and Pia Arcangel. It airs

SHOW MORE



Please click this link:

Source: <https://youtu.be/GYxrbmMW-4I>

#NewsYouCanTrust

Single use plastics waste management | Newsroom Ngayon

301 views · May 20, 2022

5 5 DISLIKE SHARE SAVE ...



CNN Philippines ✓
1.09M subscribers

SUBSCRIBE

Dahil sa lumalalang global plastics pollution crisis, dumarami ang mga lugar sa bansa na nagpapasa ng mga ordinansa laban sa pag-gamit ng single-use plastics.

SHOW MORE



[Australia is on the frontline for climate change, yet it does little to fight it. Here's why](#)

youtu.be

6:33 AM

Please click this link:

Source: <https://youtu.be/XBgg-JzIpE8>

CNN News

Australia is on the frontline for climate change, yet it does little to fight it. Here's why

6,978 views • May 21, 2022

👍 237 👎 DISLIKE ➦ SHARE ⌵ SAVE ...

CNN
 13.9M subscribers

SUBSCRIBE

In recent years, Australia has been battered by record-breaking rains, floods and wildfires, causing loss of lives and damage to the country's environment. Yet Australia has one of the weakest targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the world. CNN looks back at how Australia's government

SHOW MORE