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NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR suspends agreements for 3 mining firms over Masungi Georeserve encroachment

Published May 26, 2022, 2:56 PM

by [Aaron Recuenco](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) suspended the mining production sharing agreements (MPSA) that were granted to three mining companies after they allegedly encroached into the Masungi Georeserve in Baras, Rizal.

“I am suspending the operation of those three MPSAs, and remove the companies’ authority to operate in order to remove the public’s speculation and ease their worries,” said DENR Sec. Sampulna.

“I am also calling all those support groups and environmentalists to be active in helping us by reporting such illegal activities for us to take action immediately,” he added.

The affected mining firms were Rapid City Realty and Development Corp., Quimson Limestone, Inc., and Quarry Rock Group, Inc.,

Sampulna said he also ordered DENR-Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) Director Wilfredo G. Moncano to conduct investigations of other alleged illegal quarrying activities within the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape (UMRBPL).

In 2017, former DENR Secretary Gina Lopez and Masungi Georeserve Foundation Inc. (MGFI) signed a memorandum of agreement covering the 2,798 hectares of land situated inside the UMRBPL.

The UMRBPL, in accordance with the passage of the Expanded National Integrated Protected Area Systems Act or ENIPAS Act, was declared as a protected area in 2018.

In a statement, the Masungi Georeserve urged the DENR to cancel the MPSAs, saying the suspension does not guarantee a full stop of operation.

“In different instances, when there is flooding and public clamor, quarrying is suspended but quickly goes back to operation when the noise subsides. We echo the continued call of experts, communities, and leaders to once and for all cancel the quarrying agreements in Masungi and the watershed, which will show a full and long-term commitment to their conservation,” it said in a statement sent to the Manila Bulletin.

“Non-operation or even a suspension is not a guarantee that quarry operations will not commence in the future. It still gives them runway to eventually operate, despite the many prohibitions to the same. These quarrying agreements were issued inside protected and conserved areas where quarrying is clearly prohibited by law,” he added.

Masungi Georeserve also said that the quarry companies have also committed gross violations constituting breach in their contracts.

“We humbly and continuously call on the Palace and the DENR to intervene, cancel the MPSAs once and for all, and place the safety and welfare of an overwhelming majority over the business interests of a few,” the statement read.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2022/05/26/denr-suspends-agreements-for-3-mining-firms-over-masungi-georeserve-encroachment/>



DENR suspends permits of three quarrying companies in Rizal

[Rio N. Araja](#) [May 26, 2022, 10:30 pm](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ordered on Wednesday the suspension of the quarrying permits of three large-scale companies allegedly encroaching on the Masungi Georeserve in Rizal.

In a virtual presser, DENR acting Secretary Jim Sampulna identified the suspended companies as Rapid City Realty and Development Corp., Quimson Limestone, Inc., and Quarry Rock Group, Inc.

Despite encroachment allegations, Sampulna clarified however that these companies have been non-operational since 2004.

“Due to the numerous arising issues published in the newspapers, people who are allegedly complaining, so they decided to voluntarily cease operations,” he said.

Separate notices indicated that the three firms’ Mineral Production Sharing Agreements (MPSA) were “void from the beginning” and “do not have prior rights,” among others.

“I am suspending the operation of those three MPSAs, and removing the companies’ authority to operate to remove the public’s speculation,” he added.

An MPSA is a type of mineral agreement where the state grants the contractor the right to mine over an area, granted that there will be government shares in the contractor’s production.

Meanwhile, the DENR said they will investigate another alleged illegal quarrying in the Upper Marikina river basin protected landscape.

“We will be ordering an investigation if there are any ongoing illegal quarrying operations, despite the suspensions,” Mines and Geosciences Bureau director Wilfredo Moncano said.



DENR suspends quarry permits in Upper Marikina watershed, says sites idle anyway

[Gaea Katreena Cabico](#) - Philstar.com May 25, 2022 | 7:27pm



This February 7, 2021 photo shows the forest around Masungi Georeserve in Baras, Rizal.

[Philstar.com/EC Toledo IV](#)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources suspended Wednesday mineral sharing production agreements (MPSAs) within the Upper Marikina watershed that were granted to three firms.

Acting environment chief Jim Sampulna signed orders suspending MPSAs granted to Rapid City Realty and Development Corporation, Quimson Limestone, Inc., and Quarry Rock Group, Inc after Masungi Georeserve Foundation alleged the said agreements "do not have prior rights" and were "void from the beginning."

An MPSA gives contractors the right to mine within a contract area.

"In regard and pending the review on the said allegations, any activity within the MPSA contract area is hereby suspended," the orders read.

In a briefing, Sampulna said the three companies issued with MPSAs in the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape in Rizal province have not been operational since 2004. According to a release from the department in April, one MPSA will expire in 2023, and the other two will expire in 2024.

"We want to avert further speculations. Ito kasing mga tao pinapalabas pirmi na may operation sa area. Para wala ng speculation, alisin natin 'yung authority nila to operate para wala nang isipin 'yung mga tao," Sampulna said.

(We want to avert further speculations. People are making it appear that there are operations in the area. To put an end to speculations, let's remove their authority to operate.)

Cancelation, not suspension

Groups have been asking authorities to immediately cancel, not merely suspend, quarrying agreements within the 26,126-hectare protected area.

"This is because of both breaches in their contracts that are grounds for cancelation and their location inside a critical watershed and protected area where quarrying is prohibited by law," said Ann Dumaliang, managing trustee of Masungi Georeserve Foundation.



According to Section 18 of Republic Act 11038 or the Extended National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 2018, undertaking mineral exploration or extraction is prohibited within the protected area.

"Ordinary citizens and conservationists cannot take comfort that the quarries can renew their contracts and still harbor interest in this area. There needs to be full, long-term commitment to conservation for this sensitive landscape and that can only be shown through categorical cancellation of existing mining tenements," she added.

The integrity of the watershed has been degraded by decades of illegal logging, quarrying and mining activities, and construction of establishments such as resorts.

Last month, Malacañang called on the DENR to probe the alleged illegal quarrying and mining activities, and the reported construction of resort facilities in the Upper Marikina watershed and the Masungi landscape.



DENR suspends MPSAs of 3 'non-operational' mining firms

By Stephanie Sevillano May 26, 2022, 5:15 pm



INACTIVE QUARRYING. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources suspends the Mineral Production Sharing Agreement (MPSA) of three non-operational companies for allegedly encroaching on the Masungi Georeserve in Rizal, in a virtual presser on Wednesday (May 25, 2022). The DENR said the operations of the companies have been halted since 2004. *(Photo Courtesy: Masungi Georeserve)*

MANILA – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) formally ordered on Wednesday the suspension of the Mineral Production Sharing Agreement (MPSA) of three large-scale companies allegedly encroaching on the Masungi Georeserve in Rizal.

In a virtual presser, DENR acting Secretary Jim Sampulna said they have secured three separate contract suspensions to Rapid City Realty and Development Corp., Quimson Limestone, Inc., and Quarry Rock Group, Inc.

Despite encroachment allegations, Sampulna clarified that these companies have been non-operational since 2004.

“Due to the numerous arising issues published in the newspapers, people who are allegedly complaining, so they decided to voluntarily cease operations,” he said in Filipino.

Separate notices indicate allegations against their MPSAs to be “void from the beginning” and “do not have prior rights,” among others.

“I am suspending the operation of those three MPSAs, and removing the companies’ authority to operate to remove the public’s speculation,” he added.

An MPSA is a type of mineral agreement where the state grants the contractor the right to mine over an area, granted that there will be government shares in the contractor's production.

Meanwhile, the DENR said they will investigate another alleged illegal quarrying in the Upper Marikina river basin protected landscape.

“We will be ordering an investigation if there are any ongoing illegal quarrying operations, despite the suspensions,” Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) Director Wilfredo G. Moncano said. **(PNA)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1175253>



Three Rizal quarry firms lose mining permits

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA MAY 26, 2022

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has suspended the Mineral Production Sharing Agreements (MPSAs) granted to three large-scale mining companies that encroached into the Masungi Georeserve in Baras, Rizal.

DENR Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna on Wednesday said he has signed the separate orders suspending the MPSAs of Rapid City Realty and Development Corp., Quimson Limestone Inc., and Quarry Rock Group Inc. These companies have not been operating since 2004.

“I am suspending the operation of those three MPSAs, and removing the companies’ authority to operate in order to remove the public’s speculation and ease their worries,” Sampulna announced in an online news conference Wednesday.

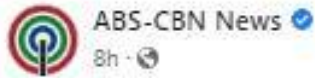
At the same time, he urged environmental support groups and advocates to be proactive and report illegal activities to the DENR for immediate and appropriate action.

In a news statement, DENR-Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) Director Wilfredo G. Moncano said the MGB-Calabarzon would conduct an investigation into other alleged illegal quarrying activities within the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape (UMRBPL).

“We will be ordering an investigation if there are any ongoing illegal quarrying operations despite the suspensions,” Moncano said.

In 2017, former DENR Secretary Gina Lopez and Masungi Georeserve Foundation Inc. signed a memorandum of agreement covering the 2,798 hectares of land situated inside the UMRBPL.

The UMRBPL, in accordance with the passage of the Expanded National Integrated Protected Area Systems Act or ENIPAS Act, was declared as a protected area in 2018.



Sinuspinde ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources ang operasyon ng tatlong minahan sa Masungi Georeserve sa Rizal kahit 2004 pa hindi operasyonal ang mga ito.

Giit naman ng Masungi, kanselasyon dapat ang ginawa ng DENR.... See more

See Translation



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DENR chief highlights CBO resiliency in conservation, livelihood programs

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA MAY 26, 2022

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna on Thursday highlighted the importance of building the resilience of community-based organizations (CBO) in undertaking conservation and livelihood interventions.

This is as the Philippines launched the Seventh Operational Phase of the United Nations Development Programme-Global Environment Facility (UNDP-GEF) Small Grants Programme (SGP-7) recently.

SGP-7 empowers CBOs, including women, indigenous peoples, and youth through community-led projects that aim to achieve global environmental benefits while improving livelihood and reducing poverty.

It is being implemented by the UNDP-Philippines through the Foundation for Philippine Environment and with support from the GEF and DENR's Biodiversity Management Bureau.

Since 1992, SGP has implemented 26,429 projects in 136 countries. In the Philippines, over \$11 million in grants have been distributed in over a span of 25 years.

With the launch of the SGP-7 on April 8, 2022, Sampulna said that a more holistic landscape strategy would be implemented for the project sites in Aurora province, Catubig Watershed in Northern Samar, Calamianes Group of Islands in Palawan, and Siargao Protected Landscape and Seascape in Surigao del Norte.

"It is urgent that we strengthen the resilience of our CBOs as they are the frontliners in undertaking conservation and livelihood interventions. In this period of climate change and biodiversity degradation impacts on communities and ecosystems, a more integrated effort of weaving together interventions is essential," Sampulna said.

SGP-7 targets to support community organizations in enhancing the socio-ecological resilience of the four target landscapes through community initiatives to produce global environmental and sustainable development benefits. The seventh operational phase also targets to effect change towards strengthening governance systems even for disaster response, recovery and resilience building.

"Catastrophic incidents like the onslaught of typhoon 'Odette' highlight the urgent need to continue our efforts on disaster risk reduction and resilience building," UNDP Philippines Resident Representative Dr. Selva Ramachandran said. "These devastating events exacerbate the already limiting and unpredictable situation brought by the Covid-19 pandemic. The promising changes being offered by SGP-7 are expected to effect change towards strengthening governance systems even for disaster response, recover, and building resilient communities," Ramachandran pointed out.

The strategies that will be used for implementing the program will include expanding the coverage of protection mechanisms over actual Key Biodiversity Areas and critical habitats; maximizing the Expanded National Integrated Protected Area Systems or E-NIPAS law; and increasing the support for indigenous peoples' socio-cultural values about biodiversity through support for local community managed areas. Likewise, Building CBOs-People's Organizations-government partnerships; increasing stakeholder participation; biodiversity-friendly and climate-resilient livelihoods and enterprises; and capacity building of communities and local government units are also included as strategies for implementation.



The program is expected to benefit NGOs, the academe, indigenous peoples, community groups, local governments, other sector agencies, and private sectors.



DENR rescues red-backed sea eagle



RESCUED. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources provincial office in Zambales came to the rescue of a Brahminy kite or red-backed sea eagle through its local wildlife team recently. (DENR)

IAN OCAMPO FLORA

May 26, 2022

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) provincial office in Zambales came to the rescue of a Brahminy kite or red-backed sea eagle (*Haliastur indus*) through its local wildlife team recently.

Glen Bringas found the wounded bird near Bucao River and called Bangan Barangay Captain Celso Dagsaan, who coordinated with environment authorities for proper handling and immediate rescue of the wildlife.

The bird is now under the custody of the Botolan Wildlife Rescue Center in Barangay San Juan, Botolan, Zambales, where it is being treated and provided with medication before releasing it back to the wild.

The DENR encourages the public to turn over captured or rescued wild animals for proper handling and care.

Republic Act 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act prohibits the possession, transport and collection of wildlife species and its derivatives without necessary permits from the DENR.

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1930155/pampanga/local-news/denr-rescues-red-backed-sea-eagle>



Masungi Georeserve

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STATEMENT: In different instances, when there is flooding and public clamor, quarrying is suspended but quickly goes back to operation when the noise subsides. We echo the continued call of experts, communities, and leaders to once and for all cancel the quarrying agreements in Masungi and the watershed, which will show a full and long-term commitment to their conservation.

Non-operation or even a suspension is not a guarantee that quarry operations will not commence in the future. It still gives them runway to eventually operate, despite the many prohibitions to the same.

These quarrying agreements were issued inside protected and conserved areas where quarrying is clearly prohibited by law.

On top of this, according to the regulators themselves, the quarry companies have also committed "gross violations constituting breach in their contracts."

It has been two years since Environment Secretary Cimatú ordered the cancellation of the said MPSAs (Mineral Production Sharing Agreements) and one year since the Show Cause Orders were issued to the companies.

The quarries were given "due process", very generous due process and an abundance of accommodation, in fact. We believe they miserably failed to justify the breaches to their contracts just the same. The logical and necessary next step is to cancel the MPSAs.

Rapid City and Quarry Rock in particular have said "they will not give up in their advocacy to revive the economy." This forewarns us of the consequences if we fail to act urgently and uphold the law decisively against these quarrying interests.

We humbly and continuously call on the Palace and the DENR to intervene, cancel the MPSAs once and for all, and place the safety and welfare of an overwhelming majority over the business interests of a few. ###

Contact: communications@masungigeoreserve.co



David D'Angelo and 192 others

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Senate ratifies report harmonizing bills on management of waste plastic packaging

Published May 26, 2022, 2:44 PM

by [Mario Casayuran](#)

The Senate on Thursday (May 26) ratified the bicameral conference committee report on the disagreeing provisions of bills institutionalizing the mechanism of extended producers' responsibility (EPR) on waste plastic packaging.

During the Senate plenary session today, Senator Cynthia A. Villar, chairperson of the Senate committee on environment, natural resources, and climate change, pushed for the ratification of the report on Senate Bill 2425 and House Bill 10696.

Villar said the bill would institutionalize EPR as a practical policy approach to efficient waste management.

"The proposed legislation focuses on waste reduction, recovery and recycling and the development of environment-friendly products that advocates the internationally-accepted principle on sustainable consumption and production, circular economy and producers' full responsibility throughout the life cycle of their products," Villar said in her sponsorship speech.

She said EPR mandates large enterprises, also referred to as obliged enterprises, to establish or phase-in programs for the plastic packaging of their products in order to efficiently manage plastic packaging waste and reduce the production, importation, supply or use of plastic packaging.

"The obliged enterprises may voluntarily organize themselves to form or authorize a producer responsibility organization for the purpose of establishing a viable platform to implement their EPR program," Villar said.

Under the reconciled version of the two bills, target dates were set for the recovery of plastic product footprint generated during the immediately preceding year upon the effectivity of the act as follows:

- 20 percent by December 31, 2023;
- 40 percent by December 31, 2024;
- 50 percent by December 31, 2025;
- 60 percent by December 31, 2026;
- 70 percent by December 31, 2027;
- 80 percent by December 31, 2028; and every year thereafter.

For this purpose, obliged enterprises are also mandated to submit the report of their compliance including appropriate documentation to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Senate ratifies report harmonizing bills on the management of waste plastic packaging

BYBMPPLUS MAY 26, 2022



Sen. Cynthia Villar

The Senate on Monday ratified the bicameral conference committee report on the disagreeing provisions of bills institutionalizing the mechanism of extended producers' responsibility (EPR) on waste plastic packaging.

Sen. Cynthia A. Villar, chairperson of the Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Climate Change, during the Senate plenary session, pushed for the ratification of the report on Senate Bill No. 2425 and House Bill No. 10696.

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For this purpose, obliged enterprises are also mandated to submit the report of their compliance including appropriate documentation to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.



House ratifies bill making firms responsible for plastic waste

By Filane Mikee Cervantes [May 26, 2022, 7:28 pm](#)



MANILA – The House of Representatives on Thursday ratified a bicameral conference committee report on a bill seeking to institutionalize the practice of extended producers' responsibility (EPR) in waste management.

During the plenary session, the chamber approved the final version that reconciles the disagreeing provisions of House Bill 10696 and Senate Bill 2425, which would amend Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

EPR refers to the environmental policy, initiatives, and practices, in which companies and corporations are obliged to have the responsibility for proper and effective recovery, treatment, recycling and disposal of their products after they have been sold and used by consumers aimed at improving ecological management.

The bill seeks to institutionalize the EPR mechanism as a practical approach to efficient waste management, waste reduction, recovery and recycling; and the development of environmentally-friendly products and circular economy programs.

Deputy Speaker Camille Villar said the proposal would hold companies responsible for recycling, which would be a crucial step to address the growing problem of plastic pollution in the country.

Villar said there is an urgent need to pass the packaging responsibility or product stewardship bill as consumers generate more single-use packaging and plastics from online purchases amid the coronavirus pandemic.

“The pandemic has likewise resulted in a surge in plastic use consequently complicating and aggravating this problem. There is a need for a collective effort and duty to decisively and effectively pass a measure that would address this present situation,” Villar said.

She noted that plastic waste makes up a significant share of the overall generated waste in the Philippines, adding that the Philippines is the third biggest polluter next to China and Indonesia and produces some 2.7 million metric tons of plastic waste each year.

“Worse, plastic waste is likely to aggravate pollution and worsen flooding in communities,” Villar added.



The measure, she said, aims to improve the responsibility of producers in the design, collection, reuse, recycling, and disposal of their products and packaging.

She said tax perks also await firms that put in place EPR mechanisms.

“I have faith that this important bill is comprehensive enough to address plastic and solid waste management in the country. May I then sincerely seek the support of the members of the Committee and the stakeholders present for the passage of this proposed measure,” Villar said. **(PNA)**



Environmental group: Mining ops to affect Mati City's Tourism



RALPH LAWRENCE G. LLEMIT, IONA FINLAY C. MENDOZA

May 26, 2022

CONTRARY to the recent statement of the local government unit (LGU) of Mati City, Interfacing Development Interventions for Sustainability (Idis) Environmental Research Specialist Lemuel Manalo said in a press conference on Wednesday, May 25, that the mining operation in Macambol would still have a detrimental effect in Davao Oriental's tourism industry, particularly to Mt. Hamiguitan, a Unesco heritage site.

According to the Mati LGU, the mining operations of Austral-Asia link Mining Corporation and Hallmark Mining Corporation in Barangay Macambol is located outside Unesco heritage site Mt. Hamiguitan Range Wildlife Sanctuary and four kilometers from the protected site of Pujada Bay Seascape and Landscape.

On Thursday, May 26, Idis released a statement online saying the joint open-pit nickel mining operation poses environmental impacts and threat to its nearby area and community.

"Ang Mt. Hamiguitan is just at the higher elevation of this open pit mining. Ang potential impact ani is wildlife disturbances," Manalo said, adding that the mining is directly adjacent in the strict protection zone of the mountain.

In an ambush interview, he said that the heavy siltation that resulted in the discoloration of Mapagba River and the coastal areas in Banaybanay, Davao Oriental on January 14 this year should have already served as an eye opener for the Mati government to rethink its decision of allowing the operation of mining in the city.

"Specially that Mati has three protected areas, they are very blessed with this landscape and rich biodiversity. They should not venture into mining," Manalo said.

"The environmental impacts of Open-Pit Mining affect water quality, air, hydro-geology, biodiversity, resources, and communities in a wider and regional scope and could not be contained compactly as pollution will always exceed spatial boundaries and delineations," Idis said.

IDIS cited that the mining operation may affect the terrestrial and aquatic wildlife of Mt. Hamiguitan including the iconic Philippine Eagle inhabiting its forests and may further damage the land formation of the surrounding watershed.



The protected marine area of Pujada Bay is also in danger of the mine tailings containing sediments and other metals that may reach.

At the same time, the mine tailings of the nickel operation may reach the protected marine area of Pujada Bay which is declared to have an excellent reef condition. IDIS says this may threaten the marine environment of Pujada Bay since mine tailings, caused by sediment mineralogy, is a high risk for coral bleaching and decrease the aquatic population and resources.

Mati City said in a statement earlier that environmental protection policies are already established to address the possible impact of the mining operation.

Ben Tesiorna of the Mati City Information Office said a multi-partite monitoring team composed of different elements from the Mati LGU will strictly monitor and enforce compliance to several environmental safeguards that include collector sumps, siltation ponds, geo-textile, and water sampling.

Meanwhile, Idis urges the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) - Davao to dismiss the Mining Production Sharing Agreement issued to Austral-Asia Link and Hallmark Mining Corporations in 2004.

At the same time, the Protected Area Management Boards of Mt. Hamiguitan and Pujada Bay, along with DENR-Davao, is called on to fully implement the closure of the mining operation.

As of the latest, the Austral-Asia Link and Hallmark Mining Corporations is still awaiting approval from DENR-Davao to re-open and resume its operations.

The DENR-Davao has not yet released a statement on the matter.

Davao-based environmental group Interfacing Development Interventions for Sustainability (IDIS) expressed concern over the re-opening of the open-pit mining in Barangay Macambol, Mati City.

On Thursday, May 26, 2022, IDIS released a statement online saying the joint open-pit nickel mining operation of Austral-Asia Link Mining Corporation and Hallmark Mining Corporation in Barangay Macambol poses environmental impacts and threat to its nearby area and community.

The local government unit of Mati said the mining operation is situated just outside of the UNESCO heritage site of Mt. Hamiguitan Range Wildlife Sanctuary and four kilometers from the protected site of Pujada Bay Seascape and Landscape, but IDIS said its close proximity to the protected areas is still alarming.

“The environmental impacts of Open-Pit Mining affect water quality, air, hydro-geology, biodiversity, resources, and communities in a wider and regional scope and could not be contained compactly as pollution will always exceed spatial boundaries and delineations,” the statement read.

IDIS cited that the mining operation may affect the terrestrial and aquatic wildlife of Mt. Hamiguitan including the iconic Philippine Eagle inhabiting its forests and may further damage the land formation of the surrounding watershed.



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On the other hand, Mati LGU earlier stated that environmental protection policies are already established to address the possible impact of the mining operation.

Ben Tesiorna of the Mati City Information Office said a multi-partite monitoring team composed of different elements from the Mati LGU will strictly monitor and enforce compliance to several environmental safeguards that include collector sumps, siltation ponds, geo-textile, and water sampling.



Didipio Mine adheres to the Paris accord

By [Leander C. Domingo](#) May 26, 2022

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya: In support of the Paris Climate Agreement, Australian mining firm OceanaGold Corp. said it was able to transparently demonstrate its commitment to pursuing the highest standards of technical, environmental and social performance.

In its 2021 Sustainability Report which highlights its environmental, social and governance performance for 2021, OceanaGold president and chief executive officer Gerard Bond said the year 2021 was a remarkable year, both operationally and in the continuous improvement of their sustainability, governance and performance.

"Sustainability is fundamental to the way we do business at OceanaGold and through our annual Sustainability Report we are able to transparently demonstrate our commitment to pursuing the highest standards of technical, environmental and social performance," Bond said.

Aside from its Didipio Mine in the upland town of Kasibu in this province, the multinational gold producer OceanaGold also maintains its Macraes and Waihi operations in New Zealand and Haile Gold Mine in the United States of America.

"OceanaGold supports the Paris Climate Agreement. In 2020 we set the goal to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and during 2021 we developed energy management plans at each of our operations to identify emissions reduction opportunities and set operation-based short-term targets," Bond said.

OceanaGold noted that for 31 years, it has been contributing to excellence in its industry by delivering sustainable environmental and social outcomes for its communities, and strong returns for its shareholders, and that its global exploration, development, and operating experience has created an industry-leading pipeline of organic growth opportunities and a portfolio of established operating assets.

In February this year, he said OceanaGold's Board of Directors approved an interim target to reduce carbon emissions per ounce of gold produced by 30 percent by 2030 based on 2019 performance levels.

"While we recognize there is a long way to go to achieve our net-zero goal, our interim 2030 climate change target will help drive focus and innovation across the company, be consistent with stakeholders' expectations and set a challenging but achievable pathway," Bond said.

Meanwhile, the company said it continued to maintain a strong focus on safety, achieving a total recordable injury frequency rate of 3.4 per million hours worked in 2021.

"Improving our safety performance remains a key focus in 2022 and work has commenced on a safety maturity assessment that will contribute to the refresh of our global safety behaviors program in the year ahead," Bond said.

In addition to operational performance, OceanaGold's Sustainability Report provided an overview of employment and economic and social investment in 2021.



Bond said the company's activities provided employment for 2,319 employees and 1,028 contractors, and that its total economic contribution distributed to local, national, and international suppliers was over \$714 million and 88 percent (over \$630 million) of its procurement was invested within the countries that host our operations.

He said OceanaGold also invested over \$1.5 million in social programs and local infrastructure in line with priorities identified by host communities and governments.



IPs slam mine devt in Nueva Vizcaya

By [Dexter A. See](#) May 27, 2022

QUEZON, Nueva Vizcaya: Indigenous Peoples (IPs) here have raised concern over the alleged forcible entry of a mining company into their private property without their consent and consultations with the affected communities in alleged violation of existing laws, rules and regulations.

A source, who requested anonymity for fear of reprisals and for security reasons, alleged that FCF Minerals Corp. started its development activities in Barangay Ronrono, particularly within Stages 3 and 5 of the mine site, when it excavated an area approximately 30 meters long and 10 meters wide that caused significant damages to agricultural crops of the IPs and other reported damages to their private property in the area.

The source said there was no formal agreement between the affected IPs and the company for the latter to enter their property.

The source further alleged that company personnel and heavy equipment were reportedly escorted by members of the Provincial Mobile Force Company and the Philippine Army.

The affected IPs and families reportedly submitted a complaint letter to FCF Minerals Development Corp. seeking reconsideration for the company to stop its mine development activities in the area until their complaints have been settled, but reportedly fell on deaf ears.

Early this month, the source disclosed that the company also allegedly entered the same contested area with heavy equipment and allegedly excavated another portion 20 meters long and 20 meters wide in a private property with the assistance of the police and military.

At Sitio Tayab, the affected IPs and their families resorted to barricading their private property.



Green groups hail ruling vs Marcopper, call for new mining law

[Gaea Katreena Cabico](#) - Philstar.com May 25, 2022 | 9:50am



Dead fishes float along the river bank 01 April while residents inspect the Boac river polluted by a massive spill of copper mine waste from the Marcopper Mining Corporation in Marinduque island, the Philippines' largest copper mine about 160 kilometers south of Manila.

AFP/Romeo Gacad

MANILA, Philippines — Environmental groups welcomed a landmark court decision to award damages to survivors of the nation's worst mining disaster after a two-decade long quest for justice.

Judge Emmanuel Recalde of Branch 38 of the Marinduque Regional Trial Court granted P200,000 in temperate damages and P100,000 in moral damages to each of at least 30 complainants in a case filed in 2001. An additional P1 million as exemplary damage was awarded to all plaintiffs.

In December 1993, parts of Marcopper Mining Corporation's Maguila-guila tailings dam collapsed, flooding the Mogpog River with toxic waste, and flooding properties and sources of livelihood.

Three years after the Maguila-guila dam burst, a drainage tunnel in Marcopper's Taipan pit burst, releasing 1.6 million cubic meters of toxic mine tailings that choked the Boac River, which was later declared unsafe. It also submerged rivers and killed aquatic life.

"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 Manggol of the Marinduque Council for Environmental Concerns.

Alyansa Tigil Mina said the court decision sends an encouraging signal to communities in the Philippines that are affected by the extraction of mineral resources.

"It may have taken decades for the court to make a ruling, but we are nevertheless hopeful considering that justice is finally served to the victims of one of the worst mining disasters in the country," it said.

Warning

Groups said the Marcopper disaster should serve as a warning as the government reverses mining policies to help bring more money into the country after the economic slowdown brought by the COVID-19 pandemic.



“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,” said lawyer E.M. Taqueban, executive director of the Legal Rights and Natural Resources Center. LRC served as the legal counsel of the plaintiffs.

For Kalikasan People’s Network for the Environment, the complainants’ slow march to justice shows how the Mining Act of 1995 and related policies “have been lacking teeth and biased toward big businesses and their political sponsors.”

Alyansa Tigil Mina also said the ruling underscores the importance of a new mining law that would put the environment and mining-affected communities above the interests of the mining industry.

“At present, the mining laws in the country fall short in preventing destructive mining. A new law must be put in place to ensure mining disasters won’t happen again,” it said.

Alternative minerals management bills—which seek to place more safeguards for the environment, indigenous peoples, and host communities—have long been pending in Congress.

The South Cotabato government recently lifted a ban on open-pit mining in the province despite opposition from environmentalists and local stakeholders. The development removed the final regulatory obstacle for the stalled Tampakan copper and gold project.

In December 2021, the Duterte administration lifted the nationwide ban on open-pit mining in a bid to revitalize the industry. He also lifted a nine-year-old ban on new mining agreements in April of the same year.



 **ABS-CBN News**  5h ·  ...

Ikinatuwa ng ilang survivor ang desisyon ng Marinduque Regional Trial Court kaugnay sa Marcopper mining disaster. Sinabi naman ng ilang grupo na dapat nang itigil ang open pit mining sa Marinduque.

[See Translation](#)



NEWS.ABS-CBN.COM 

Ilang grupo umapela: Itigil na ang open pit mining sa Marinduque
Sinabi ng ilang grupo na dapat nang itigil ang open pit mining sa Marinduque.

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Source: https://news.abs-cbn.com/video/news/05/26/22/ilang-grupo-umapela-itigil-na-ang-open-pit-mining-sa-marinduque?fbclid=IwAR2qL6t-MnwNUyhMM3s1_uvdimjU3zvTbPJTe7eB37_NY59RZZ1ZI-DroRg



Pena: 2021 State of the Global Climate

ROX PENA ESSUE May 26, 2022

THE World Meteorological Organization (WMO) released last May 18, 2022, its State of the Global Climate report for 2021. The WMO is a specialized agency of the United Nations dedicated to international cooperation and coordination on the state and behavior of the Earth's atmosphere, its interaction with the land and oceans, the weather and climate it produces, and the resulting distribution of water resources.

According to the report, four key climate change indicators – greenhouse gas concentrations, sea level rise, ocean heat and ocean acidification – set new records in 2021. It confirmed that the past seven years have been the warmest seven years on record. The average global temperature in 2021 was about 1.11 (± 0.13) ° C above the 1850-1900 pre-industrial average. The most recent seven years, 2015 to 2021, are the seven warmest years on record.

Here are the other highlights of the WMO Report:

Greenhouse gas concentrations reached a new global high in 2020, when the concentration of carbon dioxide (CO₂) reached 413.2 parts per million (ppm) globally, or 149 percent of the pre-industrial level

Ocean heat was record high. The upper 2000m depth of the ocean continued to warm in 2021 and it is expected that it will continue to warm in the future – a change, which is irreversible on centennial to millennial time scales.

Ocean acidification. The IPCC concluded that “there is very high confidence that open ocean surface pH is now the lowest it has been for at least 26,000 years and current rates of pH change are unprecedented since at least that time.”

Global mean sea level reached a new record high in 2021 after increasing at an average 4.5 mm per year over the period 2013 -2021. This is more than double the rate of between 1993 and 2002 and is mainly due to the accelerated loss of ice mass from the ice sheets.

Cryosphere: On average, the world's reference glaciers have thinned by 33.5 meters (ice-equivalent) since 1950, with 76 percent of this thinning since 1980.

Exceptional heatwaves broke records across western North America and the Mediterranean. Death Valley, California reached 54.4 °C on 9 July, equalling a similar 2020 value as the highest recorded in the world since at least the 1930s, and Syracuse in Sicily reached 48.8 °C. The Canadian province of British Columbia, reached 49.6 °C on 29 June, contributing to more than 500 reported heat-related deaths and devastating wildfires.

Flooding induced economic losses of US\$17.7 billion in Henan province of China, and Western Europe experienced some of its most severe flooding on record in mid-July associated with economic losses in Germany exceeding US\$20 billion. There was heavy loss of life.

Drought affected many parts of the world, including the Horn of Africa, Canada, the western United States, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Turkey. In sub-tropical South America, drought caused big agricultural losses and disrupted energy production and river transport.

Hurricane Ida was the most significant of the North Atlantic season, making landfall in Louisiana on 29 August, with economic losses in the United States estimated at US\$75 billion.



The ozone hole over the Antarctic was unusually large and deep, reaching its maximum area of 24.8 million km² (the size of Africa) as a result of a strong and stable polar vortex and colder than average conditions in the lower stratosphere.

Food security: The compounded effects of conflict, extreme weather events and economic shocks, further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, undermined decades of progress towards improving food security globally.

Displacement: Hydrometeorological hazards continued to contribute to internal displacement. The countries with the highest numbers of displacements recorded as of October 2021 were China (more than 1.4 million), the Philippines (more than 386 000) and Viet Nam (more than 664 000).

Ecosystems: including terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems – and the services they provide, are affected by the changing climate and some are more vulnerable than others. Some ecosystems are degrading at an unprecedented rate.

With all these hard facts, I hope our world leaders would make true of their commitments to address climate change.



Wildlife, forest crime analytic toolkit launched in Philippines

Philstar.com May 25, 2022 | 2:53pm



Photo from Palawan Council for Sustainable Development shows pangolin, which is the world's most heavily trafficked mammal.

Palawan Council for Sustainable Development

MANILA, Philippines — The United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has started an initiative that will analyze the country's criminal justice mechanisms and preventive responses for addressing wildlife flora and fauna trafficking.

The environment team of the UNODC, with support from the US Embassy's Office of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), formally launched this week the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit in the country.

The toolkit, which has been deployed in 12 nations, also helps develop short-, medium-, and long-term recommendations for impactful action and responses to combat wildlife and forest crime.

"Wildlife trafficking is a serious crime that is already negatively affecting the world, especially Southeast Asia. By illegally taking wildlife from their natural ecosystems and bringing them to cities for commercial purposes, we are exposing our society to risks that might be uncontrollable," acting environment chief Jim Sampulna said.

The Philippines is an important source, transit, and destination point for illegal wildlife trade. According to the Asian Development Bank, at least P50 billion is lost annually due to the illicit trade when ecological services and economic values are factored in.

Among the most traded species in the country are the Palawan pangolin, Palawan hill mynah, and Tokay gecko.

Environment advocates and officials believe that Republic Act 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act is ripe for strengthening as it no longer deters perpetrators from engaging in illegal wildlife trade.

The project is part of INL's three-year, P40-million project to combat wildlife and forest crime in Southeast Asia. — **Gaea Katreena Cabico**

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/climate-and-environment/2022/05/25/2183632/wildlife-forest-crime-analytic-toolkit-launched-philippines>



Mimaropa cops plant almost 300,000 trees

Published May 26, 2022, 4:02 PM

by [Aaron Recuenco](#)

From crime busters to environment warriors.

Policemen assigned in Police Regional Office 4B planted more than 280,000 seedlings of fruit and non-fruit bearing trees as part of its effort to address environment degradation in the region.

Police Brig. Gen. Sidney Hernia, director of the PRO4B, said the tree-planting was started in January this year in the provinces of Oriental and Occidental Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon and Palawan (Mimaropa).

“Planting trees is the PNP’s own little way of helping mitigate the effects of climate change to our environment and through this activity, we share the responsibility in protecting and preserving it,” said Hernia.

For his part, Police Col. Roel Lami-ing, chief of the Regional Community Affairs and Development Division (RCADD), said they coordinated with various stakeholders in the region for the planting of 282,747 trees, so far.

“All police units in the five provinces and one city in Mimaropa region took part in the simultaneous tree planting in selected sites within their areas of responsibility.

“Tree planting is part of their commitment to addressing environmental degradation and providing sustainable environment to communities in partnership with local government units (LGUs) and concerned agencies,” he added.



Allianz PNB Life renews partnership with World Wide Fund for Nature

May 27, 2022



Present at the MoA signing (from left) WWF-PH OIC for Resource Generation and Partnerships Cloda Marie Urquico, Allianz PNB Life CEO and President Alexander Grenz, WWF-PH Executive Director Katherine Custodio, and Allianz PNB Life Chief Marketing Officer Gino Riola CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ALLIANZ PNB Life reaffirmed its commitment to sustainability and securing Filipinos' futures by renewing its partnership with the Kabang Kalikasan ng Pilipinas Foundation Inc. (KKPFI), also known as the World Wide Fund for Nature Philippines (WWF-PH). The two organizations signed a memorandum of agreement (MoA) this month.

Present at the MoA signing were Allianz PNB Life's CEO and President Alexander Grenz and Chief Marketing Officer Gino Riola, alongside WWF-PH's Executive Director Katherine Custodio and OIC for Resource Generation and Partnerships Cloda Marie Urquico.

KKPFI is a nonprofit organization under the WWF involved in the conservation and preservation of the environment in the Philippines. It aims to promote corporate social responsibility by forming strategic partnerships with corporations that share the same social awareness, such as Allianz PNB Life.

Together, the two organizations will work toward uplifting the social and economic well-being of the Filipino people through KKPFI's Food Shed Farming Enterprise Project. The project's objective is to ensure food security and community resilience, as well as increase financial inclusion and capacity-building by developing community-managed food sheds.

"Allianz PNB Life is passionately dedicated to building a more confident future for Filipinos, which is why we are grateful for the renewal of our partnership with KKPFI," said Grenz. "We have worked closely with them in the past through the Food Shed Farming Enterprise Project via our new offering, Allianz Protect, and we are excited to begin the establishment of two new foodsheds in Mindanao. It is a concrete display of both organizations' commitment to the empowerment of the Filipino people."

Allianz Protect is a comprehensive and high-value insurance protection solution with a variety of coverages that also allows policyholders to contribute to the Food Shed Farming Enterprise Project. For every policy purchased, P500 will be donated to the campaign and an additional P500 donation will be incurred every year the policy is active.

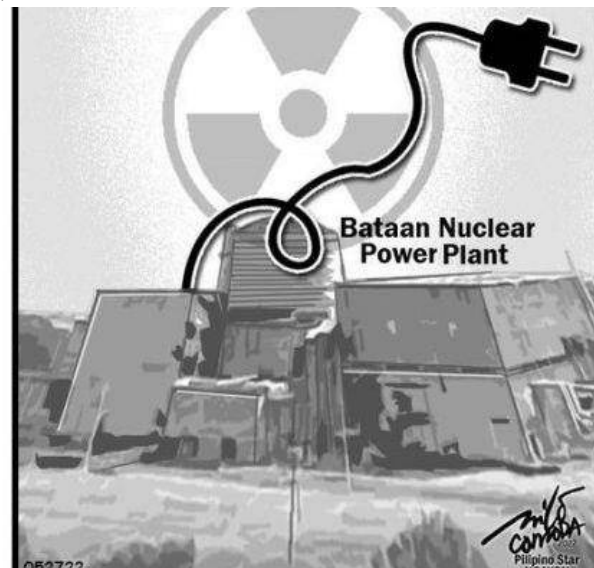
"Allianz Protect engages our customers and policyholders and allows them to take meaningful action towards helping secure food sources for beneficiaries," Grenz added.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2022/05/27/public-square/allianz-pnb-life-renews-partnership-with-world-wide-fund-for-nature/1845111>



EDITORIAL - Pag-aralan pagbuhay sa Bataan Nuclear Power Plant

(Pilipino Star Ngayon) - May 27, 2022 - 12:00am



Malaki ang posibilidad na buhayin ni president-elect Ferdinand Marcos Jr. ang Bataan Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP). Nang batiin siya sa pagkapanalo ng lider ng South Korea, napag-usapan ang tungkol sa BNPP at nag-alok umano ng tulong ang nasabing bansa para buhayin ito. Ipinatigil ng gobyerno ni President Corazon Aquino ang BNPP noong 1986 dahil sa maraming isyu at unang-una na ang kaligtasan ng mga residente sa paligid ng BNPP sa Morong, Bataan. Ang lugar umano ng BNPP ay nasa fault area at kapag lumindol, tiyak na magli-leak ang planta.

Ikalawang isyu ay ang corruption. Nakatanggap umano ng kickback si dating President Ferdinand Marcos Sr. sa Westinghouse, ang kompanyang gumawa ng BNPP. Nang ginagawa na ang BNPP noong 1976, maraming tumututol at sunud-sunod ang pagra-rally. Malaking disaster umano ang lilikhain ng BNPP kapag nag-leak ang planta. Marami umanong mamamatay kaya hindi dapat ipagpatuloy ang BNPP. Layunin sa pagpapatayo ng BNPP ay ang magkaroon ng sapat na suplay ng kuryente. Mas mura umano ang kuryente mula sa nuclear energy.

Si President Duterte ay pabor na buhayin ang BNPP. Darating daw ang panahon na mauubos ang langis samantalang ang nuclear energy ay forever na. Hinihiling niya sa bagong administrasyon na buhayin ang BNPP. Tingnan daw mabuti ang kahalagahan sa pagbuhay sa BNPP. Bagama't delikado raw ito gaya ng magkaroon ng leak sa nuclear plant sa Chernobyl sa Ukraine ilang taon na ang nakararaan, makaaasa naman nang pangmatagalang source ng kuryente.

Pag-aralang mabuti ng bagong administrasyon ang pagbuhay sa BNPP. Tingnan ang mga maaaring mangyari kapag nag-oooperate na. Ligtas ba talaga ito at hindi magkakaroon ng leak. Nararapat dumaan sa mahigpit na pagsusuri kung ipagpapatuloy ang BNPP. Hindi ito maliit na bagay kaya nararapat pag-isipang mabuti kung nararapat nga bang ipagpatuloy. Kunsultahin ang mga eksperto sa ibang bansa na gumagamit ng nuclear energy. Sila ang may kasanayan na sa paggamit ng nuclear energy kaya marami silang nalalaman ukol dito.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/opinyon/2022/05/27/2184044/editorial-pag-aralan-pagbuhay-sa-bataan-nuclear-power-plant/amp/>

27 MAY 2022, FRIDAY



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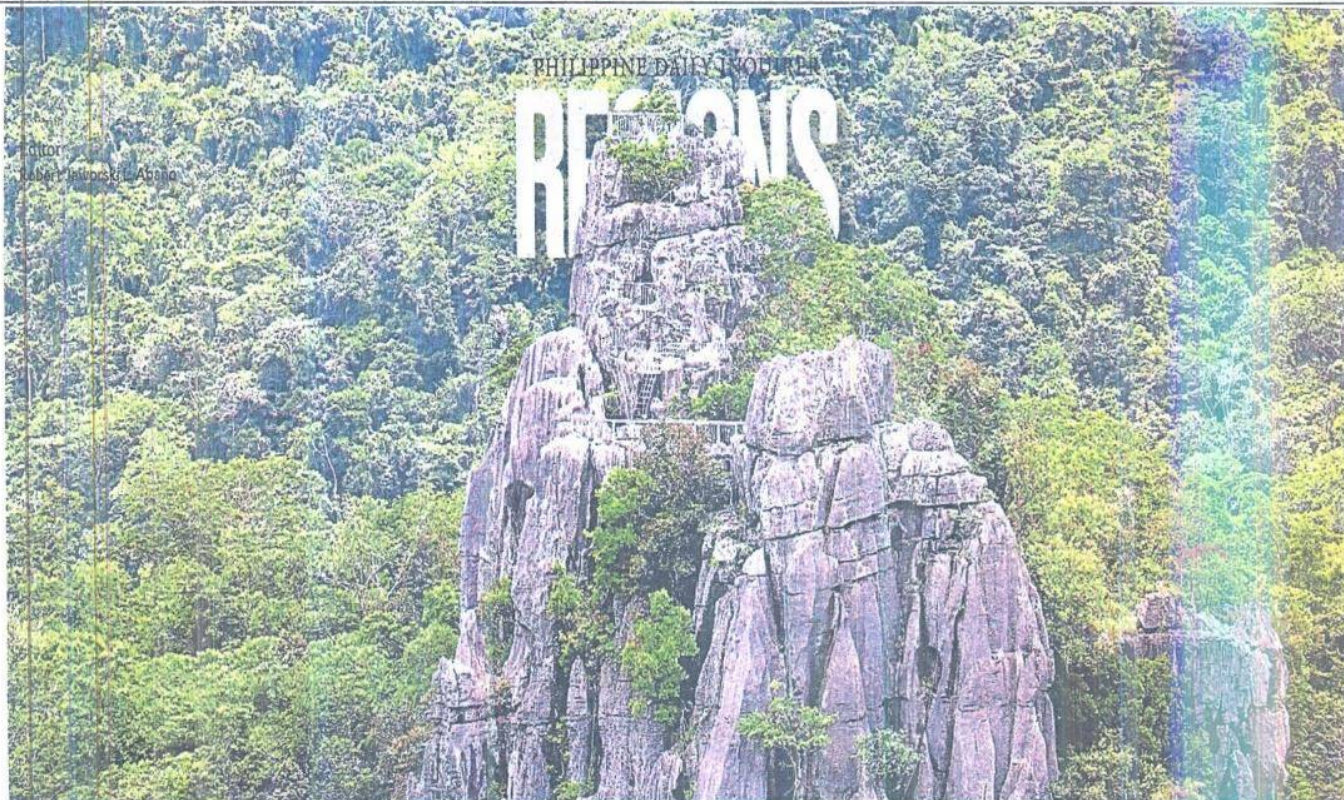


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THREATS Masungi Georeserve in Baras town, Rizal province, in 2019, has been hailed as one of the most innovative and sustainable tourism projects in the world by the United Nations World Tourism Organization. The conservation and geotourism site, however, is threatened by encroachment, quarrying activities and development projects. —NIÑO JESUS ORBETA

BUT FOUNDATION OVERSEEING RESERVE IN RIZAL WANTS MPSA VOIDED INSTEAD

DENR SUSPENDS PERMITS OF 3 DEFUNCT MINING FIRMS IN MASUNGI

By **Frances Mangosing**
@FMangosingINQ

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has ordered the suspension of mineral production sharing agreements (MPSA) with three mining firms in Masungi Georeserve in Baras, Rizal, amid reports of illegal quarrying in the protected area.

Separate suspension orders were issued by the DENR on Rapid City Realty and Development Corp., Quimson Limestone Inc. and Quarry Rock Group Inc., all of them no longer operational since 2004 but whose MPSAs have yet to expire.

"I am suspending the operation of those three MPSAs, and [removing] the companies' authority to operate in order to

remove the public's speculation and ease their worries," Acting Environment Secretary Jim Sampulna said on Wednesday.

Not a guarantee

The DENR's Mines and Geosciences Bureau said it would also order an investigation if there were any ongoing illegal quarrying operations despite the suspensions.

But Masungi Georeserve Foundation, in a statement on Thursday, said it was calling for the cancellation of the mining agreements and not a suspension.

"Nonoperation or even a suspension is not a guarantee that quarry operations will not commence in the future. It still gives them runway to eventually operate, despite the many

prohibitions to the same," it said.

It added: "These quarrying agreements were issued inside protected and conserved areas where quarrying is clearly prohibited by law."

It also cited Rapid City and Quarry Rock's previous statement that the firms would not give up on their "advocacy to revive the economy."

"This forewarns us of the consequences if we fail to act urgently and uphold the law decisively against these quarrying interests," the foundation said.

Last month, Malacañang urged the DENR to investigate the alleged quarrying activities in the conservation area after an appeal from environmental groups and academic institutions. [INQ](#)



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It was a disaster waiting to happen

Inquirer's banner story two days ago: "Court finds Marcopper liable for 1993 disaster." Yes, after all hell broke loose in Marinduque 28 years and five months ago and after a 21-year legal battle.

The 30-plus plaintiffs, the report said, had accused Marcopper Mining Corp. of negligent acts that resulted in the breach of the Magulla-guila Dam and the flooding of the Mogpog River with silt water at the height of Typhoon "Monang." Three years later, in 1996, another spill occurred, leaving the Boac river almost dead. These Marcopper industrial disasters were the Philippines' worst, and Mother Nature was crying to the heavens for retribution. Sadly, the material compensation for the plaintiffs can never be enough.

Marinduque, the island known for its colorful open-air biblical passion play during Holy Week that draws thousands of tourists, had its real experience of passion and death during the Christmas season of 1993.

Suddenly, on Dec. 6, 1993, Marinduque's gullies and rivulets, streams, and rivers were filled with toxic liquid that spilled out from the mine site of Marcopper Mining Corp. Pollution caused by Marcopper (parent company: Placer Dome Inc. of Canada) had long been in the news. In 1988, the Inquirer ran a three-part investigative report on the havoc Marcopper had been inflicting continuously for more than a decade. Warnings had been sounded consistently since the early 1980s, long before environmental consciousness was the norm. The small fishermen of Marinduque were among the first to sound the alarm for obvious reasons—dwindling catch and health issues.

In 1984, long before the deadly Marcopper mine spill, I went to Marinduque to document for a church-based publication the problems of the fishing communities living near Calan-



HUMAN FACE

MA. CERES P. DOYO

can Bay. The social action arm of the Catholic Church was the voice in the wilderness that called the attention to the environmental destruction in that part of Luzon. Marinduque Bishop Rafael Lim, then chair of the Luzon Secretariat of Social Action, stood tall against the wanton neglect. But the country was under Marcos martial rule, and there was not much national outrage over local issues. President Marcos had upheld Marcopper's petition to continue dumping its waste into Calanacan Bay. Today, this would have caused global outrage.

I saw for myself Marcopper's 16-kilometer pipeline that carried toxic waste far into the sea. Day or night, one could see a deadly sheen on the surface of the water. Beaches were turned into mud-covered landscapes that cracked under the noonday sun. Fishermen had rashes on their bodies. One could feel the imminent death of creation.

I wrote a long feature on Marinduque's woes in a church social action publication, with on-the-spot line sketches by an artist who came with me, and stark black-and-white photos that I

took, one of them of a huge pipe that carried poison to the sea. I had a photo of myself standing on top of that pipe. I could not hide my dismay.

The fishermen asked that a lighthouse be built on the causeway to warn them of the pipeline when they sailed at night to fish elsewhere. The pipeline had been causing floods due to the constriction of water in the bay where islets were too close to each other. People said that a basin had been planned for the area, but Marcopper opted for the cheaper pipeline. The tailings pit in Mount Tapian had not been fully utilized because Marcopper, it was reported, had discovered more copper ore underneath. Marcopper always made representations before the government and promised to improve its waste disposal system. At one time, it simply paid a daily fine while it continued polluting the environment.

In 1986, the National Pollution Control Commission under the Cory Aquino administration at last banned mine wastes from being dumped into the bay. It was in 1993, during the watch of President Fidel V. Ramos, that Marcopper's tailings containment pond broke and unleashed tons of toxic matter that poisoned everything in its way. The spillage caused a national and international furor.

On March 24, 1996, another mining disaster occurred when the pit with leftover mine tailing was damaged and caused the flow of toxic waste into the river system. It was a deadly one, if not deadlier than the 1993 disaster.

In an article I wrote for the Inquirer in the aftermath of the 1993 tragedy, I could only begin with a cliché: "It was a disaster waiting to happen."

Send feedback to cerespd@gmail.com

TITLE:

Protecting PH national parks

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THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Tourism (DOT) and the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) signed a joint declaration to support the celebration of the Year of the Protected Areas or the YoPA Campaign, which promotes Philippine national parks.

DENR Acting Secretary Jim Sampulna, DOT Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat, and DILG Secretary Eduardo Año led the signing ceremony at the launch of the YoPA Campaign marking the 90th anniversary of establishing national parks in the country.

The campaign launch is also part of the wider celebration for the 2022 International Day of Biological Diversity (IDBD).

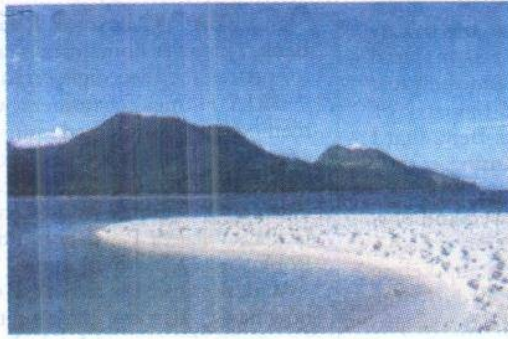
The joint declaration states that the DENR, through its Biodiversity Management Bureau and the Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) of UNDP Philippines, will lead the campaign implementation with DOT and DILG as partners.

These agencies will work to promote protected areas (PAs) under the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) and coordinate with other agencies at the national and local levels to ensure effective conservation and sustainable management for national parks nationwide.

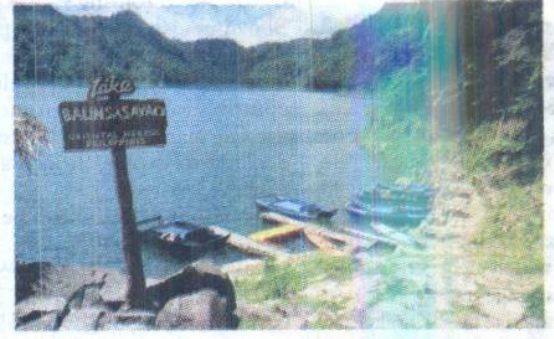
According to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Philippines is one of the world's 18 mega-biodiverse countries, containing two-thirds of the Earth's biodiversity and between 70 percent and 80 percent of the world's plant and animal species. The Philippines ranks fifth in the number of plant species and maintains 5 percent of the world's flora.

Over half of the country's 53,000 described species can be found nowhere else in the world.

Sadly, the Philippines is also a biodiversity critical hotspot with



Mts. Timpoong Hibok-Hibok Natural Monument in Camiguin. (Wolfgang Hägele, DOT)



Balinsasayao Twin Lakes Natural Park in Negros Oriental. (PNA)

at least 700 species being in danger of becoming extinct.

Around 93 percent of the Philippines' original forest cover has been lost since the 1990s, with 53 percent of its remaining coral reefs in poor condition.

Currently, there are 246 PAs under the NIPAS, 112 of which have been legislated, 13 have been proclaimed by the President, and 121 remain as initial components of the System.

The NIPAS was established by virtue of Republic Act 7586 or the NIPAS Act of 1992 as amended by Republic Act 11038 or the Expanded NIPAS (ENIPAS) Act of 2018.

The NIPAS Act, as amended, strengthens the protection of natural, biological and physical diversities of the environment needed for the conservation of biodiversity and the integrity of ecosystems, culture and indigenous practices by recognizing conservation areas and the management regimes being implemented by local government units (LGUs), local communities and indigenous peoples (IPs).

It also ensures regular budget allocation for the conservation and sustainable management of each PA.

NIPAS is the classification and administration of all designated PAs to maintain essential ecological processes to preserve genetic

diversity, to ensure the sustainable use of resources found therein, and to maintain their natural conditions to the greatest extent possible.

The year 2022 is an opportune time for the YoPA Campaign to commence as it coincides with the 90th anniversary of PA establishment in the country.

On 1 February 1932, Republic Act 3915 was passed into law, which is An Act Providing for the Establishment of National Parks, Declaring Such Parks as Game Refuges, and for other Purposes.

Following the passing of this law, Mount Arayat became the first national park in the Philippines established on June 27, 1933.

Institutionalization of such efforts is important to ensure continued financing and conservation for the country's national parks. Part of the campaign's sustainability strategy is to push for the approval of a proposed presidential proclamation to declare 2022 as the National Year of the Protected Areas and June of each year as Month of the PAs.

This proclamation will empower DENR through the Biodiversity Management Bureau as the lead agency, with DOT and DILG as partners. This will also encourage other agencies and organizations to take part in efforts to conserve and protect PAs.

The proposed presidential proclamation is currently awaiting signature of the President.

A prequel event on May 20, 2022 was held by the DENR-Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) dubbed as Kabahagi: An IDBD 2022 Capture Quest, the DENR-BMB's first ever one-day simultaneous shoot photo contest featuring the DENR Regional, Field and Protected Area Management Offices staff as participants.

Each regional team showcased their chosen protected area in their respective regions as well as their photographic talent and ingenuity.

Canon Philippines, Gerry Roxas Foundation along with USAID-Sustainable Interventions for Biodiversity, Oceans and Landscapes (SIBOL) project and UNDP-Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) and Biodiversity Corridor (BD Cor) projects take pride as DENR-BMB's partners for its first ever Kabahagi: IDBD 2022 Capture Quest photo contest which also takes inspiration from Canon's PhotoMarathon contest.

With the theme Protected Areas for a Protected Future, the campaign aims to launch a massive information campaign on the urgent need to conserve PAs, while also encouraging people to visit these breathtaking ecotourism destinations.



YEAR OF THE PROTECTED AREAS, INILUNSA NG DENR, DILG AT DOT

LUMAGDA sa isang Joint Declaration ang mga kalihim ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of the Interior and Local Government, at Department of Tourism para suportahan ang selebrasyon ng YoPA o ang "Year of the Protected Areas".

Isinagawa ang paglagda nitong May 24, 2022 nina DENR acting secretary Jim Sampulna, DILG secretary Eduardo Año at DOT secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat kaugnay sa 90th anniversary ng pagkakaroon ng na-

tional park sa bansa.

Isinasaad sa deklarasyon na pangungunahan ng Biodiversity Management Bureau ng DENR at Biodiversity Finance Initiative ng United Nations Development Program ang kampanya na may pagtulong buhat sa DILG at DOT.

Magtutulong-tulong ang mga ahensya para sa promosyon at proteksyon ng protected areas sa ilalim ng National Integrated Protected Areas System sa Pam-bansa at lokal na bahagi.

Ang YoPA ay bahagi ng mas malawakang selebrasyon ng International Day of Biological Diversity 2022.

Ayon sa CBD, ang Pilipinas ay sa 18 mega-diverse countries sa buong mundo kung saan 2/3 ng Earth's biodiversity, 70% ng mga halaman, at 80% ng mga hayop ay makikita sa ating arkepelago.

Ikalima ang ating bansa sa pinakamaraming plant spe-



cies at at mayroon tayong 5% ng mga bulaklak. At mayroong 53,00 species ang tanging sa Pilipinas lamang matatagpuan o endemic.

Pero ang nakalulungkot, may 700 species ay nasa "extinction level" na o malapit ng mawala, 93% ng ating original forest cover ang nasira na matapos ang digmaan, at 53% ng ating coral reefs ang "in poor condition".

Sa kasalukuyan ay mayroong 246 protected areas sa ilalim ng NIPAS Act kung saan 112 ang ipinasa ng Kongreso, 13 ang idineklara ng Pangulo ng bansa, at 121 ang initial component ng system.

Ang Mount Arayat ang siyang first national park sa bansa na itinatag noong June 27, 1933 alinsunod sa Republic Act No. 3915 o ang pagtatalaga ng mga national parks noong 1932.

Sa temang "Protected Areas for a Protected Future", maliban sa konserbasyon, hangad din na maengganyo ang mga Pilipino na bisitahin ang mga national park.

Kaugnay sa pagdiriwang ngayong taon, may anim na tampok na national parks, ang

- Bongsanlay Natural Park sa Masbate;
- Apo Reef Natural Park sa Occidental Mindoro;
- Samar Island Natural Park sa mga lalawigan ng Samar, Eastern Samar at Northern Samar;
- Balinasayao Twin Lakes Natural Park sa Negros Oriental;
- Mt. Hamiguitan Range Wildlife Sanctuary sa Davao Oriental; at ang
- Mts. Timpoong Hibok-Hibok Natural Monument sa Camiguin

Bahagi rin ng pagdiriwang ang paglalabas ng isang Presidential Proclamation na nagdedeklara sa taong 2022 bilang "National Year of the Protected Area" at paggunta sa bawat buwan ng Hunyo bilang "Month of the Protected Areas".

Hinihintay na lamang ang paglagda dito ni Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte.



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PROTECTING SARANGANI BAY. Volunteer scuba divers from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and local government units of Sarangani Province lead the underwater collection of the crown-of-thorns starfish which prey on the coral reefs of Sarangani Bay, one of the country's most biodiversity-rich protected seascapes.



Senate ratifies bicam report harmonizing bills on mgmt of waste plastic packaging

THE Senate on Monday ratified the bicameral conference committee report on the disagreeing provisions of bills institutionalizing the mechanism of extended producers' responsibility (EPR) on waste plastic packaging.

Sen. Cynthia A. Villar, chairperson of the Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Climate Change, during the Senate plenary session, pushed for the ratification of the report on Senate Bill No. 2425 and House Bill No. 10696.

Villar said the bill would institutionalize EPR as a practical policy approach for efficient waste management.

"The proposed legislation focuses on waste reduction, recovery and recycling and the development of environment-friendly products that advocates the internationally-accepted principle on sustainable consumption and production, circular economy and producers' full responsibility throughout the life cycle of their products," Villar said in her sponsorship speech.

She said EPR mandates large enterprises, also referred to as obliged enterprises, to establish

or phase-in programs for the plastic packaging of their products in order to efficiently manage plastic packaging waste and reduce the production, importation, supply or use of plastic packaging.

"The obliged enterprises may voluntarily organize themselves to form or authorize a producer responsibility organization for the purpose of establishing a viable platform to implement their EPR program," Villar said.

Under the reconciled version of the two bills, target dates were set for the recovery of plastic product footprint generated during the immediately preceding year upon the effectivity of the act as follows:

- 20 percent by December 31, 2023;
- 40 percent by December 31, 2024;
- 50 percent by December 31, 2025;
- 60 percent by December 31, 2026;
- 70 percent by December 31, 2027;
- 80 percent by December 31, 2028; and every year thereafter.

For this purpose, obliged enterprises are also mandated to submit the report of their compliance including appropriate documentation to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.



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Senate ratifies provisions on plastic waste law

By Macon Ramos-Araneta

THE Senate has ratified the bicameral conference committee report on the disagreeing provisions of bills institutionalizing the mechanism of extended producers' responsibility (EPR) on plastic waste packaging.

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Velasco lauds landmark 1993 Marcopper disaster ruling

By **RYAN PONCE
PACPACO**

SPEAKER Lord Allan Velasco has hailed the Marinduque Regional Trial Court (RTC) for awarding damages to complainants of the 1993 Marcopper disaster in his province.

Velasco was referring to the ruling of Marinduque RTC Branch 38 Judge Emmanuel Recalde, ordering Marcopper Mining Corp.

to pay damages to at least 30 complainants.

"We applaud the Marinduque Regional Trial Court's decision ordering Marcopper Mining Corporation to pay damages to those affected when the firm's siltation dam burst in 1993, killing the Mogpog River and flooding nearby communities with toxic residues of heavy metals and silt," Velasco said.

The December 6, 1993 disaster caused wide-

spread damage to agriculture and properties.

The ruling was reached after 21 years of a legal battle.

Three years later or in 1996, Velasco recalled "a much worse disaster took place when a fracture in the drainage tunnel of Marcopper's Taipan pit spilled more than 1.6 million cubic meters of toxic mine tailings, flooding villages and poisoning the Boac River."

"This recent court ruling is very welcome and

long overdue. It is a major victory for the people of Marinduque against the company responsible for one of the worst mining and environmental disasters in Philippine history," Velasco said.

"But the quest for justice for all victims is far from over. In fact, in 2020, authorities discovered about 100 barrels containing what they described as 'toxic substances' in Marcopper's old storage facility," Velasco stressed.



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Justice

I was in Marinduque for less than 48 hours, arriving in the middle of the night after a long arduous bus ride from Manila and standing room-only ferry trip from Quezon. The time I spent there was enough for me to see and hear the stories of residents affected by the Marcopper Mining spill, dubbed as one of the worst mining disasters in the world.

I went there sometime in 2017 to do a story on affected residents' long quest for justice. The disaster struck on Dec. 6, 1993, but the buildup was already happening in the years prior to that.

EYES WIDE OPEN



IRIS GONZALES

I took several tricycle rides to different barangays situated along the Boac River and there, residents showed me remnants of the spill – the river itself looked brown and dirty and all murky. It's as if the spill just happened.

As I trudged my way toward muddy, uneven paths to talk to affected residents in one of the barangays, my guide showed me streaks of the spill, which stood out against the dark brown patches of mud – yes they were still so visible decades after. These are rainbow-like kaleidoscopes of colors, blue, red, green and yellow in swirling patterns. It's that disturbing beauty that often characterizes industrial waste, a mixture of oil, water, and other chemicals.

One could also still see the damage to the environment – deteriorated and dark agriculture fields, almost like dystopian land.

The Marcopper story

The now defunct Canadian company, Marcopper Mining, officially started its copper operations in 1969. Marcopper's parent firm is Placer Dome, and according to published

articles – including an August 2010 decision of the United States Supreme Court in the 1960s, Placer Dome allegedly gave then-president Ferdinand Marcos Sr. a personal 49 percent ownership interest in Marcopper.

"Allegedly in exchange for that interest, Marcos overturned the protected status of a forest reserve under which Placer Dome wished to mine," according to the US Supreme Court document.

Marcopper operated at the Mt. Tapian ore deposit in Marinduque Island. When the deposit was depleted, Marcopper moved its operations to the San Antonio mine site, three kilometers north of Mt. Tapian, say different articles available online.

The company discharged the mine tailings from Mt. Tapian into Calancan Bay in the province.

In all, the government estimated that the toxic tailings waste killed P1.8 million worth of freshwater, and left for dead Marinduque's 27-kilometer Boac River.

It is estimated that at least 200 million metric tons of toxic mine tailings were discharged, according to a United Nations team that investigated the disaster.

Snow from Canada

It was said that when exposed to ocean breezes, the tailings, which partially floated, became airborne and landed on rice fields and village homes. Local residents called this their "snow from Canada," according to an online article by Alex Felipe.

When disaster struck

On that fateful day of Dec. 6, 1993, Typhoon Monang struck and breached the dam, inundating areas in the towns of Mogpog, Boac, and Sta. Cruz.

"Barangays Bocboc and Magapua in Mogpog were submerged in floodwater, causing extensive damage to properties and agriculture," according to a court decision dated May 16, 2022 which ruled in favor of at least 30 plaintiffs who sued the mining company.

A few days ago, I was pleasantly surprised to hear about



this landmark decision that took decades in the making. This is a victory for all of us.

My thoughts immediately travelled all the way back to the province, the people I met and those patches of tailings I saw, which were still visible after all those years.

Judge Emmanuel Recalde of Branch 38 of the Marinduque Regional Trial Court granted P200,000 in temperate damages and P100,000 in moral damages to each of at least 30 plaintiffs in the case filed in 2001. Another P1 million as exemplary damages was awarded to all the plaintiffs, according to a statement sent by the Legal Rights & Natural Resources Center, which served as the legal counsel of the plaintiffs.

"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," said Elizabeth Manggol of the Marinduque Council for Environmental Concerns (MACEC).

Warning

"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," said lawyer Ryan Roset, direct legal services coordinator of LRC.

For sure, large-scale mining projects present inevitable damage despite the thousands of jobs it creates.

May this decision indeed serve as a lesson to the government, local governments, and different companies, especially with projects involving the country's natural resources.

Iris Gonzales' email address is eyesgonzales@gmail.com.

Follow her on Twitter [@eyesgonzales](https://twitter.com/eyesgonzales). Column archives at eyesgonzales.com



It was a disaster waiting to happen

Inquirer's banner story two days ago: "Court finds Marcopper liable for 1993 disaster." Yes, after all hell broke loose in Marinduque 28 years and five months ago and after a 21-year legal battle.

The 30-plus plaintiffs, the report said, had accused Marcopper Mining Corp. of negligent acts that resulted in the breach of the Magulla-guila Dam and the flooding of the Mogpog River with silt water at the height of Typhoon "Monang." Three years later, in 1996, another spill occurred, leaving the Boac river almost dead. These Marcopper industrial disasters were the Philippines' worst, and Mother Nature was crying to the heavens for retribution. Sadly, the material compensation for the plaintiffs can never be enough.

Marinduque, the island known for its colorful open-air biblical passion play during Holy Week that draws thousands of tourists, had its real experience of passion and death during the Christmas season of 1993.

Suddenly, on Dec. 6, 1993, Marinduque's gullies and rivulets, streams, and rivers were filled with toxic liquid that spilled out from the mine site of Marcopper Mining Corp. Pollution caused by Marcopper (parent company: Placer Dome Inc. of Canada) had long been in the news. In 1988, the Inquirer ran a three-part investigative report on the havoc Marcopper had been inflicting continuously for more than a decade. Warnings had been sounded consistently since the early 1980s, long before environmental consciousness was the norm. The small fishermen of Marinduque were among the first to sound the alarm for obvious reasons—dwindling catch and health issues.

In 1984, long before the deadly Marcopper mine spill, I went to Marinduque to document for a church-based publication the problems of the fishing communities living near Calan-



HUMAN FACE

MA. CERES P. DOYO

can Bay. The social action arm of the Catholic Church was the voice in the wilderness that called the attention to the environmental destruction in that part of Luzon. Marinduque Bishop Rafael Lim, then chair of the Luzon Secretariat of Social Action, stood tall against the wanton neglect. But the country was under Marcos martial rule, and there was not much national outrage over local issues. President Marcos had upheld Marcopper's petition to continue dumping its waste into Calanacan Bay. Today, this would have caused global outrage.

I saw for myself Marcopper's 16-kilometer pipeline that carried toxic waste far into the sea. Day or night, one could see a deadly sheen on the surface of the water. Beaches were turned into mud-covered landscapes that cracked under the noonday sun. Fishermen had rashes on their bodies. One could feel the imminent death of creation.

I wrote a long feature on Marinduque's woes in a church social action publication, with on-the-spot line sketches by an artist who came with me, and stark black-and-white photos that I

took, one of them of a huge pipe that carried poison to the sea. I had a photo of myself standing on top of that pipe. I could not hide my dismay.

The fishermen asked that a lighthouse be built on the causeway to warn them of the pipeline when they sailed at night to fish elsewhere. The pipeline had been causing floods due to the constriction of water in the bay where islets were too close to each other. People said that a basin had been planned for the area, but Marcopper opted for the cheaper pipeline. The tailings pit in Mount Tapian had not been fully utilized because Marcopper, it was reported, had discovered more copper ore underneath. Marcopper always made representations before the government and promised to improve its waste disposal system. At one time, it simply paid a daily fine while it continued polluting the environment.

In 1986, the National Pollution Control Commission under the Cory Aquino administration at last banned mine wastes from being dumped into the bay. It was in 1993, during the watch of President Fidel V. Ramos, that Marcopper's tailings containment pond broke and unleashed tons of toxic matter that poisoned everything in its way. The spillage caused a national and international furor.

On March 24, 1996, another mining disaster occurred when the pit with leftover mine tailing was damaged and caused the flow of toxic waste into the river system. It was a deadly one, if not deadlier than the 1993 disaster.

In an article I wrote for the Inquirer in the aftermath of the 1993 tragedy, I could only begin with a cliché: "It was a disaster waiting to happen."

Send feedback to cerespd@gmail.com



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What about the environment?

Los Baños, Laguna—In March 2019, a young Cuvier's beaked whale was found on the verge of death along the shores of Mabini, Davao de Oro, and when a necropsy was performed, nearly 40 kilos of plastic was found in its stomach—including rice sacks and grocery bags. "The plastic in some areas was so compact it was almost becoming calcified, almost like a solid brick," Darrell Blatchley, who owns a museum in Davao City, was quoted by The New York Times as saying. "It had been there for so long it had started to compact."

For a moment, the whale served as a disturbing reminder of how our unbridled use of plastic and our failure to dispose of it properly are polluting the oceans. We may be an archipelagic, maritime nation, but we also have the unwelcome distinction of being the world's third-biggest contributor of plastic waste in our oceans, next only to China and Indonesia.

The pandemic, alas, has swept aside such concerns, and we embraced a plastic-intensive response that included useless plastic barriers for motorcycles and jeepneys, useless plastic barriers in classrooms, and those millions of face shields, which are not just useless but will take hundreds of years to decompose. Where have all the personal protective equipment gone—including those we find littered on our roadsides and riverbanks?

Moreover, the "fog of COVID" has detracted attention from environmental issues—from the ever-worsening climate crisis to the ever-dwindling habitats for our endangered species. In the name of pandemic "recovery," the Duterte administration reversed a ban on mining last year, and today, various mining projects are now being pushed—from Tampakan to Sibuyan—notwithstanding their grave consequences to the entire ecosystems and communities.



SECOND OPINION

GIDEON LASCO

Then, there is the grievous sight of Coron, disfigured beyond recognition due to a supposed "reclamation project" that has now all but destroyed the mangroves and coral reefs in its once beautiful bay—as well as its once-verdant mountains. This barbarous project was finally halted by President Duterte in March, but how can it have proceeded all these years in the first place?

What has made things worse is that those who stand against projects like the ones above have been Red-tagged, threatened, and even killed, earning us yet another notoriety: that of being the deadliest place for environmental defenders in Asia. Indeed, as Global Witness reports, there were 29 such killings in the Philippines in 2020 alone. Justice for these defenders, if at all, has come at a glacial pace; and, as the Marinduque Regional Trial Court decision last week shows, even a glaring environmental crime such as the 1993 Marcopper mine spill can take decades to resolve.

Meanwhile, more whales are washing ashore. Also last week, a sperm whale was found dead in Davao Occidental. Less visibly but more ominously, microplastics are suffocating small-

er marine species, as Inquirer's Krixia Subingsubing recently reported. "They catch more plastic than fish," she writes of the fisherfolk of Mambacayao Island in Northern Cebu, "and the fish they catch have plastic in them."

People all over our country are not just accepting the demise of our environment; they are resisting it. In South Cotabato, over a thousand rallied last week to protest the lifting of the ban on open-pit mining; in Coron, it was the efforts of the Sagip Coron Palawan—a local civil society coalition—that called national attention to their island's predicament. And in Mambacayao Island, it is young people who are taking the lead in cleaning up plastic waste. Hopefully, the pandemic has brought more people to a realization that nature can be our healer and our refuge—and that, in the words of Kloyde Caday who joined the protest in Koronadal City, "we need to be in solidarity with our environmental advocates."

Ultimately, however, we need the leadership of the national government if we are to truly protect what little remains of our forests, mangroves, and coral reefs. As Mr. Duterte—who shut down Boracay and approved the dolomite beach in Manila Bay; who supported Gina Lopez's mining bans only to reverse them—has shown, the presidency can radically shape our environmental policies. We should also never forget that the Marcos dictatorship was characterized by massive deforestation—or what Remigio (1993) calls "large-scale depletion and destruction of the forest resource by elite groups."

Will the forthcoming presidency of Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. be any different? The coming years will be decisive, not just in determining our fate as a nation but that of the lifeworld we share with other species.

glasco@inquirer.com.ph



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Land disputes delay Marawi rebuilding

Officials seek more time to resolve competing property claims before construction of houses, other structures starts

By Ryan D. Rosaura
@InqNational

ILIGAN CITY—Local officials are seeking more time to settle disputes over land in Marawi City's war-ravaged villages in order to pave the way for the rebuilding of homes.

Minalang Barapantao of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao's Ministry of Human Settlements and Development (MHSD) said they wanted the dispute resolution effort extended to at least the year's end.

The MHSD has created the land dispute resolution committee (LDRC) and partnered with the Task Force Bangon Marawi (TFBM) to resolve competing land claims over the city's so-called "most affected area" (MAA), its main commercial district where the five-month fighting between Islamic State-linked armed groups and the government happened in 2017.

The LDRC has documented such disputes in four of the MAA's 24 villages, Barapantao told the radio program *Aler to Bangsamoro* over Cotabato City-based dxMS on Thursday.

Some 896 claims have been forwarded to the City Assessor's Office for verification, he added.

Barapantao also revealed that 106 additional conflicting claims were discovered by the environment department and, so far, they resolved 49 cases.

The LDRC called the individuals involved in the claims to a meeting although Barapantao said the process overseen by the agency was voluntary.

"We cannot force the clients to submit to the process of the LDRC," he said.

Proof of ownership

The TFBM requires families intending to rebuild their homes in the MAA to apply for building permits with the local government's Office of the Building Official. There, one



YEARNING FOR HOME Maranaos displaced during the 2017 Marawi siege and members of civil society groups, in a May 23 march and rally (top), call on the government to speed up the release of compensation so they can rebuild their homes. On May 30, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme will end its Rebuilding Marawi Project with 1,000 permanent houses turned over to beneficiaries. —DIVINA M. SUSON

had to establish ownership of the land.

Barapantao said that given the cases they had yet to resolve, the LDRC had asked the TFBM to extend the dispute resolution operation.

He said that they even expected more land conflicts to arise as more families planned a return to their old communities and also in light of the impending payments for damaged structures and properties through the Marawi Siege Victims Compensation Law (Republic Act No. 11696).

Apart from immediately extending its mandate, the LDRC may need to be institutionalized through an act of the interim Bangsamoro parliament, especially in support of the soon-to-be organized Marawi Compensation Board

(MCB), Barapantao said.

The LDRC, he said, has established a database, with the help of organizations, such as International Alert Philippines, which can be helpful in assessing the compensation claims of displaced families.

According to TFBM spokesperson Johary Lumna, a little more time is needed before the MAA is completely opened for resettlement by former residents, citing that power supply has been restored there while pipes were already laid and now await bulk water supply.

Lumna said that based on their dialogues with displaced families, many were looking forward to the compensation for their lost properties so they could rebuild their homes.

The TFBM has already started updating the damage

and loss assessment of properties affected by the siege.

Lumna said that if the pace of the displaced families' return to MAA picked up, there might no longer be a need to maintain many transitory shelter sites. In many sites, the agreement for the use of the land with private owners will expire early next year.

Among families who may not be able to return or be given permanent shelters in time, they will be transferred to other sites covered by agreements with a longer period of use, Lumna assured.

He said talks between owners and the local government were ongoing regarding the possible extended use of the transitory shelter sites.

Old problems

Apart from apprehensions about their continued use of the temporary relocation areas, families living in transitory shelters grapple with the same problems five years ago.

Lovely Pacasum, a youth leader in the Sagonsongan site, said that, for one, the supply of potable water remained a big challenge. Delivery trucks bring water to relocation sites, for free, based on a weekly schedule. If not, one had to buy at the water refilling stations.

Some sites are far from the downtown area, which will cost residents P50 to P100 in motor cab fare. This heavy cost of transportation led to some families foregoing the education of their children as in-person classes resume, Pacasum noted.

Jalilah Sapiin, a member of Marawi Reconstruction Conflict Watch, said they were expecting the situation could be eased with the provision of compensation by the government.

She hopes that those who will compose the MCB "will have a deep understanding of Maranao culture and context, and will push for equity and deliver justice to Marawi siege victims." INQ



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G7 scrambles to keep climate agenda on track



Heavy equipment excavating anthracite coal from a strip mine in New Castle, Pennsylvania. (Reuters Photo)

BERLIN- Ministers from the world's wealthiest democracies will wrangle over how to keep climate change goals on track as they meet in Berlin for talks overshadowed by spiralling energy costs and fuel supply worries sparked by the war in Ukraine.

Energy, climate and environment ministers from the Group of Seven (G7) countries want to reaffirm a commitment to cap global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius and protect biodiversity at the May 25-27 meeting.

The group will also consider committing to a phase-out of coal power generation by 2030, according to a draft communique seen by Reuters, though sources suggested that opposition from the United States and Japan could derail such

a pledge.

The draft, which could change considerably by the time talks conclude on Friday, would also commit G7 countries to have a "net zero electricity sector by 2035" and to start reporting publicly next year on how they are delivering on a past G7 commitment to end "inefficient" fossil fuel subsidies by 2025.

The invasion of Ukraine by Russia has triggered a scramble among some countries to buy more non-Russian fossil fuels and burn coal to cut their reliance on Russian supplies, raising fears that the energy crisis triggered by the war could undermine efforts to fight climate change.

Campaigners urged the ministers of the G7 to make clear

commitments that the fallout of the Ukraine war would not derail their targets.

"We have a new reality now. The G7 need to respond to that, and they should respond through renewables, and not through fossil fuel infrastructure," said David Ryfisch, climate policy expert at non-profit Germanwatch.

While seeking consensus on an oil embargo on Russia, the European Union is pushing to accelerate the bloc's pivot to renewable energy while finding fossil fuel alternatives to Russian supplies.

Alden Meyer, senior associate at climate think-tank E3G, said tackling climate change was the best and quickest way for countries to achieve energy security.

"Climate impacts are worse than scientists originally predicted and there's far worse ahead if we don't cut emissions rapidly," Meyer said. "Delivering on climate promises really becomes even more vital in this tense geopolitical environment."

Ahead of the meeting, the B7 group of leading business and industry federations of the G7 states called on the group to back a plan along the lines of German Chancellor Olaf Scholz's "climate club" to harmonize standards on emissions and CO2 pricing.

Scholz had suggested the idea to try to avoid trade friction in areas including green tariffs, the development of markets for decarbonized products, carbon pricing and removal methods. - Reuters



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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (632) 929-66-26 to 29 • (632) 929-62-52
Website: <http://www.denr.gov.ph> / E-mail: web@denr.gov.ph

MAR 15 2022

**DENR ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
NO. 2022-06**

**SUBJECT : GUIDELINES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PLANNING
AND MANAGEMENT OF PEATLANDS**

Pursuant to Article II, Section 16 of the 1987 Constitution, Executive Order (EO) No. 192 (1987), Climate Change Act of 2009 (Republic Act [RA] No. 9729)², Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010 (RA No. 10121), Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2001 (RA No. 9147), National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act of 1992 (RA No. 7586) as amended by the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 2018 (RA No. 11038), Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines (Presidential Decree [PD] No. 705), Water Code of the Philippines (PD No. 1067), Philippine Environmental Impact Statement System (PD No. 1586) and their corresponding implementing rules and regulations, and consistent with national commitments under the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention), and the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution, the following guidelines governing the conservation and sustainable development of peatlands and peatland resources are hereby promulgated.

SECTION 1. Statement of Policy. It is the policy of the State to promote the conservation and sustainable development of peatland and peatland resources consistent with the principles of sustainable development, inclusive economic development, poverty reduction, biodiversity conservation, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and disaster risk reduction and management; while advancing the right to a balanced and healthful ecology in accordance with the harmony and rhythm of nature.

SECTION 2. Objectives. This Order shall have the following objectives:

- 2.1 To promote the conservation and sustainable development of the country's peatland and peatland resources through the effective implementation and enforcement of pertinent specific measures required under various laws;
- 2.2 To ensure that plans, programs and activities in or around peatlands are consistent with the goals of the Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (PBSAP) and the Philippine Development Plan (PDP), particularly on the rehabilitation of wetlands as wildlife habitat and their management for food production, water conservation and disaster mitigation;
- 2.3 To institutionalize proper sustainable development planning and management of peatlands and ensure the inclusion and consideration of peatland issues and concerns in the local planning and development processes of concerned local government units (LGUs), particularly in the updating of their Comprehensive Development Plans (CDPs), Comprehensive Land Use Plans (CLUPs) and formulation of their Forest Land Use Plans (FLUPs);
- 2.4 To guide activities on raising public awareness of the existence of peatlands in the Philippines, the vital ecosystem services that they provide, the threats that peatlands face and the consequences of peatland degradation and loss; and
- 2.5 To provide relevant information and guidance on peatlands and peatland issues and concerns to LGUs, local communities, businesses, planners, developers and other stakeholders.

SECTION 3. Scope and Coverage. This Order shall apply to areas identified by the DENR as peatlands as well as oilier areas that may potentially contain peatlands. This Order shall guide sustainable development planning and management of peatlands in public as well as titled lands.

SECTION 4. Definition of Terms. For the purposes of this Order, the following terms shall be construed to mean as:

- 4.1 Land use planning³ refers to the rational and judicious approach of allocating available land resources to different land-using activities, (e.g. agricultural, residential, industrial) and for different functions consistent with the overall development vision/goal of a particular locality;
- 4.2 Peat refers to dead and partially decomposed plant material that have accumulated under high water saturation or waterlogged conditions. Peat soil is defined using the definition of histosol (organic soil) which are soils with cumulative organic layer(s) comprising more than half of the upper 80cm of the soil surface containing 35% or more organic matter (35% or more loss on ignition) or 18% or more organic carbon;
- 4.3 Peat swamp forest refers to a type of peatland that has forest cover and can be found in certain areas in the tropical regions of the world including the Philippines;
- 4.4 Peatlands refers to wetland ecosystems characterized by the accumulation of peat at the surface. Major characteristics of peatland are the presence of peat and permanent water Jogging. Peatlands may have vegetation in the form of trees, shrubs, grasses and mosses and are likely found in swamps and marshes;
- 4.5 Protected Area⁴ refers to identified portions of land and/or water set aside by reason of their unique physical and biological significance, managed to enhance biological diversity and protected against destructive human exploitation;
- 4.6 Riparian area or zone refers to land that occurs along watercourses and

- 6.3.1.4 Maintain natural vegetation, preferably leguminous cover crops, on bare soil to reduce risk of erosion;
- 6.3.1.5 Practice compaction of peat soil before planting;
- 6.3.1.6 Use renewable sources of energy; and
- 6.3.1.7 Plant at a higher density (160 palms per hectare);
- 6.3.2 Shift to agricultural products that are more suited to peatland conditions; and
- 6.3.3 Modify agricultural practices to adapt to peatland conditions.
- 6.4 Regulation of land use conversion of agricultural land which has peatland
 - 6.4.1 Peatland that is already being cultivated, shall remain as such provided that the strategy prescribed in Section 6.3. is followed⁵;
 - 6.4.2 Agricultural land which has peatland, but not cultivated, shall be protected under applicable modalities following Section 6.1; and
 - 6.4.3 Peatlands including those in areas released as agricultural land, whether cultivated or not, is hereby declared as environmentally critical area (ECA)⁷ under PD No. 1586.
- 6.5 Sustainable livelihood for peatland dependent communities
 - 6.5.1 Develop, adopt and promote biodiversity-friendly enterprise;
 - 6.5.2 Provide support to communities for value-added products from peatlands; and
 - 6.5.3 Direct suitable government poverty alleviation project in communities around peatland (e.g. agroforestry, planting of fruit bearing trees, family farming program).
- 6.6 Risk reduction from peatland fires
 - 6.6.1 Inform and educate local communities on the dangers of peatland fires and enlist their participation in fire prevention and control strategies;
 - 6.6.2 Adopt fire prevention and control measures for peatlands;
 - 6.6.3 Adopt zero burning policy; and
 - 6.6.4 Promote composting of agricultural wastes.
- 6.7 Rehabilitation and improvement of the resilience of deforested or degraded peatlands
 - 6.7.1 Prioritize degraded peatlands for reforestation, such as, under the National Greening Program (NGP);
 - 6.7.2 Report the existence of abandoned peatlands released for agricultural use and coordinate their reversion with concerned national government agencies;
 - 6.7.3 Promote the refilling, blocking or plugging of abandoned drainage canals;
 - 6.7.4 Reforest and rehabilitate riparian areas; and
 - 6.7.5 Require oil palm plantations to undertake rehabilitation of their abandoned peatlands.
- 6.8 Undertake research and development (R&D) on peatlands such as but not limited to the following:
 - 6.8.1 Peatland ecosystems and biodiversity;
 - 6.8.2 Hydrological processes to better understand peatland functioning;
 - 6.8.3 Carbon stock assessment and accounting verification;
 - 6.8.4 Vulnerability to climate change and disaster risk management;
 - 6.8.5 Applicable restoration and rehabilitation in peatland;
 - 6.8.6 Peat fire prevention and disaster risk reduction;
 - 6.8.7 Appropriate techniques and practices for peatland management; and
 - 6.8.8 Support to community development and livelihood activities building on traditional knowledge and practices, among others.

SECTION 7. Raising awareness. The DENR shall promote communication, education, participation and public awareness (CEPA) through preparation and dissemination of information materials, and conduct of public awareness campaigns and similar events, on the existence and importance of peatlands, on the prevention or reduction of the threats to peatlands and on the consequences of peatland degradation and loss.

SECTION 8. Roles and Responsibilities of DENR Offices. The following are the roles and responsibilities of concerned DENR Offices:

- 8.1 Biodiversity Management Bureau
 - 8.1.1 Provide technical assistance and guidance to the DENR Field Offices in peatland conservation and management;
 - 8.1.2 Lead capacity building activities relevant to peatlands conservation and management;
 - 8.1.3 Compile results of peatland inventory and assessment into a national peatland map from consolidated peatland inventories submitted by the DENR Field Offices;
 - 8.1.4 Maintain and update national inventory and database of peatland;
 - 8.1.5 Notify the concerned DENR Offices (e.g. LMB, MGB, FMB, ERDB) regarding the peatland in the country and develop and provide policies, rules, regulations and recommendations for the protection and conservation of peatlands;
 - 8.1.6 Conduct periodic monitoring of peatlands and peatland related activities in collaboration with concerned DENR Offices and Field Offices; and
 - 8.1.7 Provide assistance in the development and recognition of biodiversity-friendly enterprises (e.g. development and promotion of BDFE, market linkages, incentives).
- 8.2 Forest Management Bureau



water bodies and are composed of moist to saturated soils, water-loving plant species, and their associated ecosystems. This may be found surrounding lakes, estuaries, streams and rivers;

- 4.7 Subsidence refers to the lowering or collapse of the ground level that results from draining water from peatlands and/or due to fire incidence;
- 4.8 Wetlands⁹ refer to a wide variety of inland habitats such as marshes, peatlands, floodplains, rivers and lakes, and coastal areas such as saltmarshes, mangroves, intertidal mudflats and seagrass beds, and also coral reefs and other marine areas no deeper than six (6) meters at low tide, as well as human-made wetlands such as dams, reservoir, rice paddies and wastewater treatment ponds and lagoons.

SECTION 5. Guiding Principles. The following are the guiding principles for the sustainable development planning and management of peatlands;

- 5.1 Recognition of peatlands as one of the most significant natural ecosystems in the world which have key values for biodiversity conservation, climate regulation, hydrology and water regulation, and support for human welfare;
- 5.2 Recognition and promotion of ecosystems-based adaptation as a nature-based solution to conserve and protect peatlands from degradation, thus reducing the impact and risk of climate change;
- 5.3 Wise use of wetlands which integrates protection and sustainable use, to maintain the ecosystem services provided by peatlands, including the tangible and intangible benefits for humans, in a fair and equitable way; and
- 5.4 The precautionary principle: where it is anticipated that the effects of an intervention could be seriously damaging, measures to prevent this damage should not be avoided because of lack of full scientific certainty.

SECTION 6. Strategies for the Sustainable Development Planning and Management of Peatlands and Related Specific Actions. The DENR, including its field offices, shall promote and practice the following strategies:

- 6.1 Planning for the protection of peatlands from clearing and conversion. Peatlands are very fragile ecosystems. Once degraded, it is very difficult or sometimes impossible to restore to original conditions since physical conditions may have changed dramatically. As such, peatlands shall be left undisturbed and no development shall be undertaken.
 - 6.1.1 Identify and develop a list of potential peatlands in their respective areas of concern/jurisdiction. The area should be at least one (1) hectare to be considered as peatland;
 - 6.1.2 Conduct assessment, mapping and delineation of peatlands as one of the bases for land use planning. The assessment shall include an inventory of peatlands within Alienable and Disposable (A&D) and private lands, as well as the type of title issued, and peatlands susceptible to hazards such as fire and flooding. In case a public land has been assessed as peatland, this area should be mapped and prevented from being released as A&D. The assessment of peatlands shall be completed within three (3) years upon the approval of this Order;
 - 6.1.3 Include identified peatlands under protection category under Comprehensive Land Use Plans (CLUPs), Forest Land Use Plans (FLUPs) and other plans in consultation with concerned agencies, in pursuit of Article 74 of PD No. 1067;
 - 6.1.4 In case of NIPAS, designate peatlands as strict protection zones;
 - 6.1.5 Where necessary, prioritize peatland for protection under RA 7586 as amended by RA 11038, or declared as critical habitat pursuant to Section 25 of RA 9147, or as a local conservation area or other effective area-based conservation measures through the ordinances of LGUs;
 - 6.1.6 In cases where the peatland is within a NIPAS site, include its management as a thematic area in the Protected Area Management Plan (PAMP);
 - 6.1.7 Pursue international recognition of peatlands such as Ramsar Site, ASEAN Heritage Park, World Heritage Site, etc.;
 - 6.1.8 Strengthen implementation of forestry laws and other applicable laws against illegal forestry activities, drainage, conversion, peat extraction, deliberate setting of fire within peatland or adjacent areas that may affect the peatland;
 - 6.1.9 Raise awareness on peatlands and its services and values;
 - 6.1.10 As much as possible, limit necessary development to degraded peatlands; and
 - 6.1.11 Continue identification and assessment of potential peatlands.
- 6.2 Regulation on the use of water in peatlands
 - 6.2.1 Require the presentation of appropriate permits from concerned national government agencies such as the DENR, the National Water Resources Board (NWRB) and the National Irrigation Administration (NIA), prior to the construction of drainage canals in a peatland;
 - 6.2.2 Adopt water management systems to protect against flooding and to ensure adequate water supply during dry season;
 - 6.2.3 Ensure that permitted construction of canals comply with the proper specifications as to width and depth; and
 - 6.2.4 Install water flow control structures on existing canals.
- 6.3 Improvement of agricultural and agroforestry practices in degraded peatland that has been classified as agricultural land and converted for agricultural purposes
 - 6.3.1 Ensure adoption of best management practices by existing agricultural or agroforestry plantations in peatlands including:
 - 6.3.1.1 Maintain high water table to prevent fires (50 to 75 cm below the surface);
 - 6.3.1.2 Prohibit the burning for clearance;
 - 6.3.1.3 Maintain buffer zones between plantations and outside peatlands;

- 8.2.1 Prioritize peat swamp forest/peatlands within forest land that are not Protected Areas as Protection Forest. This includes strips of swamplands at least twenty (20) meters wide, along shorelines facing oceans, lakes, and other bodies of water, and strips of land at least twenty (20) meters wide facing lakes identified for forest protection/restoration purposes, in accordance with Section 16 (8) and 33 (g) of PD No. 705;
- 8.2.2 Prioritize watershed with identified peatlands/peat swamp forest in watershed characterization, vulnerability assessment and integrated watershed management plan preparation;
- 8.2.3 Provide technical assistance and guidance on forest fire management measures; and
- 8.2.4 Prioritize degraded peatlands in rehabilitation/reforestation/restoration programs, such as the National Greening Program, using the appropriate rehabilitation strategies and species suitable to peatland ecosystem.

8.3 Land Management Bureau

- 8.3.1 Issue corresponding advisory to the Regions on item 8.7.11 below, (i.e. the need to consider the provision of PD No. 705 and PD No. 1067 in the evaluation on land title application) upon the approval of this Order and provide detailed implementation guidelines as may be necessary.

8.4 Mines and Geosciences Bureau

- 8.4.1 Conduct of geohazard assessment in peatlands; and
- 8.4.2 Assist in peatland assessment particularly in soil analysis.

8.5 Environmental Management Bureau

- 8.5.1 Assist in peatland assessment particularly in water analysis; and
- 8.5.1 Ensure that peatlands are considered in the impact assessment of projects located in or adjacent to such areas.

8.6 Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau

- 8.6.1 Undertake research and development on peatlands on topics such as but not limited to the items stated in Section 6.8.

8.7 Regional Offices and its respective PENROs/CENROs

- 8.7.1 Conduct inventory, assessment, monitoring and mapping and delineation of peatlands and include in their annual work and financial plan the conduct of such activity;
- 8.7.2 Recommend management prescriptions mentioned in Section 6.1;
- 8.7.3 Implement plans and programs of the DENR for the protection and conservation of wetlands and peatlands;
- 8.7.4 In compliance to existing laws, particularly Section 16 (8) of PD No. 705 and Section 74 of PD No. 1067, and pending the availability of peatland inventory, the DENR Regional Field Office shall conduct thorough evaluation and site assessment for land title applications, to ensure that peatlands, natural marshes and swamps are excluded from the issuance of private land titles, among other compliance to statutory requirements on water body easements;
- 8.7.5 Enforce environment and natural resources laws, rules and regulations relevant to the strategies mentioned in Section 6;
- 8.7.6 Undertake planning and implementation of activities mentioned in Section 6 for the protection of peatlands from clearing and conversion and further degradation;
- 8.7.7 Development of biodiversity-friendly enterprises as prescribed by DAO 2021-13⁶;
- 8.7.8 Undertake awareness raising on the existence and importance of peatlands;
- 8.7.9 In coordination with LGLs and concerned stakeholders, facilitate designation of peatlands as national park and/or other effective area-based conservation measures (OFCM) such as local conservation area and critical habitat;
- 8.7.10 Coordinate with other concerned government institutions, LGUs and stakeholders in the integration of peatlands protection and conservation to the plans and programs of the LGU; and
- 8.7.11 Facilitate the thorough evaluation and site assessment for land title application to ensure that peatlands, including natural marshes and swamps are excluded from possible private land title in compliance to existing laws, particularly Section 16 (8) of PD No. 705 and Section 74 of PD No. 1067.

SECTION 9. Monitoring and Evaluation. The Biodiversity Management Bureau, in collaboration with concerned DENR Field Offices, shall conduct periodic monitoring of peatlands and peatland related activities.

SECTION 10. Coordination with Other Government Agencies. The DENR shall coordinate with other agencies to support the implementation of this Order.

SECTION 11. Separability Clause. If any part of this Order is held invalid or unconstitutional, the other portions or provisions hereof which are not affected shall continue in full force and effect.

SECTION 12. Repealing Clause. All Orders and similar issuances, or parts thereof, inconsistent herewith, are hereby revoked, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 13. Effectivity. This Order shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation and upon acknowledgement by the Office of the National Administrative Register (ONAR).

JIM G. SAMPULNA
Acting Secretary



1 "Reorganization Act of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources" (10 June 1987), specifically Sections 5(b), (c), (h)(5), (i)
 2 Specifically, Section 15(c)
 3 HLURB CLUP Guidebook Volume I
 4 Republic Act No. 11038 (ENIPAS Act), specifically Section 4 (bb)
 5 Republic Act No. 11038 (ENIPAS Act), specifically Section 4 (nn)

6 Section 5 of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) Administrative Order No. 01-02
 7 As defined by the Presidential Proclamation 2146 and further clarified in Section 3.b of EMB Memorandum Circular 005 Series of 2014 "Technical Definition of ECA and Corresponding Operationalization Guide of the Revised Guidelines for Coverage and Screening and Standardized Requirements under the Philippines EIS System".
 8 "Guidelines for the Development and Recognition of Biodiversity-Friendly Enterprises (BDFE) in Protected Areas Under the National Integrated Protected Area System (NIPAS) and Other Conservation Areas, Providing for Incentives and Supporting Mechanisms"



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Department of Environment and Natural Resources
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU
DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City 1118
Tel Nos. (832) 8539 4378
Website: www.emb.gov.ph Email: recordscn@emb.gov.ph



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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

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

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

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

The following is the project information:

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

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

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

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

For more details, please contact the EIAMD Division at this Office at telephone numbers (02) 8539 4378 local 116 and look for the project case handler **Engr. Joel G. Pollitan** or at this email: joel_pollitan@emb.gov.ph.

Protect the environment... Protect life...



05-27-22

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

NOTICE

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

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

The right to lease the land will be awarded to the person offering the highest annual rental, which shall not be less than three per centum (3%) of the value of land plus one per centum (1%) of the value of the proposed and / or existing improvements. In order that a person may be entitled to participate in a bidding, he must be a qualified public land applicant, and must, before the commencement of the same, make a deposit of equivalent to three (3) months rental. Only deposit in cash, money order treasury warrant, certified checks, cashier's check or manager's check can be accepted. A person bidding in representation of another may do so under a duly executed power of attorney. During the bidding, the bidder has to make an additional deposit every time his bid is raised, to complete the three (3) months rental, otherwise, such bid as raised shall not be accepted. The right is reserved to reject any or all bids.

Date

ISAGANI Q. AMATORIO
CENR Officer

27 MAY 2022, FRIDAY



NEWS ALERTS

COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



PH hits 77% target population for Covid-19 vax program

By Lade Jean Kabagani May 26, 2022, 1:09 pm



(File photo by Joey O. Razon)

MANILA – The Philippines has already fully vaccinated almost 77 percent of its target population against the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic as of Thursday.

The latest data from the National Vaccination Operations Center (NVOC) showed that 69,037,072 Filipinos, representing 76.70 percent of the country's total population, have already received two primary series of coronavirus vaccines, with around 14 million administered with the first booster dose.

Secretary Vince Dizon, presidential adviser on Covid-19 response, earlier cited the massive vaccination program has contributed to the decline of active cases, even during the events such as Lenten season, observance of Ramadan, and elections—that entailed crowding of people.

“Despite all of this, we have been able to successfully keep our cases down. And a huge part of this is really the extent of our vaccination program,” Dizon said in a recently televised Talk to the People of President Rodrigo Duterte.

The country has recorded 2,271 active cases from May 10 to 23 with a positive growth rate of 15 percent.

“*Kagaya po ng sinabi kanina* (As I’ve said earlier) despite the many election-related cases, we did not see a significant spike in the number of cases, and it is, I think, a testament to not only the government’s efforts at pushing the vaccines but also the willingness and cooperation of our countrymen and women,” Dizon said.

Dizon said the government will prioritize further increasing the vaccination coverage in some provinces.

“We are also already going to start aggressively pushing the boosters for 18 years old and above,” he added. **(PNA)**

27 MAY 2022, FRIDAY



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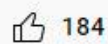
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