

23 MAY 2022, MONDAY



# NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



# DENR unveils data center for real-time environment monitoring

By [Elizabeth Marcelo](#)(The Philippine Star) - May 23, 2022 - 12:00am



Environment Secretary Jim Sampulna said the DENR Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) Data Center, unveiled last May 18, can also provide real-time status of environmental compliance certificates (ECCs) and online permitting systems.

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has launched a P10-million data center that can provide real-time information on air and water quality as well as the status of waste management facilities nationwide.

Environment Secretary Jim Sampulna said the DENR Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) Data Center, unveiled last May 18, can also provide real-time status of environmental compliance certificates (ECCs) and online permitting systems.

“(The Center) gives the public quality environmental data that brings together real-time air, water and even solid waste data from across the country that will certainly empower our citizens to make informed health choices and strengthen the DENR’s capability to take immediate action against erring establishments,” Sampulna said in a press statement.

He said that similar undertakings have been made in other DENR field offices in recent years but were “not as intensive as this one.”

Sampulna commended the EMB, as the funds for the establishment of the P10-million facility came from the savings of the bureau.

Data Center director William Cuñado said that they have pooled together in-house talents of computer programmers both from its main office and regional offices to come up with an integrated platform for the facility, which is housed in a 60-square meter room at the EMB executive building in Quezon City.

Cuñado said the aggregate and validated data on air, water, and solid waste from all EMB regional offices are housed in the data center to efficiently monitor the compliance of various industries and establishments.

The DENR, meanwhile, said the facility would strengthen the agency’s push for transparency and good governance as the platform allows for early detection of pollutive activities, pointing out that the center is equipped with a notification system which is set off once it records emission excess from a plant connected to its system.



A self-generated show cause order is sent online to the establishment, giving it 24 hours to explain why it should not face proceedings leading to a possible issuance of a notice of violation.

Other vital information stored in the data center includes online application and processing for wastewater discharge permits along with the names of applicant-firms that have been approved and denied, providing public transparency on the compliance of establishments to the DENR effluent quality standards.

The DENR said the public can also access data on the status of solid waste management facilities including the materials recovery facilities at the barangay level, as well as the 10-year solid waste management plans that have been submitted by local government units (LGUs) to the National Solid Waste Management Commission.

Also accessible from the data center are the location, status, respective capacities of operational sanitary landfills and the corresponding LGUs accommodated by these SLFs.

The EMB said its environmental monitoring officers will also upload their reports on “uncleaned or validated cleaned” sites in public areas and report the same to concerned LGUs.

Included in the center’s data are the location and testing capabilities of 22 EMB operational laboratories nationwide.

The data can be accessed at [www.emb.gov.ph](http://www.emb.gov.ph)



## DENR launches center to monitor air, water quality

by [Rio N. Araja](#) May 22, 2022, 10:10 pm

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Environmental Management Bureau has launched a data center providing real-time monitoring of air and water quality, including the status of solid and hazardous waste management, facilities with environmental compliance certificates and online permitting system.

Secretary Jim Sampulna said the EMB data center would provide the most intensive services to "give the public quality environmental data that brings together real-time air, water and even solid waste data from across the country that will certainly empower our citizens to make informed health choices and strengthen the DENR's capability to take immediate action against erring establishments."

Similar undertakings have been made in other DENR field offices in recent years but were "not as intensive as this one," he noted.

He lauded the efforts of the DENR-EMB even if the funds for the establishment of the P10-million facility came from the savings of the bureau.

According to Stephen Roie Lee, head of the facility's IT team, expenses for the facility's programming and operation would reach almost P100 million if contracted out to a third party.

"This is the kind of leadership and management that I like. You're given 10 and you accomplished much more than P10," Sampulna said.

EMB director William Cuñado said they pooled together in-house talents of computer programmers both from its main office and regional offices to come up with an integrated platform for the facility which is housed in a 60-square meter room at the EMB executive building in Quezon City.

The data can be accessed at [www.emb.gov.ph](http://www.emb.gov.ph)

A self-generated show cause order is sent online to the establishment, giving it 24 hours to explain why it should not face proceedings leading to a possible issuance of a notice of violation.

## International Day for Biological Diversity 2022 Sampulna highlights DENR's continuing work to manage protected areas

by [Village Connect](#) a day ago



*Mt. Arayat Protected Landscape*

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), through the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB), will lead the Philippine celebration of the 2022 International Day for Biological Diversity (IDBD) on May 23, 2022, with protected areas (PAs) as the highlight of this year's celebration.

Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna said the DENR continues to *"work together with partner agencies and organizations to manage the PAs to ensure that the remaining biologically rich areas and the various ecosystem services they provide will be sustained."*



*Mt. Pulag Protected Landscape*

*"PAs are sites for nature recreation and a water source for irrigation and households. They regulate the climate, mitigate the impact of climate change and reduce risk of disasters, critical for human survival in this modern age,"* Sampulna said.

The theme for this year's celebration, "Building a shared future for all life," highlights the need to act for nature towards a future where people and biodiversity thrive.

It will feature two main events—the launch of the Year of the Protected Areas (YoPA) and the Kabahagi: An IDBD 2022 Capture Quest.



*Naga-Kabasalan Protected Landscape*



The YoPA will commemorate the 90th anniversary of the enactment of Republic Act No. 3915 or the National Parks Act, which established the national parks system in the Philippines in 1932.

With the theme "Protected Areas for a Protected Future," the YoPA campaign will launch a massive information drive that will highlight the need to conserve and protect PAs, encourage people to travel locally and consider PAs as travel destinations.

*"The series of PA promotions can greatly help in generating additional revenues from tourist visits which will help boost not only the financial aspect of PA management but also ensure the continuity of conservation efforts within these biodiversity-rich areas,"* said DENR-BMB Director Natividad Bernardino.

The DENR will spearhead the signing of a joint declaration that will support the celebration of YoPA, a year-long awareness raising-campaign to promote Philippine national parks.



*Tirad Pass Protected Landscape*

The YoPA campaign kick-off will feature six PAs in different regions namely, Bongsanglay Natural Park in Masbate, Apo Reef Natural Park in Occidental Mindoro, Samar Island Natural Park in Northern and Eastern Samar and Samar, Balinsasayao Twin Lakes Natural Park in Negros Oriental, Mt. Hamiguitan Range Wildlife Sanctuary in Davao Oriental, and Mt. Timpoong Hibok-Hibok Natural Monument in Camiguin.

The Philippines has so far named 246 PAs across the country under the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS).

Meanwhile, the Kabahagi: An IDBD 2022 Capture Quest which started on May 20, 2022 gives DENR regional, field, and protected area management offices staff the chance to showcase the beauty of their chosen protected areas in their regions, as well as their photography skills.

The photo contest is the DENR-BMB's first simultaneous one-day shoot photo contest where the participants in different locations will set their cameras to the same date and time and take photos in their respective PAs interpreting the five given categories namely, flora and fauna, symmetry, movement, details, and creative.

DENR-BMB has partnered with Canon Philippines, USAID- Investing in Sustainability and Partnerships for Inclusive Growth and Regenerative Ecosystems (INSPIRE), Gerry Roxas Foundation along with USAID-Sustainable Interventions for Biodiversity, Oceans and Landscapes or SIBOL project, DENR-UNDP-Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) project and DENR-UNDP/GEF Project on Integrated Approach to Management of Major Biodiversity Corridors in the Philippines (BD Cor) project for the photo competition inspired by Canon's Photo Marathon contest.



Since the year 2000, the IDBD has been annually celebrated every 22nd of May around the world to raise awareness on the values, relevance, and importance of biodiversity to human lives and all life forms.

As a member state of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, the Philippines is one of the 196 countries around the world that celebrates IDBD.



# DENR cites mining sector's crucial contribution to PH economic recovery

May 22, 2022 3 min read

By Rjhay E. Laurea

MANILA — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) pointed out the mining sector's potential to donate to economic recovery via sustained support for responsible mining and the building of mineral processing plants.

DENR Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna stated the donation of the mining industry to the country's economy in past years during the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) Joint Consultative Meeting on Mining Concerns in Northern Mindanao and Zamboanga Peninsula on May 5.

"Even during the pandemic, the mining industry was able to boost our country's gross domestic product (GDP) by P102.3 billion in 2020, and by P22.3 billion in the first quarter of 2021," Sampulna, in his speech read by Undersecretary for Legal, Administration, Human Resources and Legislative Affairs Ernesto D. Adobo Jr.

Adobo, who is also the Supervising Undersecretary for Mining Affairs, noted that if responsible and sustainable use of resources remains, the mining industry's contribution to GDP would be "100 percent of what the sector is contributing today, and maybe more."

"There are even numbers saying it would be in trillions," Adobo pointed out.

However, Adobo cited that mining tasks should be done with due regard to the environment.

For his part, MGB Director Wilfredo G. Moncano said the DENR aims to reach a globally competitive mineral sector with the establishment of mineral processing plants across the country.

"The economic contribution of having mineral processing plants in the country is 7 to 12 times more than the current setup, and that is, direct shipping of minerals produced. If we have these processing plants, we will have bigger shares of exports, revenues, taxes, and fees," Moncano said.

"We aim to reduce the direct shipping of our ores and instead have the processing here. Right now, we are only processing nickel, but if we have more mineral processing plants, we can recover other minerals like chromite, scandium and cobalt," he added.

Moncano said the DENR-MGB is now merging with the Senate and House of Representatives to push for legislation pertaining to the starting of mineral processing plants in the country.





The consultative meeting held in Cagayan de Oro City gathered mining companies in the Zamboanga Peninsula and Northern Mindanao identified by the MGB with mining priority projects in Phases 1 and 2.

Phase 1 covers companies in the development and construction stage whose trading operations await to become viable in six months, while Phase 2 includes companies in the process of filing for disclosure of mining project feasibility and those in the advanced exploration stage.

The event served as an avenue that linked mining companies and national government agencies, such as the DENR-Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), and Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), to tackle issues and concerns during the filing of mining applications, securing of certifications, and approval of permits, and to clear and rush processes. (ai/mtvn)

PHOTO COURTESY OF MINING.COM

Source: <https://maharlika.tv/2022/05/22/denr-cites-mining-sectors-crucial-contribution-to-ph-economic-recovery/?fbclid=IwAR2pMUwjmoMmfaGHKUgOZj3zZ76AkSN-1nX8fdFN6RVwUVnM98v2qNm1Igg>



# Dolomite beach reopening moved to June 3

Rhodina Villanueva - The Philippine Star May 23, 2022 | 12:00am



People look at the Manila Baywalk dolomite beach from a footbridge along Roxas Boulevard yesterday. The dolomite beach remains closed to visitors.

Edd Gumban

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has moved the reopening of the Manila Baywalk dolomite beach from May 20 to June 3.

Environment Undersecretary for policy, planning and international affairs Jonas Leones said last week they postponed the reopening of the dolomite beach for two more weeks as some infrastructure in the area have yet to be finished.

“We are still ironing out some matters such as the budget for the maintenance of the area,” Leones said. “The crushed dolomite has the tendency to harden after some time so kailangan din ayusin paminsan-minsan.”

The DENR still needs to conduct a cleanup near the US embassy in Manila, he said.

Last week, the department said it would reopen the dolomite beach to the public on May 20. But after holding a meeting, DENR officials opted to move the reopening to June 3 to accommodate more tourists.

The dolomite beach first opened to the public in September 2020.

Environmental groups had criticized the project, which according to the DENR is part of the rehabilitation of Manila Bay.

The DENR used crushed dolomite as “white sand” for the project.

On Dec. 18, 2016, the Supreme Court ordered the DENR and other government agencies to clean up, rehabilitate and restore the bay’s waters to a level that is fit for swimming and other recreational activities.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/nation/2022/05/23/2183050/dolomite-beach-reopening-moved-june-3>



## 1,153-has. of Siargao Protected Area now under CARP coverage

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA MAY 22, 2022

ABOUT 1,153-hectares (has.) of the Siargao Island Protected Landscape and Seascape (Siplas) in Siargao, Surigao del Norte, are now covered by the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) recently signed a deed of transfer paving the way for the coverage of the said portion of Siplas under CARP by virtue of Executive Order 75 (series of 2019).

DENR Executive Director Nonito M. Tamayo and DAR Caraga Regional Director Leomides R. Villareal led the signing of the deed of transfer.

Based on the review and findings of the DAR validation committee, some portions of the Siplas are considered alienable and disposable (A&D) agricultural government-owned land (GOL) under the DENR and are no longer actually used for its purpose.

These assessed lands can, therefore, be covered under the CARP, through EO 75, subject to final delineation and precise survey.

Villareal received the deed of transfer containing an aggregate area of 1,153.3644 has. of land in the municipalities of Del Carmen, General Luna, Pilar, San Isidro, Burgos, and Socorro.

The Siplas is the largest marine protected area in the Philippines. It contains an approximate area of 278,914.131 hectares as a protected landscape and seascape.

On October 10, 1996, the terrestrial, wetland and marine areas of Siargao and its surrounding islets in the northeastern part of Mindanao, province of Surigao del Norte, were declared as a protected area under the category of protected landscape and seascape, through Proclamation 902 issued by then President Fidel V. Ramos.

EO 75, signed by President Rodrigo R. Duterte in February, 2019, directed all government instrumentalities to identify idle lands owned by the government suitable for agricultural purposes that will be distributed to qualified beneficiaries of the CARP.

After the transfer is completed, the DAR will proceed with the process of land acquisition and distribution.

Qualified beneficiaries for the Siplas portion covered by CARP are: farmers, tillers, or farmworkers who are landless or who own less than three hectares of agricultural lands; Filipino citizens; residents of the barangay (or the municipality if there are not enough qualified beneficiaries in the barangay) where the landholding is located; at least 15 years of age at the time of identification, screening and selection of the farmer-beneficiaries; and, with willingness, aptitude and ability to cultivate and make the land as productive as possible as provided under Section 22 of Republic Act 6657 (Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law), as amended.



## Tagumpay ang Baklasin ang Nakaraan

MAY 21, 2022, 7:25 PM

Rose De La Cruz  
Columnist

**Ang proyektong inilunsad ni Deniece Cornejo, chairman ng eco-coastal clean-up campaign sa Antipolo, Rizal, noong May 14 na binansagang “Baklasin ang Nakaraan” ay isang tagumpay dahil sa partisipasyon ng 120 youth volunteers kung saa’y tinanggal nila lahat ng iniwang nakasabit na tarpaulins sa mga poste at ito’y inipon sa truck na pinadala ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources para ma recycle.**

Ang proyekto’y isinaganap noong May 14 at sila’y nakakolekta ng 60 kilos of campaign materials (tarps, stickers atbp) sa buong probinsiya ng Antipolo, Rizal.

Si Cornejo, na Earth Saver ambassador ng DENR at reserve sergeant ng Philippine Air Force ay binigyan ng tulong ng pulis at iba’t ibang mga civic groups ng Antipolo para isagawa itong proyekto sa mapayapang paraan.

Mga tumulong sa project ni Cornejo ay sina vice chairman Sgt. Reserve Maria Eloisa Soriano ang project officer, former Mis JC International Antipolo Catrinne Ayel Jorda in partnership with City Governor Nini Ynares and City Mayor Andeng Ynares, DENR-PENRO Rizal DENR Director Khalil Sergio Bayim for strategic communication and the initiative service Support of Kiwanis Club of Eastern Antipolo, Former Gov. Contrevida ng Kiwanis Club of Infinity, Palawan president Jasmine Roda, Kiwanis Club of Morong, Barangay Dalig, Sta. Cruz, San Jose, Cupang.

Participating schools were St. John’s wort Montessori school of Antipolo, Sumulong Memorial School, Our Lady of Fatima University at San Roque National High School.

Ang project was covered by Peoples Television, Philippine Statistics Authority, Avon Morales, Francis Cua, Sgt. Jeffrey Malaluan, Sgt. Ella Bella, Jose Echevarria, Primitios Punzal.

Ang youth special awards went to Claud Bermido, Kean Charles Alino, Andrei Mella, John Daniel Toledo, Lanie Lyn Dingcong, Mary Grace Papa, John Chloe Lopez, Aubrey Jean Canencia, Shane Amaroso at Elysee Bejar.

Source: <https://opinyon.net/national/tagumpay-ang-baklasin-ang-nakaraan?fbclid=IwAR1FQdw-97e0AhUoqx60cxsvJVw1wSRjIQxIRe0PxOTNEGQUTCcNFp7oKtQ>



# Groups partner for marine resources conservation in Subic Bay

BY HENRY EMPEÑO MAY 23, 2022



[Photo courtesy of Brighterday Subic Ltd. Inc.](#)

Pawikan hatchlings make their way to the sea in the Subic Bay Freeport in this photo taken last December.

**SUBIC BAY FREEPORT**—Three government agencies and two private organizations formed a partnership here to intensify protection efforts for sea turtles and regenerate coral reefs to save the marine environment in the Subic Bay Freeport Zone.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) through its Zambales office led the initiative and signed last Friday an agreement for the marine resources conservation project. The agreement is with resort operator Brighterday Subic Ltd. Inc. (BSLI), the non-government organization Sangkalikasan Producer Cooperative, Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) Maritime Group.

Zambales Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer Marife L. Castillo said the partnership was formed as the agency observed the “Month of the Ocean,” which carries this year’s theme “Protect and Restore Ecosystems and Biodiversity.”

The marine turtle (pawikan), recognized as critically-endangered species, is among the species found within the territorial waters of the Subic Bay Freeport, Castillo said.

The DENR is mandated under Executive Order 192 as the primary government agency to oversee the development, conservation and management of coastal and marine environment and resources and the maintenance of ecological balance.

Under the agreement, BSLI undertakes to put up a coral nursery along the coastal waters of its beachfront to help enhance and rehabilitate coral reefs in the area.

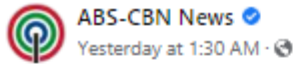
At the same time, BSLI will establish a pawikan hatchery in its area to support the government’s marine turtle conservation program and help ensure the perpetuation of the endangered turtle species.

## Agreement details

BSLI Chairman Mark S. Dayrit said his company has already released about 8,000 sea turtles that were hatched at the resort since 2012.

With the new agreement, BSLI will further collaborate with the Zambales DENR office and the SBMA in managing the marine turtle nesting site, ensure vigilant monitoring of pawikan sightings and coral augmentation and prepare periodic reports on these projects and provide logistical support to the SBMA Harbor Patrol for marine resources maintenance and protection activities.

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2022/05/23/groups-partner-for-marine-resources-conservation-in-subic-bay/>



Yesterday at 1:30 AM · 🌐

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Nasagip ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources Eastern Visayas ang isang baboy ramo sa Llorente, Eastern Samar noong unang linggo ng Mayo. Nahuli ito ng isang residente at inulat naman ng concerned citizen sa DENR.

Pinuntahan ng mga awtoridad ang lugar para kunin ang baboy ramo at agad din itong pinakawalan sa kaniyang natural habitat.

Sa Barangay Anilao, Liloan, Southern Leyte, isang patay na dolphin ang napadpad sa dalampasigan Sabado. Nakitaan ito ng 13 malalim na sugat sa katawan. Inilibing din agad ang dolphin habang patuloy ang imbestigasyon ng Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources sa insidente.

Sa Barangay Pangapisan, Alaminos, Pangasinan, nahuli sa fish trap ang isang pawikan. Agad naman itong ipinaalam ng mangingisda sa mga awtoridad, na pinangangalagaan na ang pawikan.

Pinakawalan naman sa Davao Gulf noong Huwebes ang 100 pawikan hatchlings. Nagmula ang mga ito sa isa sa mga sea turtle nest ng Aboitiz Cleanergy Park.

Ang Aboitiz Cleanergy Park sa Matina Aplaya, Davao City ay isang 8-ektaryang pawikan conservation site. Nagsisilbi itong modelo ng habitat conservation na nasa sentro ng lungsod. Ang conservation sanctuary ay mayroong turtle habitat, mga mangrove, at sagana sa coral reef. ( : DENR Eastern Visayas; Kelm Jill Cadayona Dipay; LGU Alaminos; Davao Light and Power Co.) | via Ranulfo Doccocan; Melinda Ramo; Hernel Tocmo

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

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# PATAY NA DAMBUHALANG SPERM WHALE, NAMATAAN SA DAVAO OCCIDENTAL

by **Abie Aliño-Angeles** May 22, 2022



Patay na ng natagpuan ng mga residente ang isang dambuhalang sperm whale sa baybayin ng Sitio Sakalig Barangay Sugul, Jose Abad Santos, Davao Occidental.

Batay sa inilabas na pahayag ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-Davao, dalawang mangingisda ang nagpaabot ng ulat sa Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) nang nadiskubre ang bangkay ng balyena.

May haba itong 60 talampakan at lapad na siyam na talampakan.

Nakitaan din ito ng mga sugat at pinaniniwalaang patay na nang mapadpad sa pampang.

Inutos na rin ng DENR-Davao sa (PENRO) para sa maayos na disposal ng bangkay para maiwasan ang posibleng panganib nito sa komunidad.



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Itatalagang bagong DENR Sec. dapat isulong ang konserbasyon ng mga likas na yaman ayon sa MGF

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Umapela ang Masungi Georeserve Foundation sa susunod na administrasyon na pumili ng kalihim ng DENR na magsusulong sa konserbasyon ng mga likas na yaman ng bansa.

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## South Cotabato lifting of open-pit ban still at risk of governor's veto

May 22, 2022 | 7:39 pm



SHIBANG/PIXABAY

THE re-elected governor of South Cotabato, the province which hosts the stalled Tampakan copper-gold project, could still veto provincial council legislation lifting a 12-year ban on open-pit mining, after he formed a panel to study the matter.

Governor Reynaldo S. Tamayo, Jr., who just won a second three-year term, told a group of protestors last week that he will “study” and “talk” to all sides before acting on the provincial council ordinance.

In March, Mr. Tamayo approved a resolution of the Provincial Development Council that supported a continued ban.

Last week, the provincial council approved changes to the province’s Environment Code, among them an end to the ban on open-pit mining.

A final copy of the council resolution has yet to be submitted to Mr. Tamayo for approval or veto. It will automatically lapse into law 15 days after the official transmission to the governor’s office.

“I will study everything that could be studied and talk to everyone to be sure that your governor’s decision will be in line with what is right and proper (for the people and the environment),” he told the crowd, which included residents, religious leaders, and nongovernment groups.

Among those present was the Davao-based advocacy group Interfacing Development Interventions for Sustainability (IDIS), which warned against the potential impact of the Tampakan project on various watersheds and the Davao Gulf.

In a statement, IDIS said the open-pit mining project will affect multiple watersheds in South Cotabato, as well as the nearby provinces of Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao, and Davao del Sur.

“Watersheds are geographical ecological units, and what happens in one part of the watershed will influence the whole watershed from forests, agricultural, urban, and coastal to estuarine ecosystems,” it said.



IDIS also pointed out that the project will use extensive groundwater resources and transport highly toxic wastewater through a 150-kilometer pipe that will drain into the Davao Gulf.

“There is a treatment process presented. However, the risks of overland flow, flooding disasters, or possible collapse of tailings ponds will inevitably impair marine and aquatic biodiversity, fish stocks, and aquaculture in the coastal areas.”

“We call on the people of the Davao Region, particularly Davao del Sur, to participate in this issue, as we will also be affected by the impacts of this project,” it said.

Officials of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and its mining-related agencies have assured that they will closely monitor the project’s operators to ensure compliance with regulations.

Tampakan developer Sagittarius Mines, Inc. has also said that it will have responsible mineral extraction safeguards.

The site is estimated to hold some 15 million tons of copper and 17.6 million ounces of gold.  
— **Maya M. Padillo**



# Sustainable Davao Movement: #OnlyOneMindanao

May 21, 2022

THE Sustainable Davao Movement (SDM) echoes the call for veto on the Sangguniang Panlalawigan ng South Cotabato's lifting of the open-pit mining ban in the Environment Code of South Cotabato.

Opening the heart of Mindanao, to large-scale mining operations in South Cotabato including the highly controversial Tampakan Mining Project of the Sagittarius Mines Incorporated (SMI) exposes the river system networks and watersheds (on which irrigation, agriculture and the indigenous and local community's water supply rely), to clear and present danger.

The undue haste with which the SP South Cotabato disposed of the proposed amendment in its session last Monday, May 16 betrays the spirit of public consultation and genuine commitment to environmental protection.

The SP body had agreed in its March 14 session that the proceedings of the public consultations will be presented to the body for discussion before putting to a vote on the proposed amendment.

No discussion nor discerned voting happened. The main proponent Board Member Larry de Pedro VI moved to adopt the amendment and there was no objection, in the absence of other board members (on leave) who have been vocal in their opposition to the lifting of the ban.

The public consultations (and position statements) have raised concerns on the following:

1. The impact on water supply and agricultural productivity and food security particularly in a climate crisis and pandemic recovery;
2. The fate and future of the indigenous peoples, those who will be directly displaced and the generations to come who will have no ancestral land to return to;
3. The denudation of vast tracts of forest when Mindanao is down to six percent of its original forest cover;
4. The permanent loss of biodiversity as South Cotabato is home to many RP/Mindanao endemic species;
5. The over-all impact on the economy of South Cotabato if mining will be prioritized over agriculture

These issues require thorough discussion and study, yet the amendment was adopted with no consideration to the people's concerns at the public hearings conducted.

This move by the Provincial Board Members present last May 16, 2022, is an affront to the true spirit of public consultation, a genuine commitment to the environment, and good governance.

Mindanao is our Common Home and shared responsibility. We belong to only one Mindanao. As we grow sustainable cities like Davao, we need Mindanao's environment and peoples to be spared from further destruction and harm.



We are in a climate crisis. We are running out of time. We cannot afford to dilly-dally and play politics.

We need our forests and watersheds intact if we are to soldier on to a common future with the rest of the global community. We must protect our indigenous and local communities and our children.

Veto the amendment on the Environment Code of South Cotabato!

Uphold the ban, protect Tampakan and defend MindaNOW!



# Paglilinis ng mga estero, kanal sa Metro Manila puspusan para iwas-baha

Michael Delizo, ABS-CBN News

Posted at May 22 2022 04:16 PM | Updated as of May 22 2022 08:20 PM

Puspusan na ang paglilinis ng mga estero at kanal sa National Capital Region para maiwasan ang pagbaha ngayong nagsimula na ang tag-ulan, sabi ngayong Linggo ng Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA).

Sa panayam ng ABS-CBN News, tiniyak din ni MMDA Chairman Romando Artes na gumagana ang lahat ng water pumps, at nilagyan ng trash traps ang mga estero para mas madaling makolekta ang mga basura.

Nagpapatuloy din umano ang mga dredging operation sa Kamaynilaan.

"Tuloy-tuloy naman po 'yung paglilinis natin ng mga kanal at estero. At ganon din po, we make sure na 'yung atin pong mga pumps ay nasa 100 percent capacity," ani Artes.

Sa Marikina, pinaghahandaan na ang posibilidad ng pagbaha, at nagsasagawa na ng dredging sa Marikina River para lumapad at lumalim ito.

"Pag lumapad at lumalim, nag-i-increase 'yung water-carrying capacity and kapag lumaki 'yung water-carrying capacity, hindi nagiging mabilis ang pagbaha doon sa mga low-lying communities natin," ani Marikina Mayor Marcelino Teodoro.

Tinutukan naman ng lokal na pamahalaan ang mga lugar sa kahabaan ng Marikina River.

Kasama rito ang Balubad sa Barangay Nangka, Doña Petra sa Barangay Tumana, ilang bahagi ng Barangay Malanday, Provident Village sa Barangay Calumpang, at Olandes sa Barangay Industrial Valley Complex – mga lugar na pinakabinaha noong tumama ang Bagyong Ulysses noong Nobyembre 2020.

Triple na ngayon sa volume ng tubig na ibinagsak ng Ulysses ang kapasidad ng mga drainage system sa mga naturang lugar, ani Teodoro.

"In-improve din natin 'yong drainage system. Nilakihan natin 'yong carrying capacity," anang alkalde.

Tuloy-tuloy din umano ang clean-up operation sa lungsod, pero umaapela rin si Teodoro sa mga kalapit-lugar nito na aksyunan ang mga basurang bumababa sa Marikina.

Umaasa si Teodoro na mare-regulate ang quarrying at land conversation sa mga lugar sa Rizal para sa proteksiyon ng watershed ng Marikina.

Pinayuhan naman ni Artes ang mga motorista na mag-doble-ingat sa pagmamaneho tuwing maulan. Tiyakin aniyang maayos ang mga gulong, ilaw at preno ng sasakyan.

"Kapag ganito pong tag-ulan, mababa 'yong visibility minsan at madulas po 'yong kalsada kaya madalas din po 'yong aksidente," aniya.

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/05/22/22/mga-estero-kanal-sa-ncr-nililinis-para-iwas-baha?fbclid=IwAR0BuZCsKdxLcv6piKBlcvvBkjfYDF1koDuvboFOSwEYkgth1ytaKYnpsN4>



## EDITORIAL – Paghandaan ang tag-ulan

Pang-masa May 22, 2022 | 12:00am



AYON sa Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration - (PAGASA) noong Huwebes, opisyal nang pumasok ang tag-ulan. Ang pagdedeklara ng tag-ulan ay binase ng PAGASA sa limang sunud-sunod na pag-ulan sa maraming bahagi ng Luzon at Visayas.

Sa pagkakadeklara ng tag-ulan nararapat maghanda ang mamamayan sa mga problemang dala ng tag-ulan. Unang problema ay ang baha, sunod ang basura at ikatlo ay ang dengue. Ang tatlong ito ang mga nangungunang problema sa panahon ng tag-ulan particular sa Metro Manila. Ito ang pinapasan ng mamamayan taun-taon.

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

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

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

Kapag maraming tambak ng basura, dito namumugad ang mga lamok na nagdadala ng dengue. Paboritong tirahan at iniitluga ng mga lamok ang basurang plastic na may tubig. Sa report ng Department of Health (DOH)

idineklara na ang dengue outbreak sa Zamboanga City kung saan may naitala ng 900 kaso mula Enero 1 hanggang Abril 1, 2022. Sa bilang na ito, 11 na umano ang namamatay at karamihan ay mga bata. Bukod sa Zamboanga, may mga kaso rin ng dengue sa Davao Region, Western Visayas at Cagayan Valley. Sintomas ng dengue ang mataas na lagnat na tumatagal ng isang linggo, kulay kapeng ihi, pagkakaroon ng pantal-pantal sa balat at pananakit ng katawan.



Ipagpatuloy ng Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) ang paglilinis sa drainages at estero upang maiwasan ang pagbaha. Magkaroon naman ng disiplina ang mamamayan sa pagtatapon ng kanilang basura lalo ang mga plastik na bumabara sa daluyan ng tubig. Maglinis ng kapaligiran para hindi mabuhay ang mga lamok na nagdadala ng dengue.



## Tag-ulan, basura at baha!

**RESPONDE** - [Gus Abelgas](#) - Pang-masa May 23, 2022 | 12:00am

NOONG isang linggo opisyal nang idineklara ng Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAG-ASA) sa pagsisimula ng tag-ulan sa bansa.

At kapag pumasok na ang tag-ulan, alam na alam ng mga Pinoy kung anong problema ang kinakaharap. Siyempre nangunguna na dyan ang matitinding pagbaha.

Eto nga, ngayon ay nagsisimula na ang isinasagawang paglilinis sa mga drainage canals at mga daluyan ng tubig para maiwasan ang pagbaha.

Dito nga kasi bagsak ang maraming Pinoy, sa walang patumanggang pagtatapon ng kanilang basura sa kung saan-saan na lamang.

Kapag bumara sa mga daluyang tubig, nagiging pangunahing sanhi nang pagbaha.

Partikular na nangyayari yan sa mga naninirahan sa tabi ng creek, madalas pa nga na hindi na aakalain na creek ang nakikita dahil sa tambak ng basura.

Ito naman ang madalas ding napapabayaang mga kinaukulan lalo na ng ilang LGUs.

Kung mag-iikot lang sana sila sa kanilang nasasakupan, makikita ang problema sa basura na tumabon na sa mga kanal at iba pang daluyan ng tubig.

Saka lang aaksiyunan kung dumating ang sandali na tumindi na ang baha sa isang lugar at doon matutuklasan na basura lang pala ang dahilan.

Dapat talaga may ngipin ang mga ipinatutupad na mga ordinansa sa mga lokalidad tungkol sa tamang pagtatapon ng basura.

Mistulang napapabayaang pagsubaybay dito, na hindi nila namamalayan ay may malaking perwisyo na naidudulot.

Suyurin nila ang kanilang mga lugar at doon matutuklasan na nagiging tapunan na ng basura ang mga daluyan ng tubig.

Kung kailan tag-ulan na at saka lamang maiisipan na ito ay maipalinis. Mabuti kung maipapalinis kadalasan kailangan pang tumodo ang baha doon masisilip ang pagkukulang.

Dapat ang unang nakamomonitor nito eh, yung mga opisyal ng barangay, ang masaklap kahit nga malapit sila sa mga creek at kitang-kita na nagiging tapunan na ito ng basura, aba'y walang pag-akasyon takot manita, takot mawalan ng boto.

Basura pa lang ang usapan dyan, pero hindi na nakikitaan ng political will, paano na sa iba pang mas mabibigat na usapin sa lipunan.

Sa mga walang pakundangan na nagtatapon ng basura sa kung saan-saan, tandaan nyo, ang basurang itinapon nyo babalik sa inyo.

Hindi man ang literal na basura pero pwedeng perwisyo dahil dito ang babawi sa inyo.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pang-masa/punto-mo/2022/05/23/2182971/tag-ulan-basura-baha>





# 10-metrong sinkhole lumutang sa Taal, Phivolcs inalerto

By [Arnell Ozaeta](#)(Pilipino Star Ngayon) - May 22, 2022 - 12:00am



Ang sinkhole na lumutang sa harapan ng bahay ng isang residente sa Brgy. Apacay sa bayan ng Taal sa Batangas nitong Miyerkules.

Arnell Ozaeta

## Dahil sa mga pag-ulan at pagbaha...

BATANGAS, Philippines — Inalerto kahapon ng lokal na pamahalaan ng Taal ang Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) matapos na lumutang ang may 10-metrong lalim na sinkhole sa isang barangay kasunod ng walang humpay na mga pag-ulan at pagbaha sa lalawigang ito.

Ayon sa residenteng si Pepito Balbacal, nadiskubre nito ang paglitaw ng sinkhole sa entrance gate ng kanilang bahay matapos ang malakas na pag-ulan sa Barangay Apacay.

“Bago pa man mabuo ang sinkhole ay may mga bitak na akong nakita sa bahay bunsod ng pagputok ng bulkan pero ‘di naman gumuho ang lupa nito,” ani Balbacal

Naniniwala si Balbacal na posibleng lumambot na ang lupa sa ilalim ng kanilang bahay na nagbunsod para lumikha ng sinkhole matapos ang pagbaha sa kanilang lugar. Agad niyang ipinaalam ito sa kanilang barangay at munisipyo sa pangambang tuluyan nang gumuho ang kanyang bahay.

Mabilis namang kinordonan ang bahay ni Balbacal para maiwasan ang aksidente. Suwerte naman at walang nasaktan o namatay na residente sa pagbitak ng lupa o paglitaw ng sinkhole sa Barangay Apacay.

Bunsod nito, iniutos ni Taal Mayor Pong Mercado na isarado ang barangay road na apektado ng sinkhole.

Sa kabila nito, hiniling ni Balbacal sa mga local officials na tabunan na lang ang sinkhole pero tumanggi si Mercado habang inaantay ang mga opinyon ng mga eksperto mula sa Phivolcs at Department of Environment and Natural resources (DENR) Mines and Geosciences Bureau.

Humingi na rin ng tulong si Mercado sa Office of Civil Defense para ma-survey ang lugar at alamin kung anong lugar ang hindi na maaaring tayuan ng bahay dahil sa sinkhole.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/probinsiya/2022/05/22/2182807/10-metrong-sinkhole-lumutang-sa-taal-phivolcs-inalerto/amp/>



# Magnitude 6.1 quake jolts Calatagan, Batangas

By: [Gilbert S. Gaviola](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 07:29 AM May 22, 2022



MANILA, Philippines – A magnitude 6.1 earthquake jolted parts of Batangas Sunday morning, according to the [Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology \(Phivolcs\)](#).

The earthquake of tectonic struck at 5:50 a.m. 21 kilometers west of Calatagan town.

It had a depth of focus of 132 kilometers.

The earthquake was felt at Intensity IV in Calatagan, Batangas; Intensity III in Quezon City, Pasay City, Pasig City, Tagaytay City, Mendez, Amadeo and Alfonso in Cavite and Obando, Bulacan

It was felt at Intensity II in Abucay, Bataan; Gapan City, Nueva Ecija; Castillejos, Zambales; Mandaluyong City; City of Manila, Makati City and Tanay, Rizal.

## Instrumental Intensities:

Intensity IV- Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro  
Intensity III- Plaridel, San Ildefonso and Malolos City, Bulacan; Guagua, Pampanga; Tagaytay City; Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro; Batangas City; Olongapo City, Zambales; Gumaca, Quezon

Intensity II- Talisay, Batangas; Mauban and Dolores, Quezon ; Roxas and San Jose, Occidental Mindoro; Muntinlupa City; Gapan City; Nueva Ecija; Pandi and Marilao, Bulacan; Mulanay, Quezon; Las Piñas City; Marikina City; Malabon City; Cabanatuan City

Intensity I- Los Baños, Laguna; Iba, Zambales; Pasig City; Quezon City; Tayabas, Polillo, Lopez, San Francisco and Lucban, Quezon; Baler, Aurora

Phivolcs warned that aftershocks and damage to infrastructure are expected.

*gsg*

23 MAY 2022, MONDAY



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'MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH'

## DENR CANCELS ECC OF RECLAMATION PROJECT IN CORON

By Romar Miranda  
@RVMirandaINQ

**PUERTO PRINCESA CITY**— There is now very little chance that the halted 51-hectare reclamation project in the tourist town of Coron in Palawan province can still resume after the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) canceled the environmental compliance certificate (ECC) of the controversial project.

Joe Amil Salino, regional di-

rector of the DENR-EMB in Mararopa (Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon and Palawan), directed the provincial government of Palawan, the proponent of the Coron Bay Development Project (CBDP), to immediately suspend all of its reclamation activities in the town.

A P50,000 fine was also slapped by the EMB on the project's proponents for their failure to comply with the required compliance monitoring report, according to the order dated May 12, a copy of which was obtained by the Inquirer on Saturday.

The project was granted an ECC in July 2007 for a 3-ha coastal reclamation in Coron. Two years later, in October 2009, another ECC was issued allowing an additional reclamation of 48 ha.

### Violations

But the DENR-EMB said the CBDP did not only fail to submit a status report on its ongoing reclamation but also violated guidelines set on its ECC after a joint inspection of the DENR-EMB and the Philippine Reclamation Authority in March revealed the

project only constructed a temporary drainage with no filtration system, allowing solid waste to drain to the sea.

The project, which has changed the coastal landscape of three adjoining villages of Coron, proceeded amid protests by environmentalists and residents concerned about its negative impact on the marine ecosystem of Coron, a known diving spot that has been drawing local and foreign tourists to the town.

The project was subsequently halted by President Duterte

on March 22 after he was informed of the complaints raised by Sagip Coron Palawan (SCP), a civic movement that has vigorously opposed the project.

### 'Journey to full rehabilitation'

Marion Raagas, one of the convenors of SCP, welcomed the cancellation of the project's ECC but stressed it was merely a start of the "journey toward full rehabilitation" of Coron's damaged marine environment.

"The cancellation of the ECC is a major breakthrough in Sagip

Coron's efforts to resolve the illegal reclamation and quarrying activities in Coron. However, we are also cognizant that this is just the start of our journey toward full rehabilitation of Coron Bay and bring back the livelihood of its people," Raagas said.

The project has not only threatened to wipe out the island's biodiversity but has also affected the sources of income fishers and farmers after hills on the island were decimated and its soil used to fill up the reclamation site. INQ

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**ALTERED LANDSCAPE** This now halted reclamation project in the tourist town of Coron in northern Palawan has been the subject of protests by residents and environmentalists because of the harm it has done to the marine biodiversity of the island famous for its pristine waters, beautiful beaches and coral reefs. —PHOTO COURTESY OF BOB MAGALLANES



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# Mining sector seen to boost PH economy

By **CORY MARTINEZ**

THE mining sector will be a great contributor to economic recovery through sustained support for responsible mining and establishment of mineral processing plants.

This was emphasized by Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna during the recently-held Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) Joint Consultative Meeting on Mining Concerns in Northern Mindanao and Zamboanga Peninsula.

During the meeting, Sampulna cited the contribution of the mining industry to the country's economy in recent years.

"Even during the pandemic, the mining industry was able to boost our country's gross domestic product (GDP) by P102.3 billion in 2020, and by P22.3 billion in the first quarter of 2021," Sampulna said in his speech read by Undersecretary for

Legal, Administration, Human Resources and Legislative Affairs Ernesto D. Adobo Jr.

Adobo, who is also the Supervising Undersecretary for Mining Affairs, pointed out that if responsible and sustainable utilization of resources continues, the mining industry's contribution to GDP would be "100 percent of what the sector is contributing today, and maybe more."

"There are even numbers saying it would be in trillions," Adobo pointed out.

Adobo emphasized that mining activities should be done with due regard to the environment.

MGB Director Wilfredo G. Moncano said the DENR aims to reach a globally competitive mineral sector with the establishment of mineral processing plants across the country.

"The economic contribution of having mineral

processing plants in the country is 7 to 12 times more than the current set-up, and that is, direct shipping of minerals produced. If we have these processing plants, we will have bigger shares of exports, revenues, taxes, and fees," Moncano said.

"We aim to reduce the direct shipping of our ores and instead have the processing here. Right now, we are only processing nickel, but if we have more mineral processing plants, we can recover other minerals like chromite, scandium and cobalt," he added.

Moncano said the DENR-MGB is now coordinating with the Senate and the House of Representatives to push for legislation pertaining to the establishment of mineral processing plants in the country.

The consultative meeting held in Cagayan de Oro City gathered mining com-

panies in the Zamboanga Peninsula and Northern Mindanao identified by the MGB with mining priority projects in Phases 1 and 2.

Phase 1 covers companies in the development and construction stage whose commercial operations are expected to become viable within six months, while Phase 2 includes companies in the process of filing for declaration of mining project feasibility and those in the advanced exploration stage.

The event served as an avenue that linked mining companies and national government agencies, such as the DENR-Environmental Management Bureau, National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, Department of Agriculture, Department of Agrarian Reform, and Department of Public Works and Highways, to discuss issues and concerns during the filing of mining applications, securing of certifications, and approval of permits, and to clarify and expedite processes.



## South Cotabato lifting of open-pit ban still at risk of governor's veto

THE re-elected governor of South Cotabato, the province which hosts the stalled Tampakan copper-gold project, could still veto provincial council legislation lifting a 12-year ban on open-pit mining, after he formed a panel to study the matter.

Governor Reynaldo S. Tamayo, Jr., who just won a second three-year term, told a group of protestors last week that he will "study" and "talk" to all sides before acting on the provincial council ordinance.

In March, Mr. Tamayo approved a resolution of the Provincial Development Council that supported a continued ban.

Last week, the provincial council approved changes to the province's Environment Code, among them an end to the ban on open-pit mining.

A final copy of the council resolution has yet to be submitted to Mr. Tamayo for approval or veto. It will automatically lapse into law 15 days after the official transmission to the governor's office.

"I will study everything that could be studied and talk to everyone to be sure that your governor's decision will be in line with what is right and proper (for the people and the environment)," he told the crowd, which included residents, religious leaders, and nongovernment groups.

Among those present was the Davao-based advocacy group Interfacing Development Interventions for Sustainability (IDIS), which warned against the potential impact of the Tampakan project on various watersheds and the Davao Gulf.

In a statement, IDIS said the open-pit mining project will affect multiple watersheds in South Cotabato, as well as the nearby provinces of Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao, and Davao del Sur.

### FULL STORY



Read the full story by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or by typing the link  
<[bit.ly/OpenPit052322](http://bit.ly/OpenPit052322)>

"Watersheds are geographical ecological units, and what happens in one part of the watershed will influence the whole watershed from forests, agricultural, urban, and coastal to estuarine ecosystems," it said. — **Maya M. Padillo**



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## Massacre of old trees expected at Tampakan

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA  
@jonlmayuga

**E**NVIRONMENTAL groups expressed dismay over the expected massacre of old trees to pave the way for the Tampakan Copper-Gold Project in South Cotabato. The Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment (Kalikasan PNE) said last Sunday it received reports that tree-cutting operations are expected to begin at the 10,000-hectare Tampakan project area despite the local open-pit mine ban still in effect.

"We urge public authorities to immediately hold and investigate the imminent cutting of up to 900 trees at the Tampakan mine area. We fear that these eager beavers' aim to clear so many old-growth trees is part and parcel of the development activities for [an] open-pit mine project. Any activity linked to...mine development should still be prohibited while South Cotabato's open-pit mine ban is still in place," Kalikasan PNE National Coordinator Jose Leon A. Dulce was quoted in a statement as saying.

According to Dulce, local sources at Tampakan relayed to Kalikasan-PNE that operations aim to start cutting around 100 trees last Saturday and ramp-up to more than 900 trees over a 90-hectare area over the following days.

This development comes on the heels of the controversial provincial ordinance passed by the South Cotabato local government attempting to lift the ban on open-pit mines within the provincial environmental code.

The ban remains in effect while the regulation remains "unreceived" by the office of South Cotabato Governor Reynaldo S. Tamayo Jr.

In a recent pronouncement in front of protesters, Tamayo said he knew of this imminent tree cutting but claimed his hands were tied because the permit issued was from the national office and out of his jurisdiction.

"Greed is the name of the game as the proponents of the Tampakan mine are aggressively pushing to commence mine development. We can see how they readily seek to destroy our last remaining forests to start digging up entire mountains at Tampakan," Dulce said. *Jonathan L. Mayuga*



**HEALTHY BUILDING** This May 20, 2022, photo shows Senate Committee on Health Chairman Christopher Lawrence "Boñg" T. Go (4th left) during the groundbreaking ceremony for the four-storey Malasakit Center of Valenzuela Medical Center in Valenzuela City. Go was joined by (from left): House Deputy Speaker Rep. Weslie T. Gatchalian; Valenzuela Medical Center Chief II Dr. Nimfa M. Putong; Department of Health Director IV Dr. Enrique A. Tayag; House Deputy Speaker Eric M. Martinez; and, Undersecretary of Health Leopoldo J. Vega. ROY DOMINGO



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THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS  
SINCE 1900  
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THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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Photo from DENR Davao via Antonio Colina IV

## Carcass of massive sperm whale found in DavOcc shore

By ANTONIO L. COLINA IV

DAVAO CITY – A carcass of a huge sperm whale was washed ashore in Sitio Sakalig, Barangay Sugal, Jose Abad Santos, Davao Occidental on Saturday, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-Davao reported on Sunday.

The DENR-Davao said that two fisher-folk reported to the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) the discovery of the remains of the massive whale.

The whale, measuring 60 feet in length and nine feet in width, suffered from multiple wounds and was most likely already dead before it reached the shores.

The agency said that DENR-Davao Regional Executive Director Bagani Fidel A. Evasco directed the PENRO to coordinate with concerned agencies and experts in marine biology for the disposal of the carcass as it poses a potential hazard to the nearby community.

"There is also a need to cordon the area. And the carcass should be disposed of immediately because its smell can be toxic and hazardous to the community," Evasco said.

The Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office headed by Harry Camoro will work with the Davao Museum and the Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office (MDRRMO) to perform a deboning on the carcass.





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# Phl gets \$43-M grant to halt species loss

By PIA LEE-BRAGO

The Philippines is one of the grant recipients for the \$43 million (about P2.24 billion) in financing from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for developing countries to fast-track halting of species loss, the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) announced.

With global biodiversity loss at dangerous levels, 139 countries have received a lifeline to fast-track efforts to conserve, protect and restore species and ecosystems as soon as a new global accord currently under negotiation is approved.

The new financing from the GEF, totalling \$43 million, will give developing countries the means to quickly put the anticipated Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework into practice and make headway toward the goal of halting and reversing species loss this decade.

Supported with technical expertise from the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and UNEP, the

participating countries will be eligible for new grants of \$300,000 for work to analyse and align their national policies, targets, finance and monitoring systems to take effective action on global threats to biodiversity.

"As we celebrate the International Day for Biological Diversity, this commitment shows that the world is united in recognizing the urgent need to end the destruction of nature and the loss of the services it provides," Elizabeth Mrema, executive secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity said last Friday.

"This early action will prepare Parties to mobilize for the action that all sectors of society will take to make these aspirations a reality in the 10 years ahead," Mrema said.

The GEF Early Action Grants will provide immediate financial and technical support to developing country governments, drawing from enabling activity resources in the biodiversity focal area in the GEF's seventh funding cycle, known as GEF-7.

The support is designed to help ac-

celerate implementation of the Global Biodiversity framework once it is formally agreed at the 2022 UN Biodiversity Conference (COP 15).

Biodiversity protection also represents the biggest share of the GEF-8 programming period, which will run from July 2022 to June 2026.

ASEAN members that are also grant recipient countries include Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam.

The Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, a 10-year plan to halt the increase in the rate of extinctions and bring 30 percent of land and sea areas under protection, is expected to be agreed by the 196 Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity when they meet in Kunming City, China later this year.

Carlos Manuel Rodriguez, CEO and chairman of the GEF, said it was critically important for all countries to be ready to act quickly once the new framework is approved.

"Setting our aspirations is only a first step, and this coming decade requires us to sprint," Rodriguez said. "Recognizing the intense pressures on developing countries as well as their unprecedented commitment to change the trajectory of biodiversity loss, the GEF is making these Early Action Grants available even before the new global accord is agreed."

He said countries can use this "fast track" financial approach to update their biodiversity strategies and build capacities to deliver in the GBF.

"We stand ready to continue to help stewards of globally important biodiversity elevate nature in their planning and quickly scale up efforts that together can turn international

goals into reality," he added.

"The Global Biodiversity Framework represents a critical opportunity to set our planet on a new course," UNEP Executive Director Inger Andersen said. "But the global pandemic has left us with no time to waste. This joint initiative to accelerate preparedness by national actors shows that together, we are ready to put nature at the heart of decision-making about our shared future."

UNDP Administrator Achim Steiner stated the need to create a planetary safety net by putting nature at the heart of global, national and local economies and development frameworks.



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SPECIAL REPORT

# TAÑON FOLK RISE AGAINST PLASTIC POLLUTION

By Krixia Subingsubing  
@krixiasINQ

(Last of two parts)

Beneath the shimmering emerald green water of Tañon Strait is a seabed of plastic.

The kids of Mambacayao Island—a fisherfolk community near the Visayan Sea—know this best. After all, their fathers and grandfathers fish in these waters and see their daily haul increasingly include not just of fish but plastic.

Plastic seems to be everywhere in these waters, including inside the bellies of many of the fish that are caught.

So, every Saturday, young men and teens swim a few kilometers off the shore to collect the garbage underwater that the currents had brought to this marine sanctuary.

The plastic waste that are either entangled in the corals or lying on the seabed are a variety of sachets of consumer products like soap and shampoo, soft drink bottles, and batteries discarded by

FROM A1

fishermen who use them in night fishing.

### Sea sweepers

“We’re sweepers of the sea,” said 19-year-old Aldrin Dacomos. “We get everything we can find.”

About 100 kilometers to the south, the fisherfolk of Barili, a coastal municipality of 80,000 in Cebu, are hard at work planting mangroves along the coast. The mangroves, said community leader Ven Carbon, serve as nurseries for fish and a natural barrier against both storm surges and plastic waste that would have washed ashore.

“These have always been our first line of defense,” he said. “As Tañon Strait becomes more and more polluted, this is the least we can do.”

This problem of plastic waste and the more insidious microplastics is not unique to Barili and other coastal communities on both sides of the strait.

A recent study by the Coastal Resources and Ecotourism Research, Development and Extension Center (Crerdec) found traces of microplastics, or plastic debris, in at least nine other sites in the archipelago.

Crerdec, an agency under the Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, launched its study in 2019.

### Firms vis-a-vis consumers

With their lifeline under threat, local fishing communities along the strait are leading the charge to preserve one of the largest marine protected areas in the country.

Several studies have identified the Philippines as the third largest contributor to plastic waste in the world, where over 356,371 metric tons of mismanaged plastic waste originate annually.

In a 2019 study, the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives said the country disposes of 163 million plastic sachets and 45.2 million pieces of thin-film plastic bags daily. Most of

which were made by global corporations that produce, distribute and sell products packed in small, low-cost, single-use plastic containers.

Most of the time, this plastic garbage doesn’t end up in landfills or waste facilities, but on the shores of fishing communities like Mambacayao Island in northern Cebu and Barili where they are taken by the ocean currents.



**STARTING YOUNG** Young men and women of Mambacayao Island swim a few kilometers off the shore to collect garbage underwater of Tañon Strait every Saturday, leading the way for the fisherfolk community’s campaign against plastic pollution.

—PHOTOS COURTESY OF GOODLAND ASSOCIATION PHILIPPINES



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CARTOON

05-23-22

TITLE: Tañon folk rise against plastic pollution (A1)

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## FISHING COMMUNITIES IN TAÑON RISE AGAINST THE TIDE OF POLLUTION

### Food for garbage

"It's so unfair that those who are producing, manufacturing single use plastics are not held accountable, but we would rather blame the behavior of consumers when there are so many impacts that they don't even know," said Oceana Philippines vice president and lawyer Gloria Estenzo Ramos.

The Philippines already has several laws in place, like the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2001 and the 1999 Clean Air Act, that should have addressed this problem, she said.

In February this year, Interior Secretary Eduardo Año issued Memorandum Circular No. 2022-018 reminding local governments of their responsibility in establishing environmental safeguards within their jurisdictions because "environmental protection is a devolved service." "If they don't act, it is the constituents who must move, but we make the duty bearers accountable," Ramos said.

In Mambacayao, the local fisherfolk association has a food-for-garbage program to encourage cleanup.

Every kilo of garbage collected can be exchanged for two kilos of rice provided by the local government or private organizations, according to fisherfolk leader John Ortega.

This program started around 2019, shortly after a typhoon flooded their community. Plastic debris carpeted the shores and the streets, according to 24-year-old Vince Dacomos.

With Ortega in charge, the small community that was once indifferent to plastic waste suddenly began to take interest in the ways this ugly phenomenon would affect them. Then the Mambacayao youth took over.

Ortega said he and members of the private group Goodland Civic Association gave a short seminar on environmental stewardship to the local residents.

"But surprisingly, the kids became very invested in it," he said.

### Starting 'em young

Since then, the kids, some as young as 12 years old, have been attending meetings and workshops on ocean conservation organized by the municipality of Bantayan, which includes Mambacayao.

After completing the workshops, they are officially recolors, said 14-year-old Yverly Dacomos.

Only a few of the kids want to become fishermen like their parents. Like Yverly, most of them want to be a teacher.

But in the meantime, they are actively trying to save the sea because "it's our source of food," said Jamili.

"If we don't save it, we won't get any more fish ... and the next generation might blame us if we don't do something," he said.

In Barili, it is the mangroves that the local communities are trying to protect.

Mangrove forests line their shoreline, attracting tourists and becoming some sort of a lifeline for Barili fishermen. Between the roots of the hardy trees are found the nests of sardines, stonefish, *galunggong* (round scad) and crabs, said Carbon, a fisherfolk leader.

### Commercial fishing

Much of the sea under the jurisdiction of the town is reserved for municipal fisheries, but illegal commercial fishing has been encroaching into these waters and the problem is worsening, according to Carbon.

One commercial fishing vessel could haul in the equivalent of three months' worth of catch of a small fisherman in just one day, he said.

"That's truly what's distressing us these days," he said. "Now, Barili fishermen are lucky

organized as managers and fish wardens, and as protected areas rangers by the Tañon Strait Protected Seascapes.

At least 20 of them gather on the beach for their Saturday cleanup dive in the waters between Tañon and the Visayan Sea where they collect plastic and other garbage. Most of them can last a full minute underwater without diving gear and they do not need to go deeper than 3.66 meters to find what they are looking for.

### Corals, batteries, diapers

What they saw on their first dive shocked them: bleached corals after fishermen dumped chlorine on them, and batteries and baby diapers littering the seafloor.

Most of the corals were also damaged or broken because of dynamite fishing or by reckless divers, said 19-year-old Emmanuel John Jamili.

Some fishermen use chlorine to force fish hiding in the corals to come out, the easier to catch them, he said.

"It's like they don't care (about the corals)," Jamili said. "The corals are being suffocated by the garbage."

The young marine wardens of Mambacayao also try to "rehabilitate" damaged corals by replanting them or repairing broken parts.

In the past two years since they started, some of these corals appear to have been saved

to catch three to five kilos per night which go for P100-P150 per kilo. And with the rising costs of gasoline, that's just enough to cover the trip itself.

In his 30 years as a small fisherman, Carbon said he saw the fish catch being depleted because of overfishing. In the past decade, however, plastic waste which choke the mangroves had added to their problem.

Like the kids in Mambacayao, Carbon leads weekend coastal cleanups and mangrove planting. Mangroves take a long time to grow into mighty trees but they're particularly vulnerable to strong waves and typhoons as saplings and must be nurtured with care.

These initiatives, said Oxana Pilipinas ambassador for resilience Antoinette Taus, exemplify the importance of communities finding solutions to their own problems and building their capacity to overcome obstacles.

### Community initiatives

"At the end of the day, no one can just go to any random place [and] say, 'Hello, we bring the solutions we think can help you,'" she said. "More than anything, local community actions and the knowledge of people that live there, they are the ones that are protecting their own home, their own community."

Still, they need all the help they can get. For example, Ortega has been asking the local Municipal Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council for funds to create artificial reefs in areas where the corals had been destroyed. The council has yet to agree to the proposal.

The Barili fishermen also asked a Cebu regional trial court for a temporary environmental protection order this year against resort owners who fenced in parts of the shoreline, including some mangrove forest areas.

"We've been taking care of the area for 30 years and now rich people want the gains for themselves," Ortega said. INQ



## Expansion of APEC green goods list pushed

**EXPANDING** the products in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) List of Environmental Goods will greatly help the region cope with the environmental challenges while APEC economies consider the inclusion of adapted goods, according to an APEC Policy Support Unit article.

Carlos Kuriyama, a senior analyst at the APEC Policy Support Unit, cited climate change adaptation and mitigation among the environmental challenges that have entered the mainstream consciousness in recent years.

"Any discussion to expand the list should keep in mind certain considerations, such as

how it would benefit APEC members economically, especially developing economies, which often bear the brunt of the ill effects of climate change," he said.

Kuriyama said the products on the APEC list support several activities related to environmental protection and resource management.

He said one possible way is adding on the list less technology-intensive products, which are already part of complex global value chains in environmental goods and are manufactured in developing economies.

APEC economies should also consider the inclusion of adapted goods, he said, adding these are goods that have been

specifically modified to be more "environmentally friendly" or "cleaner" and whose use is therefore beneficial for environmental protection or resource management.

Kuriyama likewise highlighted the surge of trade in environmental goods that may be attributed to several reasons.

"Tariff reductions, to which APEC's work has contributed, have made green technologies more affordable and available. Environmental awareness and activism have steadily grown in popularity, especially in recent years, and there is a general trend to develop and use fewer polluting technologies as well as more environmentally friendly products," he said.

This has led to governments mandating more regulation to protect the environment, the implementation of which requires the use of environmental goods, he added.

Kuriyama said there is also the speedy technological progress in developing alternative energy sources and energy-efficient goods.

"Governments have helped move this along with environmental policy-driven incentives and other supporting measures," he said.

Moreover, Kuriyama said high international oil prices have motivated the development of new energy-efficient products and new technologies to replace fossil fuels.

THE TIMES



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# A consumer's plea amidst the global plastic crisis

## COMMENTARY

GLORIA ESTENZO RAMOS

**A**yoko ng plastic! I refuse products wrapped in plastic, and I will always try to reduce waste as much as I can. Difficult? Maybe initially, but not impossible, as many have so realized.

In my youth, I remember a life free from toxic single-use plastic. There was no need for plastic *labo* bags in the neighborhood *talipapa* because we had our trusty *bayangs*. Cooked food for family picnics were wrapped in fragrant banana leaves instead of cling wrap. Today, almost everything is sold in single-use plastic, which eventually ends up harming our ocean, the planet, and our health. Experts have long sounded the alarm on the risks posed by plastic. And while many of us consumers are now conscious of these dangers, the road to a sustainable lifestyle free from plastic is simply not an easy one to take when more businesses use single-use plastic than plastic-free alternatives.

Article II Section 16 of the 1986 Constitution provides that the State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature. This was interpreted by the Supreme Court as not just a right but also as a duty not to destroy the environment, in the world-acclaimed *Minors Oposa v. Factoran* case.

So why is the burden of choosing better for the environment being placed on consumers instead of the business sector?

Instead of placing the hefty responsibility of choosing sustainable products and packaging on consumers, why not place the pressure on the manufacturers to come up with sustainably produced goods and services? Under Republic Act No. 9003 and implementing regulations, it is the duty of the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) to encourage commercial and industrial establishments through incentives other than tax incentives to manufacture environment-friendly products, in addition to regularly coming up with the long-overdue list of non-environmentally acceptable products and packaging (NEAPP), the immediate effect of which is to ban the manufacture and production of the listed items.

One may wonder how the battle against plastic pollution can be won without placing pressure on businesses to speed up the development of plastic-free alternatives.

Gloria Estenzo Ramos is the vice president of Oceana, an international advocacy organization dedicated to protecting the world's oceans. Since 2014, Oceana has been working closely with national and local government agencies, civil society, fisherfolk, and other stakeholders to restore abundance of Philippine fisheries and marine resources.

In the case of the municipality of Los Baños in Laguna, one of the first municipalities to impose a strong policy to ban single-use plastic, the municipal council prohibited the use of plastic bags and styrofoam containers. The local government imposed steep fines for both business establishments and individuals found violating the ordinance. As early as 2008, businesses and individuals there were pushed to convert to plastic alternatives and in no time, brown paper bags and cloth shopping bags became the norm in the university town. Today, Los Baños is no longer alone in this effort. El Nido in Palawan, Davao City, Cagayan de Oro City, Bacolod City, Baguio City, and Boracay Island have also followed suit and banned certain single-use plastic items.

However, local governments realize that doing away with single-use plastics requires the NSWMC to enforce the NEAPP listing mandate. A total of 128 local government units (LGUs) have asked the NSWMC to issue the long-overdue list of NEAPP, which includes single-use plastic. This list is supposed to be updated by the NSWMC every year to facilitate the reduction and phase-out of hazardous single-use plastic products.

Here is the bottom line: Plastic does not degrade. It stays in our environment forever, and while many say that plastic eventually degrades, what they really mean is that these are broken down into minuscule fragments called microplastics which wreak further havoc in our air and bodies of water.

Such is the case with the Tañon Strait Protected Seascape, the country's largest marine protected area and a major fishing ground for local fisherfolk. Studies conducted by the Philippine Institute for Development Studies and Coastal Resources and Ecotourism Research, Development and Extension Center have confirmed microplastic contamination, which inevitably affects the nearby coastal communities and fisherfolk that depend on Tañon Strait as a resource.

It is not too late to go back to a life free from single-use plastic, but consumers and LGUs alone cannot fight the plastic crisis. Now more than ever, we have to work together in this battle and for government to strictly enforce stronger policies and stricter penalties on solid waste management. And as consumers, it is our right to demand better prioritization of the health of the people and our home planet from both government and the private sector.



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## TUBIG! TUBIG! ANO ANG PLANO?

NAGING matagumpay ang naganap na forum na inorganisa ng Ateneo De Manila noong ika-12 ng Mayo 2022. Ang kaganapang ito ay ang pagsisimula ng pagdiriwang ng ika-30 anibersaryo ng Department of Environmental Science, sa pakikipagtutungan ng School of Science and Engineering at Ateneo Research Institute of Science and Engineering.

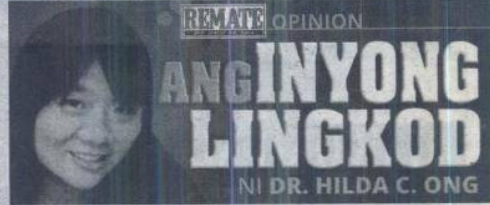
Isang talakayan tungkol sa seguridad ng tubig! Ang nag-host sa SC Johnson forum ay ang Department of Environmental Science, nag-

simula alas 3:00 hanggang 5:00 ng hapon.

Isa sa naging speaker ay si Dr. Seville "Bill" David, Executive Director ng National Water Resources Board kasama ang National Economic and Development Authority.

Ibinahagi ni Executive Director David at ng NEDA ang usapin tungkol sa National Water Security Roadmap at ang Philippine Water Supply at Sanitation Master Plan.

Nakatutok o focus ng discussion ang possible role ng kabataan sa implementasyon at ng academe tulad ng ADMU sa pananaliksik at



REMATE OPINION

## ANG INYONG LINGKOD

NI DR. HILDA C. ONG

pagpapaunlad na may kaugnayan sa pamamahala ng mga mapagkukunan ng Tubig kasama ang Roadmap at ang Masterplan.

Kamusta na kaya ang lebel ng tubig sa Angat Dam? Kung titignan natin ang ulat ng Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) noong May 16, 2022 ang dam elevation, bumaba ang lebel ng tubig ng Angat dam sa 191.10 meters, 99.68 meters sa Ipo Dam at

78.71 meters sa La Mesa Dam.

Pagkatapos ng tatlong araw (May 19, 2022), bumaba muli ang lebel ng tubig ng Angat dam sa 190.77 meters, ngunit tumaas sa 100.16 meters sa Ipo Dam at 78.79 meters sa La Mesa Dam.

Ayon sa Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration, maaga silang nagdeklara ng tag-ulan dahil ilang araw na ang nararansang buhos ng ulan sa Metro Manila.

Pangunahing basehan ng PAGASA ay ang pagpasok ng hanging habagat at ang magkakasunod na araw na may pagbuhos ng ulan.

Bagama't opisyal nang inihayag ng PAGASA na nagsimula na ang panahon ng tag-ulan sa buong bansa, kinakailangan parin ang ibayong pagtitipid sa tubig ng mga nasa Metropolitan Manila.



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## Reckless farming, climate crisis killing bees, other pollinators—FAO

**B**EES, pollinators and many other insects are declining in abundance due to unsustainable agricultural practices and the climate crisis according to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations.

FAO noted that bees and other pollinators are key allies that ensure the health of the planet and the lives of human beings. They are critical for food production and livelihoods and directly link wild ecosystems with agricultural production systems.

"Almonds, apples, coffee, or strawberries are all foods that we can enjoy thanks to the meticulous pollination activities of bees and other pollinating insects. In addition to food, these insects indirectly contribute to the provision of medicines and the production of fiber, biofuels, and other materials," it said.

So many gifts come from their tireless work, but bees and pollinators face many challenges today. FAO, which recently observed the World Bee Day, warned of declining pollination services in many parts of the world.

"Bees, pollinators, and many other insects are declining in abundance due to unsustainable agricultural practices, pesticides, pests and pathogens, habitat destruction, and climate crisis," FAO Director-General QU Dongyu said in a video message at a ceremony last Friday to mark the event which falls on May 20.

"We must act collectively to support, restore and enhance the role of bees, pollinators and beekeeping."

The virtual event was attended

by bee and pollinator experts from around the world. It featured discussions and stories from the field that highlighted not only the great benefits of these tiny creatures for humans and nature but also the threats and challenges these insects face today due to humans' negative impact on the environment.

FAO said this year's theme, "Bee engaged: celebrating the diversity of bees and beekeeping systems," encourages us all to become involved because we can all do something to respect and protect these insects that do so much for us. In their interventions at the FAO event, experts drew attention to the importance of the diversity bees and beekeeping systems that exist around the world.

Beekeeping is an activity that goes beyond honey production and contributes to the achievement of many Sustainable Development Goals. Since it can be done with limited resources and locally available materials, beekeeping provides a source of income for those living in extreme poverty, helping to improve the resilience and livelihoods of rural and indigenous communities.

"Beekeeping is a widespread and global activity, with millions of beekeepers, including Indigenous Peoples, depending on bees for their livelihoods and well-being," the FAO Director-General stressed. Indeed, indigenous peoples are crucial to the conservation of important genetic reservoirs and are often the only ones who know about local bee species and all their products and services.



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## The climate threat hidden in your hamburger

**T**HAT hamburger you just ate may be more carbon-intensive than you think. Researchers have for the first time quantified rising greenhouse gas emissions embodied in the international trade of specific agricultural products like beef that results in deforestation.

Such "land-use emissions" account for about 25 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions and mostly occur in poorer countries that export food to the United States, Europe, China and other industrialized regions, according to a peer-reviewed paper published May 6 in the journal *Science*. "These land-use emissions are substantial enough to threaten international climate goals even if fossil fuel emissions are drastically reduced," the paper stated.

Land-use emissions are those from agriculture production, such as the methane burped by grazing cattle, as well as greenhouse gases emitted from cutting down forests for agricultural purposes like creating pastures for livestock. The researchers found that three-quarters of emissions from international agriculture trade are from changes in land use. A model they created based on trade and agricultural data found that between 2004 and 2017, land-use emissions in international trade increased 14 percent.

"The land-use change problem needs to be front and center on our radar," said Steven Davis, a co-author of the paper and an associate professor of Earth system science at the University of California at Irvine.

Davis and other scientists said wealthy nations are outsourcing land-use emissions to countries such as Brazil and Indonesia. "In places like the US or Europe, there's very little land-use change going on for agriculture because we did our deforestation earlier in our history," said Davis.

Timothy Searchinger, a senior research scholar at Princeton University and technical director of the World Resources Institute food program, studies agriculture land use and climate change. He said policies designed to lower greenhouse emissions from transportation in developed nations are increasing land-use emissions as woodlands are converted to grow crops for biofuels.

For instance, the European

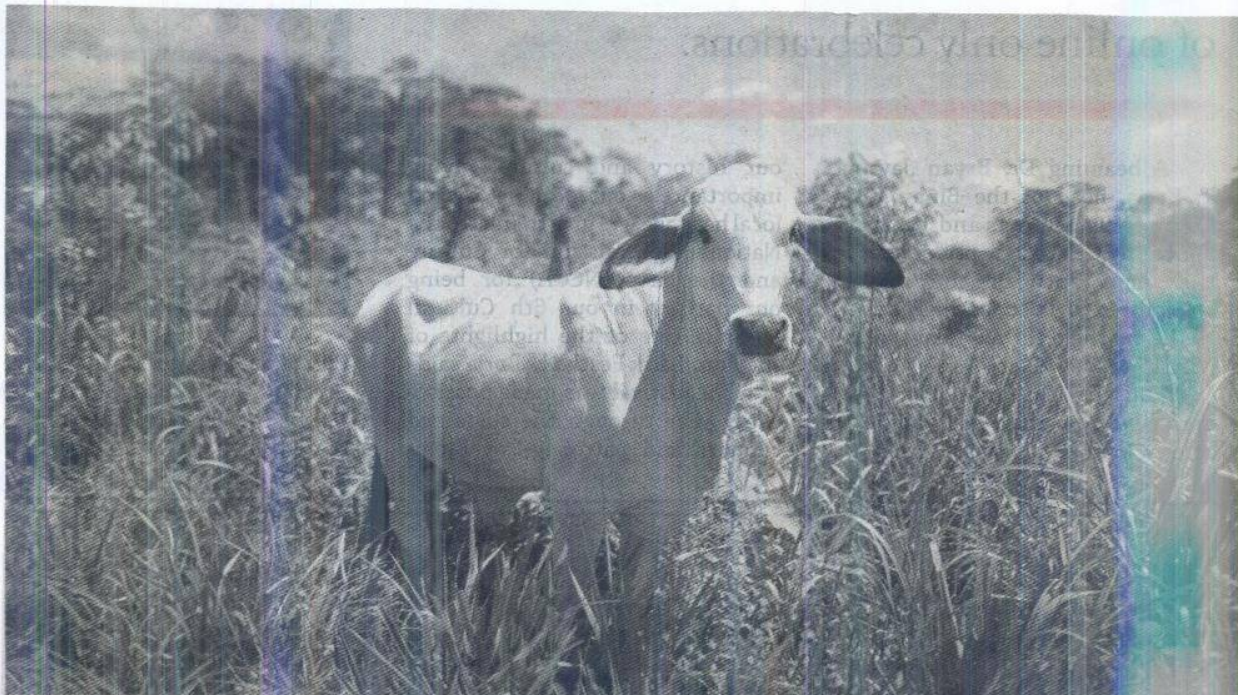
Union's plan to reduce emissions at least 55 percent by 2030 relies in part on an expansion of biofuels. That, he said, would require conversion of a fifth of the EU's agriculture land from food to fuel unless crops for biofuels are imported.

"Europe has offshored a lot of its land use for agriculture to other countries," said Searchinger, who was not involved in the land-use emissions study. "We have massive rising demand for food and policymakers have added to that with bioenergy mandates."

The paper sends an important message about the responsibility for land-use emissions, he added.

"People think it's just some kind of perverse activity by developing countries chopping down forests," said Searchinger. "What's driving this is for demand for products" in the US, Europe and China.

Davis and his colleagues determined that cereals and oil crops, such as soybean and palm oil, accounted for 45 percent to 55 percent of land-use emissions in international agriculture trade between 2004 and 2017. Cattle, pigs and other animals represented 14 percent to 19 percent of emissions while fruits and vegetables were responsible for less than 8 percent. *Bloomberg News*



"LAND-USE emissions" account for about 25 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions and mostly occur in poorer countries that export food to the United States, Europe, China. BLOOMBERG NEWS





## UN executive lauds Marawi rehab efforts

A TOP official of the United Nations has lauded Task Force Bangon Marawi (TFBM) for the rehabilitation of the country's only Islamic city following the 2017 siege.

UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator in the Philippines Gustavo Gonzalez, who was in Marawi for the Marawi Week of Peace, described the city's rehabilitation as the "best rebuilding process" he has ever seen.

"We are very proud to be your partners in this rebuilding process... which needs coalitions, alliance. We are proud to see the results of our investments," he said.

Housing czar Eduardo del Rosario, the task force chairperson, invited Gonzalez to Lanao del Sur's Marawi City's most affected area for him to personally witness the progress of the massive government-led rehabilitation.

Gonzalez graced the turnover of hundreds more permanent shelters awarded to internally displaced persons in Marawi City.

Gonzalez joined Secretary Eduardo Del Rosario in the awarding of the permanent shelters are part of a housing program led by the UN-Habitat in partnership with the Japanese government and the Social Housing Finance Corp. **Rio N. Araja**



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Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
**ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU**  
DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City 1116  
Tel.Nos. 8539-4378  
Website: www.emb.gov.ph Email: recordsco@emb.gov.ph



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### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On the ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS) of the proposed 2.0M MTPA STEEL MILL PROJECT of PANHUA INTEGRATED STEEL, INC. located in KAMANGA AGRO-INDUSTRIAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORP., NATIONAL HIGHWAY, BRGY. KAMANGA, MAASIM, SARANGANI PROVINCE.

Notice is hereby given to all parties who wish to give their opinion regarding the implementation of the proposed 2MTPA STEEL MILL PROJECT to attend the Public Hearing scheduled on:

Date	Time	Venue
30 May 2022, Monday	2:00 PM (Registration starts at 1:00 PM)	Kamanga Gym, Brgy. Kamanga, Maasim, Sarangani

The Public Hearing is being conducted in connection with the review of the EIS of the aforementioned project by the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The following is the project information:

Project Name	2.0M MTPA Steel Mill Project
Project Location	Kamanga Agro-Industrial Economic Development Corp., National Highway, Brgy. Kamanga, Maasim, Sarangani Province
Project Type	Smelting (Steel Mill)
Proponent	Panhua Integrated Steel, Inc.

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

The project's EIS and Executive Summary for the Public are downloadable on our website: (kindly access the 'Notice of Public Hearing/ Consultation link found in our website) while copies will be available in the following offices:

EMB REGION 12	Regional Government Center, Brgy. Carpenter Hill Koronadal City
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF SARANGANI	Capitol Grounds 9501 Alabel Soccsksargen

For more details, please contact the EIA and Management Division at this Office at telephone number 8920-2240 and 8539-4378 loc 116 and look for the project case handler **Engr. Lenon Ramboyoung and Engr. George Silvederio.**

Protect the environment... Protect life...

23 MAY 2022, MONDAY



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

## **COVID-19 NEWS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**



# Lockdown posibleng ipatupad ngayong tag-ulan

[Danilo Garcia](#) - Pang-masa May 23, 2022 | 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Posibleng magpatupad muli ng lockdown ang pamahalaan ngayong panahon ng tag-ulan kung marami ang hindi susunod sa ipinatutupad na 'health protocols' kasunod ng pagkakatuklas na sa bansa ng mga subvariants ng COVID-19.

Ito ang naging babala ni Philippine Medical Association (PMA) President Benny Atienza dahil ngayong tag-ulan karaniwan na tinatamaan rin ang publiko ng mga normal na sipon at ubo dahil sa pagbabago ng panahon kaya halos hindi na madedetermina kung ang isang tao ay may COVID-19 o wala.

Kahit umano tag-ulan, kailangan pa rin ang palagiang pagsusuot ng face mask sa eksakto sa mukha, paghuhugas ng kamay, maayos na bentilasyon sa mga lugar na pinupuntahan at huwag makipagsiksikan.

Kung may nararamdaman, dapat agad na magpatingin sa manggagamot at huwag umasa na ordinaryong ubo, sipon o lagnat lang ang nararamdaman para makatiyak sa kaligtasan maging ng mga kapamilya.

Sa kasalukuyan, nakatukoy na ang pamahalaan ng mga kaso ng Omicron subvariants BA.2.12, BA.2.12.1, at BA.4. Ang mga variants na ito na bagama't mas mahina ang sintomas ay higit na nakakahawa kaysa sa orihinal na Omicron variant at orihinal na COVID-19 virus.

23 MAY 2022, MONDAY



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