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# NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



# DENR Central Office Scores 100% in DOE's Energy Efficiency Audit Results

by [Village Connect](#) about 19 hours ago



The Department of Environment and Natural Resources Central Office (DENR CO) has posted a 100 percent rating—the highest score and performance grade—on the Department of Energy's (DOE) audit results for the mandatory implementation of its Energy Efficiency Conservation Program for national government agencies on April 22, 2022.

According to DENR Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna, this achievement proves that the agency *"continues to walk the talk in keeping up with the mandate of the department to mobilize our citizenry in protecting, conserving, and managing the environment and natural resources for the present and future generations."*

"Electricity consumption is one of the means by which the people can save electricity and reduce carbon footprint. It is, therefore, essential to show that the DENR has achieved this milestone to inspire Filipinos in doing the same," Sampulna said.

The Energy Efficiency Conservation Program of the DOE is in line with a *"collective strategy, which includes energy conservation to ensure sufficient supply of petroleum products amid the uncertainty brought about by the Russian-Ukraine conflict."*

Based on the Energy Efficiency and Conservation (EEC) checklist, the DENR CO has met all the criteria, namely institutionalization of EEC, fuel-saving measures, and electricity-saving measures, in the DOE's random spot checks.

Administrative Service Director Rolando Castro said that the Central Office's energy efficient measures can be traced to its International Organization for Standardization or ISO re-certification last March 2, 2022 for ISO 14001:2015 or Environment Management System or EMS.

*"Activities that contributed to achieving these criteria include turning off lights and computers during lunch breaks or when employees are not using them, switching off air conditioning units from 4 p.m. onwards, among others. These are already being practiced by the DENR employees prior to the DOE's instruction,"* Castro said.



The DENR Central Office has been awarded with ISO 14001:2015 for meeting the requirements of office-based activities and services related to the agency's mandate.

The Administrative Service also continues to enjoin the DENR employees in conserving the electricity through lectures and learning interventions conducted by the Human Resource Development Service and Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service.



# DENR posts 100% score in energy audit

[Rhodina Villanueva](#) - The Philippine Star May 25, 2022 | 12:00am



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[twitter.com / DENROfficial](https://twitter.com/DENROfficial)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has posted a 100 percent rating, the highest score and performance grade, on the Department of Energy (DOE)’s audit results for the mandatory implementation of its “energy efficiency conservation program” for national government agencies.

According to DENR acting Secretary Jim Sampulna, this achievement proves that the agency “continues to walk the talk in keeping up with the mandate of the department to mobilize our citizenry in protecting, conserving, and managing the environment and natural resources for the present and future generations.”

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He said the DOE program is in line with a “collective strategy, which includes energy conservation to ensure sufficient supply of petroleum products amid the uncertainty brought about by the Russian-Ukraine conflict.”

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Source: <https://www.philstar.com/nation/2022/05/25/2183436/denr-posts-100-score-energy-audit>



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DENR Central Office, nangungunang tanggapan pagdating sa pagtitipid ng kuryente at petrolyo. | via @glenjuego

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7:17 PM · May 24, 2022 · Twitter Web App

Source:

<https://twitter.com/dzbb/status/1529058951274168320?s=20&t=SfhLSQJ6wO8TA9BeJ3iQ1A>

# DENR declares 5 new protected landscapes

May 24, 2022



**By Myris Lee**

The Department of Environmental and Natural Resources (DENR) declared five additional protected areas under the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS), bringing the total protected areas in the country at 112.

The five new areas considered as protected landscapes are Mt. Arayat in Pampanga, Mt. Pulag located on the triple border of the provinces of Benguet, Ifugao, and Nueva Vizcaya; Naga-Kabasalan in Zamboanga Sibugay, the Historical Tirad Pass in Ilocos Sur, and Banao in Kalinga.

“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,” DENR Acting Secretary Jim Sampulna said.

DENR-Biodiversity Management Bureau Director Natividad Bernardino urged the people near the protected landscapes to help the DENR in their mission to preserve the areas.

“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

Meanwhile, the designations were signed into law by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte on April 8, 2022 under Republic Act Nos. 11684, 11685, 11686, 11687 and 11688.

The law aims to protect the areas that are identified as portions of land and water that should be managed to enhance biological diversity and protected against destructive human exploitation. – **gb**



## DENR to conduct study to check if marble toys pose health hazard

Published May 24, 2022 10:54am

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources said it will conduct a study to determine if marble toys pose a health hazard.

This was the reply of DENR Acting Secretary Jim Sampulna when asked for his comment regarding BAN Toxics' allegation that marble toys have toxic effects.

BAN Toxics said it examined some marble toys, known in Filipino as holen, and found them to have [traces of cadmium](#).

The group said "cadmium exerts toxic effects on the kidneys, as well as the skeletal and respiratory systems, and is classified as a human carcinogen" according to the World Health Organization.

"We need to inform and caution the public, especially mothers and children, of the dangers which come from small but terrible marble toys that are sold in the market. They are choking hazards and exposure to these toys may also cause cancer," said BAN Toxics campaigner Thony Dizon.

The group also said the marble toys they examined did not have the required labeling information as required by Republic Act No. 10620 or the Toy and Game Safety Labeling Act of 2013. —**KG, GMA News**

Source: [https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/topstories/nation/832675/denr-to-conduct-study-to-check-if-marble-toys-pose-health-hazard/story/?fbclid=IwAR1DuZwisq6hoYf1B4\\_kBy5C6mENCcReJuZfbhZbYLgmd7ID4nU3O-dKWp0](https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/topstories/nation/832675/denr-to-conduct-study-to-check-if-marble-toys-pose-health-hazard/story/?fbclid=IwAR1DuZwisq6hoYf1B4_kBy5C6mENCcReJuZfbhZbYLgmd7ID4nU3O-dKWp0)



## POSIBLENG PANGANIB NA DULOT NG HOLEN, INIIMBESTIGAHAN NA NG DENR

by [Judith Estrada-Larino](#) May 24, 2022



Nagkasa na ng pag aaral ang DENR para malaman kung may panganib sa kalusugan ang marble toys o holen.

Kasunod na rin ito ng pahayag ng ban toxics na nakakalasan ang holen dahil sa taglay nitong cadmium base na rin sa kanilang sariling pag aaral.

Ayon kay Ban Toxics Campaigner Thony Dizon, dapat mabatid ng publiko ang peligrong dulot ng mga holen na nabibili lang sa mga palengke at maaaring magdulot ng cancer kapag nagkaruon ng exposure rito.

Una nang inihayag ng ban toxics na ang mga holen na sinuri nila ay walang required labeling information na kinakailangan batay na rin sa Republic Act 10620 o Toy and Game Safety Labeling Act of 2013.





## DENR-Davao stops illegal trade of kingfisher



Photo by DENR Davao

KRIZZY S. DAUGDAUG  
May 24, 2022

THE Department of Natural Resources (DENR)-Davao and Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (Penro) halted an illegal trade of juvenile birds in Panabo City, Davao del Norte.

According to DENR-Davao, it confiscated the three kingfishers from a minor online seller who discovered the said wildlife on a rotten tree.

DENR said they received a report and immediately reached out to the minor to check the birds and to investigate the supposed illegal trade.

“Nakita siya actually sa FB, kay nag-trend siya, and then gi-report siya mismo sa aming Regional Executive Director and then after that bumaba ‘yong mga taga DENR personnel,” said Jayvee Agas, DENR Davao Regional Public Affairs Office chief.

DENR said the transportation and trading of wildlife without the necessary permit and proper documentation is prohibited under Republic Act 9147, known as the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2001.

“Yong claim niya hindi niya na maalagaan yong bird, kasi juvenile pa sya (kingfishers) so in good faith naman na ibenta niya, hindi lang siguro siya aware na wildlife ‘yong nakita niya na ibon (He claimed that he can no longer keep the kingfishers and in good faith they planned to sell it),” Agas said.

The minor said they initially planned to rescue the wildlife but due to being incapable of raising it, they decided to sell it online for P1,200 for the three kingfishers.

Agas said the kingfisher is classified as “least concerned.”

“Ibig sabihin marami pa yong population niya, but since it is a wildlife, still protected ng law natin which is Republic Act 9147 (It means that it has a large number of the population but still protected by the RA 9147),” Agas said.

The violators of any illegal wildlife activity may receive the following penalties and fines:



\* Imprisonment of two years and one day to four years and/or a fine of P5,000 to P300,000, if inflicted or undertaken against species listed as critical;

\* Imprisonment of one year and one day to two years and/or a fine of P2,000 to P200,000 if inflicted or undertaken against endangered species;

If inflicted or undertaken against vulnerable species, an imprisonment of six months and one day to one year and/or a fine of P1,000 to P100,000.

For threatened species, imprisonment of one month and one day to six months and/or a fine of P500 to P50,000.

Other wildlife species will receive imprisonment of 10 days to one month and/or a fine of P200 to P20,000.

The wildlife species have been turned over to the DENR. No cases were filed against the minor seller with his mother but were educated about the law prohibiting illegal activities



## Most biodiverse observations in PH



A photo of the Giant Fluted Clam or *Tridacna squamosa* by Mr. Rodel S. Chua of Centro Tagum City.

A photo of the Philippine Long-Tailed Macaque or *Macaca fascicularis philippinensis* by Mr. Edward Ocon.

May 24, 2022

TAGUM City set the Philippine record for most number of wildlife observations during its first time to participate in the 2022 City Nature Challenge (CNC2022); clocking in 50, 590 wildlife observations from April 29 to May 8, 2022.

Their record in the CNC2022 also enabled them to earn the third spot in Asia, and 36th in the world for nature observations.

Among the noteworthy observations in Tagum City is the photo-documentation of *Tridacna squamosa* or locally known as Fluted Giant Clam by Mr. Rodel S. Chua from PENRO Tagum City. The species is classified as near-threatened, with local protection and conservation initiatives strongly encouraged.

Other Philippine endemic species that were observed in Tagum were the Philippine Serpent Eagle (*Spilornis holospilus*), Philippine Long-Tailed Macaque (*Macaca fascicularis philippinensis*); Philippine Bulbul (*Hypsipetes philippinus*) and other bird species such as Barred Rail (*Hypotaenidia torquata*), Black Winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*), and Pink Necked Green Pigeon (*Treron vernans*).

This year, the nature-logging endeavor had 445 cities from 47 countries logging in their local flora and fauna, contributing to a staggering 1, 694, 877 wildlife observations out of 67, 220 total registered nature observers.

Working alongside the Tagum local government unit headed by Mayor Allan Rellon were the HJO Resources Corporation, and the University of Mindanao Institute for Biodiversity and Environment.

The CNC is an annual global event aimed at engaging local citizens and communities to gather wildlife observations within the vicinity of their city. Each participating city across the world is ranked based on three categories, namely: number of observations, number of species identified, and number of participants or observers.

The event is co-organized by the Community Science teams of the California Academy of Sciences and Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County.

Next year's City Nature Challenge will be on April 28 - May 1, 2023. Congratulations to Tagum City and the Philippines as a whole! **(PR)b>**

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1929891/davao/lifestyle/most-biodiverseobservations-in-ph>



# PRRD mulls attending climate change forum before term ends

By Azer Parrocha [May 24, 2022, 2:16 pm](#)



**CLIMATE CHANGE FORUM.** President Rodrigo Roa Duterte talks to the people after holding a meeting with key government officials at the Malacañan Palace on Monday night (May 23, 2022). Duterte said he would want to attend climate-related meetings and conventions before the end of his term to confront rich nations that disregarded their commitments to addressing climate change. *(Presidential photo by Valerie Escalera)*

**MANILA** – President Rodrigo Roa Duterte on Monday night said he would want to attend climate-related meetings and conventions before the end of his term to confront rich nations that disregarded their commitments to addressing climate change.

In a prerecorded meeting with Cabinet members, Duterte said he wanted to remind these countries of their commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

*“Ako na ang pupunta doon. Ah, hindi, talaga. Ano ba talaga ang gusto ninyo? Kasi ako, itapon ko 'yung lahat ng basura sa dagat. Hindi na ako mag-landfill. Bakit? Eh kung ganoon kayo, tapos lip service lang nga (I will go there. I will ask ‘What do you want?’ For me, I would just throw waste in the sea without using a landfill. Why? Because you are like that and it’s all lip service). You do not really honor commitments insofar as the changing of the climate — itong sa planet na ito (in this planet),”* he said.

Climate Change Commission Secretary Robert Borje, who was also present in the meeting, said there will be upcoming conventions in Sweden and Germany.

Duterte, however, expressed concern that the countries were too close to Russia and Ukraine, which have an ongoing war.

*“Malapit man doon sa giyera baka hindi na tayo makabalik (It’s too close to the war, we might not be able to come back),”* he added.

Borje, in response, vowed to “raise not just a clarion call” but to give all stakeholders and should-be partners a “realization that this cannot happen any further.”

Meanwhile, Duterte lamented poor countries like the Philippines were always the most vulnerable to the effects of climate change, despite being a minor contributor to greenhouse gas emissions.

He said countries that do not comply with climate-related agreements must be sanctioned.



“That Climate Change Commission is moribund actually a body unless there is a sanction or a commitment that’s an ironclad — maybe motivated by their desire to improve the situation *dito sa mundong ito* (in this world), then we can see all — maybe improvement overall in the — in terms of weather, in terms of pollution, *lahat na* (everything),” he said.

In April, Duterte said wealthy nations should compensate developing countries like the Philippines for the damage caused by climate change.

Duterte said climate change will remain a problem “for the next generations to come” unless it is addressed. **(PNA)**



## Duterte offers to personally attend climate conventions

Published May 24, 2022, 10:24 AM by [Joseph Pedrajas](#)

President Duterte has offered to personally attend climate-related meetings and conventions before his term ends to confront countries that continue to disregard their commitment to addressing climate change.

During his Cabinet meeting aired late Monday night, Duterte asked Climate Change Commission Secretary Robert Borje if there are any events that are yet to happen before the end of June.



Malacanang photo

“Ako na ang pupunta doon. Ah, hindi, talaga. [Itatanong ko] Ano ba talaga ang gusto ninyo? (I will go there. I will ask: ‘What do you really want?’) Duterte said.

“Kasi ako, itapon ko ‘yung lahat ng basura sa dagat. Hindi na ako mag-landfill. Bakit? Eh kung ganoon kayo, tapos lip service lang nga (For me, I would just throw our waste to the sea and wouldn’t use a landfill. Why? Because of you. You are just paying a lip service). You do not really honor commitments insofar as the changing of the climate,” he added.

But upon learning that the events will be held in Sweden and Germany, which are near Ukraine and Russia that have an ongoing war, Duterte said: “Maybe, we will not be able to go back.”

Duterte then advised Borje in jest to just physically slap countries that do not comply with agreements with the climate change report and bang the table and say: “Is there a chance for us to agree?”

The President said he wants these countries to be sanctioned because it is the poor countries that suffer.

“That Climate Change Commission is moribund actually a body unless there is a sanction or a commitment that’s an ironclad—maybe motivated by their desire to improve the situation dito sa mundong ito (in this world),” he said.

“But again, itong equation na ito (this equation) is never changing,” he added.



## CLIMATE CRISIS | Duterte blasts bigger nations as Philippines seeks concrete actions on issue

May 24, 2022 , 02:27 PM

By Beatrice Puente

(May 24, 2022) – The Philippines needs to pursue concrete actions founded on information and education to take the first step in truly addressing the climate crisis, the executive director of the Climate Change Commission said on Monday, challenging other countries to also go beyond mere lip service.

Robert Borje recognized that the general public has a limited understanding of the climate crisis, so the government needs to do more to make environmental issues more known.

“We would have to be very honest,” said Borje during the late-night address of President Rodrigo Duterte. “Kailangan alam ng lahat, hanggang sa barangay, kung ano ang climate change at anong impact nito at bakit importanteng malaman ito dahil buhay at kabuhayan ang nakasalalay.”

Borje added that the government should also use science and technology to ensure climate change adaptation and mitigation. He pointed out that the involvement of the academe and local government units (LGUs) would be crucial in the country’s response to the threats of the climate crisis.

But he also stressed that the country cannot stand on its own in addressing the major environmental concern, which he described as a form of “existential threat.” He emphasized that more developed nations must do more to concretize their pledges to developing countries like the Philippines.

“It’s important to continue with the clarion call,” said Borje. “It’s climate justice to those who are least responsible for climate change, to those with the least resources, to those who are most vulnerable and at risk. We need to do more.”

Duterte, who’s finishing his term next month, lambasted foreign countries once again for their allegedly limited efforts in responding to the climate crisis. While imposing sanctions may be difficult, he said the more industrialized countries cannot expect smaller nations to comply with their climate change commitments if they wouldn’t act as well.

“They (developed countries) should participate with all their commitment really to do their thing. Kasi ang ginagawa—walang sanctions at all—ng mga mayayaman and industrialized countries heavily, they just pay lip service, nothing more,” said Duterte.

Last year, the Philippines submitted its Nationally Determined Contribution as a signatory to the 2015 Paris Agreement, aiming to reduce carbon emissions by 75% by 2030. But the country would need the support of developed countries to achieve the goal since only 2.71% would be funded by the government.

Borje considers this a “smart move” that would challenge foreign countries to help out.

“Hindi tayo nanghihingi ng dole out. Hindi tayo namamalimos. What we are asking for is a responsible partnership,” said Borje.



Duterte advised Borje to “raise hell” in the next meetings with foreign nations to point out how the country suffers from the climate crisis.

“Kung malipat ko lang itong bagyo, ibigay ko ito sa Amerika pati sa Europe. But the problem is wala tayong magawa kasi it’s the poor guy that really suffers,” said Duterte.

(PM)





# Duterte wants sanctions versus countries not reducing carbon emissions

[Helen Flores](#) - The Philippine Star May 25, 2022 | 12:00am



President Rodrigo Duterte at a meeting with members of his pandemic task force on December 6, 2021.  
Presidential Communications Facebook page

MANILA, Philippines — President Duterte on Monday night said countries that do not honor climate agreements must be sanctioned even as he expressed interest in attending the next climate change meeting.

Duterte said poorer nations “really suffer much” from the devastating impact of climate change.

“You know, if you really want compliance about anything in this planet, you have to have sanctions for violations or there are rules and you know, if you do not follow the rules, then the consequences are there. But who gets the most suffering? It’s us,” the President said during a pre-recorded public address.

Duterte made the remark after Climate Change Commission Secretary Robert E.A. Borje discussed how the most vulnerable countries, including the Philippines, continue to suffer from climate-related weather events.

Borje said climate change also hinders economic growth. “Our economic growth is slowing down due to climate change, due to the number of disasters that we have to manage. In the past decade, we lost P506.1 billion due to climate change hazards and geological hazards. That’s about \$10 billion. What else? Climate change threatens food security,” he said.

Duterte told Borje he would like to attend the next climate change meeting. “If I may ask, is there any meeting between now until the end of my term? In between. Is there any meeting or convention or something?” he asked Borje, to which the latter replied, “Yes, Mr. President.”

“I will personally go there,” Duterte said.

The President said he would ask industrialized nations to start reducing their carbon footprints.

Borje said the next climate meetings would be held at Stockholm+50 – a United Nations-led environment meet in Stockholm, Sweden from June 2 to 3 – shortly before Duterte steps down from office.

When asked to clarify Duterte’s plan to attend the climate conference, acting presidential spokesman Martin Andanar said they would wait for an official announcement from the Office of the President.

“At first, the President said that he was interested but after Secretary Borje reported, nothing was discussed,” he said at a media briefing yesterday.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2022/05/25/2183580/duterte-wants-sanctions-versus-countries-not-reducing-carbon-emissions>



# LGUs urged to implement proactive climate change adaptation measures

[Gaea Katreena Cabico](#) - Philstar.com May 24, 2022 | 11:33am



Residents salvage belongings from their destroyed houses at Talisay in Cebu province on December 17, 2021, a day after Super Typhoon Rai hit.

AFP/Alan Tangcawan

MANILA, Philippines — Local government units and communities must take proactive measures to help people cope with the impacts of climate change, an expert from the Climate Change Commission said as the world races to ensure a liveable future for humanity.

Dr. Doracie Zoleta-Nantes, chair of the CCC's National Panel of Technical Experts, said the expert panel is tasked to come up with LGU-based climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction initiatives to reduce the vulnerabilities of local communities.

NPTE, composed of experts from across the archipelago, recommends best practices for the enhancement of the adaptive capacity of vulnerable population to climate impacts.

The role of LGUs is to incorporate these strategies in their development programs, Zoleta-Nantes stressed in a briefing Monday.

"We will find practical approaches and climate change adaptation strategies that can be undertaken by local government units and community members themselves. This highlights the fact that in the end, the people should be proactively undertaking climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction initiatives themselves," the president of Southern Luzon State University (SLSU) said.

"It is now the most opportune time for the communities to be involved in helping themselves, preparing themselves," she added.

Under the Climate Change Act of 2009, all local governments are tasked to formulate their local climate change action plans (LCCAPs). These action plans describe how LGUs plan to respond to the impacts of climate change and mainstream them into local development plans such as land use plans and investment programs.

There are currently 1,324 LCCAPs formulated by LGUs, according to CCC.

## Masantol flooding

CCC developed a case study about the prolonged inundation of Masantol town in Pampanga, which aims to help the municipality address the problem.



“We had several site visits and concluded that the problems experienced by communities are worsened by climate change,” Zoleta-Nantes said.

The NPTE chair said restoring mangrove forests in the area can protect communities from high tides and storm surges, reduce saltwater intrusion, and provide habitats for fish. SLSU will provide the mangrove seedlines and capacitate the community.



# Sa pulong ni BBM sa foreign ambassadors CLIMATE CHANGE, AGRIKULTURA TINALAKAY

9 hours ago [jake](#)



TINALAKAY ni presumptive president Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos sa isinagawang closed-door meetings kasama ang mga foreign ambassador ang usapin ng kooperasyon at ibang isyu lalo na sa panahon ng pandemya.

Nakausap ni Marcos Jr., sa kanyang headquarters ang mga envoys mula India, Japan, South Korea at Estados Unidos.

“Ang lagi ko lang pinapaalala sa kanila sinasabi ko palagay ko sa pandemyang ito ang recovery ng lahat natin ay hindi kakayanin ng kahit na isang bansa kahit na gaano kayaman. Kailangan the partnership will be the one that will bring us to keep the global economy as stable as possible,” ayon kay Marcos Jr.

Sinabi ng susunod na Pangulo na siya at ang Japanese Ambassador to the Philippines na si Kazuhiko Koshikawa ay nag-usap ukol sa posibilidad na infrastructure at transportation projects, at maging ang employment opportunities, sa pagitan ng dalawang bansa.

“Japan would like to see an increase of employment of Filipinos in Japan,” ayon kay Marcos.

Kabilang naman sa paksa na pinag-usapan kasama si South Korean Ambassador Kim Inchul ay ang posibleng pagbuhay sa “mothballed” Bataan Nuclear Power Plant.

“Pwede pa ba ituloy o kailangan na magtayo ng bago? Binuhay ulit namin ang diskusyon na ‘yon,” anito.

“We will now study their recommendation and their findings and we will see if it can still apply, because as we have been talking about all through the campaign, isa sa pinakamalaking problema is the supply of power. If we are going to industrialize post-pandemic...then the power sector must be ready for that.”dagdag na pahayag ni Marcos Jr.

Samantala, sinabi naman ni Marcos Jr., na napag-usapan naman nila ni Indian Ambassador Shambhu S. Kumaran ang ukol sa imprastraktura, idagdag na ang bansa ay maaaring matuto mula sa Asian neighbor, lalo na pagdating sa teknolohiya at “how to bring the average age of farmers down.”



Sa miting kasama ang US Chargé d’Affaires Heather Variava, sinabi ni Marcos Jr. na isa sa pangunahing paksa na kanilang napag-usapan ay ang tulong na maaaring mapagaan ang epekto ng climate change.

Sinabi ni Marcos Jr. na maaaring tanggapin ng bansa ang anomang tulong mula sa US para sa ekonomiya, sinabi pa nito na ito’y may kinalaman “trade, not aid.”

## **Nuclear pinakukonsidera**

**power**

Sa kabilang dako, umaasa si Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte na ie-explore ng susunod na administrasyon ang nuclear energy bilang alternative energy source sa Pilipinas.

Sa kanyang Talk to the People, Lunes ng gabi, sinabi ni Pangulong Duterte na kailangang pag-aralan ng susunod na administrasyon ang nuclear power dahil ang Pilipinas, naka-depende sa imported crude oil, ay “vulnerable” sa epekto ng nagpapatuloy na giyera sa pagitan ng Russia at Ukraine.

“I hope that the next administration would at least explore now the possibility of itong nuclear...Tatal ang nag-umpisa nito noon si Marcos. Nagpagawa siya ng nuclear plant,” ayon kay Pangulong Duterte.

Tinutukoy ni Pangulong Duterte ang kontrobersyal na Bataan Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP) sa Morong, Bataan, isang proyekto ni dating Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos Sr. na hindi nagamit dahil sa “safety and corruption issues.”

“You know oil is not infinite, may katapusan ‘yan . Someday it will dry up, it will be good for any government to prepare the possibility of making the transition from oil, yung fossil fuel, to nuclear,” dagdag na pahayag nito.

Gayunman, hindi naman lingid sa kaalaman ni Pangulong Duterte na ang pagbuhay sa BNPP ay maaaring “spell trouble” gaya ng 1986 explosion at sunog sa Chernobyl nuclear power plant sa Ukraine na naglabas o sumuka ng malaking dami ng radioactive material sa kapaligiran.

Matatandaang, nilagdaan ni Pangulong Duterte ang isang executive order na nag-aatas na pag-aralan ang pagsasama ng nuclear power sa ginagamit na enerhiya sa bansa. (CHRISTIAN DALE)



# Freeze quarry activities in Masungi, IPs tell government

BY RODERICK ABAD

MAY 24, 2022



Aerial photographs of Sapot, one of the attractions at the Masungi Georeserve.

A GROUP of indigenous people (IP) joined the renewed calls to stop the Mineral Production Sharing Agreement (MPSAs) within the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape (UMRBPL) and the Masungi Geopark Project (MGP).

In a petition dated May 19, 2022, some 100 leaders and members of the Dumagat-Remontado tribe of Antipolo asked President Duterte, Department of Environment and Natural Resources Officer in Charge Secretary Jim Sampulna, and Rizal Governor Rebecca Yñares to save the Susong Dalaga mountain from quarrying.

They said that the mountain is sacred to their community and forms part of their heritage given its inclusion to their ancestral domain.

“We are worried to know that our beloved mountain is contained in two quarries with MPSA under the name of Rapid City and Quarry Rock,” they added.

“In case like that, Susong Dalaga will be gone because the rocks will be mined and the mountain will be flattened. The rivers and water provided by Susong Dalaga will dry up,” they added.

Per the areas covered by the two MPSAs, the quarries would level down around 1,000 hectares of mountains within the protected area including the Susong Dalaga shrine considered sacred by the tribe. A deep scar—400 meters high, 1,200 meters wide, and 5,000 meters long—on the mountains immediately fronting Marcos Highway would also be created.

The IP group, likewise, expressed concern about the floods and landslides that would cause destruction to their homes and farms, and even create an impact on those living in downstream areas.

It was noted that the floods and landslides that affected San Mateo, Rodriguez, Marikina, Cainta, Pasig and other towns and cities during typhoons “Ondoy,” “Rolly,” and “Ulysses” originated from these mountains.



With these in mind, the group urged government officials and quarry companies to withdraw their plans to quarry Susong Dalaga.

They also asked that resorts and other destructive activities be similarly averted and removed from the MGP and the protected areas.

Image credits: [Billie Dumaliang](#)



# Mati City gov't defends mining in Unesco-listed Mt. Hamiguitan range

Published May 24, 2022, 3:55 PM

by [Keith Bacongco](#)

DAVAO CITY — The City Government of Mati has defended the nickel mining operations at the foot of Mount Hamiguitan Wildlife Sanctuary Range, saying it is outside the declared protected area.

In a statement released to the media, the City Information Office of Mati emphasized that while the mining company has yet to resume full operations, its mining tenement only covers the foothills of the mountain range, which is a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) heritage site.

The local government issued the statement after local residents expressed concerns over the circulating photos on social media of the mining site in Barangay Macambol in Mati City showing an open-mining area near the coastline of Pujada Bay.



A tourist takes a dip at the white sand beach of Pujada Island in Mati City, Davao Oriental. (KEITH BACONGCO / FILE PHOTO/MANILA BULLETIN)

It added that the Mati City Environment and Natural Resources Office (CiENRO) has assured that the mining area is also four kilometers away from the boundary of the Pujada Bay Seascape, which is also a declared protected area.

The Hallmark Mining Corporation and Austral-Asia Link Mining Corporation are both holders of 25-year Mineral Production Sharing Agreement (MPSA) issued in 2004 and 2005 respectively.

The mining operations was put on hold in 2017 when President Rodrigo Duterte imposed nationwide ban on open-pit mining.

However, then DENR secretary Secretary Roy Cimatu overturned a prohibition on open-pit mining in a hope to help stimulate the economy to recover from the adverse impact of the pandemic.

The mining companies have yet to resume operations as they are preparing necessary documents, the statement clarified.

The City Government of Mati further said that 'a multi-partite monitoring team (MMT) was also created to monitor the strict enforcement and compliance to the several environmental safeguards put in place to ensure the protection of the environment.'





“The MMT is headed by the DENR-MGB director with the City of Mati LGU as a member. The LGU is represented by the Mati CiENRO and the Mati City Health Office in the said MMT. The MMT is also composed of DENR XI, DENR CENRO, Provincial ENRO, IP Davao Oriental, tribal chieftain of Barangay Macambol, punong barangay of Macambol, community and government relations manager of the mining companies, as well as the resident mine manager, “ it added.

For years, environment activists have been campaigning against the mining operations in Mount Hamiguitan as they will not only threaten the biodiversity of the mountain range but also of the nearby Pujada Bay.

The Pujada Bay Landscape and Seascape was declared as a protected area under the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) through Presidential Proclamation No. 431 in 1994.

Mount Hamiguitan mountain range is a declared protected area as provided under Republic Act No. 9303 or the Hamiguitan Range Wildlife Sanctuary Act of 2004, which declared the mountain range and its vicinities as protected area under the category of wildlife sanctuary and its peripheral areas as buffer zone.

The act also emphasized that it was declared a protected area for its highly unique and important biological and physical attributes.

Groups opposed to the mining operations fear that mining operations could adversely affect the Pujada Bay since the tributaries of Mount Hamiguitan drain to the bay.

In 2014, Mount Hamiguitan Wildlife Sanctuary was included in in the UNESCO World Heritage List.

The mountain range, which features the unique pygmy forests, straddles across the towns of Governor Generoso, San Isidro and City of Mati.

According to the UNESCO website, the combination of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems within the boundaries of the property and the large number of species inhabiting each makes the Mount Hamiguitan Range Wildlife Sanctuary home to a total of 1,380 species with 341 Philippine endemics.

The mountain range is also a known home of the critically endangered species such as Philippine Eagle and the Philippine Cockatoo.

Mount Hamiguitan is one of the most popular tourist destinations in Davao Oriental.



# DENR di binantayan ang pagkasira ng mga bundok ng Coron: grupo

ABS-CBN News

Posted at May 24 2022 10:59 PM

MAYNILA—Walang naging pagbabantay ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa ginawang reclamation sa Coron, Palawan, ayon sa isang grupo.

Ayon kay Julito Sarge Sarmiento, legal counsel ng Sagip Coron, lumapit ang kanilang grupo kay Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte kaugnay sa walang pakundangan na pagsira sa Coron, at sinabi umano ni Duterte na ilegal at criminal offense ang isinagawang pagtatambak.

Ayon naman kay Bob Magallanes, isang volunteer ng Sagip Coron, wala silang ideya sa nangyaring reclamation o paggiba sa mga bundok sa paligid ng Coron kaya nakakagulat na lang ang pagkasira ng mga ito.

Maraming maaapektuhan sa ginawang quarrying, hindi lang ang mga may-ari ng mga negosyo sa tabing dagat, kung 'di ang ang mga maliliit at mahihirap na manggagawa ng Coron, ani Marion Raagas, ang convenor ng Sagip Coron.

Saad ni Dr. Filipina Sotto, isang marine biologist, kakaunti na ang mga isdang lumalangoy sa paligid ng impacted areas at may mga coral reef na ring natambakan dahil sa reclamation.—  
**SRO, TeleRadyo, Mayo 24, 2022**

Source: [https://news.abs-cbn.com/video/news/05/24/22/denr-di-binantayan-ang-pagkasira-ng-mga-bundok-ng-coron-grupo?fbclid=IwAR2cv6lADbpB3pC-XKIZ\\_RdB58meQoSjsEmUFhoEW3O0TPE2uBZOWmMjx8k](https://news.abs-cbn.com/video/news/05/24/22/denr-di-binantayan-ang-pagkasira-ng-mga-bundok-ng-coron-grupo?fbclid=IwAR2cv6lADbpB3pC-XKIZ_RdB58meQoSjsEmUFhoEW3O0TPE2uBZOWmMjx8k)



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Walang naging pagbabantay ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources sa ginawang reclamation sa Coron, Palawan, ayon sa isang grupo.

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## NVizcaya mine reports 16M hours' of safe work

By [Leander C. Domingo](#) May 25, 2022

QUEZON, Nueva Vizcaya: A London-based mining company here said the safety of its employees remains its top priority with over 16 million hours worked without any reported untoward incident in their operation at FCF Minerals Corp. in Runruno village.

David Cather, Metals Exploration Plc.'s independent non-executive chairman, said the company also continues to make progress and deliver record numbers in annual gold recovery, sale proceeds, and gold for the year ending Dec. 31, 2021.

"Safety, as always, remains the utmost priority of the company, and our record to date is an achievement that everyone at the company is very proud of. As at the date of this report, we have recorded over 16 million hours worked without a reportable injury," Cather said.

He said this is an outstanding accomplishment and something that they are not only delighted with but will continue to focus on.

"The safety of our staff is not just limited to mining operations. Our team and the communities they live in are at the heart of our company, and ensuring their well-being is vital for the continued operations of the business," Cather said.

With this, he said a key focus of their safety and health operations has been the staff and contractors. At present, over 93 percent of all staff and contractors have received at least two vaccination doses.

FCF Minerals Corp. operates the Runruno Gold-Molybdenum Project, which is 100-percent owned by the British Metals Exploration. Based on a feasibility study, an average of 96,700 ounces of gold can be extracted yearly over 10 years.

The mine has been operating since 2016 and is currently the fourth-largest gold mine operations company in the Philippines.



## Court rules against Marcopper

May 25, 2022 | 12:05 am



A LOCAL court in Marinduque ruled in favor of at least 30 plaintiffs against Marcopper Mining Corp. for a mine spill incident in 1993.

In December 1993, parts of the structure of Marcopper's Maguila-guila tailings dam broke, flooding the Mogpog River with toxic waste.

In a decision dated May 16, the regional trial court granted P200,000 in temperate damages and P100,000 in moral damages to each of at least 30 plaintiffs. An additional P1 million as exemplary damages was awarded to all the plaintiffs.

Marcopper is also known for the 1996 Mt. Taipan pit mining incident, where the drainage tunnels of the company's open-pit mines broke and caused toxic mine tailings to spill into Boac River.

The Chamber of Mines of the Philippines said that it welcomed the ruling on the Marcopper mine spill case.

"We are relieved that the court has finally rendered a decision in favor of the plaintiffs in the Marcopper mine spill incident. Marcopper operated under the old mining law," the chamber said in a statement.

"The incident is a constant reminder to miners all over the world that the safety of all stakeholders in host mining communities is paramount. It underscores extreme consequences to people and the environment from catastrophic tailings facility failures are unacceptable," it added.

The group said that since the incident, new mandatory environmental laws have been put in place to ensure just and timely compensation for damages and for progressive and sustainable rehabilitation for any adverse effect a mining operation or activity may cause.

It also said that mining operators must use specified measures to prevent the catastrophic failure of tailings facilities and to implement best practices in planning, design, construction, operation, maintenance, monitoring, closure, and post-closure activities. — **Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson**

Source: <https://www.bworldonline.com/corporate/2022/05/25/450612/court-rules-against-marcopper/>



# PCG joins maritime drills in Indonesia, calls for protection of marine env't

Published May 24, 2022, 12:30 PM

by [Martin Sadongdong](#)

The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) urged all countries to unite in protecting marine environment as it participated in the opening ceremony of the Regional Marine Pollution Exercise (MARPOLEX) 2022 in Makassar, Indonesia on Tuesday, May 24.



Vice Adm. Rolando Lazor Punzalan, Philippine Coast Guard deputy commandant for administration, leads the Philippine delegates in the opening ceremony of the Regional Marine Pollution Exercise (MARPOLEX) 2022 on May 24, 2022. (Photo courtesy of Philippine Coast Guard)

The maritime exercise seeks to enhance Indonesia, Philippines, and Japan's cooperation and capability in firefighting, rescue, and oil spill recovery operations through planning, command and control, and the conduct of integrated operations.

BRP Teresa Magbanua (MRRV-9701), the PCG's largest vessel, sailed to Indonesia to participate in the maritime drills. It was her maiden mission since being commissioned into service last May 6. Joining her are BRP Gabriela Silang (OPV-8301), BRP Malapascua (MRRV-4403), and BRP Cape Engaño (MRRV-4411).

The participating vessels will also test and evaluate the effectiveness of Indonesia's Sulawesi Sea Oil Spill Response Network Plan and the current procedures of the Oil Spill Recovery and Response Capability of Indonesia and the Philippines.

Vice Adm. Rolando Lazor Punzalan, PCG deputy commandant for administration, underscored the importance of the exercises as he said everyone is prone to oil spill incidents as ships traverse oceans to support the global economy.

"Oil spill incidents will continue as long as the oceans remain our means of transporting oil efficiently. For this unavoidable nature of oil spill incidents, we gather here in the Regional MARPOLEX 2022 and think of the best ways to eliminate the harmful effects of these incidents," Punzalan said.

"We should not only develop responses to untoward incidents but, more importantly, prevent oil spills from happening through enforcing and implementing laws that protect our marine environment from pollution," he added.

The MARPOLEX 2022 is held in the vicinity waters off South Sulawesi which is strategically located in Indonesia's Archipelagic Sea Lanes II.



The location plays a critical role in connecting international and domestic shipping and records high intensity of shipping operations, oil and gas activities, and other maritime operations in the Makassar waters, said Budi Karya Sumadi, Republic of Indonesia's Minister of Transportation.

"This certainly increases the risk of accidents resulting to oil spills that pollute and damage the marine environment. Thus, the preparedness of personnel and equipment is needed to overcome shipping disasters as assistance for the Makassar Strait area," Sumadi said.

During the ceremony, the PCG and the Directorate General for Sea Transportation (DGST) of the Republic of Indonesia forged a fraternal agreement to advocate multilateral cooperation to address major spillage in the Asian region.

Punzalan also recognized the Japan Coast Guard's (JCG) role in ensuring the operational readiness of the Philippines and Indonesia for oil spill incidents, making the MARPOLEX "an opportunity to share new knowledge and techniques in the field of marine environmental protection."

"This joint maritime exercise between the Philippines, Indonesia, and Japan symbolizes our powerful spirit of cooperation in times of emergency and disasters," he concluded.



# Duterte urges next admin to explore nuclear energy

[Helen Flores](#) - The Philippine Star May 25, 2022 | 12:00am



This December 19, 2011 photo from Wikimedia Commons shows Bataan Nuclear Power Plant.

Jiru27 / CC BY-SA (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0>)

MANILA, Philippines — President Duterte has urged the incoming Marcos administration to explore the use of nuclear power as an alternative energy source in the country.

During his prerecorded Talk to the People aired on Monday night, Duterte cited the country's continued use of coal that has devastating environmental consequences.

He also expressed dismay over rising oil prices as a result of the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine.

“I hope that the next administration would at least explore now the possibility of nuclear... After all, it was Marcos who started it,” Duterte said, referring to the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos Sr., the father of presumptive president Ferdinand Marcos Jr.

“Oil is not infinite. Someday it will dry up. It will be good for any government to prepare the possibility of making the transition from oil, fossil fuel to nuclear,” he said.

Duterte said the Russia-Ukraine conflict has influenced the stability of global fuel prices, and it already had an impact on ordinary Filipinos and the economy.

“Those who are using cars you complain everyday that it's (fuel prices) getting higher by the hour. The reason for the rising gasoline prices is we do not have our own. We are importing the source of energy,” he said.

Marcos Jr. earlier disclosed he had a discussion with the South Korean ambassador about an assessment on the possible revival of the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP).

In February, Duterte signed Executive Order 164 to assess the possibility of including nuclear power in the country's energy mix.

EO 164 recognized nuclear power as “a reliable, cost-competitive, and environment-friendly source of energy” based on the experience of highly developed countries.





The BNPP was built under the administration of Marcos Sr. to address the energy crisis during his tenure.

The \$2.2-billion plant was mothballed in 1986 after experts declared it “unsafe and inoperable,” saying it was built near a major earthquake fault. Marcos Sr. was also accused of accepting a kickback of \$80 million from BNPP builder Westinghouse.



# Gov't launches thorough study on perennial flooding in Masantol



PAMPANGA. CCC Chair-designate and Finance Secretary Carlos G. Dominguez, CCC Vice Chairperson Secretary Robert E.A. Borje and other officials are welcomed by outgoing Mayor Danilo Guintu and incoming Representative Anna York Bondoc during their recent visit in Barangay Sapang Kawayan for the climate change adaptation study. (Contributed Photo)

PRINCESS CLEA ARCELLAZ  
May 24, 2022

THE coastal town of Masantol, located at the southernmost part of Pampanga is known as the catch basin of floodwater during rainy season.

Unlike the earlier years when flood is only experienced during rainy season, most of barangays in Masantol town are now experiencing up to two feet of flood even during dry season when the level of tide is high.

This is among the reason why the Climate Change Commission (CCC) jumpstarted the climate adaptation study in the town, stressing the importance of a science-based approach and strong community engagement in order to help better understand and effectively address climate change-related and flooding concerns of the town.

The said study was particularly launched in Barangay Sapang Kawayan here, which is the nearest island barangay to the mouth of Manila Bay where waters of Pampanga River exits.

CCC Chair-designate and Finance Secretary Carlos G. Dominguez, CCC Vice Chairperson Secretary Robert E.A. Borje, outgoing Mayor Danilo Guintu and incoming Representative Anna York Bondoc, along with other experts, made a recent visit in Barangay Sapang Kawayan to personally check on the situation and come up with a comprehensive, multidimensional and science-based approach to climate change adaptation in Masantol.

To boost its climate change awareness program, the agency launched a series of video that features the various effects of climate change in the community.

The three-part video entitled “Masantol: Ang Kwento Laban sa Nagbabagong Klima” which aims to communicate the impact of climate change on vulnerable communities in the Philippines — specifically the town of Masantol, Pampanga — to bring awareness and new perspectives to the climate change discourse as well as motivate the Filipino people to spring into action.



The first part specifically focuses on the causes and effects of flooding problem in Masantol, while second part presents the interventions that have been done and last part focuses on the recommendations of the CCC and National Panel of Technical Experts (NPTE).

It also seeks to highlight the need for local adaptation planning aligned with the National Climate Change Action Plan. This connotes the commitment of the CCC to assist local government units in their pursuit of science and evidence-based, low emission and sustainable local development planning.

During the visit in Barangay Sapang Kawayan, Masantol Mayor Danilo Guintu recognized the importance of an effective partnership between Masantol and CCC in order to come up with sustainable solutions to the town's perennial flooding problem. Mayor Guintu stated that the Local Government Unit will fully support CCC's study.

Incoming fourth district Representative Anna York Bondoc, who attended the video launch, expressed gratitude to CCC and DOF for kick-starting a study that puts focus on the situation of the people of Masantol town and the community.

"Itong trabaho niyo po na ito at iyong gagawin niyo pa will definitely bring international attention, local attention and the much needed attention to the problem dito sa bayan namin. This is actually a problem of the whole of Central Luzon dahil sabi ko nga, para kaming embudo na kapag bumuhos ang tubig mula sa taas, hindi rin agad makakalabas kung barado sa ibaba," she explained.

The climate adaptation study is expected to continue in the coming months until the NPTE comes up with a recommendations that will solve the perennial flooding problem.



## Climate action on CO2 emissions alone won't prevent extreme warming

May 24, 2022 | 5:19 pm



TO CONTROL climate change, the world must go beyond cutting carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions and curb lesser-known pollutants such as nitrous oxide playing a key role in warming the planet, new research suggests.

Decades of global climate discussions have focused on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, which are most abundant in the atmosphere. The common goal of reaching “net-zero” emissions refers most often to CO<sub>2</sub> emissions alone.

Over the last year, more than 100 countries have pledged a 30% cut by 2030 to emissions from methane, another carbon-based greenhouse gas that is far more powerful at trapping heat than CO<sub>2</sub>. Most of those countries have yet to say how they will meet that deadline.

Meanwhile, scant attention has been paid to other warming pollutants, including black carbon, also called soot, which absorbs radiative heat, as well as hydrofluorocarbons found in refrigerants, and nitrous oxides. But together with methane, these pollutants are responsible for about half of the warming seen today, according to the study published on Monday in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

“When we’re worried about the near-term ... we need to look at the other non-CO<sub>2</sub> climate forcers,” said study co-author Durwood Zaelke, president of the Institute for Governance & Sustainable Development in Washington DC.

This is especially important as countries pursue CO<sub>2</sub> reductions through cutting back on their use of fossil fuels, still considered the main contributor to global warming. Using fewer fossil fuels will result in less air pollution, including airborne sulphates that actually counteract some climate change by reflecting solar radiation away from Earth.

Scientists say these sulphates are masking about 0.5 degree Celsius of warming that would be seen without them, meaning aggressive climate action could see temperatures temporarily jump higher — unless the lesser pollutants are tackled as well.

A path of decarbonization alone would see the planet breach 2 degrees Celsius of warming beyond pre-industrial temperatures by 2045, the study finds.



Conversely, reining in all climate pollutants together could see the world begin to avoid some warming as early as 2030 and halve the rate of warming between 2030 and 2050, the findings suggest.

“This landmark paper should bring about a major rethink” of global targets, said Euan Nisbet, a climate scientist at Royal Holloway, University of London, not involved in the study. “If we don’t also bring down non-CO2 warming, we cook.” — **Reuters**

# Explainer: APAC at 1.5°C of global warming

The 2°C global warming scenario is gloomy, but a 1.5°C increase isn't much better. Life for billions of people in the region is still going to get worse, according to the latest studies.



A beach hotel in popular surfing destination Siargao Island in Surigao del Norte, Philippines is totally devastated by Typhoon Rai. Image: Albert Lozada/ Greenpeace

By [Liang Lei](#) May 24, 2022

From Islamabad to Port Moresby, from Beijing to Sydney – big changes are coming, and we're not prepared.

Floods, fires and heavy winds are some of the dangers heading our way. Even if the global community keeps to the 1.5 degrees Celsius limit to climate change.

Scientists have often cited 1.5°C as a better alternative to 2°C of global warming in efforts to coax governments and businesses to act early against the threats of severe climate risks. But the lower temperature limit is still set to bring significant hazards.

In this piece, Eco-Business takes a look at what crossing the 1.5°C threshold means for climate-exposed Asia Pacific.

Crossing that temperature increase is inevitable. The Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change (IPCC) said in August that the threshold could be reached by 2040. This month, the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) provided [statistical details](#).

In the next five years, there is a 48 per cent chance of at least one year breaching the 1.5°C increase. There is also a 10 per cent chance that average temperatures over the next five years will jump to more than 1.5°C.

“Time is running out to meet the ambitious goal laid out in the Paris Agreement – to limit warming to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels,” said Professor Benjamin Horton, director of the Earth Observatory of Singapore.

“Attitudes towards climate change have shifted in the past decade. Where once there was ignorance, inattention and disbelief, there is now concern,” he added.

## **Floods and storms**

For the nearly 750 million people living in South Asia's largest river basins of the Ganges, Indus and Brahmaputra, mid-year monsoon storms could get [10 per cent](#) heavier when temperatures increase by 1.5°C, worsening the risks of heavy flooding.

In China, Japan and the Korean Peninsula, the frequency of what's considered a once-in-20-years rainfall event today may [more than double](#) at 1.5°C.

Sustained rainfall across five days, a common gauge of heavy rain, may also be [30 per cent heavier](#) in some parts of Indonesia and mainland Southeast Asia.

Although better disaster response has led to lower deaths over the years, flooding still exacts a heavy financial toll on Asia – the region has been losing about [US\\$28 million a year](#) in the past decade due to heavy damages and low insurance rates.

Globally, at the current 1°C of global warming, a one-in-10-year torrent is already 30 per cent more likely to occur compared to pre-industrial times. At 1.5°C, the figure rises to 50 per cent, according to the [IPCC](#). The rising trend is most obvious in Asia and Africa.

Meanwhile, [tropical typhoons](#) in the Pacific Ocean are expected to occur less frequently but with greater intensity. Such storms in the past decades have already been [found](#) to bring stronger winds and reach further inland.

[Typhoon Rai](#), the strongest storm to hit the Philippines last year, left 400 dead and more than US\$500,000 worth of damages to crops and houses.

#### *Extreme heat and fires*

India and Pakistan are currently reeling from a heatwave that brought daytime temperatures close to 50°C. The death toll of [around 90 deaths](#) reported in early May is widely thought to be underestimated.

Worse is to come at 1.5°C of global warming. Places already prone to heat waves may get up to [four more days](#) per year of daytime temperatures high enough to limit outdoor work – at 32°C on a wet-bulb thermometer – totaling over a week in regions around Bangladesh, eastern India and parts of Pakistan.

There may also be one more day of potentially lethal heat – at over 35°C – adding up to over two occurrences per year on average, especially over eastern Pakistan and western India.

These wet-bulb measurements, which indicate temperatures at maximum relative humidity, could be several degrees lower than the actual air temperature people feel, especially if they are directly under the sun.

Night time temperatures in the region could increase by around [10 per cent](#) on average too, giving people no respite from the daytime inferno.

Similar trends are expected over much of the Asia Pacific 1.5°C of global warming, with severe heatwaves expected to occur at least [once every five years](#) in parts of Southeast Asia, and once every 10 to 30 years in Northern Australia.

Cities get it worse, because concrete surfaces trap more heat. Kolkata, capital of West Bengal in India and home to almost 15 million people, is already about [2.6°C](#) hotter than nearby rural areas. Sydney is about 0.2°C over its surroundings.



Heavy smoke covers the Tiong Bahru area in Singapore during the September 2015 haze. Image: [Flickr/Charles EYES PiX](#).

Forest fires are expected to worsen at 1.5°C, especially during El Niño periods. The climate event is a natural phenomenon that warms the eastern part of the Pacific Ocean and influences global weather patterns – such as creating longer droughts in the Asia Pacific region.

An especially bad episode of forest blazes occurred in 2015. Close to 30 people died in Indonesia, where most of the fires occurred, while schools across the region closed due to the thick haze. One study estimated that the probability of having tinderbox conditions worse than 2015 in a 1.5°C warmer world was [over 80 per cent](#).

### **Food security**

This may be one of the bright spots at 1.5°C, though benefits are uneven. [Crop yield](#) could increase in parts of temperate Asia and Southern Australia, but drop in tropical Asia.

South Asia could also be particularly vulnerable to instances of [extreme low yields](#) due to heat stress.

India's wheat production this year is already expected to be pummelled by a series of heavy rains followed by intense heat. It has restricted exports, adding to the looming food crisis from Russia's invasion of Ukraine, another major food basket in the West.

As temperatures rise and rainfall patterns change, fertile regions could shift into land used for other purposes, creating more problems for governments and land owners.

### **Sea-level rise**

The oceans won't rise overnight, but the creep up is already noticeable for many coastal communities in Asia. If global warming is kept to 1.5°C, sea levels may be 0.55m higher at the end of the century.

Further warming could lead to oceans rising by about a metre. Currently, [157 million people](#) in tropical Asia live on coastal land less than 2 metres above sea level, and are vulnerable to inundation and storm surges. Many of them live in dense settlements in Bangladesh, Thailand and Vietnam.

Governments in the region have started taking steps to keep the waters at bay, such as by [restricting development](#) in coastal areas of Indonesia and raising beachside roads in Singapore.

### **Nature isn't spared either**

It is all but certain that Australia's coral reefs will be [decimated](#) even at 1.5°C of global warming. The Great Barrier Reef has been bleached by warm ocean waters in four of the past six years, a rate not seen in recent human history.

Oxygen levels in the Pacific Ocean could fall about 10 per cent at 1.5°C, a dip small enough to recover from.

Highly deoxygenated areas, termed "dead zones" because they cannot support marine life, are already found in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea. While they may have initially formed due to agricultural runoff, climate change and ocean heating is expected to [make things worse](#).

For tropical forests in Asia, further warming could bring about [higher tree mortality](#) from drought and fires. Huge rains could also wash nutrients away from the soil, impeding plant growth.

"The overall pace of adaptation and climate resilient development is patchy; they are not considered by some governments but are taken seriously by others," said Associate Professor Winston Chow, a climate scientist at the Singapore Management University who worked on the latest [IPCC report on climate adaptation](#).





“I think the evidence is clear. Pre-emptive adaptation would considerably lower some climate risks substantially, and commensurate costs of such adaptation are generally worth the benefits as we’ve assessed in the IPCC,” said Chow.



# IMF warns of threats to global recovery

Agence France-Presse May 25, 2022 | 12:00am

DAVOS – IMF leaders warned Monday that growing pressures undermining global integration, including an increase in trade barriers, threaten economic growth worldwide.

In a message to officials gathering in Davos, Switzerland, IMF chief Kristalina Georgieva and her deputy, Gita Gopinath said, “the costs of further disintegration would be enormous across countries. And people at every income level would be hurt.”

The global economy faces a “confluence of calamities” with the fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic compounded by the war in Ukraine, but they warned that the trend towards restricting exports or breaking up global supply chains would undo years of progress.

Globalization tripled the size of the worldwide economy and lifted 1.3 billion people out of extreme poverty, but since the Russian invasion of Ukraine in late February, 30 countries have imposed restrictions on trade in food, energy and other key goods, the IMF officials said.

They called on global leaders to resist those pressures and focus on improving cooperation and reducing trade barriers while also combating climate change and the growing debt burden in developing nations.

And rather than dismantling supply chains, or “reshoring” in favor of domestic producers, companies should diversify their imports, which can cut in half the economic losses due to supply disruptions.

“As policymakers and business leaders head to Davos, the global economy faces perhaps its biggest test since the Second World War,” they wrote.

“We have a choice: Surrender to the forces of geoeconomic fragmentation that will make our world poorer and more dangerous. Or reshape how we cooperate.”

After a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, the World Economic Forum annual meeting will be held in person in the Swiss resort city this week.

25 MAY 2022, WEDNESDAY



# NEWS ALERTS

# NEWS CLIPPINGS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



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# Duterte calls for climate justice

## Sanctions vs countries non-compliant with climate agreements sought

By JOSEPH MEDRAJAS

President Duterte has offered to personally attend climate-related meetings and conventions before his term ends to confront countries that continue to disregard their commitment to address and take responsibility for climate change.

In a prerecorded meeting with Cabinet members aired late Monday night, May 23, Duterte said he wanted to remind these countries of their commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

He asked Climate Change Commission Secretary Robert Borje for any event scheduled before the end of his term in June.

"Also na ang pupunta doon. [Itatanong ko] Ano ba talaga ang

gusto ninyo? (I will be the one to go. I want to ask them: 'What do you really want?)" Duterte said. "Kasi ako, itapon ko 'yung lahat ng basura sa dagat. Hindi na ako mag-landfill. Bakit? Eh kung ganoon kayo, tapos lip service lang nga (If it were me, I'd just throw all our waste into the sea. I wouldn't use a landfill. Why? Because of you. You are just paying lip service to the whole thing). You do not really honor commitments insofar as the changing of the climate [is concerned]."

When Borje told him there would be upcoming conventions in Sweden and Germany, Duterte expressed concern that the countries were too close to Russia and Ukraine. "Malapit man doon sa giyera baka hindi na tayo makabalik (It's too close to the war, we might not be able to come back)," he said.

The President then advised Borje in jest to just physically slap countries that do not comply with agreements with the climate change report and

*'That Climate Change Commission is moribund actually [as] a body, unless there is a sanction or a commitment that's an ironclad...'*

bang the table and say: "Is there a chance for us to agree?"

Borje vowed to "raise not just a clarion call," but to give all stake-

holders and should-be partners a "realization that this cannot happen any further."

Lamenting that poor countries like the Philippines were always the most vulnerable to the effects of climate change, despite being a minor contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, Duterte said countries that do not comply with climate-related agreements must be sanctioned.

"That Climate Change Commission is moribund actually [as] a body, unless there is a sanction or a commitment that's an ironclad — maybe motivated by their desire to improve the situation dito sa mundong ito (in this world), then we can see all — maybe improvement overall in the — in terms of weather, in terms of pollution, lahat na (everything)," he said. "Unless there is sanction,

walang mangyari dito... Kaya gusto nating gumanti rin, wala man tayong magawa (Nothing will happen. If we wanted revenge, there is nothing we can do)."

The problem with these countries, Duterte said, is that "they see the damage" of the worsening climate change, but all they do is to give meager cash assistance "as an atonement maybe for their failure to help planet Earth."

"We don't need that," the President said.

In April, Duterte said wealthy nations should compensate developing countries like the Philippines for the damage caused by climate change.

Climate change, according to him, will remain a problem "for the next generations to come," unless it is addressed. (With a report from PNA)



## editorial PHL needs to push agricultural R&D

**R**ICE-EATING nations like the Philippines are expected to increase their consumption of the staple in light of the spike in wheat prices. In a recently released report, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) projected that demand for rice in the Philippines would continue to rise amid the ongoing conflict in Eastern Europe. Because of this, the country is expected to retain its status as the world's second largest importer of the staple, behind China, which is expected to import more than 6 million tons of rice (See "PHL to import more rice as output to stay flat," in the BUSINESS-MIRROR, May 16, 2022).

Despite the expected increase in demand, local production would still not be able to meet the rice requirements of Filipinos. Even before the invasion of Ukraine, the government pegged the rice self-sufficiency level of the Philippines at 89 percent, which means it would have to buy from other countries more than 10 percent of its requirements. The conflict in Eastern Europe is expected to further exacerbate the supply situation in many parts of the world due to the spike in fertilizer prices, which could dent the country's rice output.

The spike in fertilizer prices was cited as one of the factors that will pull down rice output next year. Fertilizer is a key production input that helps increase yields of crops, including rice. The price of the input has made it inaccessible to a number of farmers, such that it has caused them to rethink their planting intentions, as betting on the grain could make them lose money.

In line with the campaign promise of presumptive president Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. to bring down the price of rice if he wins, the incoming administration would do well to put in place the necessary measures to raise the country's rice self-sufficiency level. While global stocks remain ample, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization, the uncertainty caused by the war in Eastern Europe could drive up prices and result in price shocks. Officials of the incoming administration would do well to remember the lessons of the 2008 food crisis.

Increasing investments in research and development (R&D) cannot be emphasized enough given the threat posed by erratic weather patterns. The incoming administration can't err on making good another campaign promise of investing more in R&D, especially in agriculture. The Philippines has what it takes to take the lead in developing technological innovations that could help ensure food supply amid the adverse effects of the war in Ukraine and climate change. Investments in R&D would pave the way for the country to realize its potential.

The Philippines is not starting from scratch as it has the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund, which consists of tariffs collected from importers. However, the RCEF and other excess funds should be augmented to increase spending on R&D. We need to develop better rice varieties, and also improve mechanization, which is a crucial input for agricultural crop production. Changes in climate, pests, weeds, disease and increased carbon dioxide will reduce global food production. Crop yields are seen declining because of global warming. The business as usual practice in agencies responsible for food production is no longer acceptable amid the formidable challenge of feeding more than a hundred million Filipinos.



<https://www.bworldonline.com/infographics/2022/05/25/450414/how-does-the-philippines-compare-with-its-neighbors-in-mining-attractiveness/>

## How does the Philippines compare with its neighbors in mining attractiveness?

May 25, 2022 | 12:00 am

In the latest edition of the annual survey of mining and exploration companies by Canadian policy think tank Fraser Institute, the Philippines ranked 57th in the Investment Attractiveness Index out of 84 jurisdictions (provinces, states, and countries).

The survey assessed how mineral endowments and public policy factors such as taxation and regulatory uncertainty affect exploration investment.

The Investment Attractiveness Index identified jurisdictions that have the most attractive policies for encouraging investment in mining exploration.

It was a combination of a jurisdiction's geologic attractiveness (Best Practices Mineral Potential index) and policy climate (Policy Perception Index or PPI).

In terms of mineral potential, the Philippines placed 29th. However, it was of the least attractive jurisdictions based on PPI rankings (83rd).

The report said the uncertainty concerning environmental regulations, regulatory inconsistencies, legal system, taxation, disputed land claims, political instability, and security were all policy factors that deter investment in the Philippines.





## RTC awards damages to Marcopper survivors

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA  
@jonmayuga

A LOCAL court in Marinduque has ruled in favor of 30 individuals against the Marcopper Mining Corporation for a mine spill that wreaked havoc on a community on December 3, 1993 in what is dubbed to be the worst mining disasters to hit the country.

In a decision dated May 16, 2022, Judge Emmanuel Recalde of the Marinduque Regional Trial Court Branch 38 ordered Marcopper to pay each of the plaintiffs P200,000 in temperate damages and P100,000 in moral damages for the civil case filed in 2021. The court also ordered the mining company to pay P1 million as exemplary damages in favor of the plaintiffs.

The temperate damages had been paid per a memorandum agreement on July 16, 1994.

Environmental groups supporting the survivors of the 1993 Marcopper mining disaster issued a statement hailing what it considers as a landmark court decision.

"This is a victory for the plaintiffs who had waited two decades for justice as much as it is for the other plaintiffs who had unfortunately died in the course of this case. We celebrate this ruling and thank Judge Emmanuel Recalde for taking up [the] cudgels for the survivors and the environment," Elizabeth Manggol of the Marinduque Council for Environmental Concerns (MACEC) said in news statement.

In 1990, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ordered Marcopper to build a tailings dam below the Maguila-guila waste dump to prevent silt coming from the dumpsite to flow into the Moggpog River. The company constructed the dam, which was known as Maguila-guila Dam.

However, on December 6, 1993, because of typhoon "Monang," the

Maguila guila Dam was destroyed and the areas in Moggpog, Boac, and Sta. Cruz were inundated. Barangays Booboc and Magapua in Moggpog town were submerged in highly toxic floodwater causing extensive damages to property and agriculture.

"Large-scale mining projects present inevitable damage. The Marcopper disaster is a warning we should heed with the ongoing and planned large-scale projects in the country. The existing Mining Act is problematic. The alternative minerals management bill is urgently needed to safeguard the environment from mining and prevent disasters like this," Lawyer E.M. Taquehan, executive director of the Legal Rights and Natural Resources Center (LRC) said for his part.

LRC, a nongovernment organization that provides free legal services to communities entangled in resource rights issues, served as the legal counsel of the plaintiffs.

"This emblematic case should serve as a warning for communities who wish to embrace mining. Litigating mining-related cases like this celebrated case is a slow march to justice. Communities must think their decisions through for the impact of the environment can be irreversible. In the case of Marinduque, the river affected by the spill is all but dead. With this ruling, Judge Recalde has shown that environmental cases do have a fighting chance in our judicial system," Ryan Roset, director for legal services coordinator of LRC, said for his part.

Meanwhile, the court has not ruled on the prayer for the issuance of an order for the complete rehabilitation of the Moggpog River pending another petition before a higher court.

Likewise, the court did not rule on the total closure and removal of the Marcopper dumps under the same justification and considering the fact that the government has already ordered the cessation of all the operations of Marcopper.



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# COURT FINDS MARCOPPER LIABLE FOR 1993 DISASTER

By **Francis Mangosing**  
and **Mayda Lagran**  
@Team\_Inquirer

Environmental groups on Tuesday hailed a landmark court decision to award damages to complainants in a mining disaster in Marinduque nearly three decades ago and after 21 years of a legal battle with Marcopper Mining Corp.

Judge Emmanuel Recalde of

Branch 38 of the Marinduque Regional Trial Court has ordered Marcopper to pay damages to at least 30 plaintiffs in a case filed in 2001, after the siltation dam of Marcopper collapsed on Dec. 6, 1993, and flooded the villages of Doctoc and Magopus in Mogpog, Marinduque, causing extensive damage to properties and agriculture.

The plaintiffs accused Marcopper of negligent acts that

resulted in the breach of the Magula-gula Dam and the flooding of the Mogpog River with silt water at the height of Typhoon "Morang" (international name: Lola).

On March 24, 1996, or three years after the Magula-gula Dam incident, a plug in a drain-age tunnel at Marcopper's Tala-pat Pit failed, releasing about 200 million tons of toxic mine tailings into the Masulapit

and Boac rivers. At least 30 people died from heavy metal contamination caused by the mine wastes. The spill, which also left the Boac River virtually dead, is considered the country's worst industrial pollution disaster.

In a decision dated May 10, the Marinduque court found Marcopper liable for damages by reason of negligence in the operation and maintenance of the Magula-gula Dam. But in

view of the absence of any documentary evidence in support of the actual loss or damage suffered by plaintiffs, the court awarded only temperate damages.

It was also established that Marcopper was negligent in the performance of its duty to conscientiously operate and maintain the dam that led to the oversaturation of the facility, causing it to breach, thereby

spilling floodwater containing silt into the Mogpog River to the damage and prejudice of the plaintiffs, the decision read.

It said it only took less than a year for the facility to be overwhelmed with silt and sediment "to the point that it could not perform its supposed function."

"With Marcopper's capability and all the resources it had, it could have easily

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WED. Court finds Marcopper...

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# Marinduque residents: Finally, justice after long wait

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abated the incident had it consistently inspected the Magula-gulla Dam," it pointed out.

Marcopper was ordered to pay P200,000 as temperate damages, P100,000 moral damages, and P1 million as exemplary damages to at least 30 plaintiffs.

The temperate damages had been paid as per a memorandum agreement in 1994, according to the Legal Rights and Natural Resources Center (LRC), a nongovernmental organization which pursued the case and served as legal counsel of the complainants.

### Justice prevails

The court said it would not rule on the prayer for the issuance of an order for the complete rehabilitation of the Mogpog River as this is contained in another petition pending before the higher court.

It added that it would also not rule on the total closure and removal of the Marcopper dumps, under the same justification and that the government

had already ordered a stop to all operations of Marcopper.

"This is a victory for the plaintiffs who had waited two decades for justice as much as it is for the other plaintiffs who had unfortunately died in the course of this case," said Elizabeth Manggel, executive director of the Marinduque Council for Environmental Concerns (Macec).

Manggel said in a phone interview on Tuesday that they felt a bit of relief but were also anticipating the other camp to appeal the decision. Macec and lawyers of LRC provided their service in locating and profiling victims, and giving them legal, technical and even financial assistance for the case against Marcopper.

Manggel said one of their leaders and a plaintiff in the case, Mila Michi from Barangay Booboc, Mogpog, was overjoyed and in tears when she learned of the court ruling.

"They did not leave us, even though we couldn't pay them," Michi said in a separate interview on Tuesday of the lawyers who assisted them in the fight against the mining company.

Manggel said they wel-



**IRREVERSIBLE** The mined Mt. Tapian and Marcopper open pit look refreshing in this Dec. 22, 2010, photo, but the damage wrought by the collapse of the firm's siltation dam on the community on Dec. 6, 1993, was irreversible. —INQUIRER FILE PHOTO

comed the decision of the court but felt sad that the rehabilitation of the Mogpog River was not included in it.

The Marcopper disaster should serve as a warning for communities who wish to embrace mining, said lawyer Ryan Roset, direct legal services coordinator of LRC.

"Litigating mining-related cases like this celebrated case is a slow march to justice. Com-

munities must think their decisions through for the impact of the environment can be irreversible. In the case of Marinduque, the river affected by the spill is all but dead," he said.

Alyansa Tigil Mina said that while the decision took decades, it sends an encouraging signal to communities badly affected by mining.

For Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment, the

Marcopper disaster is "a cautionary tale on how the Mining Act of 1995 and related policies have been lacking teeth and biased toward big businesses and their political sponsors."

### Reminder to miners

In a statement, the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (COMP) said the Marinduque court's ruling against Marcopper serves as a reminder that the safety of the people living in mining sites is of greatest importance.

"The incident is a constant reminder to miners all over the world that the safety of all stakeholders in host mining communities is paramount. It underscores that extreme consequences to people and the environment from catastrophic tailings facility failures are unacceptable," said COMP in a statement.

COMP expressed its gratitude for the enactment of new laws after the Marcopper mining disaster took place, which it said led to the establishment of a mandatory environmental guarantee fund mechanism known collectively as the Contingent Li-

ability and Rehabilitation Fund.

Some of the plaintiffs in the case had developed skin rashes that later became wounds or unknown skin disease on their feet, which they believed they got from regularly crossing the poisoned river.

Residents of Mogpog filed a civil case against Marcopper in 2000 and hearings at the regional trial court of Marinduque began in September 2002.

The Marinduque government had also filed a \$20-million class suit against Marcopper in 2005, only to see the case thrown out by a court in the United States for reasons of technicality after almost 10 years of court proceedings.

In 2014, Barrick Gold Corp., the company that absorbed Marcopper's operator Placer Dome, offered a \$20-million settlement, but the Marinduque provincial board turned it down after it felt that the amount was not enough to compensate for the environmental damage wrought by the mining disaster on the island. —WITH REPORTS FROM JORDENE B. LAGARE AND IN-

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## ORA MISMO

NI BUTCH M. QUEJADA



### Marcopper court decision

SALUDO ang environmental activist group na Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment (Kalikasan PNE) sa tagumpay ng mga taga-Marinduque sa mekasaysayang desisyon ng korte na magbigay ng danycs sa mga nakaligtas sa kalamidad sa Marcopper.

Sabi nga, palakpakan!

Mahigit sa dalawang dekada sa peggawa, ang landmark na kaso ay isang babala tungkol sa kung paano ang Mining Act of 1995 at mga kaugnay na patakaran ay kulang sa ngipin at may kinikilingan sa malalaking negosyo at sa kanilang mga political sponsor.

Sabi ng mga asset ng mga kuwago ng ORA MISMO, isa itong akusasyon sa ating kasalukuyang rehimeng patakaran sa pagmimina dahil ito ay pagdiriwang ng determinasyon at kagustuhan ng mamamayan na panagutin ang malaking pagmimina.

Ika nga, dapat pa rin tayong manatiling mapagbantay dahil nalamang na mauubos ng mga nasasakdal ng kaso ang lahat ng mga legal na remedyo para mabaliktad ang desisyong ito.

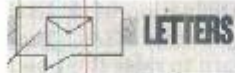
Ayon sa mga asset ng mga kuwago ng ORA MISMO, Ang mga aquatic ecosystem ng ilog Mogpog ay nananatiling desolated ng kalamidad sa pagmimina hanggang sa kasalukuyan, at maaari nating asahan ang mas pangmatagalang sakuna sa pagmimina tulad nito kung ang ating mga patakaran at pamamahala sa pamamahala ng mineral ay hindi marereporma.

Nananawagan kami sa mga mamamayan na maging matatag at mapagbantay sa mga pagtatangang balik-tarin ang legal na tagumpay na ito.

Ang sigaw ng mga asset ng mga kuwago ng ORA MISMO, dapat nating ipagpatuloy ang paghingi ng buong rehabilitasyon sa mga lugar na apektado ng Marcopper.

Ano sa palagay ninyo?

Abangan.



## APPEAL TO DUTERTE: ADDRESS SINGLE-USE PLASTICS REGULATION BEFORE TERM ENDS

WITH only a few weeks left before the end of President Duterte's term, let's take a look back at the timeline of this administration's efforts to regulate single-use plastics.

**2019:** Mr. Duterte warmed up to the idea of a plastic ban. One hundred eighteen representatives authored regulations on single-use plastic in the House of Representatives from 2019 to 2021. Seven senators authored regulations on single-use plastic in the Senate.

**2020:** The National Solid Waste Management Commission released NSWMC Resolution No. 1363 (S. 2020), a resolution directing the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to ban unnecessary single-use plastic in government-controlled offices. A bill on extended producers responsibility (EPR) was filed in the Senate.

**2021:** The NSWMC released NSWMC RN 1428 (S. 2021) a resolution declaring

plastic (a) soft drink straw and (b) stirrer as nonenvironmentally acceptable products and packaging (NEAPP). House Bill No. 9147 or Single-Use Plastic Products Regulation Act was passed by the House. Three bills on EPR were filed in the House. Separate bills on EPR and single-use plastic were filed in the Senate. HB 10696, which institutionalizes the practice of EPR on plastic products and amends Republic Act No. 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, was passed on third reading.

The Senate consolidated bills on single-use plastic and EPR through Senate Bill No. 2425, which was passed on third reading. During the high-level segment of the United Nations Conference of the Parties, Finance Secretary and Climate Change Commission chair Carlos G. Dominguez III "urged the Filipino people to do their part

on a daily basis in saving the world's environment" and stated that the administration is "pushing for a law banning single-use plastics."

In September 2021, the guidelines on the phasing out of NEAPP were included in the agenda of the NSWMC's en banc meeting. To date, however, the NSWMC still hasn't released guidelines on phasing out these materials. Notably, RA 9003 prohibits the manufacture, distribution or use, and importation of NEAPP.

The 18th Congress is set to discuss the EPR bills. We note, however, that the current versions of the bill are problematic. The bills do not truly address the plastic and climate crisis. Environmental groups submitted a position paper to the 18th Congress, emphasizing that without concrete plans and policies on banning single-use plastic, EPR will not lessen plastic waste. Even countries with institutionalized EPR schemes

are still struggling with the volume of waste. Moreover, the bill also fails to emphasize waste reduction and minimization at source as required by the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act.

To date, there is no concrete plan or policy on a just transition to minimize and phase out single-use plastic. Clearly, addressing single-use plastic has not been a priority of the administration. Plastic fuels the climate crisis and this lack of urgency just adds to the worsening condition of our environment.

The EcoWaste Coalition calls on Mr. Duterte to immediately act to regulate and/or ban single-use plastics. As his term ends, we call on the President to be mindful of the legacy he will leave on serious environmental issues.

COLEEN SALAMAT,  
plastic solutions campaigner,  
EcoWaste Coalition



## Editorial

### The pros and cons of reclamation

**I**f one visits Dumaguete City, one is likely to notice campaign-style banners posted here and there among the leftovers from the recent elections bearing the terse message, "No to 174." The signs are evidence of a most remarkable public campaign, a well-organized, popular and evidently successful resistance to a proposed reclamation project that would bury 174 hectares of Dumaguete's waterfront under a P23-billion upscale "smart city" development.

The project was an unsolicited proposal to the city by the Quezon City-based construction firm E.M. Cuerpo Inc. in mid-2021, and was enthusiastically embraced by Dumaguete City Mayor Felipe Antonio Remollo. Remollo prevailed upon the city council to pass a resolution authorizing him to sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the firm for development of the project.

The move set off a firestorm of protest among the public, business groups, environmental advocates and even some government agencies. By September, Mayor Remollo was under such pressure that he "suspended" the MoU, ostensibly to seek a fresh mandate for it in the election. While he was easily reelected for a third term, the endorsement he was hoping to receive to continue with the controversial development was withheld with a vengeance: seven city council seats, a clear majority, went to candidates who had organized themselves to run on a specific platform of preventing the "174." The project is now considered dead, at least for the foreseeable future, and as that was the clear wish of a

majority of the citizens of Dumaguete, that is as it should be.

*There are uses for reclamation, and areas where it can be done in such a way that environmental and social consequences can be avoided or adequately mitigated. And there are places where reclamation should be avoided.*

Reclamation, like mining, is fraught with controversy here in the Philippines. Like mining, discussions about reclamation often suffer from being subject to absolutes in points of view: that is, it is either considered completely bad and should never be allowed, or that not allowing it is wrong and unfairly retards economic growth.

It is exceedingly rare for either extreme in perspective to be completely correct, yet they are the two perspectives most often adopted, which makes disputes over proposed reclamation projects unproductive and unlikely to lead to rational and beneficial solutions. There are uses for reclamation, and areas where it can be done in such a way that environmental and social consequences can be avoided or adequately mitigated. And there are places where reclamation should be avoided. From our perspective, the New Manila International Airport project in Bulacan, despite resistance to the project from some quarters, is an example of the former; the aborted Dumaguete project is an example of the latter.

There should be three questions asked and decisively answered when any reclamation project is proposed. First, is there a compelling economic and social need for the project, or does it offer economic and social opportunities that are so compelling that they cannot be ignored? Second, is reclamation the best or only option for meeting that need or providing those opportunities? And finally, does the project have the clear support of the community or communities that will be directly affected by it?

If the answer to all of these questions is an unarguable yes, then reclamation is likely a good idea, provided of course that environmental impacts and the impact on any populations that may be displaced from their homes or livelihoods are thoroughly addressed from the outset. If any of those questions has a negative answer, then reclamation should be prohibited.

In the case of Dumaguete, for example, the proposed project would have extended into a marine protected area, and for this and other reasons it was overwhelmingly rejected by the community. In the case of the new airport, which is critically needed, placing it on reclaimed land is the most practical solution, and while there are some disruptions to the local environment and community, these have been appropriately addressed. Not everyone is happy with it, but the balance of public opinion clearly favors the project, so it should proceed. These examples both for and against reclamation should serve as guidance to planners and policymakers when new projects are presented for consideration.



## NAGSIMULA NA ANG PANAHOH NG TAG-ULAN

OPISYAL nang idineklara ng Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) na nagsimula na ang "Panaohon ng Tag-ulan" sa bansa kaya naman tuwing hapon silmula nang matapos ang Eleksyon 2022 ay panaypanay na ang pag-ulan.

Parang naging mabilis ang pagdaan ng summer, naging abala kasi layo sa mga kaganapan sa katatapos na national and local elections.

At isa na ring dahilan ay hindi naman layo kinapos sa suplay ng tubig. Kaya maraming salamat sa National

Water Resources Board sa Metropolitan Water Works and Sewerage System at sa water concessionaires na Manila Water at Maynilad Water.

Ayon kay Dr. Scvillo David, Jr. Executive Director ng NWRB, ang lebel ng tubig sa Angat Dam ay mahigit sa minimum operating level na 180 meters, ngunit, mababa pa kung ikukumpara sa normal high-water level (NHWL) na 210 meters, malayo sa end of the year target na 212 meters.

Base sa ulat ng Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) noong May 23, 2022 ang dam ele-



vation, bumaba ang lebel ng tubig ng Angat dam sa 190.83 meters, tumaaas sa Ipo Dam sa 100.17 at 79.04 meteps sa La Mesa Dam. Alam n'yo ba na ang tubig ulan ay libre mula sa mga pollutants at maging sa salt, minerals at iba pang natural o man-made contaminants. Puwedeng inumin ang tubig na ito basta lamang pakakulan para makasigurado.

May payo si Dr. David, sa mga tahanan at industriya, dapat samantalahin ang ma-

lalakas na pag-ulan sa pamamagitan ng pag-impok nito sa proseso ng "Rain Harvesting" kung saan ang tubig ulan ay kinukolekta at puwedeng gamitin sa ingasyon, sa mga malalaking industriya at maging sa mga tahanan.

Gawing alternatibong paraan ang naipon tubig ulan sa paglilinis ng bahay, sa pagdidilig ng mga pananim, pangbarilaw ng mga damit na nabahan, panghugas, pambuhô sa banyo at iba pa.



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## EcoWaste alerts Laguna gov on sale of mercury-laced cosmetics

**By Joel dela Torre**

**THE EcoWaste Coalition has alerted re-elected Laguna Gov. Ramil Hernandez about the unlawful sale of mercury-containing cosmetics in the province to protect his constituents and the environment.**

In a letter, the zero waste advocacy group urged Hernandez to stop the illicit trade of banned skin whitening products recently found in eight localities in Laguna.

The items, according to the coalition, contain highly-toxic mercury, a chemical prohibited in cosmetic products such as skin lightening creams, lotions and soaps.

"This is a brazen violation of a globally-agreed phase-out by 2020 of cosmetics such as skin-whitening products with mercury content above one part per million under the Minamata Convention on Mercury," said EcoWaste Coalition national coordinator Aileen Lucero.

The toxic alert came on the heels of the group's latest test buy operations that netted 22 mercury-laced skin whitening creams sold by cosmetic dealers in the municipalities of Los Baños and Sta. Cruz and the cities of

Biñan, Cabuyao, Calamba, San Pablo, San Pedro and Sta. Rosa.

In test buys conducted on May 20 and 21, the group obtained 22 Gemli, Goree, Jiaoli, Miftori and S'Zitang skincare products illegally imported from China and Pakistan and sold locally at beauty and herbal product stores for P100 to P300 each.

The group said these products are among the over 150 skin whitening cosmetics banned by the Food and Drug Administration for lacking market authorization and/or for containing mercury above the maximum limit of 1 ppm as per the ASEAN Cosmetic Directive and the Minamata Convention.

Using a portable Olympus Vanta M Series X-Ray Fluorescence (XRF) analyzer, the group detected mercury above the 1 ppm limit in all the 22 samples. The 13 Goree products, in particular, were found to contain extremely high levels of mercury from 26,340 to 29,370 ppm.

According to the World Health Organization, mercury use in cosmetic products can have adverse effects, including skin rashes, discoloration and scarring, and can reduce skin's resistance to bacterial and mycotic disorders.



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## Nuke energy inaasahang susulong ng next admin

**UMAASA** si Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte na i-explora ng susunod na administrasyon ang nuclear energy bilang alternative energy source sa Pilipinas.

Sa kanyang Talk to the People, Lunes ng gabí, sinabi ni Pangulong Duterte na kailangang pag-aralan ng susunod na administrasyon ang nuclear power dahil ang Pilipinas, naka-depende sa imported crude oil, ay "vulnerable" sa epekto ng nagpapatuloy na gilyera sa pagitan ng Rusya at Ukraine.

"I hope that the next administration would at least explore how the possibility of itong nuclear... Tutal ang nagumpisa nito noon si Marcos. Nagpagawa siya ng nuclear plant," ayon kay Pangulong Duterte.

Tinukoy ni Pangulong

Duterte ang kontrobersyal na Bataan Nuclear Power Plant sa Morong, Bataan, isang proyekto ni dating Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos Sr. na hindi nagamit dahil sa "safety and corruption issues."

"You know oil is not infinite, may katapusan 'yan. Someday it will dry up, it will be good for any government to prepare the possibility of making the transition from oil, yung fossil fuel, to nuclear," dagdag na pahayag niya.

Gayunman, hindi naman lingid sa kaalaman ni Pangulong Duterte na ang muling pagbuhay sa BNPP ay maaaring "spell trouble" gaya ng 1986 explosion at sunog sa Chernobyl nuclear power plant sa Ukraine na naglabas o sumuka ng malaking dami ng radioactive material sa kapaligiran.

"Kaya lang medyo delikado 'to. You know kagaya ng sa Chernobyl ng Ukraine nagkaroon ng leak and so there was this radiation. Mabuti na lang all nations contributed to the control or fixing the Chernobyl including Russia, which is now attacking Ukraine," ayon sa Punong Ehekutibo.

Matatandaang, nilagdaan ni Pangulong Duterte ang isang executive order na nag-aatas na pag-aralan ang pag-sasama ng nuclear power sa ginagamit na enerhiya sa bansa.

Sa EO 164 na nilagdaan ni Duterte, nais nito na magkaroon ng pambansang posisyon para sa Nuclear Energy Program na magiging daan sa pag-unlad ng bansa at malibigay sa mga mamamayan ang tunay na serbisyo.

Inatasan ni Duterte ang Nuclear Energy Program-Inter Agency Committee na gumawa ng rekomendasyon at palewakin pa ang pag-aaral

kung maaari pang gamitin ang Bataan Nuclear Power Plant at maging daan ito sa pagtatayo ng iba pang pasilidad para sa paggamit ng nuclear energy.

Nakasaad din sa EO na ang nuclear power ang posibleng maging solusyon sa tumataas na pangangailangan sa suplay ng enerhiya kung saan ikokonsidera ang mga natutunan sa nakaraan at maging ang mga sinusunod na regulatory frameworks at best practices sa ibang bansa.

Ayon pa sa EO, titiyakin ng estado ang tahimik na paggamit ng nuclear technology kung saan ikokonsidera ang kaligtasan ng publiko, national security, energy self-sufficiency at maging ang pangangailaga sa kalikasan.

Nauna rito, tahasang sinabini presumptive President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. na plano niyang buhayin ang Bataan Nuclear

Power Plant na ipinatayo ng namayapa niyang ama.

Sinabi ni Marcos Jr. nitong Lunes na kailangang maging handa ang Pilipinas sa mataas na power supply. "If we are going to industrialize post-pandemic."

"Napag-usapan namin ng South Korean ambassador 'yung offer nila at 'yung nakapunta na rito 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," saad ng incoming president matapos ang pulong sa ambassador ng South Korea.

"Binuhay namin din ang diskusyon na 'yun. Although they have come before, we will now study their recommendation, their findings and we will see if we can still apply," dagdag pa niya.

KRIS JOSE



# DIGONG SA MARCOS ADMIN: NUCLEAR ENERGY TUTUKAN

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**2**



## Digong sa Marcos admin: Nuclear energy tutukan

**U**maasa si Pangu-  
long Rodrigo Roa  
Duterte na itutuloy  
ni presumptive President  
Ferdinand "Bongbong"  
Marcos Jr., ang nuclear  
energy bilang alternative

energy source sa Pilipinas  
na sinumulan ng ama nito  
na si dating Pangulong  
Ferdinand Marcos, pero  
hindi natuloy.  
Ayon kay Duterte si  
Marcos naman ang nag-

pagawa ng nuclear power  
plant sa Bataan kaya dapat  
tingnan nang susunod na  
administrasyon ang pag-  
gamit nito.  
Ipinunto ni Duterte na  
maubos ang langis sa

**NI MALOU  
ESCUDERO**  
hinaharap kaya dapat pag-  
isipan ang paggamit ng  
nuclear energy.  
Binanggit ni Duterte  
na "forever" ang nuclear

energy bagaman at delika-  
do katulad nang nangyari  
sa Chernobyl ng Ukraine.  
"It would be good for  
any government to prepare  
the possibility of making  
the transition earlier from

oil 'yung fossil fuel to  
nuclear kasi ang nuclear is  
forever. Kaya lang medyo  
ma — delikado 'to. You  
know kapaya ng sa Cherno-  
byl ng Ukraine nagkaroon  
ng leak and so there was

this radiation," ani Duterte.  
Binanggit din ni Du-  
terte na patuloy ang pag-  
mahal ng presyo ng langis  
dahil wala nito sa Pilipinas  
at kailangan pang mag-  
import sa ibang bansa.





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## MAGHANDA VS KALAMIDAD

**TAG-ULAN** na at tagbagyo, tagbaha at tag-landslide na muli.

Ngayon pa lang ay dapat nang nakahanda ang lahat ng pamahalaang lokal hanggang nasyunal laban sa kalamidad at ang mga mamamayan.

### PAGHAHANDA NG PAMAHALAAN

Isa sa mga dapat ihanda sa parte ng mga pamahalaang barangay, pamahalaang bayan, pamahalaang lungsod at pamahalaang panlalawigan ang kanilang mga calamity fund.

Mayroon ding mga pangkalamidad na pondo ang mismong Office of the President habang may nakalaang pondo rin laban sa kalamidad ang iba't ibang pambansang departamento, kabilang na ang pulisya at militar.

Siyempre pa, nariryan din ang problema sa pagbabakwit ng mga tatamaan ng bangis ng masamang panahon at kalikasan na dapat tugunan at hindi lang pondong pangkalamidad ang kailangan.

Nasa kamay rin ng pamahalaan ang programang pagbabakwit tungo sa mga vacation center, kabilang na ang mga eskwelahan, iba pang mga ligtas na lugar.

Ang mga makinarya, bangka, eroplano, barko at iba pa para sa pagliligtas, paghatid ng ayuda, pagsagip sa mga nasa panganib ay dapat na ring nakahanda.

Ispesyal na bibigyan din ng pamahalaan ng kagyang na atensyon ang problema sa gutom, sakit at iba pang nakasisira sa katawan ng tao at pag-iisip. Kasama na rin ang mga mawawasakan ng mga tahenan na matagal bago magawa at mga gamit-produksyon gaya ng mga para sa mga mag-sasaka, mangingisda at manggagawa.

Mandato rin ng pamahalaan ang pagtlyak ng pagbabalik ng mga kuryente at internet na karaniwang nawawasak o napuputol makaraang ang isang malakas na bagyo o siyam-siyam na ulan na nagdudulot ng grabeng pagbaha, landslide, storm surge at tsunami.

Ang pangontra sa posibleng pagleganap ng pandemya ay dapat ding ihanda ng mga awtoridad lalo't alam natin kung paano sumira ito ng kalusugan at buhay.

### PAGHAHANDA NG MGA MAMAMAYAN

Dumarami ang mga pagkakataon na nasasabi ng mga mamamayan na "ngayon lang ito nangyan" sa amin.

Karugtong ito ng karaniwang nang nagaganap ngunit inaasahang pangyayari.

Batay sa karanasan, dapat alam na ng mga mamamayan ang kanilang mga gagawin sa pagdating ng mga storm surge at tsunami at karaniwang nagaganap sa mga nakatira sa mga dalampasigan o tabing dagat na isang danger zone.

Gayundin na alam na ang mangyayari ng mga nakatira naman sa iba pang mga danger zone gaya ng mga nasa tabingilog at gilid ng bundok dahil nariryan ang mga matitinding baha at landslide.

Karaniwan namang natalamean ng mga hepi't ng malalakas na bagyo ang mga nasa walang nakapaligid na kabundukan at ang mga nasa ibabaw ng mataas na lugar at dito nawawasak ang mga kabehayan. Dapat na ring paghandaan ang mga baha ng mga nakatira sa mga lugar na mauunlad na halos pawang mga sementado ang paligid at napaliligiran ng mga kalibong kabundukan.

Wala nang lupa na sisipsip sa mga tubig-baha.

Ang siyam-siyam, matagalan at napakalalakas na bagyo o ulan ay nagdudulot ng lahat ng kalamidad at dito nagaganap ang mga pangyayaring sinasabing mayaman at mahirap ay nagiging biktima at danger zone na ang lahat ng lugar.

Pinakamainam na paghanda laban sa kalamidad ang mahigpit na ugnayan, pagkakaisa, pagtutulungan at iba pa ng pamahalaan at mga mamamayan.

Anomang reklamo o puna, iparating lang sa [www.remate.ph](http://www.remate.ph) o i-text sa 0921-4303333.



## South Asia heat wave a 'sign of things to come'

**NEW DELHI:** The devastating heat wave that has baked India and Pakistan in recent months was made more likely by climate change and offers a glimpse of the region's future, international scientists said in a study released on Monday.

The World Weather Attribution group analyzed historical weather data that suggested early, long heat waves that impact a massive geographical area are rare, once-a-century events. But the current level of global warming, caused by human-caused climate change, has made those heat waves 30 times more likely.

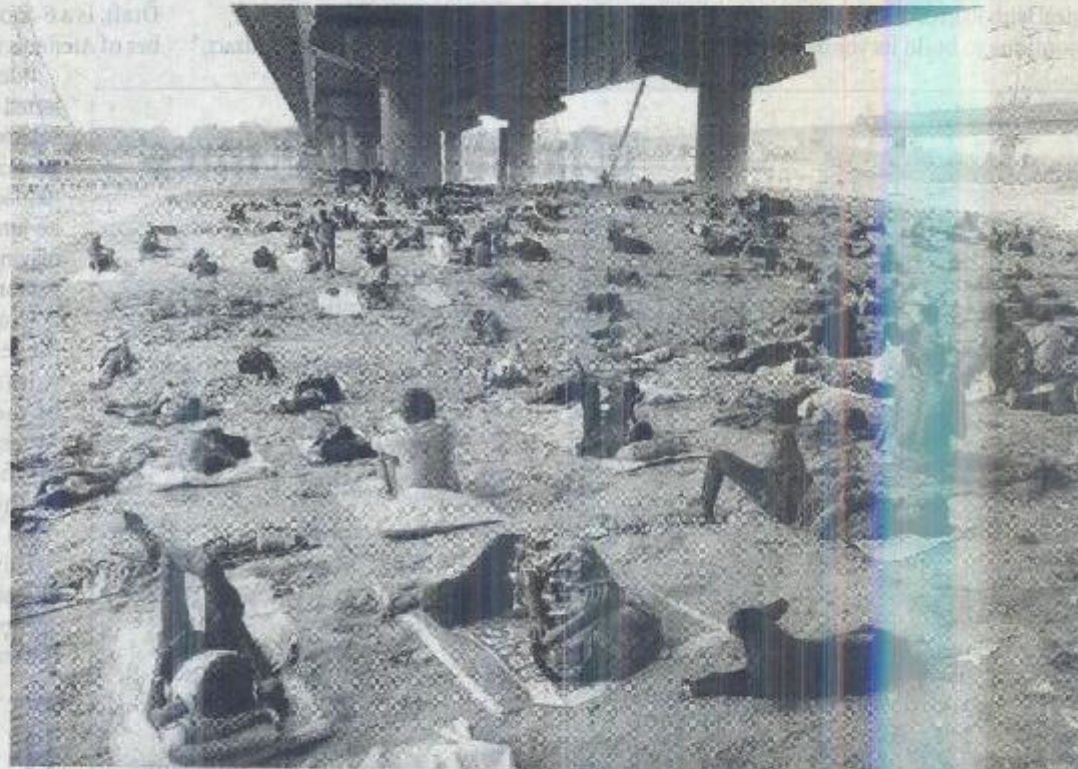
If global heating increases to 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) more than pre-industrial levels, then heat waves like this could occur twice in a century and up to once every five years, said Arpita Mondal, a climate scientist at the Indian Institute of Technology in Mumbai, who was part of the study.

"This is a sign of things to come," Mondal added.

The results are conservative; an analysis published last week by the United Kingdom's Meteorological Office said the heat wave was probably made 100 times more likely by climate change, with such scorching temperatures likely to reoccur every three years.

The World Weather Attribution analysis is different, as it is trying to calculate how specific aspects of the heat wave, such as the length and the region impacted, were made more likely by global warming.

"The real result is probably somewhere between ours and the (UK) Met Office result for how much climate change increased



**HOT AND HOMELESS** This May 20, 2022 photo shows homeless people sleeping in the shade of an overbridge to beat the heat wave in New Delhi. AP PHOTO

this event," said Friederike Otto, a climate scientist at the Imperial College of London, who was also a part of the study.

What is certain, though, is the devastation the heat wave has wreaked. India sweltered through the hottest March in the country since records began in 1901 and April was the warmest on record in Pakistan and parts of India.

The effects have been cascading and widespread: a glacier burst in Pakistan, sending floods downstream; the early heat scorched wheat crops in India, forcing it to ban exports to nations reeling from

food shortages due to Russia's war in Ukraine. It also resulted in an early spike in electricity demand in India that depleted coal reserves, resulting in acute power shortages affecting millions.

Then there is the impact on human health. At least 90 people have died in the two nations, but the region's insufficient death registration means that this is likely an undercount.

South Asia is the most affected by heat stress, according to an Associated Press (AP) analysis of a dataset published by Columbia University's climate school. India alone is home


to more than a third of the world's population that lives in areas where extreme heat is rising.

Experts agree the heat wave underscores the need for the world to not only combat climate change by cutting down greenhouse gas emissions, but also adapt to its harmful impacts as quickly as possible. Children and the elderly are most at risk from heat stress, but its impact is also inordinately bigger for the poor who may not have access to cooling or water and often live in crowded slums that are hotter than leafier, wealthier neighborhoods.



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 Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

### SALE OF PUBLIC LANDS

Notice is hereby given that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources National Capital Region, Forest and Park Service, LSPD, in accordance to Administrative Order No. 28 dated 30 April 1990, will sell at **PUBLIC AUCTION, Forest and Park Service, National Capital Region, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City**, through sealed bidding, at the highest bidder at 10:00 A.M. on **Thursday, May 25, 2022**, the lots of land situated in **Site: Pulong Bagan near Fort San Juan, Tandang Sora** which are specifically described below to wit:

APPLICABLE NUMBER	SECTION	LOT NO. AS SHOWN ON MAP	AREA IN SQ. M.	APPROXIMATE VALUE IN PHP	FEASIBLE CLASS	TOTAL VALUE ESTIMATED
SPCA/19/2017	MELMORAL MATRELA	Lot 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100	11,000	8,000,000	PL-10	8,000,000

All bids must be sealed and submitted to the aforementioned Division, on or before the hour and date stated above and clearly marked "Bids for Land Described in SPAN/19/2017". Bids must be accompanied with cash, money order, treasury warrant, certified check, cashier's check or money order or a bank check for a sum equivalent to 10% of the bid. There is no withdrawal of the highest bidder is determined, the corresponding amount thereof shall be refunded to the bidder. No bid shall be considered if the amount of the bid is less than the amount stated in the notice.

Quoted City, Philippines

*[Signature]*  
ATTY. ALVIN B. BAYAN, CONSULTANT  
Chief, Forest and Park Division



Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
**NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES BOARD**  
8th Floor NIA Bldg., EDSA, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines, 1100

**AVIDA TOWERS VERTE BGC  
CONDOMINIUM CORPORATION,**  
Applicant.

Case No. 22-3318

X-----X

### NOTICE OF HEARING

This is an application for Certificate of Public Convenience to operate and maintain a waterworks system within Avida Towers Verte BGC Condominium, Barangay Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, Metro Manila, with the following proposed rates:

#### PROPOSED TARIFF

Residential and Institutional

Pipe Size	0-5 m3 (m <sup>3</sup> )	6-10 m3	11-20 m3	21-30 m3	31-40 m3	Over 40 m3
12"	P 569.00	142.30	170.70	199.20	227.70	341.50

This application will be initially heard by the Board on **13 June 2022**. The hearing will start at 9:00 o'clock in the morning at the NWRB-WJD Conference Room, 8th Floor, NIA Building, EDSA, Quezon City, at which time applicant shall present its evidence.

At least fifteen (15) days prior to the scheduled hearing, applicant shall publish this notice once in a newspaper of general circulation in Metro Manila and serve by personal delivery or registered mail a copy of the (i) application and its attachments, and (ii) this notice, to all affected parties appearing on page 2 hereof.

Parties opposed to the granting of the application must file their written opposition supported by documentary evidence on or before the above scheduled date of hearing, furnishing a copy of the same to the applicant.

Failure on the part of any person affected to file its opposition on time and to appear at the hearing will be construed as a waiver of their right to be heard. The Board will proceed to hear and decide the application based on the evidence submitted.

Likewise, failure by the applicant to appear at the hearing shall amount to lack of interest on its part and the instant application shall be dismissed accordingly.

Witness the Honorable Executive Director of the National Water Resources Board this 26th day of April 2022.

By Authority of the Board:

(Sgd.) **DR. SEVILLO D. DAVID, JR., CESO III**  
Executive Director

**Affected Parties:**

The Secretary  
Sangguniang Panlungsod  
Taguig City, Metro Manila

The Barangay Chairman  
Barangay Fort Bonifacio  
Taguig City, Metro Manila

The Homeowners Assn. President  
Avida Towers Verte BGC Condominium  
Barangay Fort Bonifacio  
Taguig City, Metro Manila

The Administrator  
Metropolitan Waterworks & Sewerage System  
MWSS Compound, Katipunan Road  
Balara, Quezon City

(PDI - May 25, 2022)



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Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
**NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES BOARD**  
6th Floor NIA Bldg., EDSA, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines, 1100

**AVIDA TOWERS BGC 34TH STREET  
CONDOMINIUM CORPORATION,**  
Applicant.

Case No. 22-3319

x-----x

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

This is an application for Certificate of Public Convenience to operate and maintain a waterworks system within Avida Towers BGC 34th Street Condominium, Barangay Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, Metro Manila, with the following proposed rates:

**PROPOSED TARIFF**

Residential and Institutional

Pipe Size	0-5 m3 (mm)	6-10 m3	11-20 m3	21-30 m3	31-40 m3	Over 40 m3
1/2"	P540.00	135.00	162.00	189.00	215.90	323.90

This application will be initially heard by the Board on 13 June 2022. The hearing will start at 9:00 o'clock in the morning at the NWRE-WUD Conference Room, 6th Floor, NIA Building, EDSA, Quezon City, at which time applicant shall present its evidence.

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Taguig City, Metro Manila

The Homeowners Assn. President  
Avida Towers BGC 34th St Condominium  
Barangay Fort Bonifacio  
Taguig City, Metro Manila

The Administrator  
Metropolitan Waterworks & Sewerage System  
MWSS Compound, Katipunan Road  
Balara, Quezon City

(PDI - May 26, 2022)

**NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES BOARD**  
6th Floor NIA Bldg., EDSA, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines, 1100

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The Administrator  
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MWSS Compound, Katipunan Road  
Balara, Quezon City

(PDI - May 26, 2022)

25 MAY 2022, WEDNESDAY



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

## **COVID-19 NEWS**

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



# Metro Manila's COVID-19 reproduction number up

[Michael Punongbayan](#) - The Philippine Star May 25, 2022 | 12:00am



Commuters queue to board a bus at the EDSA Bus Carousel at Ortigas EDSA Station as MRT-3.  
The STAR / Walter Bollozos

MANILA, Philippines — Metro Manila's COVID-19 reproduction number slightly increased from one to 1.05, the OCTA Research Group reported yesterday.

However, the independent research group that has been monitoring the pandemic in the country said there is no reason to be alarmed.

OCTA fellow Guido David said Metro Manila, despite the increase, remains under the low risk category as of May 20.

"Based on current data, the worst-case scenario we see over the next few weeks is a weak surge in COVID-19 cases," he said, sharing a graph showing the trend.

OCTA Research said that a reproduction number above one does not necessarily mean cases will surge.

The last two times the reproduction number increased to more than one were on Dec. 24, 2021 and July 15, 2021, during the start of the Omicron and Delta surges, respectively.

Currently, Metro Manila's average daily attack rate or ADAR remains very low at 0.52 as of May 23 while the daily positivity rate was at 1.2 percent over an average of 11,319 tests per day.

OCTA Research said hospital care utilization for COVID-19 is at 21 percent, which means that overall, the National Capital Region remained at low risk.

## Active cases up anew in Malabon

Almost a week after recording only one active case, the Malabon City government reported three active cases as of Monday.

Two of the patients were vaccinated while one is unvaccinated.

Malabon has recorded 25,456 confirmed COVID cases with 728 deaths and 24,725 recoveries.

The city government also reported that 100.9 percent – or 323,506 out of the target 320,610 residents – were given the first dose of COVID vaccines while 305,402 residents or 95.3 percent completed their required doses.



Also, 75,594 residents received the first booster shots while 1,117 others received their second booster doses.

In Manila, the city government reported that as of Monday, 9,051 residents received the second booster dose.

The city government also said more than 1.7 million people or over 100 percent of Manila's population completed the vaccine doses.

As of Monday, Manila recorded 21 active COVID cases from Ermita, Pandacan, Port Area, Sampaloc, San Andres, Sta. Ana, Sta. Mesa and Tondo 1 and 2. – Ghio Ong





# OCTA: Worst-case COVID-19 scenario is 'weak surge' in Metro Manila

(Philstar.com) - May 24, 2022 - 11:22am



Commuters queue to board a bus at the EDSA Bus Carousel at Ortigas EDSA Station as MRT-3 halt operations for maintenance on Wednesday, April 13, 2022.

MANILA, Philippines — Metro Manila's COVID-19 reproduction number — a term that refers to the number of persons a COVID-19 positive individual can infect — now stands at 1.05, indicating that Metro Manila's low-risk status may only lead to a "weak surge" in COVID-19 cases at worst, the OCTA Research Group said Tuesday.

In an advisory issued Tuesday morning, OCTA Research fellow Guido David said that a reproduction number above 1 does not necessarily mean that COVID-19 cases will surge.

"Overall, NCR remained at low-risk. Over the next few weeks, the best-case scenario is status quo, while the worst-case scenario, based on current data, is a weak surge in COVID-19 cases," David said.

Other figures are also encouraging. According to David, the average daily attack rate, which tallies the number of infections per 100 people, remained very low at 0.52 as of May 23. The daily positivity rate was at 1.2% over an average of 11,319 tests per day, while hospital care utilization for COVID-19 was at 21%.

David was also careful to point out that the last two times the reproduction number increased to more than 1 were during the start of the Omicron and Delta surges in December 24 and July 15, 2021.

This comes after the Department of Health confirmed the [local transmission of the BA.2.12.1 Omicron sub-variant](#) in the country, triggering anxieties of [yet another uptick](#) in coronavirus cases.

Though the country is still shielded by a surge of magnitude by its vaccinated population, the government's Vaccine Expert Panel took the position that the uptick could translate to up to as high as over 500 cases per day in the worst case scenario.

The DOH has recorded more than 3.68 million COVID-19 cases since the pandemic started in 2020. — **Franco Luna**

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2022/05/24/2183359/octa-worst-case-covid-19-scenario-weak-surge-metro-manila/amp/>



# Tatlong close contact sa unang BA.4 case sa bansa, natukoy na

By Angellic Jordan May 24, 2022 - 04:44 PM

**Omicron subvariant BA.4 has detected in the country**

- The first BA.4 case is an ROF who has been to Qatar and South Africa
- The patient was **unvaccinated** and was **asymptomatic** upon onset.
- The ROF completed the mandatory quarantine (May 4-18) and is therefore **asymptomatic and recovered**.
- DOH through the Regional and Local Epidemiology and Surveillance Units identified 3 contacts in the patient's household **after** his release from isolation - all were asymptomatic and fully-vaccinated. Their testing status are being verified.
- Detection of these emerging variants is a product of the country's **intensified PDITR response**. Our strengthened surveillance, detection, and sequencing efforts continue to guide our response, making our health systems ready, equipped, and prepared.




Natukoy na ng Department of Health (DOH) ang tatlong close contacts sa unang naitalang kaso ng Omicron subvariant BA.4 sa Pilipinas.

Isang returning overseas Filipino (ROF), na nagmula sa Qatar at South Africa, ang unang kaso ng BA.4 sa bansa.

Sa press briefing, sinabi ni Health Epidemiology Bureau Director Dr. Alethea de Guzman na nakumpleto na ng ROF ang 14 araw na isolation bago nakasalamuha ang tatlong close contacts.

Lahat aniya ng household contacts ay asymptomatic at fully vaccinated laban sa nakahaharag sakit.

Sa ngayon, sinabi ni de Guzman na bineberipika pa ang testing status ng tatlong close contacts.

Ani de Guzman, ikinokonsidera ang BA.4 subvariant bilang 'variant of concern' ng European Center for Disease Prevention and Control dahil sa mas mataas na transmissibility at posibleng pag-iwas sa immune protection.

"Gayunpaman, wala pang patunay na ang variant na ito ay nakapagdudulot ng mas malalang sintomas," paliwanag nito.

25 MAY 2022, WEDNESDAY



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

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MANILA BAYWALK DOLOMITE BEACH

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Isang lalaki sumisid papunta sa trash boom upang kumuha ng mga tahong na nasa trash boom.  
Huli sya sa akto ng security guard.

#manilabay

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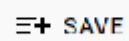
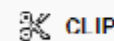
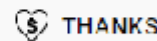
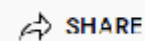
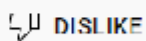
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WOW! NAKAKAGULAT THE BIG TRANSFORMATION OF MANILA BAY DOLOMITE WHITE SAND

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



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MANILA BAY  
MANILA BAY UPDATE MAY 24, 2022 MAS PINALAWAK NA WHITE SAND

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 **Sam Alburo**  
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MANILA BAY REHABILITATION

Kababayan new update natin sa ( Manila Bay ) mas pinalawak na white sand.

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LIVE MANILA BAY UPDATE TODAY MAYY 24,2022

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GANDA NG MANILA BAY NGAYON! DOLOMITE BEACH WOW NA WOW

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#manilabay #rehabilitation

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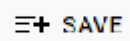
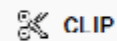
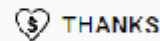
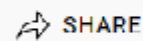
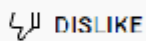
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