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NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



PH's protected areas seen as ecotourism assets: DENR

By Stephanie Sevillano [May 23, 2022, 7:25 pm](#)



PROTECTED AREAS. Acting Environmental Secretary Jim Sampulna (left) leads a joint declaration with Tourism Secretary Bernadette-Romulo Puyat (center) and Department of Interior and Local Government Secretary Eduardo Año to ensure the conservation of "protected areas" in the country on Monday (May 23, 2022). They made the declaration in celebration of the year for protected areas. *(Screengrab)*

MANILA – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) underscored on Monday the urgency to conserve and promote the country's protected areas, as these are considered ecotourism assets.

Protected area refers to "identified portions of land and water set aside by reason of their unique physical and biological significance" which should be conserved from "human exploitation", according to the DENR.

In this year's International Day for Biological Diversity Facebook livestream, the department made a joint declaration with the Department of Tourism (DOT) and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) to ensure an intensified protection of the said areas.

DENR acting Secretary Jim Sampulna noted that the economic value of ecosystem services in the Philippines is at US\$46 million or around PHP2.3 billion, to which the protected areas have a significant contribution.

Sampulna added that these areas are sources of clean water, food, livelihood for indigenous groups, and an actual home for critically endangered animals, among others.

"We are happy to report that we have now 246 legislated protected areas that are receiving regular government budgets to sustain their conservation program and operations," he said.

Tourism Secretary Bernadette-Romulo Puyat, meanwhile, mentioned six out of more than a hundred protected areas they will be highlighting for the campaign.

"In support of the year of protected areas initiative being launched today, the DOT's SOS campaign highlights protected areas in the country, through the production of various multimedia content focusing on six locations, namely, Bongsanglay natural park, Balinsasayao Twin lakes natural park in Negros Oriental, Apo reef natural park, and Mt. Hamiguitan, which are both in Davao, Summer island natural park in Eastern Samar, and Mt. Timpoong Hibok-hibok natural monument in Camiguin," she said.



Although some areas may seem yet unfamiliar to other tourists, the DOT said responsible and sustainable tourism should be highly encouraged to assure these great destinations will still be enjoyed by generations to come.

DILG Secretary Eduardo Año also expressed his optimism that visitors and tourists will now be able to appreciate the value of this natural wealth.

“By calling visitors and tourists from all corners of the archipelago and the world to view and experience our protected areas, we anticipate that many will finally learn to love and value our national parks and natural wealth as important sources of livelihood and ecosystem services such as water, erosion control, and natural task management,” he said.

Año said each local government unit (LGU) has an important role to prevent unlawful actions in these protected areas in their jurisdictions.

“Our LGUs (Local government units) are doubly crucial both in reviving the health of national parks and preventing illegal loggers, poachers, and developers from encroaching these ecological havens,” he said. **(PNA)**

Deklarasyon ng 5 bagong protected areas pinuri ng DENR



May 23, 2022 @ 5:32 PM 14 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines – Masayang tinanggap ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang batas na nagdaragdag bng limang protected areas sa ilalim ng National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) para sa kabuuang 112.

Kaugnay nito kamakailan ay nilagdaan ni Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte ang Republic Act (RA) 11684 o ang Mt. Arayat Protected Landscape Act; RA 11685 o ang Mt. Pulag Protected Landscape Act; RA 11686 o ang Naga-Kabasalan Protected Landscape Act; RA 11687 o ang Tirad Pass Protected Landscape Act; at ang RA 11688 o ang Banao Protected Landscape Act.

Dahil sa pagsasabatas ng bagong protected areas, naniniwala si DENR Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna na “more people are realizing the importance of placing biologically important areas under the intensified protection of the Expanded NIPAS Act of 2018.”

“We welcome these recent developments in additional protected areas from our legislators. May this be the impetus of further environmental protection in more biologically important and related conservation areas,” saad ni Sampulna.

Magugunitang noong 2018, ang RA 7586 o ang NIPAS Act of 1992 ay inamiyendahan ng RA 11038 o ang E-NIPAS Act dahilang upang maitatag ang 94 protected areas sa ilalim ng System.

Samantala, pinaalalahanan naman ni DENR-Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) Director Natividad Bernardino ang komunidad at ang local government units na malapit sa “concerned sites” na makipagtulungan sa DENR para mapanatili ang pamamahala at epektibong administrasyon ng mga bagong protected areas.

Ayon sa DENR ang may potensiyal na akbitong ‘stratovolcano’ na Mt. Arayat Protected Landscape ay matatagpuan sa Pampanga habang ang Mt. Pulag Protected Landscape na isang ‘dormant’ volcano ay matatagpuan sa pagitan ng mga probinsiya ng Benguet at Ifugao.

Matatagpuan naman sa Mindanao, ang Naga-Kabasalan Protected Landscape, na isang ‘parcel of land’ na may malawak na taniman ng mangroves ay nasa pagitan ng mga bayan ng Naga at Kabasalan sa Zamboanga Sibugay.

Ang Tirad Pass Protected Landscape ay isang historically important landmark sa Ilocos Sur kung saan dito nakilala ang kabayanin ni Gen. Gregorio del Pilar noong 1899 Philippine-American War.

Samantala, ang Banao Protected Landscape sa Kalinga ay nabuo sa pagsasanib ng Balbalasang-Balbalan National Park at Banao watershed area at ang lugar kung saan namamahay ang Banao tribe. **Santi Celario**

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/deklarasyon-ng-5-bagong-protected-areas-pinuri-ng-denr/>



DENR launches real-time, online envi monitoring system

By Stephanie Sevillano [May 23, 2022, 4:11 pm](#)



REAL-TIME MONITORING. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) launches an innovative environmental data center on Wednesday (May 18, 2022). The center intends to present real-time monitoring updates on air, water, and solid waste status in the country. (*Screengrab*)

MANILA – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has launched an environmental data center equipped with real-time updates to sustain proper air, water, and solid waste management across the country.

The DENR's Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) has not only secured an efficient monitoring strategy through online maps but also enhanced a seamless system and transparent service both for stakeholders and the general public.

In an almost 15-minute Youtube video posted by the DENR on Thursday last week, Hiro Masuda, Assistant Secretary for Human Resources, Strategic Communication, and Sectoral Initiatives said the department is now actually on the "path of digital transformation."

"This will house the Environmental Management Bureau's statistics which will be presented visually for better appreciation and understanding of everyone, especially our clients and stakeholders," he said.

Masuda noted that with the learning brought by the pandemic, the DENR has been ramping up efforts to strengthen online systems, with a comprehensive database and monitoring compliance included on the top advancement measures.

Real-time monitoring

Unlike the usual setup where experts take samples now and then, followed by laboratory assessments, status and pollutants tracking may now be easily identified through innovative data gathering.

"This is real-time, every five minutes, it can get the data of the emissions from stock. So in this system, exceedance or the overboard against the standards of the Clean Air Act can be determined," Air Quality Management section chief Jundy del Socorro said in Filipino, in the same video.

This means compliance of industries nationwide may be efficiently monitored by the government and may be tracked even by private citizens.



“Once the air quality is collected, all of these are being collected in the repository data, and we have the Microsoft power BI. This refers to the spatial, historical, and temporal storage of our data in the 16 regions in the country,” del Socorro said.

This advancement is also helpful in times of emergencies even in bodies of water, helping frontliners to respond on time.

“It no longer needs laboratory assessments to identify the quality of water. Meaning in case of an emergency, for example, an oil spill, we can immediately get the data, identify its source, and respond swiftly,” EMB engineer Michiko Sibunga said.

The monitoring of sanitary landfills in the country will also be accessible to all Filipinos online.

“Our citizens will see it, with just a click, they can access it, if their locality has proper waste disposal, they have access to their sanitary landfills,” Solid Waste Management Division Officer-in-charge Chief Juvinia Serafin said.

Besides the transparent data presentation, a significant number of procedures are to be done paperless, making it easier for applicants to seek permits.

Their applications will be reflected online via their website, whether permits have been granted or declined.

“All in our permitting system will be online, paperless, you can apply for a permit at the comfort of your home, and you can pay online through banks,” Socorro said in mixed Filipino and English.

But as this data center promises transparency, setting accountability is also expected to go along.

“If we learn that there are sources of pollution, we will investigate, and the EMB will investigate to impose penalties to the identified source of water pollution,” Sibunga said. **(PNA)**



New JICA PH Chief Rep Visits DENR

Monday, May 23, 2022 Journal Online



The new Chief Representative of the Japan International Cooperation Agency ([JICA](#)) Philippines Office Sakamoto Takema (left) pays a courtesy call to Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna on May 16, 2022 at the DENR Central Office. Sakamoto, who took on his new post in May 2022, laid out the two projects of JICA with the [DENR](#) on forest land management and solid waste management, and affirmed to strengthen the partnership between the two agencies.



DAR, DENR to distribute lands to farmers in Siargao

Published May 23, 2022, 10:52 AM

by [Aaron Recuenco](#)

The national government has converted a portion of the Siargao Island Protected Landscape and Seascape (SIPLAS) in Surigao del Norte under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) which would pave the way for land distribution among landless farmers in the area.

The decision was formalized by the signing of agreement between top officials of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) using the Executive Order No. 75, series of 2019 as the basis.

The Executive Order, issued by President Duterte, directed all government instrumentalities to identify idle lands owned by the government suitable for agricultural purposes which will be distributed to qualified beneficiaries of CARP. SIPLAS contains an approximate area of 278,914.131 hectares as a protected landscape and seascape.

DAR-Caraga Regional Director Leomides R. Villareal said that 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, and therefore, can be covered under the CARP, through EO 75, subject to final delineation and precise survey.

The Siargao Island Protected Landscape and Seascape is the largest marine protected area in the Philippines.

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 are declared as a protected area under the category of protected landscape and seascape, through the Proclamation No. 902, by the President of the Philippines.

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

Qualified beneficiaries 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 No. 6657 or the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law (CARL).



Dead sperm whale washes ashore in Philippines, latest in string of deaths

By Heather Chen, CNN

Updated 1332 GMT (2132 HKT) May 23, 2022



The dead sperm whale that washed up in Davao, the Philippines, on May 21.

(CNN)A dead sperm whale has [washed ashore in the Philippines](#), the latest in a string of whale deaths that has experts concerned.

Two fishermen spotted the 60-foot (18-meter) carcass on a beach in the Davao region early on Saturday, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said. It had "multiple wounds" and was "most likely, already lifeless" when it reached the shore, the DENR added.

It's the second dead sperm whale found in the Philippines this year and the discovery came just a day after a juvenile female washed ashore in Tel Aviv, Israel. Earlier this month, an adult male and a newborn calf were found dead in the Florida Keys.

The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species lists sperm whales as "vulnerable" and at a "high risk of extinction in the wild". In the United States, they are listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act.

Experts are investigating the cause of death of the whale found in Davao and the necropsy is expected to take at least 36 hours.

Earlier this year, another dead sperm whale, measuring more than 42 feet (about 13 meters), washed ashore on Mindanao, the second-largest island in the Philippines -- stunning residents and baffling Philippine marine biologists who said they could not ascertain the cause of death despite collecting tissue samples and dissecting the whale's stomach for clues.

Five other sperm whales were discovered dead in areas around Davao in 2019. Some had eaten [marine trash and toxic microplastics](#).

A post-mortem of a dehydrated and emaciated young whale showed pieces of nylon rope and single-use plastic cups -- commonly used by local food vendors -- in its stomach. Its stomach and intestines were otherwise empty.

Disposing of dead whales is a mammoth task due to their size. Letting nature take its course is an option but noxious gases that naturally build up can prove dangerous.

In Davao, DENR regional executive director Bagani Fidel A. Evasco ordered the area to be cordoned off.

"The carcass should be disposed of immediately because its smell can be toxic and hazardous to the community," he said.

Source: <https://edition.cnn.com/2022/05/23/asia/dead-sperm-whale-in-philippines-intl-hnk/index.html>



Bone recovery, preservation of sperm whale at P3.5 million



BEACHED WHALE. Over the weekend, a dead sperm whale was discovered along the shore of Jose Abad Santos in Davao Occidental. The whale measured around 60 feet in length and nine feet in width and weighed around 40 tons. (Photo by DENR-Davao)

KRIZZY S. DAUGDAUG
May 22, 2022

THE bone recovery and preservation of the Sperm whale that was found dead along the shores of Jose Abad Santos, Davao Occidental will cost around P3 million to P3.5 million, Municipal Mayor Jason John Joyce said.

On May 21, 2022, two fishermen discovered the carcass of a sperm whale beached along the shores of Sitio Sakalig, Barangay Sugali, Jose Abad Santos. The whale measured around 60 feet in length and nine feet in width. It weighed around 40 tons. The whale was observed to have multiple wounds and may have already been dead before it beached.

In a press statement on May 22, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Davao Region (DENR-Davao) said regional executive director Bagani Fidel A. Evasco has directed the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office of Davao Occidental (Penro-Davao Occidental), led by PENR Officer Chamberlain Babiera, to coordinate with relevant agencies and marine biology experts.

Joyce, in a phone interview with SunStar Davao, said a team from D'Bone Collector Museum in Davao City, started the removal of meat and deboning of the sperm whale on May 22, 2022.

He said they are hoping to quickly debone and bury the sperm whale because residents near the area are already reporting that a foul smell is already being given off by the whale carcass.

“Maong ginapapaspasan nato ang pag debone sa iyaha para malubong na siya dayon. Naka standby na atong heavy equipment didto para ready na siya ilubong,” Joyce said.

(We have to act fast in deboning the whale so that we can bury it already. The heavy equipment is already on standby to be ready to bury the whale.)

Evasco, in a statement, also said, "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."



The Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction Office (MDRRO) of Jose Abad Santos warned that the decomposing carcass poses health risks to the immediate community.

Meanwhile, he said they hope to collect the whale's bones and preserve them, which comes with a big price tag.

"Based sa quotation sa akoo from the experts, it will cost P3 million to P3.5 million sa pag-recover ng bone and pag-preserve sa iyaha," Joyce said.

(Based on the quotation from the experts, the recovery of bones and its preservations could run around P3 million to P3.5 million.)

He said they want to preserve the whale and have it displayed in a "low-cost" museum or at their gym. The cost for the construction of the museum is different from what will be spent for the recovery and preservation of the whale bones.

"I am coordinating with DOT (Department of Tourism) kung unsa ilang matabang sa amoa... basi pwede ta magbutang museum diri sa JAS, maski low cost museum lang para makit-an sa future generations," Joyce said in an interview with SunStar Davao.

(I am coordinating with DOT as to how they can help. We hope to have a museum, even a low-cost one, for the future generations to see the whale.)

Joyce added that if they base it on the Subangan Museum in Mati City, Davao Oriental, the cost of the recovery and collection of sperm whale bones to the construction of the museum could run as high as P10 million, hence, opting for a smaller one for Jose Abad Santos.

This is not the first time a large marine mammal beached along the shores of Jose Abad Santos, a coastal town facing an open sea.

Joyce said the open sea in front of them could be described as a "highway" of a variety of marine life, including large marine life like whales.

Based on the data forwarded by Joyce, they also recorded the beaching of marine mammals in 2013, 2015, and 2016. The team from the Davao Bone Collection Museum, headed by its owner Daryl Blatchley, also assisted the municipality in deboning the whale.



UNTV News and Rescue

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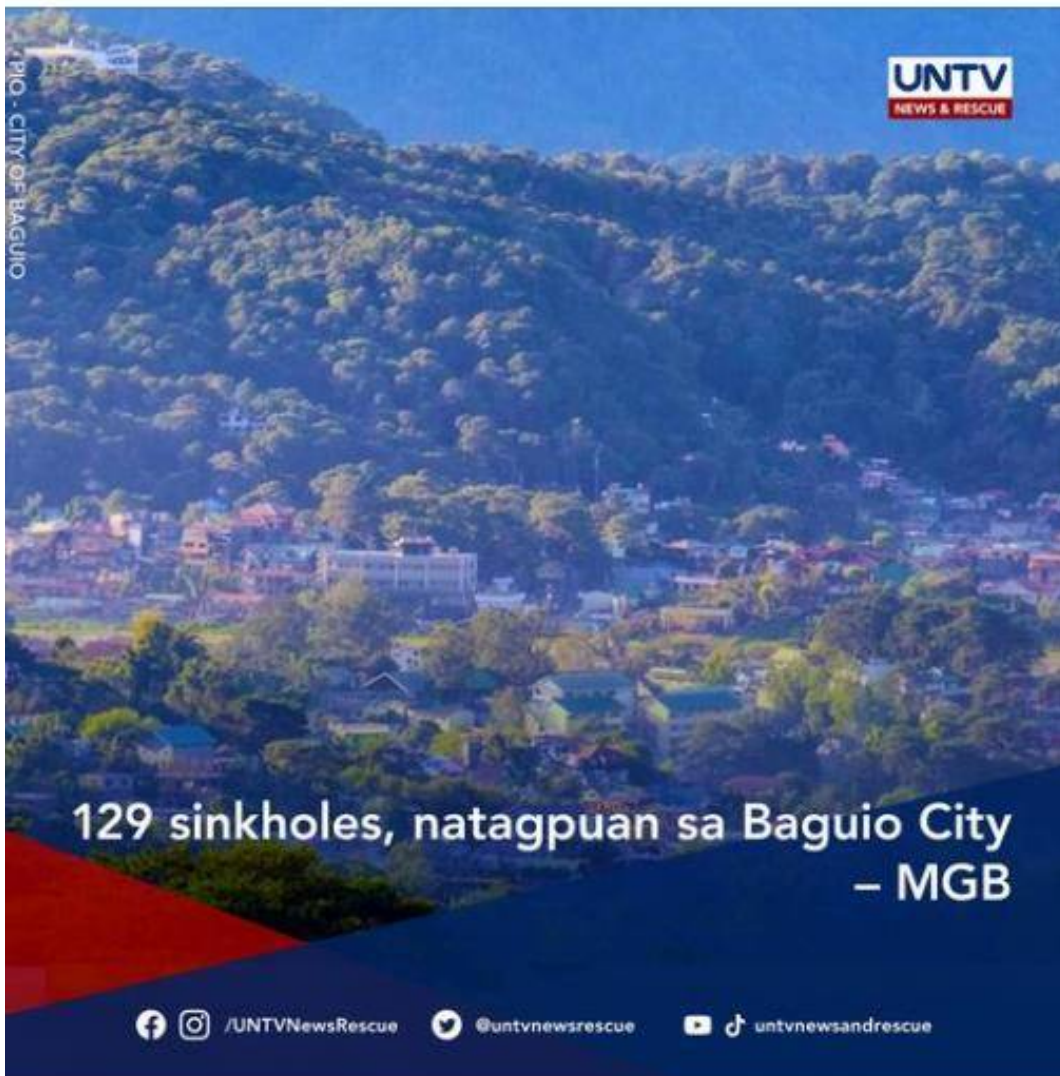


129 SINKHOLES, NATAGPUAN SA BAGUIO CITY – MGB

Mahigit na sa 100 sinkholes ang nadidiskubre sa Baguio City, ayon sa Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB).

Ayon sa MGB, karamihan sa mga sinkhole ay natagpuan sa mga barangay ng Irisan, Dontogan, City Lagoon, Lourdes, at Crystal Cave hanggang sa boundary ng lungsod sa La Trinidad at Tuba sa Benguet.... See more

See Translation



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[6/](#)



TUBIG SA ANGAT DAM, TINIYAK NA SAPAT NA MAKAKAPAGSUPLAY SA METRO MANILA – NWRB

by [Hya Ludivico](#) May 23, 2022



Tiniyak ni Dr. Seville David Jr., Executive Director ng National Water Resources Board (NWRB), na sapat ang tubig sa Angat dam upang makapagsuplay ng tubig sa Metro Manila.

Sa panayam ng DWIZ, sinabi ni David na nasa normal ang operating level nito.

Umaasa naman aniya ang NWRB na magtutuloy-tuloy ang pag-ulan upang makarekober ang nasabing dam.

Pinayuhan naman ni David ang publiko na maging responsable sa paggamit ng tubig.



TUBIG! TUBIG! ANO ANG PLANO?



May 23, 2022 @ 6:31 PM 13 hours ago

NAGING matagumpay ang naganap na forum na iniorganisa 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 pakikipagtulungan 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, nagsimula alas 3:00 hanggang 5:00 ng hapon.

Isa sa naging speaker ay si Dr. Sevilleo "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 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 nararanasang 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.

Bagamat 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.



Marcos says discussed defense agreements, climate funding with U.S. envoy

By **Reuters** - May 23, 2022 - 4:51 PM



Presidential candidate Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr., the son and namesake of the late Philippine dictator, gestures to the crowd during his final campaign rally with vice-presidential candidate Sara Duterte-Carpio, before the 2022 national elections, in Paranaque City, Metro Manila, Philippines, May 7, 2022. (Reuters/Eloisa Lopez/File Photo)

MANILA — Presumptive president-elect Ferdinand Marcos Jr said on Monday he discussed security issues with an envoy of defense treaty ally the United States, from which he welcomed any economic assistance.

Marcos told a news conference he had talks with the U.S. charge d' affairs which included extension of a Visiting Forces Agreement that allows U.S. troops to conduct exchanges on Philippine soil, plus funding for climate change mitigation. He also said he had asked Arsenio Balisacan to join his cabinet as economic planning minister, a role he previously held.

—Reporting by Neil Jerome Morales; Writing by Martin Petty; Editing by Ed Davies

Source: <https://interaksyon.philstar.com/politics-issues/2022/05/23/217828/marcos-says-discussed-defense-agreements-climate-funding-with-u-s-envoy/>

Victorias City farmers now own 90-hectare land



NEGROS. The Department of Agrarian Reform in Victorias City installs 82 farmers on the 90-hectare land in the northern Negros Occidental locality in a simultaneous agrarian reform beneficiary installation rites earlier this month. (Contributed photo)

ERWIN P. NICAVERA May 22, 2022

THE Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) has installed 82 farmers in Victorias City on the 90-hectare land in simultaneous agrarian reform beneficiary (ARB) installation rites earlier this month.

The ARBs were installed in the property formerly owned by Elena Montelibano located at Hacienda Dolores, Barangay 20 in the northern Negros Occidental city.

Municipal Agrarian Reform Program Officer Jeremiah Barrientos, who led the activity, reminded the farmer-beneficiaries of their duties and responsibilities as new landowners.

These include paying taxes to the local government and amortization to the Land Bank of the Philippines, as well as making their land productive.

"Refrain from involving in any illegal activities that may lead to your disqualification," Barrientos told the ARBs.

DAR-Victorias City also briefed the ARBs on the different programs offered by the agency like land tenure improvement that includes agrarian legal services and access to support services.

Layout and monumenting survey activities were also conducted to appropriately mark and indicate the technical descriptions of the lot specified at their certificate of land ownership awards (Cloas).

As mandated under Republic Act (RA) 6657, the DAR is vested with the primary jurisdiction to determine and adjudicate reform matters and to extend free legal assistance to farmer-beneficiaries affected by agrarian cases.

Moreover, the agency said it continues to provide support services towards realizing its vision for a just, safe and equitable society that upholds the rights of tillers to own, control, secure, cultivate and enhance their agricultural lands, and improve their quality of life towards rural development and national industrialization.



"The round-the-clock field activities conducted by the DAR are evidence of its unwavering support to the tillers of the land despite the inconveniences brought by the pandemic," it said, adding that "the service to the Filipino people never stops." **(With PR)**



Tublay mayor to focus on waste

By [Dexter A. See](#) May 24, 2022



Tublay Mayor Armando Lauro, now on his third and last term, shares his views in a 2019 forum attended by the town's small-scale miners and the Mines and Geosciences Bureau. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

TUBLAY, Benguet: Reelected Mayor Armando Lauro will focus on the implementation of a comprehensive solid waste management program that will address the town's garbage disposal problem in the medium term.

He said another challenge that must be addressed is a sustainable and reliable potable water source to avoid water shortages in the future with the impending population growth.

He said that these initiatives will coincide with more aggressive programs for the promotion of agriculture and ecotourism projects in the province.

Lauro, who was given a fresh mandate to serve his third term as the town's local chief executive, said the local government will look for suitable land that could be used for a materials recovery facility to address the garbage disposal problems that the town could be facing in the near term.

"We will also continue the agriculture and ecotourism projects that have been started in our town. Proper coordination with other towns, especially for package tours," he said, adding that this could spur economic activity in villages, stalled by the Covid-19 pandemic in the last two years.

Tublay is one of the municipalities that form the expanded Baguio-La Trinidad-Itogon-Sablan-Tuba-Tublay growth corridor where tourism is an asset due to the various agri- and ecotourism destinations that are already in place.

The local government will also be working on the completion of the town's multipurpose market and logistics infrastructure complex, which has been earmarked with a P50 million budget by Benguet caretaker and Anti-Crime and Terrorism through Community Involvement and Support Rep. Eric Yap.

As for the continuing efforts for the town's health facilities, Lauro noted that there was also P20 million allocation from Yap.

"Efforts to improve the town's rural health unit will enhance the delivery of quality health care services to the people in the different villages," he added.



Lauro said improving the delivery of social services and promoting access to more livelihood activities for economic growth are the two of the best means that he could extend his gratitude to the people of Tublay for giving him another chance to serve the town.



Isang uri ng susô, mapanganib dahil sa kaniyang lason

Mayo 23, 2022 11:44pm GMT+08:00

Mabagal mang gumalaw, mabilis naman daw kung tumalab ang lason ng isang uri ng susô. Ang kaniyang matutusok na tao, maaaring maospital, maparalisa o mamamatay.

Sa nakaraang episode ng "Kapuso Mo, Jessica Soho," ikinuwento ng mangingisdang si Alcris Gapa ng Jose Abad Santos sa Davao Occidental, kung papaano nalagay sa bingit ng kamatayan ang kaniyang buhay dahil sa tusok ng susô na "cone" snail.

Kumpara sa ibang susô na pabilog, ang mapanganib na "cone" snail ay pahaba, patulis ang dulo, na tila hugis apa.

Nakikita ito sa mababaw na bahagi ng tubig o dagat, at aktibo sa gabi para maghanap ng makakain.

Ayon kay Alcris, may nakapagsabi sa kaniya na maaari daw kainin ang cone snail kaya naghanap siya nito. Hanggang sa matusok siya ng susô sa tagiliran.

Pagkaraan lang ng ilang minuto, sumama na ang kaniyang pakiramdam at nanghina.

"Masakit yung puso ko parang binabalot. Saka yung ulo ko parang pumutok na, sa sobrang sakit. Yung daliri ko nangingitim na po," kuwento niya.

Ayon kay Aprilen na asawa Alcris, itinuro sa kaniya ng kaniyang lolo at tiyahin na puwede raw gamitin gamot sa lason sa cone snail ang mismong laman nito.

Kaya dinikdik niya ang laman ng susô at inilagay sa parte ng katawan ni Alcris kung saan siya natusok. Pero pagkaraan na magawa ito, walang nangyaring pagbabago sa kaniyang mister.

Dito na sila nagpasyang dalhin si Alcris sa ospital at naging kritikal ang kaniyang kalagayan. Binigyan ng anti-venom ang pasyente at tumagal ng tatlong araw ang gamutan hanggang sa gumaling siya.

Gaya ni Alcris, mapalad din ang mangingisda na si Tonton na nakaligtas sa kamandag ng cone snail.

Halos hindi naiiba ang naramdaman ni Alcris sa mga pinagdaanan ni Tonton na mapalad din na nadala sa ospital at nabigyan ng kaukulang lunas.

Pero ang tatlong-taong-gulang na si Francis, pumanaw matapos na matusok ng cone snail at hindi na nadala sa ospital.

Mas marami umano ang mga bata sa nasasawi sa mga natutusok ng cone snail.

Pero sa kabila ng masamang reputasyon ng naturang susô dahil sa dala niyang peligro sa buhay ng tao, lumalabas naman sa aspekto ng medisina na mayroon posibleng malaking pakinabang ang cone snail.

Kung bakit itinuturing medical marvel ang peligrosong susô, alamin ang sagot sa buong ulat na ito ng "KMJS."-- **FRJ, GMA News**

Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/balitambayan/umg/832642/isang-uri-ng-sus-ocirc-mapanganib-dahil-sa-kaniyang-lason/story/?utm_source=GMANews&utm_medium=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR347gFLGaeCZcIOhhsNOKpt9mQA163n-yXodkc-kahqXHLfWv-2DMMx9Qo



OpinYon Batangas
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Mapanirang 'Crown of Thorns', muling binigyan-pansin ng mga LGU sa Batangas

BATANGAS CITY -- Dahil sa lumalaking banta ng mapanirang "Crown of Thorns" sa coral reefs ng karagatan ng lalawigan ng Batangas ay muling binigyan pansin ang naturang isyu ng local government units na may nasasakupang apaya o karagatan.

Sa pangunguna ng provincial government, muling nagpulong noong May 20 ang mga stakeholders mula sa 13 coastal local government units (LGU) ng Batangas at iba't ibang mga ahensya upang pagtalakayan ang pamiminsala ng crown of thorns (COT) o "taeng kalabaw" sa mga karagatan ng lalawigan.

Ito ay isang uri ng starfish na kumakain sa coral reefs, at lubhang nagdudulot ng sakit kapag naapakan ito ng mga manlalangoy dahil sa mga tinik ito.

Pinag-usapan sa naturang pagpulong ang mga isinasagawang mga hakbangin ng mga coastal LGU's kung saan naunang nakita ang COTs, kabilang ang Balayan, Bauan, Calatagan, Lemery, Lian, Lobo, Taal, Mabini, Nasugbu, San Juan, San Luis, Tingloy at Batangas City.

Patuloy naman ang pagtulong at pakikipag-ugnayan ng pamahalaang panlalawigan, sa pangunguna ng Provincial Government Environment and Natural Resources Office, Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (PDRRMO) at Provincial Tourism and Cultural Affairs Office (PTCAO), upang mapigilan ang pagdami ng mga COTs na maaaring makasira sa likas na yaman ng baybayin ng lalawigan, partikular ang mga coral reefs na dinadayo ng mga divers at turista.

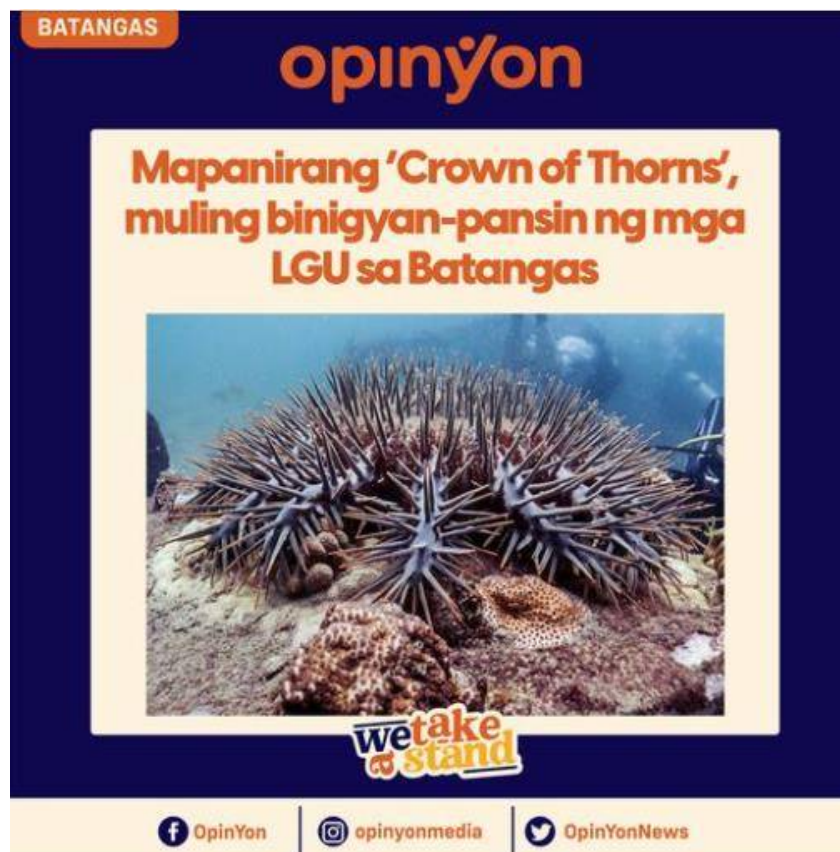
Nakiisa sa pagpulong sina PGENRO chief Luis Awitan, PDRRM Officer Lito Castro, PTCAO OIC Jaida Castillo, at mga kinatawan ng Batangas Marine Protected Area at Bantay Dagat Network, Philippine National Police (PNP) – Batangas Province, PNP Maritime, Philippine Coast Guard, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Divers Association, Conservation International Philippines, at Batangas State University.

Kamakailan lamang ay may mga naging biktima ng COTs na beachgoers sa Anilao, Mabini, Batangas kung saan kinailangan silang isugod sa ospital dahil sa sobrang sakit matapos nilang maapakan ang mga ito.

(Ogima/Mon Antonio A. Carag III, Batangas Capitol PIO)

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<https://www.facebook.com/OpinYonBatangas/photos/a.100292125254635/427267275890450>



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JUST IN: In a landmark decision decades in the making, a Marinduque local court rules in favor of at least 30 plaintiffs against the Marcopper Mining Corporation for a mine spill that wreaked havoc on the community on Dec. 3, 1993, the Legal Rights and Natural Resources Center says.

Judge Emmanuel Recalde of Branch 38 of the Marinduque Regional Trial Court granted P200,000 in temperate damages, P100,000 in moral damages to each of at least thirty plaintiffs in the case filed in 2001. Another P1 million as exemplary damages was awarded to all the plaintiffs.

On Dec. 6, 1993, parts of the structure of the Maguila-guila tailings dam owned by Marcopper broke, flooding the Mogpog River with toxic waste. It is considered one of the worst mining disasters to hit the Philippines, the group says. | via Tina Arceo-Dumlao, [Philippine Daily Inquirer](#)



JUST IN



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RESCUED LOGGERHEAD TURTLE

A rescued loggerhead turtle named Marwa is released into the Mediterranean from Tunisia. Marwa has a tracking beacon glued to its shell to help researchers better protect the threatened species. | AFP

#turtle

#DailyTribune



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Declaring 5 new protected areas lauded

'Our laws would be futile if people near these areas would violate them, so we urge those who live near these areas to help the DENR in its mission to conserve these sites for the benefit of their children and grandchildren'

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has welcomed the enactment of laws establishing five more protected areas under the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS), which brings to 112 the total number of legislated protected areas nationwide.

President Rodrigo Roa Duterte recently signed into law Republic Act 11684 or the Mt. Arayat Protected Landscape Act; RA 11685 or the Mt. Pulag Protected Landscape Act; RA 11686 or the Naga-Kabasalan Protected Landscape Act; RA 11687 or the Tirad Pass Protected Landscape Act; and RA 11688 or the Banao Protected Landscape Act.

With the legislation of new protected areas, DENR Acting Secretary Jim Sampulna believes that "more people are realizing the importance of placing biologically important areas under the intensified

protection of the Expanded NIPAS Act of 2018."

"We welcome these recent developments in additional protected areas from our legislators. May this be the impetus of further environmental protection in more biologically important and related conservation areas," Sampulna said.

It will be recalled that in 2018, RA 7586 or the NIPAS Act of 1992 was amended by RA 11038 or the ENIPAS Act, which also legislated 94 protected areas under the System.

Meanwhile, DENR-Biodiversity Management Bureau Director Natividad Bernardino reminded the community and the local government units near the concerned sites to "cooperate with the DENR in the sustainable management and effective administration of these newly legislated protected areas."

The potentially active stratovolcano, Mt. Arayat

Protected Landscape is located in Pampanga, while Mt. Pulag Protected Landscape, a dormant volcano and the third highest mountain in the Philippines, straddles the provinces of Benguet and Ifugao.

Located in Mindanao, the Naga-Kabasalan Protected Landscape is a parcel of land with a vast area of mangroves between the towns of Naga and Kabasalan in Zamboanga Sibugay.

The Tirad Pass Protected Landscape is a historically important landmark in Ilocos Sur as the site of the heroism of Gen. Gregorio del Pilar during the 1899 Philippine-American War.

The Banao Protected Landscape in Kalinga is a merger of the Balbalasang-Balbalan National Park and Banao watershed area, and is home to the Banao tribe.

"Our laws would be futile if people near these areas would violate them, so we urge those who live near these areas to help the DENR in its mission to conserve these sites for the benefit of their children and grandchildren," Bernardino said.

EDJEN OLIQUINO



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Mining's role in economic

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA
@jonlmayuga

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has underscored the mining sector's potential to contribute to the country's economic recovery.

The contribution of the mining industry to the country's economy in recent years was highlighted by DENR Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna during the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) Joint Consultative Meeting on Mining Concerns in Northern Mindanao and the Zambo-

anga Peninsula last 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 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 continue, the

recovery cited

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 said.

However, he emphasized that mining activities should be done with due regard to the environment.

MGB Director Wilfredo G. Moncano, for his part, 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.

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



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BSP EXPANDS RESPONSIBLE GOLD SOURCING: The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has signed a purchase agreement with OceanaGold Philippines Inc., which operates a mine in the Nueva Viscaya-Quirino area under a Financial or Technical Assistance Agreement with the Philippine government. Under the agreement, OGPI will offer for purchase not less than 25 percent of its annual doré production at fair market prices. It forms part of the BSP's efforts to promote livelihood, productivity, and sustainable gold production by expanding BSP's gold sourcing beyond small-scale mining to include large-scale miners. BSP Governor Benjamin Diokno said (in photo, third from left) the central bank aims to be the preferred gold buyer of both large- and small-scale miners. Also in the photo are (from left) BSP Payments and Currency Management Sector Deputy Governor Mamerto Tangonan, Finance Undersecretary Bayani Agabin, OGPI president and general manager Joan Adaci-Cattiling, Environment and Natural Resources Acting Secretary Jim Sampulna, and Mines and Geosciences Bureau officer-in-charge Engr. Juancho Pablo Calvez.



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DENR eyes stronger partnership with Jica's new chief representative to PHL

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) welcomed on Monday the designation of Sakamoto Takema as the new chief representative of the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (Jica) to the Philippines.

With the designation of the new Jica chief, the DENR is eager to pursue future partnerships with Jica.

Sakamoto took over Jica Philippines from former Chief Representative Azukizawa Eigo, who steered Jica's development cooperation projects in the Philippines amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

"DENR and Jica have a long history of partnership, and we have achieved many milestones together. Under Mr. Sakamoto's leadership, we will continue to support them for the protection and conservation of our environment and natural resources," said DENR Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna. *Jonathan L. Mayuga*



DENR launches data center for monitoring environmental indicators

BY JED MACAPAGAL

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is now equipped with a data center that conducts real-time monitoring of additional environmental indicators apart from air and water quality.

DENR's Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) launched the data center which monitors in real time air and water quality, the status of solid and hazardous waste management, facilities with environmental compliance certificates (ECCs) and online permitting system.

The agency said the new facility will strengthen the push for transparency and good governance as the platform allows for early detection of pollutive activities as it is also equipped with a notification system which is set off once it records an exceedance in emission 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.

Jim Sampulna, DENR acting secretary, said the P10-million facility was funded by the savings of the

EMB in its operations.

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

Other vital information stored in the data center are 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 public can also access data on the status of solid waste management facilities including the materials recovery facilities at the barangay level and 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.

In a separate statement, the

DENR said five more protected areas were declared under the National Integrated Protected Areas System, bringing to 112 the total number of legislated protected areas nationwide.

Among the new areas now considered as protected are the potentially active stratovolcano Mt. Arayat protected landscape in Pampanga and the Mt. Pulag protected landscape, a dormant volcano and the third highest mountain in the Philippines that straddles the provinces of Benguet and Ifugao.

Other areas are the Naga-Kabasalan protected landscape which has a vast area of mangroves between the towns of Naga and Kabasalan in Zamboanga Sibugay; the Tirad Pass protected landscape in Ilocos Sur which is a historically important landmark during the Philippine-American War; and the Banao protected landscape in Kalinga which is a merger of the Balbalasang-Balbalan National Park and Banao watershed area.

Under the law, protected areas are identified portions of land and water that should be managed to enhance biological diversity and protected against destructive human exploitation.



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DENR unveils data center to monitor real-time air, water quality

By Joel dela Torre

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) launched a data center that provides real-time monitoring of air and water in the country.

DENR Acting Secretary Jim Sampulna said that the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) Data Center can also be used in determining the status of solid waste and hazardous waste management including facilities with environment compliance certificates (ECCs) and online permitting system.

Unveiled last week, Sampulna said the data center: "Provides 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 he added, have been made in other DENR field offices in recent years but were "not as intensive as this one."

The DENR chief commended the efforts of EMB as the funds for the establishment of the P10-million facility came from its own savings.

Stephen Roie Lee, head of the facility's IT team, said that 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 10 pesos," Sampulna said.

For his part, EMB Director William Cuñado said 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.



DENR launches data center to monitor air, water quality

By **CORY MARTINEZ**

ACCURATE time monitoring of air and water quality will now be done with the recent launching of a data center of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) through the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB).

The EMB Data Center can also do real-time monitoring of solid and hazardous waste management status, facilities with environmental compliance certificates (ECCs), and an online permitting system.

DENR Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna said the EMB Data Center will 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.

"This center will certainly empower our citizens to make informed health choices and strengthen the DENR's capability to take immediate action against erring establishments," Sampulna stressed.

Sampulna noted that similar undertakings have been made in other DENR field offices in recent years but were "not as intensive

as this one."

He commended the efforts of the DENR-EMB as 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, the 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 ten, and you accomplished much more than P10," Sampulna said.

DENR-EMB Director William Cuñado, mean

while, said 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.

The data can now be accessed at www.emb.gov.ph.

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 monitor the compliance of various industries and establishments efficiently.



Inflation, mining and WHO pandemic treaty

This piece will cover three different topics so we will discuss them directly.

HIGH INFLATION AND ANEMIC GROWTH

Stagflation – a combination of economic stagnation plus high inflation – is becoming more real than fictional for many countries. There should be a strong recovery after the global lockdowns and mobility restrictions of 2020-2021, but the Ukraine war and economic sanctions against Russia caused a global adverse impact on commodities, especially in energy supply and prices.

The US inflation rate was only 1.4% when Trump left the White House in January 2021. It jumped to 7.5% in January 2022 even before the Ukraine war. Then it further rose to 7.9% in February, 8.5% in March, and 8.3% in April, the highest rates since 1982 or 40 years ago. The UK's 9% inflation rate in April was the highest in 40 years too. And Germany's 7.4%

MY CUP OF LIBERTY BIENVENIDOS. OPLAS, JR.

in April was the highest since the 1970s.

Among the G7 industrialized countries, only Japan had an inflation rate below 2% for January-April 2022 (JA22). East Asian economies now have more price stability than industrialized Europe and North America (Table 1).

High inflation discourages more household spending, which cuts corporate and manufacturing revenues, which leads to low if not stagnant growth. When trade is politicized via economic sanctions, the world gets more politics and less trade. And less growth with high inflation. Bad.

MORE OPEN-PIT MINING

A good development recently was that the South Cotabato provin-

TABLE 2
Peak prices of selected mining products

Products	Unit	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2022/ 2019, %	2022/ 2018, %
Gold	\$/oz	1,346.3	1,358.1	1,546.7	2,068.9	1,922.3	2,052.4	32.7%	51.1%
Copper	\$/lbs	3,278	3,293	2,976	3,632	4,752	4,898	64.6%	48.7%
Nickel	\$/ton	12,682	15,687	18,153	17,524	21,936	48,241	165.7%	207.5%
Cobalt	\$/ton	75,250	94,750	47,000	35,000	52,510	82,000	74.5%	-13.5%
Iron ore	\$/ton	92	80.5	124.5	171.5	214.5	69	27.7%	97.5%
Lithium	CNY/ton	171,000	166,000	79,500	49,500	277,500	497,500	525.8%	199.7%

SOURCES: TRADING ECONOMICS, % CHANGES ARE AUTHOR COMPUTATIONS

cial council has lifted the ban on open-pit mining for the Tampakan gold-copper project that was imposed in 2010. See these recent reports in *BusinessWorld*:

1. "Philippines removes last hurdle for stalled Tampakan copper-gold project" (May 17)
2. "End to open-pit ban triggers showdown over Tampakan" (May 17)
3. "DENR to watch Tampakan closely after province lifts open-pit ban" (May 18)
4. "South Cotabato lifting of open-pit ban still at risk of governor's veto" (May 22).

The Tampakan project should be the Philippines' single biggest foreign direct investment (FDI) at \$5.9 billion. It is a shame that the country has not optimized revenues and job creation with the recent high global prices of gold, copper, nickel and other mining products as the project has estimated reserves of 15 million tons of copper and 17.6 million ounces of gold.

The peak prices of gold this year are 33% higher than in 2019 and 51% higher than 2018 prices. Peak prices of copper this year are 65% and 49% higher than their peak prices in 2019 and 2018. And nickel – Wow! – peak prices this year are 166% and 208% higher than 2019 and 2018 prices, respectively.

At such prices, the Philippines could have earned several billion dollars more in exports, the national and provincial governments could have earned several billion pesos more in taxes, and

the mining communities could have received hundreds of million pesos more for mandatory community spending like the social development and management program (SDMP).

ENDLESS CRISIS, THE UN AND WHO PANDEMIC TREATY

Population crisis, food/hunger crisis, oil/energy crisis, HIV/AIDS crisis, NCDs/smoking crisis, HIV/AIDS crisis, refugee crisis, gender/racial crisis, education/housing crisis, plastic/garbage crisis, climate crisis, COVID crisis, now an emerging monkeypox crisis.

We have heard or read these and many other alarming stories since

the 1960s until today. And always the "solution" to these endless crisis narratives is more government, more UN, and more multilaterals. The anti-mining groups also have their scare-mongering that open-pit mining will "expose residents to pollution... exacerbate climate vulnerabilities..."

This week, May 22-28, the World Health Assembly of the World Health Organization (WHO) plans to amend the International Health Regulations, an agreement in 2005 that was adopted by 194 member states that recognizes the sovereignty of nations and the need for localized action in cases of epidemics and other disease outbreaks.

TABLE 1
Inflation rate in G7 and Asian economies

Economy	2019	2020	2021	JAZZ
US	1.8	1.2	4.7	8.1
UK	1.8	0.9	2.6	6.9
Germany	1.4	0.4	3.2	6.2
Canada	1.9	0.7	3.4	6.1
Italy	0.6	-0.1	1.9	5.8
France	1.3	0.5	2.1	4
Japan	0.5	0	-0.3	1.3
India	4.8	6.2	5.5	6.7
Thailand	0.7	-0.8	1.2	4.7
South Korea	0.4	0.5	2.5	4.1
Philippines	2.4	2.4	3.9	3.7
Taiwan	0.5	-0.2	1.8	3
Indonesia	2.8	2	1.6	2.6
Vietnam	2.8	3.2	1.9	2.1
China	2.9	2.4	0.9	1.4
Singapore	0.6	-0.2	2.3	4.6
Malaysia	0.7	-1.1	2.5	2.2
Hong Kong	2.9	0.3	1.6	1.5

* JANUARY-MARCH 2022 ONLY
SOURCES: IMF WORLD ECONOMIC OUTLOOK 2022 DATABASE, TRADING ECONOMICS

TABLE 3
Life expectancy in years

Country	1970	1990	2010	2020
Singapore	68.3	75.3	81.5	83.7
Thailand	59.4	70.2	74.2	77.3
Malaysia	64.6	70.9	74.5	76.3
Vietnam	59.6	70.6	74.8	75.5
Indonesia	52.6	62.3	69.2	71.9
Philippines	63.2	66.4	69.8	71.4
Cambodia	41.6	53.6	66.6	70.1
Laos	46.3	53.4	64.3	68.2
Myanmar	48.8	56.6	63.5	67.4
Japan	72.0	78.8	82.8	84.6
South Korea	62.2	71.6	80.1	83.4
China	59.1	69.1	74.4	77.1
India	47.7	57.9	66.7	69.9

SOURCE: WB, WORLD DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS 2021 DATABASE

The planned amendments are giving more authority to WHO Regional Directors to declare a Public Health Emergency of Regional Concern (PHERC), and more authority to the WHO Director-General to issue an "Immediate Public Health Alert" (IPHA). The goal is more global health central planning, generally one-size-fits-all action by the WHO, like the global lockdowns in 2020, and, in the process, trumping country-specific and decentralized health actions.

Central planning is lousy and inefficient. That is why the old USSR, the communist states of eastern Europe, collapsed in 1989-1991.

Going back to the endless crisis narratives of the past six decades, even if only one of them was true, people should have shorter lives, the human population should plateau and decline, and this is not the case. Practically anywhere in the world, humans live healthier and longer lives (Table 3).

My three recommendations for these three issues are as follows.

One, free trade of commodities and energy products from Russia and elsewhere should proceed and not be politicized. Overall price stability is premised on supply stability of important commodities. Then growth can resume and not stagnate.

Two, more big mining projects please. In particular, the Tampakan gold-copper open-pit project should proceed subject to existing environmental regulations, taxes, and mandatory community spending.

Three, "no" to more health central planning by the WHO. It has wielded huge powers in the recent COVID-19 lockdowns and mass vaccination already, it should not be institutionalized. Pandemic response should be decentralized among countries. ■

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Sinakop na ng mga plastik ang ating karagatan

WE hate to brag, but the twin publications of the Journal Group, Davids among industry Goliaths, played major roles in providing the public a complete picture of the just recently concluded electoral battle for the highest offices in the land.

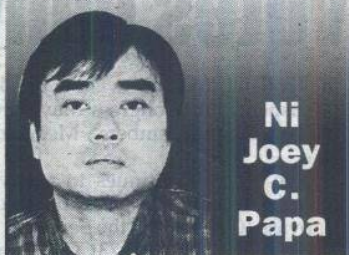
Given the avalanche disinformation and political propaganda unleashed through multimedia, mostly targeted against the Uniteam tandem – presidential candidate Ferdinand Bongbong Marcos Jr and vice presidential candidate Sara Duterte – the twin tabloids of the PJI Group mobilized its human and technological resources to provide the public a fairer coverage of the bruising, all-or-nothing campaign, tipped in favor of the other team in nearly all mainstream and online media outlets.

It was not a political campaign, to be honest about it.

It was one massive, systematic demolition job to stop the Uniteam on its tracks and let the other side win.

All the dirty, underhanded tactics, all the shaming, all the tainting, fabrications, and outright myths were unleashed by an obviously biased multimedia outlets with one common agenda – portray Marcos and Duterte as the evil twins out to plunge the country into darkness

BANGON KALIKASAN



Ni
Joey
C.
Papa

while they rule with iron hands and enslave the people.

The playbook painted the duo as being cut from the same “authoritarian cloth” – referring to the “authoritarian” legacies of their respective fathers.

Both outgoing President Duterte and the late former President Ferdinand Marcos Sr. were strong, decisive, uncompromising chief executives who believed public order and safety were foremost in the order of government priorities.

Both believed progress and the quality of life of the people can be achieved if social order and national security were firmly in place.

But isn't this the goal of all national leaders?

But the younger Marcos and Duterte have their own grand visions for the country which they articulated in their campaigns, and they were distinctly their own.

They sought to enlighten the people about their own message, their own reading for the future of the country – from peace, stability, unity food security, world-class education, public health services and programs, job generation and livelihood development, industrial and technological development, infrastructure and transportation modernization, etc. – the whole package of government-led innovation.

All these while patiently, painstakingly promoting national unity and peace even as the other side stuck to partisan attacks, propagating hatred and division, and extinguishing national pride and dignity.

But peace, progress, and unity resonated with their universal appeal to the people tired of the hatred and the division in society.

The small but courageous tabloids – People's Journal and People's Journal Tonight painstakingly, tirelessly carried the good news and the tandem who promised to deliver them once then people handed them the mandate to lead.

And the people heard them loud and clear, translating into a monster electoral landslide for the Uniteam on May 9.

Not but for two small newspapers largely derided by its industry peers.

It's not the size, stupid!



Australia's new PM heads to Tokyo with climate message

AFP, May 23, 2022 -- Australia's new prime minister Anthony Albanese took office Monday, hours before flying to a Tokyo summit with a "message to the world" that his country is ready to engage on climate change.

The 59-year-old Labor Party leader told reporters he wants to "bring people with us on the journey of change" before he took the oath of office in a brief, publicly televised ceremony at Government House in Canberra.

In a hurried post-election schedule, he was flying out a few hours later to join a summit Tuesday with the US, Japanese and Indian leaders, known as the Quad.

Albanese said at the weekend that the Tokyo summit was "an absolute priority" for Australia and an opportunity "to send a message to the world".

He said partners overseas can expect wholesale changes "particularly with regard to climate change and our engagement with the world on those issues".

'OPTIMISM AND HOPE'

Albanese has frequently reflected on his journey towards the nation's highest office since being brought up by his struggling single mother in Sydney public housing.

The new leader says he wants to transform his country, too.

Shortly before being sworn in, "Albo" said he wanted to lead a government of "optimism and hope, that I think defines the Australian people".

New members of Albanese's team taking office included Foreign Minister Penny Wong, who will join the prime minister in Tokyo, Treasurer Jim Chalmers and Finance Minister Katy Gallagher.

Albanese has vowed to adopt more ambitious emissions reduction targets and make the sun-kissed continent-nation a renewable energy superpower.

COAL AND GAS

In recent years, images of smouldering eucalypt forests, smog-enveloped cities and blanched-out coral reefs have made Australia a poster child for climate-fuelled destruction.

Under conservative leadership, the country -- already one of the world's largest gas and coal exporters -- has also become synonymous with playing the spoiler at international climate talks.

That record allowed a score of climate-aware independent candidates to plunder once-safe conservative urban seats -- helping to deliver power to Labor.

It is still unclear whether Albanese's Labor Party will win enough parliamentary seats to form an outright majority, or whether he will have to turn to independents or smaller parties for support.

'DOWN TO BUSINESS'

After the summit and bilateral meetings with Quad leaders on Tuesday, Albanese said he would return to Australia the following day.

"Then we'll get down to business," he said.

Notable among the foreign leaders who have welcomed Albanese's election are the ones from Australia's Pacific Island neighbours, whose very existence is threatened by rising sea levels.

"Of your many promises to support the Pacific, none is more welcome than your plan to put the climate first -- our people's shared future depends on it," said Fijian Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama.

US President Joe Biden also called Albanese to congratulate him.

"President Biden expressed deep appreciation for... (Albanese's) early commitment to the alliance, reflected in his decision to travel almost immediately to Tokyo to attend the Quad Summit," the White House said in a statement.



AUSTRALIA
new
Prime
Minister
Anthony Albanese



Climate to conflict, Davos after 2 years

By JAMEY KEATEN & MASHA
MACPHERSON
The Associated Press

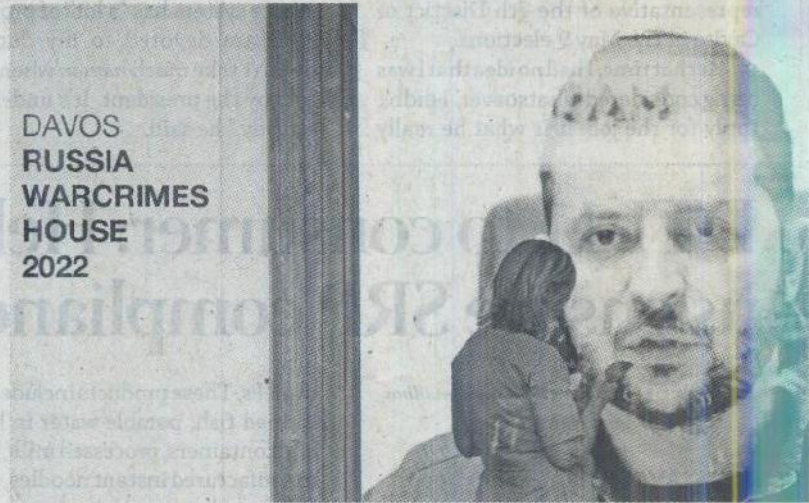
DAVOS, Switzerland—Davos—the hub of an elite annual gathering in the Swiss Alps—is back, more than two years after the coronavirus pandemic kept its business gurus, political leaders and high-minded activists away. There's no shortage of urgent issues for the World Economic Forum's annual meeting to tackle.

With their lofty ambition to help improve the state of the world, forum organizers have their work cut out for them: there are soaring food and fuel prices, Russia's war in Ukraine, climate change, drought and food shortages in Africa, yawning inequality between rich and poor, and autocratic regimes gaining ground in some places—on top of signs that the pandemic is far from over.

It's hard to predict if the high-minded discussions will yield substantial announcements that make headway on the world's most pressing challenges.

The war in Ukraine will be a key theme. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy will speak on opening day Monday by video from Kyiv, while the country's foreign minister and a sizable delegation of other top Ukrainian officials will be on hand. They'll be joined this week by leaders like German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, US climate envoy John Kerry, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen.

DAVOS RUSSIA WARCRIMES HOUSE 2022



UKRAINIAN President Volodymyr Zelenskyy speaks on a screen inside a so-called Russian War Crimes House alongside the World Economy Forum in Davos, Switzerland, on Sunday, May 22, 2022. An exhibition with pictures documenting suspected Russian war crimes in the Ukrainian war are to be shown in the house. The annual meeting of the World Economic Forum is taking place in Davos from May 22-26. AP/MARKUS SCHREIBER

"There's no business as usual," forum President Borge Brende told The Associated Press, saying Ukraine is not the only worry. "It is also climate change. It is also that the global growth is slowing, and we have to avoid that this very weak recovery ends with a new recession because we have very limited ammunition to fight a new recession."

"A new recession will lead to increased unemployment, increased poverty," he added. "So much is at stake."

President Vladimir Putin's war means Russian business and political leaders haven't been invited to Davos this year. There will be no traditional "Russia House" social festivities with caviar and vodka spreads for the elite attendees of its evening fun.

Instead, critics—notably in-

cluding Ukrainian tycoon Victor Pinchuk and the country's Foreign Ministry—have seized on some symbolism and vowed to voice their disgust, which is shared by many around the world.

"This year, Russia is not present at Davos, but its crimes will not go unnoticed. The 'Russia War Crimes House' takes place inside the former Russia House," organizers of the rechristened venue said in a press release.

Opening Monday, the venue will feature photos of crimes and cruelties that Russian forces are accused of perpetuating. Some victims will speak out—including Anatoliy Fedoruk, the mayor of Bucha, a town near Kyiv where images of killings of civilians drew outrage worldwide.

"It's important to understand what is really happening in



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Ukraine," said Bjorn Geldhof, artistic director of PinchukArtCentre, which is helping organize the exhibit. "Part of this exhibition is also to bring back a human face to those people who have become victim of these Russian war crimes."

Brende, the forum president, says scores of CEOs and other business leaders will be looking into ways the private sector can support Ukraine, "in the situation where Russia is breaking international law, international humanitarian law, and not sticking to the UN Charter."

Not everyone believe Davos is the place where solutions can be found.

A few dozen anti-capitalist demonstrators marching behind a "Smash WEF" banner clashed Friday with police in Zurich, Switzerland's largest city, a sign of simmering antagonism against economic elites whom they accuse of putting profits over people. Police used rubber bullets and pepper spray to disperse the crowd in what was deemed an unauthorized gathering.

While Ukraine will capture attention on the meeting's first day, climate and environmental issues will be a recurring, constant theme as the forum looks to future challenges as much as the current ones.

One-third of the roughly 270 panel discussions through Thursday's finale will focus on climate change or its effects, with extreme weather, efforts to reach "net zero" emissions and finding new, cleaner sources of energy on the agenda.



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BBM, South Korea pakner sa nuclear plant

Tinitingnan ni pre-
sumptive president Fer-
dinand Marcos Jr. ang
posibilidad ng paggamit
ng nuclear power upang
madagdagan ang supply
ng kuryente sa bansa.

Sa isang press briefing
nitong Lunes, sinabi ni
Marcos na kailangan ng
bansa ng dagdag na sup-
ply ng kuryente upang
matugunan ang panganga-
ilangan sa pagpapalakas
ng ekonomiya.

Inamin ni Marcos na
nais niyang malaman
kung maaari pang bu-
hayin ang Bataan Nuclear
Power Plant (BNPP) na
itinayo sa termino ng
kanyang ama na si dating
pangulong Ferdinand E.
Marcos Sr.

Binanggit ni Marcos
ang alok ng South Korean
ambassador na tumulong
para sa planong buhayin
ang nuclear plant.

"Napag-usapan namin
ng South Korean ambas-
sador 'yong offer nila at
'yong nakapunta na dito
na expert ng nuclear
power para tingnan ang
Bataan Nuclear Power
Plant, para makita kung
ano pa ang puwede pang
gawin, kung puwede
pang ituloy o kailangan
na ba magtayo ng bago,"
sabi ni Marcos.

Naungkat ang usapin
ng BNPP sa pagpunta ni
South Korean Ambassa-
dor Kim Inchul kay Mar-
cos upang ipaabot ang

pagbati sa panalo nito sa
katatapos na halalan.

Isang grupo ng
eksperto mula sa South
Korea ang dati nang bu-
misita sa bansa upang
tingnan ang BNPP. Nais
umano ni Marcos na
mapag-aralan ang reko-
mendasyon nito.

Nauna nang sinabi ng
Philippine Nuclear Re-
search Institute (PNRI)
na nag-alok ang South
Korea na buhayin ang
BNPP sa halagang \$1.1
bilyon. **(Billy Begas)**

24 MAY 2022, TUESDAY



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ALERTS**

**COVID-19
NEWS**

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



PH Covid-19 cases daily average for May 16-22 up by 9%

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor May 23, 2022, 4:41 pm



MANILA – The country's daily average of Covid-19 cases went up to 173 from May 16 to 22, or 9.9 percent higher than the previous week, the Department of Health (DOH) reported Monday.

Cases averaged 160 per day from May 9 to 15.

The latest case bulletin of the DOH show that there are 1,214 new Covid-19 cases and six verified deaths in the recent week.

For the same period, 14 cases were added to the tally of severe and critical infections, which increased to 718 from last week's 588.

Only 15.4 percent or 432 out of the 2,812 intensive care unit (ICU) beds are in use, while 17.4 percent or 4,125 out of 23,697 non-ICU beds are utilized.

To date, about 69,042,538 million or 76.71 percent of the country's target population (90,005,357) are vaccinated against Covid-19, including 77.22 percent of 8,721,357 senior citizens.

As of May 22, a total of 13,860,791 have booster shots out of the total 69,042,538 who are fully vaccinated. **(PNA)**

DOH reminds public on 'long COVID'

May 23, 2022



Department of Health logo / PTV File photo

By Katrina Gracia Consebido

The Department of Health (DOH) reminded the public on Sunday, May 22, to comply with the minimum public health protocols regarding the post-COVID conditions, known as the “long COVID” which can occur three months after being infected with COVID-19.

The health bureau advised the public about the symptoms that can be felt in a post-COVID-19 condition such as fatigue, cough, chest pain, shortness of breath, and joint pain.

According to DOH, the symptoms can be experienced for at least two months, and cannot be explained by other conditions.

Symptoms may occur after the other has recovered, or may continue from the initial COVID-19 episode.

“This advisory is provided to reiterate current knowledge about post COVID-19 condition. It has symptoms such as fatigue, cough, chest pain, shortness of breath, joint pain, etc. These can be felt usually 3 months after being infected with the COVID-19 virus, may last for at least two (2) months, and cannot be explained by other conditions. Symptoms may be new onset after one has already recovered, or may continue from the initial COVID-19 episode.”

However, there are no tests for diagnosing long COVID. The DOH advised the public to consult their doctor or healthcare provider to give them first aid, or immediately go to the nearest emergency room for prompt medical assistance.

The DOH reiterated to continue practicing minimum public health protocols, wear the best fitting mask, isolate when sick, ensure good airflow, and get their COVID-19 vaccines and get boosted if eligible. -bny



'Covid-19 is not over anywhere until it's over everywhere': WHO

By Ramon Monsalve, Jr. [May 23, 2022, 4:58 pm](#)



GENEVA – The head of the World Health Organization (WHO) told global health ministers on Sunday that although reported Covid-19 cases and deaths have declined significantly, it is not time to lower the guard.

Tedros Adhanom Gebreyesus delivered his message during the kick-off of the annual World Health Assembly – the decision-making body of WHO composed of representatives of 194 countries.

Noting that it was the first time since 2019 that the Assembly could take place in-person, he asked ministers where the world stood two years into the most severe health crisis in a century.

"So, is Covid-19 over? No, it's most certainly not over. I know that's not the message you want to hear, and it's definitely not the message I want to deliver," he said.

He added that although in many countries all restrictions have been lifted and life looks much like it did before the pandemic, reported cases are increasing in almost 70 countries in all regions.

"And this in a world in which testing rates have plummeted," he added.

Tedros warned that reported deaths are also rising in Africa, the continent with the lowest vaccination coverage.

"This virus has surprised us at every turn – a storm that has torn through communities again and again, and we still can't predict its path, or its intensity," he said.

While agreeing that there is progress with 60 percent of the world's population already vaccinated, Tedros reminded that almost one billion people in lower-income countries remain unvaccinated.

"It's not over anywhere until it's over everywhere. Only 57 countries have vaccinated 70 percent of their population – almost all of them high-income countries," he noted.

Tedros also warned that increasing transmission means more deaths and more risk of a new variant emerging, and the current decline of testing and sequencing means "we are blinding ourselves to the evolution of the virus".



He pointed out as well that in some countries there is still insufficient political commitment to roll out vaccines, and there are still gaps in operational and financial capacity.

"And in all, we see vaccine hesitancy driven by misinformation and disinformation", he added.

Tedros said WHO's primary focus now is to support countries to turn vaccines into vaccinations as fast as possible, but they are still seeing supply-side problems for tests and therapeutics with insufficient funds and access.

"The pandemic will not magically disappear. But we can end it. We have the knowledge. We have the tools. Science has given us the upper hand," he said, calling on countries to work together to reach 70 percent of vaccination coverage.

The 70th World Health Assembly is being held in Geneva, Switzerland, from May 22-28, under the theme "Health for peace, peace for health", the first in-person Health Assembly since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic.

At the meeting, country delegates make decisions on health goals and strategies that will guide public health work and the work of the WHO Secretariat to move the world towards better health and well-being for all. **(WAM)**



#OneDENR

**Covid-19
Situation and Response**



National COVID-19 Case Bulletin

May 23, 2022

Official DOHgov
@DOHgovph

Healthcare Utilization

(as of May 22, 2022)

17.4%
Non-ICU Bed Utilization
4,125 out of 23,697 non-ICU beds used

15.4%
ICU Bed Utilization
432 out of 2,812 ICU beds used

718
Severe and Critical Admissions
12.9% of total COVID-19 admissions

Vaccination Accomplishment

(as of May 22, 2022)

76.71%
% Coverage of Target Population*

77.22%
% Coverage of Target A2 Population**

69,042,538
Fully Vaccinated Individuals
+377,468 vaccinated on May 16 to May 22

13,860,791
Individuals with Booster/Additional Dose
+240,592 vaccinated on May 16 to May 22

(added on May 16 to May 22)



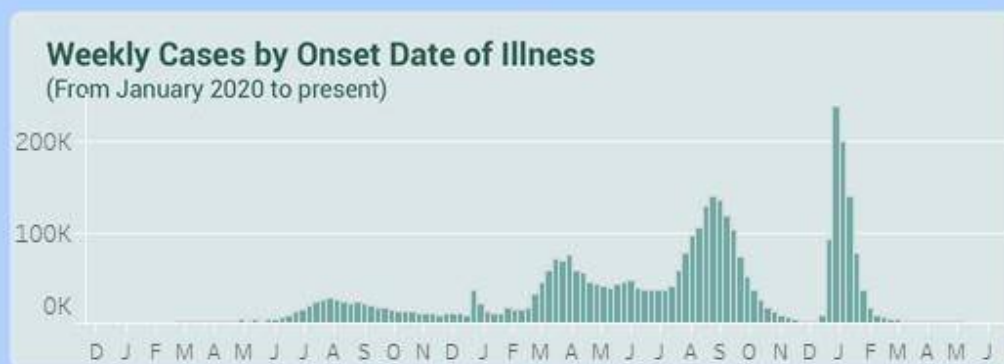
COVID-19 Cases

(as of May 22, 2022)

+1,214
New Cases
Daily Average Cases = 173
(9.9% higher than cases on May 9 to May 15)

+14
Severe and Critical Cases
(1.16% of new cases)

+6
Deaths Verified During The Past Week
(3 deaths occurred on May 9 to May 22)



*Target population refers to 80% of the total population (90,005,357 individuals)
**Target A2 population refers to 85% of the total Senior Citizen population (8,721,357 individuals)

DOH HOSPITAL HOTLINES

For health concerns and emergencies, you may access here the DOH hospital hotlines across the country:

bit.ly/DOHHospitalHotlines

DOH ONE HOSPITAL COMMAND CENTER (OHCC) HOTLINES

• 1555 • 0915-777-7777
• 02-886-505-00 • 0919-977-3333

bit.ly/OHCCHotline

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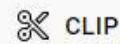
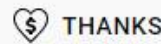
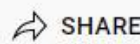
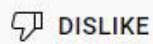
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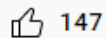
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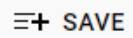
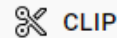
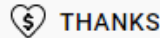
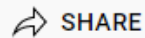
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
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
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