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NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR leads Cabinet cluster report on PH climate resiliency under PRRD

May 29, 2022 3 min read

By Rjhay E. Laurea

MANILA — The Cabinet Cluster on Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation, and Disaster Risk Reduction (CCAM-DRR), led by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), will bring to spotlight the milestones towards climate and disaster resiliency during the “Duterte Legacy Summit 2022” on May 30.

CCAM-DRR cluster chair and DENR Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna will lead the presentation of the report, pointing out how President Duterte’s strong political will has raised the bar for Philippine environmentalism.

“Over the past six years, government initiatives steered the country into the path of climate and disaster resiliency, through the whole of society approach,” Sampulna said, noting how this became more evident during the pandemic.

Attached on the theme “Change has Come: We Have Matatag, Maginhawa, at Panatag Na Buhay, the ‘Duterte Legacy Summit 2022’ that will be held at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) will also serve as a culminating task of the administration’s campaign on promoting its landmark programs and achievements.

The CCAM-DRR report points out key areas where landmark progress in climate change resiliency was made due to the steps taken by the Duterte administration in building climate and disaster resilience for the affected sectors by disasters and climate hazards; transformative actions to halt and reverse nature loss; backing quality buildings to ensure resilience against extreme weather events and other hazards; innovation and technology to upgrade knowledge, forecasting and readiness for calamities, key management plans to guide the country towards climate resilience.

The environment chief said the Duterte government pushed a convergence strategy “defined by an institutional network of public and private support between government and stakeholders with strong multi-sector orientations and links to the academe and research institutions” as shown in the Boracay and Manila Bay rehabilitation programs, and the rehabilitation efforts in provinces ruined by Typhoons Rolly and Ulysses in November 2020.



Also, in particular, is the coastal town of Del Carmen in Siargao whose people did not go through as much devastation in the typhoon due to the massive mangrove reforestation and were able to quickly heal from typhoon Odette, according to Del Carmen Fisherfolk Association (DCFA) secretary Judilyn Arreza.

DFCA is a people's organization taking part in the Enhanced National Greening Program (ENGP) since 2016 and Arreza said, the town's healthy environment was key in their economic sustainability especially as the result of Typhoon Odette and the imposition of the lockdown in the COVID-19 pandemic, noting the catch yield of DFCA's members has raised to as much as P1,000 daily on top of the economic benefits they get from Del Carmen's ecotourism tasks. (EGR)



DENR welcomes UN technical review guide vs wildlife trade

[Elizabeth Marcelo](#) - The Philippine Star May 30, 2022 | 12:00am



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 Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has welcomed a technical review process launched by the United Nations International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) that aims to assess the government's response to illegal wildlife trade and other forest crimes.

Speaking during the launch of the ICCWC's "Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit" last May 23, acting Environment Secretary Jim Sampulna said the DENR needs all the help it can get to improve its fight against the multibillion-dollar illegal trade of wildlife and wildlife by-products.

"This is where the International Consortium on Combatting Wildlife and Forest Crime analytic toolkit can bridge the gap," Sampulna added.

Illegal wildlife trade is fast becoming a lucrative business, with trading value at around \$50 billion per year, thus "allowing perpetrators to invest in measures that will enable them to escape detection, investigation and prosecution," according to the acting DENR chief.

He underscored that international support plays a crucial role in the Philippine government's enforcement of environmental laws and prosecution of culprits.

He explained that with the help of the UN's Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the ICCWC's analytical review toolkit will help the DENR better understand any loopholes in existing preventive measures as well as the criminal justice system's response to wildlife and forest crimes.

"Through the toolkit, concerned agencies can jointly identify systematic issues and agree on evidence-based recommendation in response to legislative, enforcement, prosecution and judiciary facets of wildlife trade," Sampulna said.

"To protect people and the planet in line with the sustainable development goals, and to build back better from the COVID-19 crisis, we have to combat environmental crimes, including the illegal trafficking of wild flora and fauna," he added.

UNODC-Environment Team chief Jorge Rios, United States Embassy for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs director Kelia Cummins and Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora secretary-general Ivonne Higuero also attended the launch.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2022/05/30/2184656/denr-welcomes-un-technical-review-guide-vs-wildlife-trade>



DENR welcomes analytic toolkit to curb wildlife trade, forest crimes

May 29, 2022 2 min read

By Rjhay E. Laurea

MANILA – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Friday praised the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) for setting a technical review process as the latest response to wildlife and forest crimes in the Philippines.

DENR Secretary Jim O. Sampulna said the Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit will fight the unjust and lucrative industry of illegal wildlife trade in the Philippines which is also used as a source and export point of wildlife and wildlife by-products.

He pointed out that illegal trading is valued at around US\$50 billion annually, thus “allowing perpetrators to invest in measures that will enable them to escape detection, investigation, and prosecution.”

“We, as enforcers of environmental laws, need all the help that we can get. This is where the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime analytic toolkit can bridge the gap,” Sampulna said during a high-level meeting with law enforcement agencies in the country.

The DENR chief underlined the role of worldwide support to the Philippine government in enforcing laws and jailing culprits.

He added that with the help of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the toolkit will allow the DENR to better understand the criminal justice system and preventive response to wildlife and forest crimes.

Sampulna also said that concerned firms can jointly identify issues and agree on evidence-based advice in response to legislative, enforcement, prosecution, and judiciary facets of wildlife trade through the toolkit.



Also, he urged government staff to fight the multi-million illegal business as environmental crimes severely damage critical ecosystems and worsen poverty.

“To protect people and the planet in line with the sustainable development goals, and to build back better from the COVID-19 crisis, we have to combat environmental crimes, including the illegal trafficking of wild flora and fauna,” said Sampulna.

The meeting was attended by UNODC-Environment Team chief Jorge Rios, United States Embassy for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs Director Kelia Cummins, and Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora Secretary-General Ivonne Higuero. (ai/mtvn/EGR)

PHOTO COURTESY: Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects Service – DENR

Source: <https://maharlika.tv/2022/05/29/denr-welcomes-analytic-toolkit-to-curb-wildlife-trade-forest-crimes/?fbclid=IwAR2oRJTGzqDmz-Xs9CvRE-CiUr822fkSk0qNv0PzpnwzbR3XdQevWLeI0po>



7th operational phase of UNDP-GEF launched in PH

May 29, 2022 3 min read

Acting DENR Sec. Jim Sampulna

By Rjhay E Laurea

MANILA – Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Acting Sec. Jim O. Sampulna said the rationale for building the resilience of community-based organizations (CBOs) is taking conservation and livelihood interventions as the country launched the Seventh Operational Phase of the United Nations Development Programme-Global Environment Facility (UNDP-GEF) Small Grants Programme (SGP-7) last April 8, 2022.

The SGP 7 which is being applied by the UNDP-Philippines through the Foundation for Philippine Environment and with support from the GEF and DENR-Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB), empowers CBOs including women, indigenous peoples, and youth via community-led tasks that aim to achieve global environmental benefits while improving livelihood and reducing poverty.

Since 1992, SGP has executed 26,429 projects in 136 countries.

In the Philippines, over US\$11 million in grants have been distributed over the past 25 years.

With the launch of the SGP-7, Sampulna said that a full landscape strategy will be enacted 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 aims to back community organizations in enhancing the socio-ecological resilience of the four target landscapes via community initiatives to make global environmental and sustainable development benefits.

The initiatives will be known and applied to back landscape-level strategies planned by multi-stakeholder groups composed of representatives of landscape sectors, local gov’t authorities, non-government organizations (NGOs), and the private sectors.



The seventh operational phase also aims to effect change towards fueling 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, recovery, and building resilient communities,” Ramachandran pointed out.

The plans that will be used for applying 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 via support for local community-managed areas.

Also, 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 gov’t units are also included as plans for execution.

The program is expected to profit NGOs, the academe, indigenous peoples, community groups, local governments, other sector agencies, and private sectors. (EGR/ai/mtvn)

Source: https://maharlika.tv/2022/05/29/7th-operational-phase-of-undp-gef-launched-in-ph/?fbclid=IwAR08emWELGqT_PSQLKJICdoYeS9rYSL8v0QLs9Hx5XjpW7uRhcvj3mAW
[Sew](#)



Usaping Bayan

May 25 at 2:34 AM · 🌐

Pang. Rodrigo Duterte, hindi maikukumparang lider ng bansa ayon sa kalihim ng DENR.

Pinasalamatan rin ng ahensya ang Honorary Chairman ng SMNI na si Pastor Apollo C. Quiboloy dahil sa suporta nito sa environmental advocacy ng pamahalaan. | via Sheena Torno



👍❤️ BUHAY Abroad, Farida Lacsayao and 79K others

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DENR partners with DoT, DILG for Year of Protected Areas campaign

May 30, 2022



DENR Acting Secretary Jim Sampulna (second from left), DoT secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat (fourth from left) and DILG Secretary Eduardo Año (second from right) are joined by Senator-elect Loren Legarda-Leviste (third from left), United Nations Development Program Philippines resident representative Dr. Selva Ramachandran (extreme left) and Climate Change Commission Secretary Robert Borje (extreme right). CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Acting Secretary Jim Sampulna, Department of Tourism (DoT) Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat and Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) Secretary Eduardo Año led the signing ceremony at the launch of the Year of Protected Areas (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 five 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 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.

This year's campaign kicks-off by featuring six PAs in different regions: Bongsanglay Natural Park in Masbate; Apo Reef Natural Park in Occidental Mindoro; Samar Island Natural Park in the provinces of Samar, Eastern Samar and Northern Samar; Balinsasayao Twin Lakes Natural Park in Negros Oriental; Mt. Hamiguitan Range Wildlife Sanctuary in Davao Oriental,; and Mts. Timpoong Hibok-Hibok Natural Monument in Camiguin.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2022/05/30/public-square/%20/denr-partners-with-dot-dilg-for-year-of-protected-areas-campaign/1845460>



Bill addressing plastic waste gets Lower House approval

BY JOVEE MARIE DE LA CRUZ MAY 30, 2022

The House of Representatives has recently ratified the proposed “Extended Producer Responsibility Act of 2022.”

This after the bicameral conference committee approved the report on the disagreeing provisions of House Bill 10696 and Senate Bill 2425 or the proposed “Extended Producer Responsibility Act of 2022,” amending for the purpose Republic Act 9003 or the “Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.”

The proposal will be transmitted to the President once the Senate ratifies the same report.

When enacted into law, the measure would institutionalize the extended producer responsibility (EPR) mechanism as a practical approach to efficient waste management, focusing on waste reduction, recovery and recycling, the development of environment-friendly products that advocate the internationally accepted principles on sustainable consumption and production, circular economy, as well as producers’ full responsibility throughout the life cycle of their plastic products.

The bill defines circular economy as an economic model of creating value by extending product lifespan through improved design and servicing and relocating ways from the end of the supply chain to the beginning.

The bill—principally authored by Deputy Speaker Camille A. Villar, Camarines Sur Rep. Luis Raymund F. Villafuerte and Deputy Speaker Rufus B. Rodriguez—seeks to address the problem of uncollected plastic wastes and prevent it from leaking to the environment.

It also encourages the reduction, recovery, diversion of non-environmentally friendly products into the circular economy so that nothing goes to waste.

Villafuerte said “EPR systems are now being observed in some of the European Union member-countries such as Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, Sweden and Spain. The EPR initiatives to be undertaken by manufacturers, distributors and retailers of goods.”

Villar said Philippine laws, including RA 9003, RA 9275 (Clean Water Act of 2004) and RA 8749 (Clean Air Act of 1999) were passed to ensure the Constitutional mandate on environmental preservation and protection.

However, Villar said, the “lack of enforcement hinders the realization of the objectives of the fundamental law and several legal issuances.”

“Solid waste management continues to be a problem in the country,” she added.

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2022/05/30/bill-addressing-plastic-waste-gets-lower-house-approval/>

Marcos urged to ratify ban on hazardous waste exports

[Elizabeth Marcelo](#) - The Philippine Star May 30, 2022 | 12:00am



“We appeal to President-elect Marcos to target the ratification of the Basel Convention Ban Amendment among his top priorities in the first 100 days of his administration to uphold environmental health and justice,”

EcoWaste national coordinator Aileen Lucero said.

Edd Gumban, file

MANILA, Philippines — Environmental watchdog EcoWaste Coalition has urged President-elect Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to ratify a treaty banning hazardous waste exports to the Philippines.

“We appeal to President-elect Marcos to target the ratification of the Basel Convention Ban Amendment among his top priorities in the first 100 days of his administration to uphold environmental health and justice,” EcoWaste national coordinator Aileen Lucero said.

The group issued the statement in commemoration of the third anniversary of the historic sending back to Canada of its shipping containers full of garbage on May 30, 2019.

More than 65 containers, carrying 2,400 tons of Canadian waste, were intercepted by the Bureau of Customs in 2013. Upon inspection by Customs and environmental experts it was found out that the cargos contain “mixed waste, consisting of non-recyclable plastics, used adult diapers, broken bottles and glasses, waste paper, household/kitchen waste, contrary to the earlier declaration that the waste materials consist of recyclable scrap.”

The containers were declared to be carrying “heterogeneous plastic scrap materials.”

EcoWaste called on Marcos to “institute essential policy measures” to prevent similar waste dumping incidents and protect the nation’s interest from global waste trade.

The group said that among the policy measures that Marcos can immediately pursue is the ratification of the Basel Convention Ban Amendment.

The Ban Amendment, adopted by the parties to the Basel Convention in 1995, prohibits the export of hazardous wastes for recycling or disposal from member states of the European Union, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, and Liechtenstein to all other countries.

The Ban Amendment entered into force in December 2019.

EcoWaste noted that Marcos is familiar with the issue of hazardous waste trade, having filed a resolution in the 16th Congress when he was still senator “to investigate, in aid of legislation, the dumping of Canadian trash into the country, and institute measures to protect public health and environment against toxic and hazardous materials.”



The group said that apart from pushing for the ratification of the Basel Convention Ban Amendment, Marcos must also impose a comprehensive ban on all foreign waste imports, and support a stronger regional action by the ASEAN to stop global waste dumping.

EcoWaste cited a study commissioned by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources - Environmental Management Bureau which showed that “the overall beneficial impact of the Ban Amendment in the Philippines, (particularly) the long-term financial, environmental, and social benefits, outweigh the short term-costs.”

The Philippine government has yet to complete the ratification procedures of the Basel Convention Ban Amendment, which will require concurrence from the Senate.

Bulacan province warned on worsening garbage problem

By **Peter Tabingo** -May 30, 2022

GOVERNMENT auditors have urged the provincial government of Bulacan to take steps to address the issue of solid waste management, particularly the reduction of volume of trash through segregation.

In its 2021 report on the province released last May 26, the Commission on Audit noted that Bulacan failed to implement any of the high-impact programs, projects, and activities (PPAs) listed in its 10-Year Provincial Solid Waste Management Plan (PSWMP) 2021-2030.

The PSWMP was submitted to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB) Region 3 on August 19, 2021.

Among the pressing matters cited in the 10-year plan were the need to enforce rules governing disposal of solid waste, conversion of recyclables into usable products, compliance with segregation at the household and non-household sources and establishing a central materials recovery facility (CMRF) in addition to 569 material recovery facilities in the various barangays.

While public offices complied with the guidelines of disposing trash according to material type to separate those that are degradable from the ones that would take longer to decompose, their good intentions went to naught.

“The practice of segregation of wastes in various offices of the province became futile as the collected garbage were hauled together at the transfer site,” the COA noted.

With the head of the Bulacan Environment and Natural Resources Office (BENRO) having been appointed only recently, the plan for a functional CMRF has not moved past the drawing board.

“As of now, the motorpool in Tabang, Malolos still serves as a temporary transfer site for hauled regular wastes,” the audit team said.

It reminded the provincial government that under RA 9003, it is required to ensure that the solid waste management program must ensure the protection of public health and the environment.

The breakdown of expenses of the province showed its payment for Environmental/Sanitary Services increased from P16.58 million in 2020 to P18.38 million in 2021.



Red Cross Ph nakialam na rin sa basura sa Boracay

May 29, 2022 1 min read

Sa likod ng pagdagsa ng mga turista sa isla ng Boracay ay gayundin naman ang pagdami ng mga basura at kalat na naiwan sa mga dalampasigan kung kaya't walang humpay ang mga miyembro ng Red Cross Philippines sa boluntaryong pangugulekta ng mga kalat sa Balabag Boracay Station 2 upang mapanatili ang kalinisan ng puting buhangin at karagatan ng pamosong beach resorts sa Aklan.

Maliban sa mga plastic na naaanod sa dalampasigan, kabilang sa mga basurang ipinapadpad sa dalampasigan ang mga halamang dagat na ginagawa rin nilang pataba sa mga ugat ng punong niyog sa isla. (Peter Lacang/BENJAMIN CUARESMA/EGR/ai/mtvn)

Source: <https://maharlika.tv/2022/05/29/red-cross-ph-nakialam-na-rin-sa-basura-sa-boracay/?fbclid=IwAR2B1Uanmf Dp-kttc d6FBNrriT8J8eZvIzAoFGL1e6IRkaplo0VtxULmI>



Group urges next government leaders to protect environment



Contributed photo

RALPH LAWRENCE G. LLEMIT

May 29, 2022

AN ENVIRONMENTAL group is urging the incoming local and national administration for the continuous protection of the environment.

With the administration of president-elect Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. set to start on June 30, Interfacing Development Interventions for Sustainability (Idis) Environmental Research Specialist Lemuel Manalo said they are hoping that the incoming administration would consider environmental protection in their decision-making.

"We call for the decision-makers, especially in the national government... to really put environment as their utmost priority in their decision making," Manalo said.

He also reiterated their call to the legislators to make laws that would address environmental problems like flooding. This was one of their calls in their Green Vote survey.

"We really tell the people to vote for the environment, to really prioritize environmental-protectors to be seated in the government, and as policymakers," Manalo said.

He also urged lawmakers to listen to the plight of the people, who will be affected if the environment looms.

The environmental advocate also urged the incoming administration of Davao City mayor-elect Sebastian Duterte to address the waste-generation problem of the city and to fully implement the Single-Use Plastic Ban ordinance signed by the latter's sister, outgoing Mayor and vice president-elect Sara Duterte-Carpio.

He added that the Comprehensive Land Use Program would be followed by limiting the application of the residential application and enhancing or upgrading the disaster risk reduction and management.

Manalo said Idis is also calling for President Rodrigo Duterte to take a stand in the Tampakan Open-Pit Mining in South Cotabato, which they believe would also affect Davao Gulf.

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1930454/davao/local-news/group-urges-next-government-leaders-to-protect-environment>



Gov't urged to cancel recently-suspended Masungi quarrying agreements

By: [Zacarian Sarao](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#) [INQUIRER.net](#) / 03:26 PM May 29, 2022



The 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

MANILA, Philippines — The Masungi Georeserve Foundation (MGF) is urging the government to cancel “once and for all” recently suspended agreements for quarrying in the Masungi Georeserve and the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape (UMRBPL).

The call comes in the wake of an order by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to suspend the [Mineral Production Sharing Agreements](#) (MPSAs) granted to three quarrying companies — Rapid City Realty and Development Corp., Quimson Limestone, Inc., and Quarry Rock Group, Inc. — in the Masungi Georeserve in Baras town, Rizal province.

However, the MGF, in a recent statement stressed that the mere suspension of agreements does not guarantee it will not operate again in the future, explaining that it usually goes back to operation after noise and public clamor dies down.

“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,” the MGF said in a statement on Friday.

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

It also argued that the agreements were issued within protected areas where “quarrying is clearly prohibited by law.”

Even regulators have also stated that the said quarry companies have committed “gross violations constituting breach in their contracts,” said the foundation.

The foundation added that it believes the said quarrying companies “miserably failed” to justify the breaches in their contracts.

“The logical and necessary next step is to cancel the MPSAs,” said the foundation.



It also warned that two of the companies, Rapid City and Quarry Rock, have claimed that “they will not give up in their advocacy to revive the economy,” which is a sign of it returning if the government does not uphold the law against the said companies.

“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 foundation added.

Source: https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1603963/govt-urged-to-cancel-recently-suspended-masungi-quarrying-agreements?utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR3lJm02IERL62RrQWxTA9OC_gblyGD8X53NnDEjR-oGR32RJBsGqnLfNIk#Echobox=1653809705



Environmental group reiterates warning vs mining operation near Davao Oriental protected areas

May 29, 2022 | 6:54 pm



MATI CITY LGU FB PAGE

AN ENVIRONMENTAL advocacy group has called on local authorities to move towards the full closure of an open-pit mining project in Davao Oriental that is near the two protected areas of Mt. Hamiguitan and Pujada Bay.

“What alarms us is that the Pujada Nickel Open-Pit Mining Project straddles between and within close proximity of Mount Hamiguitan Wildlife Range, a UNESCO Heritage Site and protected by Republic Act 9303 and Pujada Bay Protected Seascape and Landscape,” Davao City-based Interfacing Development Interventions for Sustainability, (IDIS) Inc. said.

The group issued the statement last week after the city government of Mati, Davao Oriental’s capital and host of the project, allayed public concern triggered by photos posted on social media about the mining site’s location.

“The mining site of the Austral-Asia link Mining Corporation and Hallmark Mining Corporation comprising a total area of 17,215.49 hectares is outside the protected areas... the mining area is four kilometers away from the boundary of the Pujada Bay Seascape... It is also outside the Mt. Hamiguitan Range Wildlife Sanctuary,” the Mati City government said.

IDIS, however, asserted that “regardless of the claim that it is outside the protected area delineation, we strongly uphold and fight for the ecological rights and integrities of these watersheds from ridge to reef.”

Portions of these protected areas are within a proximity radius of only eight kilometers from the open-pit mining site, it 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.”

The group appealed to local officials and the regional head of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to suspend the companies’ Mineral Production Sharing Agreement (MPSA) with the government.

The Mati City Environment and Natural Resources Office pointed out that the 25-year MPSA was awarded in 2004 and mining activities have been in operation since then. The companies halted operations from 2017-2021 when the National Government imposed an open-pit mining ban.



“Aside from the MPSA, the mining companies... are also given the environmental compliance certificate by the National Government which certifies that ‘the development, construction and operation of the mine/quarry will not bring about unacceptable environmental impacts’,” the local environment office said.

The Mati City government also said that they have been “constantly monitoring the operation of the mining company since 2004” to ensure compliance to safety measures. — **Maya M. Padillo**



LLDA ‘dream’ becomes a mirage

[CTALK](#) - [Cito Beltran](#) - The Philippine Star May 30, 2022 | 12:00am

For the longest time, the Laguna Lake Development Authority has primarily been known as a government agency that regulates the construction of floating fish cages on Laguna de Bay, preventing encroachment as well as dumping of sewage or pollutants, and doing its best to make sure that the lake remains as a viable source of water for Metro Manila. For all their efforts, the LLDA barely gets their money’s worth from all the regulatory work they do to protect the Laguna de Bay. The LLDA has reportedly earned no more than P500 million annually in the last 52 years from the 91,170-hectare area of Laguna de Bay. There have been a lot of talk about developing the lake for business and tourism applications but the take up has been very slow. The LLDA could probably generate more money charging for water being sucked out of the lake but producers and users have insisted on depending on Angat and La Mesa Dam, etc.

But in 2018, the leadership of the LLDA picked up on a trend in the region where China, Japan and South Korea were independently studying the concept of “Floating Solar Energy Collectors” on lakes and inland bodies of water. These experiments were designed as power stations or for commercial utility application. The LLDA management reached out to various renewable energy proponents and convinced four outfits to put up experimental solar platforms in order to find out if the trend could work on Laguna de Bay, the same way it was creating positive results regionally. The LLDA experiment went on for over a year where they tested for proof of concept to know if floating solar panels could generate enough renewable energy for commercial use, what environmental impact or benefits there may be and sustainability of the project. Everything yielded positive results and became the basis for determining the scope and parameters of the project.

The initial area would cover 2,000 hectares split up between three or four sites among several companies. In total, the concept all the way to public bidding took nearly four years and industry players were keen to participate. On paper, the LLDA estimated that the projects as a whole will generate P3.6 billion or approximately seven times what the LLDA earns in a year. The projects would generate and provide affordable electricity for surrounding communities, towns and provinces such as Laguna which are on the banks of Laguna de Bay, and the project would undoubtedly expand in the near future and create a development boom. On top of all that, the floating solar platforms would provide 2,000 hectares of shaded areas for aquatic animals, cooling effect on water temperature, reduce algae bloom and, as more and more areas are covered, there would be a reduction of water evaporation. With so many benefits, the only thing left to do was to conduct a proper bidding, which eventually drew the interest of a reported 40-plus companies or groups in the renewable energy business. All presumably went well because there were no public complaints or protests and even losing bidders allegedly praised the entire proceedings, which were also monitored by government auditors.

It was now a waiting game and all that was needed was for the LLDA management to announce who the winners were or are, until posts began to appear, authored by certain “New Media” entities on social media suggesting that the project might be a midnight deal. After that, the Renewable Energy Committee that managed the entire project was called to Congress several times by the committee on energy chaired by Cong. Mikey Romero where similar “inquiries” were made about the project, process and integrity of the bidding. The LLDA-REC stood firm on the integrity of the project and the fact that they spent nearly four years to put it together with the public participation of stakeholders and experts. In the end, it seems that all the tree shaking was simply to ascertain that there will be other opportunities for groups who failed to win or to participate.



Then the participants went back to waiting for the results that were supposed to be officially announced right after the May 9 elections. No announcement came and from the looks of it, no announcement will be made or permitted by the current board members. The suspicion is that the LLDA officials were traumatized from their “tree shaking” experience done through false allegations on social media and the series of inquiries from Congress. While the LLDA-REC withstood the attacks on their work and their integrity with courage, the same may not be the case with one if not two members of the board, who seemingly want to finish their term without incident. A member of the board allegedly insisted that the LLDA should simply wait for a new board under the BBM administration to make the announcement. Why? The project was an accomplishment during the Duterte administration, why give the credit to the new administration that was not a part of all the work?

How can they justify undue delay of a public bidding where the LLDA gains a clear advantage of P3.6 billion without putting any money out and stages a breakthrough program for renewable energy? The simple act of scuttling or sabotaging a legal public bidding where participants paid fees, spent money for their submissions and offers is a serious act of graft. Not acting within the prescribed period is already in violation of the Ease Of Doing Business Law and a presidential directive. The social media critics of the project call it a midnight deal, but based on the intentional delay, the correct term should be “a midnight block.” The LLDA has a “dream project” but one of their board members might singlehandedly turn it into a mirage and lost opportunity for the LLDA. The dream can also turn into legal nightmares once angry bidders take them all to court.



Rescued turtle placed under care of Zamboanga school lab



ZAMBOANGA. An adult female olive ridley turtle is now under the care of the Zamboanga State College of Marine Sciences and Technology (ZSCMST) laboratory in Zamboanga City. A photo handout shows veterinarians observing the movement of the turtle that was recovered Friday, May 27, on Sta. Cruz Island, Zamboanga City. (SunStar Zamboanga)

May 29, 2022

AN ADULT female olive ridley turtle is now under the care of the Zamboanga State College of Marine Sciences and Technology (ZSCMST) laboratory in Rio Hondo village, Zamboanga City.

Dr. Arnedo Agbayani, assistant city veterinarian, said the turtle was recovered by a fisherman Friday, May 27, on Sta. Cruz Island.

Personnel from the Office of the City Veterinarian (OCVet) with support from the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro) are closely monitoring the turtle to ensure its full recovery before it can be released back to its natural habitat.

The olive ridley turtle is a victim of net stranding, Agbayani said.

Olive ridley sea turtles have an average life span of 50 years in the wild and grow up to 2.5 feet.

It got its name from the generally greenish color of its skin and shell or carapace.

Studies showed that the olive ridley turtles are found only in warmer waters, including the southern Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian Oceans.

The olive ridley turtle is also commonly known as the Pacific ridley sea turtle. **(SunStar Zamboanga)**



Mt. Apo park disallows pork products

By [Franz R. Sumangil](#) May 29, 2022



The first sighting of the warty pig in Mount Apo in this file photo from the DENR. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

THE City Government of Kidapawan in North Cotabato has strictly prohibited the bringing of pork products by climbers at Mt. Apo.

City Tourism Supervising Officer Gillian Lonzaga announced on Friday, May 27, the policy that is in coordination with the Office of City Veterinarian.

The prohibition came due to the threat of African Swine Fever (ASF) spread in the protected landscape especially that a warty pig, which is considered a vulnerable species, has just been discovered living in the mountain.

Lonzaga said they will be strictly monitoring the climbers who will be taking the Kidapawan trail on the way to the summit.

She stated that the City Government will confiscate any contraband, and violators of the regulation will be fined.

He added that other municipalities with a trail leading to the summit of Mt. Apo will also adopt the same policy.

It can be recalled that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) – Region 11 discovered a warty pig (*Sus philippinensis*), which is endemic in the area, during a Mt. Apo Summer Climb during the Holy Week.

Despite facing extinction, the DENR considered the presence of the animal as an indication that Mt. Apo is recovering to its former natural glory.



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News5
May 28 at 1:10 PM · 🌐

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Isang pamilya ng rufous hornbill o mas kilala sa tawag na Philippine hornbill o kalaw ang nakunan ng photographer na si Jonet Carpio sa Bayabas, Doña Remedios Trinidad, Bulacan nitong May 15.

Kwento ni Carpio, anim na adult na kalaw ang nagpapalitan ng toka para pakainin ang kanilang mga sisiw. Bagamat inabot na ng higway at dam ang kanilang pinamumugaran, patuloy pa rin na nakakalipad ng malaya ang mga ibon sa lugar.

: Jonet Carpio



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DAR distributes land titles to farmers in North Cotabato

BY **JONATHAN L. MAYUGA** MAY 30, 2022

The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) announced on Sunday the distribution of land titles to a total of 128 agrarian reform beneficiaries from the town of Makilala, North Cotabato.

The distribution of the certificates of land ownership awards (CLOAs) benefitted landless farmers from 18 of the 38 barangays in the Makilala, a town located on the southeast portion of Cotabato Province and the last town going to Davao City.

Makilala is a first class municipality that connects 3 bustling cities in the region.

It is 129 kilometers away from Cotabato City, 100 kilometers away from Davao City, and 114 kilometers away from General Santos City.

DAR Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer Charish Paña said the distributed CLOAs covered 149.9 hectares of land implemented under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

“I would like to congratulate all the beneficiaries on their recent victory of having ownership and possession of their CLOA. It is indeed a great opportunity and a privilege to be an ARB. Take good care of the land and make it productive,” Paña said in a statement.

Municipal Agrarian Reform Program Officer Julie Garcia said all the beneficiaries were properly oriented about their roles, duties, and responsibilities receiving their CLOAs, and proof of ownership of government-awarded land through CARP.

“We also reminded the ARBs that the DAR will continue to provide support services interventions to make their lands more productive to generate more income for their respective families,” Garcia said.



Decline in North Sea puffins causes concern

[Stuart Graham](#) - Agence France-Presse May 29, 2022 | 2:50pm



A photograph taken on April 19, 2022 shows puffins on the Isle of May National Nature Reserve in the Firth Of Forth off the East Coast of Scotland. On the Isle of May off the east coast of Scotland, there has been a fall in puffin numbers. "We have some big concerns about puffins on the Isle of May," Reserve Manager David Steele says. "The population was really booming in the 80s and 90s and then suddenly a crash. We lost nearly 30 percent of all puffins in the mid-2000s and since then the population has slowly increased, but nothing what it used to be."

United Kingdom — The Isle of May, off Scotland's east coast, is home to one of the UK's biggest colonies of seabirds. Some 200,000 birds, from kittiwakes to guillemots can flock to the rocky outcrop at the height of the breeding season.

But conservationists are concerned about dwindling numbers of one of the island's most distinctive visitors — the Atlantic puffin.

"The population was really booming in the 80s and 90s and then suddenly, a crash," David Steel, a manager at the nature reserve, told AFP.

"We lost nearly 30 percent of all puffins in the mid-2000s and since then the population has slowly increased but nothing compared to what it used to be."

Just over 50 miles (80 kilometres) down the coast on the Farne Islands, off Northumberland in northeast England, there are similar concerns.

In both places, global warming, high winds, rains, coastal erosion, pollution and overfishing of its favoured food — sand eels — is being blamed for dwindling numbers.

"Climate change is having a big effect with prey items in the sea," affecting sand eels which feed on plankton in the North Sea, said Steel.

"The plankton is moving north as the sea temperature increases. So if there are less sand eels the puffins are going to struggle."

Census

On a meadow on one of the Farne Islands, rangers slowly slide their arms into narrow sandy burrows, searching for signs of nesting pairs of puffins, which are known locally as "tommy noddies".

"Quite often you will get a bit of a nip, which is a good sign because it means then that the burrow is occupied," said one of the rangers, Rosie Parsons.

In 2015, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature gave puffins "vulnerable" status, after large declines over much of their European range.

Rising sea temperatures have caused sand eels to move north to cooler waters, forcing the birds to follow but where more extreme weather can be fatal for them.



The traditional enemies of puffins, which grow to just under 30 centimetres (one foot) tall and weigh around 450 grams (around a pound), are seagulls and seals.

Puffins mate for life and lay a single egg in April or May.

Due to their low reproductive rate, populations can take decades to recover from a sudden knock.

A full puffin census is being carried out on the Farne Islands and the Isle of May this year.

Concerns were raised last year when a limited count recorded 36,211 breeding pairs across four of the Farne Islands compared to 42,474 pairs in 2018.

Puffin numbers on the islands peaked at 55,674 pairs in 2003 before a sudden crash to 36,835 in 2008 a due to an extremely low number of sand eels.

Zoologist Richard Bevan, from Newcastle University, hopes the resumed annual count will provide a more accurate estimate of puffins on the islands.

"Up until 2018 surveys were done on the Farnes every five years, which means you don't know what's happening in the four years in between," he told AFP.

Before 2018, teams of researchers would check every burrow they came across on an island and form an estimate from that.

The university then found a way to subsample to form an accurate estimate of the population. This has sped up the count and made the task far less arduous.

Concern

Measuring puffin numbers is difficult, said Bevan.

Sometimes it will be easy to spot one of the birds, returning to nests with a sand eel clamped in its beak, but puffins are often underground.

"Often the only way to do it is to stick your arm into a burrow and check," he said.

The 2022 census will give scientists a picture of how the puffin population is being affected by factors such as climate change and local changes in sand eel availability, Bevan says.

"Looking at the data, it is worrying to see that over the last four years we have seen a downward trend," he says.

"However, these are data for a short time period and compared to the population counts in the early 1990s they are still reasonable numbers."

Although there is not an immediate danger of the puffins becoming extinct, the fact that their numbers are falling "triggers concern".

"With a declining population you have to keep your eye on it to make sure that doesn't continue," he said.

"If it does continue we have to be aware of the factors that contribute to it and how we can ameliorate those."

Activists fear a new threat to biodiversity—renewable energy

To fight climate change, cleaner energy sources are desperately needed, but some experts say more should be done to keep untouched desert ecosystems intact.

BY SARAH GIBBENS PUBLISHED MAY 26, 2022 • 12 MIN READ

A small Nevada wildflower named Tiehm's buckwheat might still be living in obscurity if it had not happened to grow in soil full of lithium. As it is, that could prove its downfall.

Lithium is needed to make the high-powered batteries that are helping the world transition to electric vehicles. [Demand is soaring](#), and mining companies are eager to take it out of the ground at several new sites in Nevada, already home to the only existing lithium mine in the U.S.

But Tiehm's buckwheat is rarer than lithium. It grows only on approximately [10 acres of land](#) at Rhyolite Ridge in southwestern Nevada—right where [one of the new lithium mines](#) is planned.

“One guy on a bulldozer could drive it extinct in one afternoon,” says Patrick Donnelly, the Great Basin Director for the Center for Biological Diversity and one of the flower's biggest advocates.

He and some other conservationists see the flower and the mine as emblematic of a broad and disturbing trend: There is a growing conflict, they say, between efforts to address two environmental crises—a rapidly warming climate on the one hand, and a staggering rise in extinction on the other.

Mining isn't the only way the renewable energy revolution is affecting landscapes, in the desert and elsewhere. In the past decade, solar- and wind-powered electricity generation has [quadrupled](#) in the U.S.— and that's just the beginning of what experts say we need to do to transition away from fossil fuels and avoid the worst impacts of climate change. By 2030, Nevada plans to get half its [electricity](#) from renewable energy, in line with the [Biden Administration's](#) goal to decarbonize the economy completely by 2050.

The result is [what some activists describe](#) as a renewable energy land rush putting rare species and untouched desert ecosystems at risk.

Historically, wetlands and grasslands were long treated as valueless; swamps were drained for development, and prairies plowed to plant crops. Now some conservationists see history repeating itself in the desert's largely untouched valleys full of sunshine, lithium-rich soils, and geothermal hot spots.

“We're going to do what we've always done with our environmental problems, push one on to the other,” says Dustin Mulvaney, a professor of environmental studies at San José State University and author of the book [Solar Power](#). “We're moving our climate problem onto our biodiversity crisis. It's just more of the same.”

Apologizing for a delayed email response, Donnelly says, “I can only explain it by saying that I'm a triage nurse in a desert endangered species emergency room, and we're in the middle of a patient surge.”

Renewables head west

Donnelly says he hasn't seen a comprehensive list of all the species at risk from developing renewables. But he keeps his own informal roster of patients in Nevada. Some are listed as threatened by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), others not—or not yet. They tend to be unfamiliar.

Threatened by lithium mining, according to Donnelly: Tiehm's buckwheat, Tecopa bird's beak (an annual herb), Railroad Valley springfish, Railroad Valley toad, Kings River pyrg (a tiny snail), and Ash Meadows ladies tresses (an orchid).

Threatened by solar energy: desert tortoise, three corner milkvetch, and white-margined beardtongue (a flower).

And by geothermal energy: Dixie Valley toad, Dixie Valley pyrg, Long Valley speckled dace (a small fish), Steamboat buckwheat, Fish Lake Valley tui chub (another small fish), and bleached sandhill skipper (a butterfly).

"In many cases there is very little information out there about these species—they are all very rare and somewhat obscure," Donnelly says. "But there's a potential renewable energy extinction crisis going on in Nevada, and these little creatures and plants are at the forefront."

He says that while ecosystems have long faced threats from activities such as cattle grazing or gold mining, renewable energy expansion is the latest growing threat.

The U.S. government owns just under half the land across 11 states in the West, including 80 percent of land in Nevada, most of which is managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). In [2012](#) the agency designated 17 sites in six western states as BLM [Solar Energy Zones](#), identified as the best locations to build a solar plant. Five sites are in Nevada.

In determining the sites, the BLM excluded critical species habitat, says Lee Walston, an ecologist for the U.S. Energy Department's Argonne National Laboratory. Argonne scientists helped BLM map their solar energy zones and helps them prepare environmental impact statements.

However, some companies apply for permits outside these zones. "The reasons for applications outside of solar energy zones are varied," says Heidi Hartmann, an expert on energy policy who works with Walston at Argonne. She cites proximity to transmission lines or roads as being an incentive to apply for a permit outside a zone.

In an email, the BLM noted they issue permits by following rules set forth by the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA), which requires open comment periods for the public and environmental organizations to voice concerns.

"The BLM is deeply committed to conserving wildlife, ecosystems and imperiled species across the 245 million acres of public lands that we manage," says BLM Director Tracy Stone-Manning, in an emailed statement. "By collaborating with diverse Tribal, state, federal, and local partners, we can achieve this important goal while also tackling climate change and delivering clean energy to American homes through responsibly-sited renewable energy projects."

Rare creatures, scarce data

Some experts worry that the environmental concessions made by energy companies don't do enough to conserve wildlife.

"I'm not satisfied with the quality of monitoring and preconstruction investments that go on, that determine what species are there. They can be done in a hurried and incomplete manner," says Rebecca R. Hernandez, a professor of ecology at the University of California, Davis and co-director of the [Wild Energy Initiative](#).

Last year, she and her colleagues published a study in the journal [Biological Conservation](#) that found designated conservation zones inside the [Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System, a large power plant in California](#), may not effectively conserve species. Untouched patches of land left between solar panels—created to protect threatened plants like [Mojave milkweed](#)—



did not harbor the same number of pollinating bugs that existed outside of the solar site.

Without a healthy pollinator population, the milkweed may not be able to successfully reproduce and survive in Ivanpah Solar's conservation zones, says Hernandez. "It begs the question: What's the point [of conservation zones] if we don't include enough area?" she says.

"We hear a lot that the impacts that unfold after construction are greater than originally anticipated," Argonne's Walston acknowledges. He says he and other biologists assessing the potential environmental impact of energy projects don't always have enough data on what the long term ecological consequences of development might be.

"Rare plants in these environments might skip a year, so you could have an approved survey design that misses some of these species, and the data would then say let's proceed with development. I think there's a need for better data," he says.

Leaving untouched land untouched

To some conservationists, any amount of disturbance of the desert is unwelcome.

"The last thing we should be doing is building solar projects on public land in ecosystems with thriving Mojave Desert biodiversity," says Laura Cunningham, an activist and wildlife technician who lives in the Nevada desert. "Destruction of even a little plant matters, and it should matter because there are better alternatives."

With her husband Kevin Emerich, a retired park ranger, she founded [Basin and Range Watch](#), an organization that tracks and opposes western energy projects on untouched land. In addition to the lithium mines, the BLM is currently considering permits for six different solar energy projects that would span more than 62,000 acres, according to applications [tracked by Basin and Range Watch](#). The projects are all in southwestern Nevada just several miles from Death Valley National Park and outside of the local solar energy zone.

Cunningham and other opponents of building solar on undeveloped land say one answer is to install solar on shaded structures atop the [millions of parking spots](#) found in cities. A [study](#) looking at Connecticut found that solar over parking lots could supply 37 percent of the state's annual electricity.

Another alternative to installing solar facilities on undeveloped land could be agrovoltaics, which combines production of photovoltaic power and crop growth in the same farm fields. A study published in [Nature Sustainability](#) in 2019 found solar panels could provide agricultural benefits such as reducing drought stress on plants by shading the ground.

By 2035, solar energy could provide [40 percent](#) of U.S. energy, and Walston says analysis done by Argonne scientists have shown the U.S. has enough already-developed land to provide enough solar without breaking new ground.

"The disturbed land is there. It's just a matter of convincing the industry [to use them]," he says.

Tale of two crises

Not all environmentalists see the expansion of renewable energy as a major threat to biodiversity.

"I think the scale at which development is happening now is not anywhere near where we're talking about extinction tied to this development," says Helen O'Shea, an expert on sustainably developing renewable energy at the Natural Resources Defense Council. "I would just stress that this is a balancing act and balancing acts are hard."



She notes that building out renewable energy on structures like parking lots or affixing solar panels to homes isn't happening quickly enough to meet climate change targets.

"The rate at which that's happening has been shockingly slow," says O'Shea. "There's a huge amount of work to be done on distributed generation, but I don't think that will solve all of our energy needs in the window of time we have to address climate change."

And while construction on important habitats is a direct threat to biodiversity, it's also threatened by the changing climate conditions caused by fossil fuel emissions, says Lori Bird, director of the U.S. energy program at the World Resources Institute.

"We're going to need to clean up the power sector to stop climate change, which has a lot of impacts on biodiversity and drought," Bird says. "If we don't address the greenhouse gas emissions we're going to have more issues."

But in Nevada, opponents are taking action to protect the untouched desert.

In response to a petition from the Center for Biological Diversity, the FWS has [proposed listing](#) Tiehm's buckwheat as an endangered species and designating 910 acres of Rhyolite Ridge as critical habitat—the 10 acres where the plant actually lives plus a large buffer zone to sustain its pollinating insects. A final decision is pending. Loneer, the mining company, [said in a statement](#) that the designation would have "no material impact" on its mining activities.

Basin and Range Watch, meanwhile, are suing to stop construction of the [Thacker Pass Lithium Mine](#) in northwestern Nevada. If built, it would be the biggest lithium mine in the U.S.—at a time when the bulk of the world's lithium comes from Australia, Chile, and China. But opponents say the mine could endanger greater sage-grouse populations.

Cunningham and Emmerich are also trying to rally opposition to the Mojave solar projects, as well as to the Greenlink West—a proposed high-voltage transmission line that would run 350 miles between Reno and Las Vegas and link all of the new projects to the grid.

"We've been called oil shills," says Cunningham of their opposition to putting renewables in the desert.

If the energy projects in their backyards were oil pipelines or coal plants, she says, she and Emmerich would be doing the same. It just so happens the kind of energy they're protesting helps fight climate change rather than cause it.

Source: https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/article/activists-fear-biodiversity-threat-from-renewable-energy?cmpid=org=ngp::mc=social::src=facebook::cmp=editorial::add=fb20220529env-newrenewableenergyhurtsbiodiversity&linkId=167066780&fbclid=IwAR0iYLQo053BnwZ-fMNLdSybKINXmRKRD1jebF7a1Gi3kSqO_t1yv1O1kbc

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Analytic toolkit process vs wildlife trade, forest crimes pinuri ng DENR

DAHIL sa paglaban sa krimen sa kagubatan pinuri ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Jim O. Sampulna ang International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime dahil sa pag-

lulunsad nito ng 'technical review process' bilang sagot sa wildlife at forest crimes sa Pilipinas.

Ayon kay Sampulna, ang Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit ay tugon upang labanan ang pagla-

bag at pinagkakakitaang industriya ng illegal wildlife trade sa Pilipinas na ginagawang transshipment point ng wildlife at wildlife by-products.

Binigyang-diin ng kalihim na ang illegal trading ay umabot sa halagang US\$50 billion kada taon "allowing perpetrators to invest in measures that will enable them to escape detection, investigation, and prosecution."

"We, as enforcers of environmental laws, need all the help that we can get. This is where the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime analytic toolkit can bridge the gap," dagdag ni Sampulna sa mga dumalo na law enforcement agencies sa bansa sa ginanap na high-level launch noong Mayo 23.

Kaugnay nito, sinabi rin ng DENR chief ang kahalagahan ng papel ng 'international support' sa gobyerno ng Pilipinas sa pagpapatupad ng batas at

pagpapakulong sa mga nagkasala.

Aniya, sa tulong ng United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes, sa pamamagitan ng toolkit ay higit na maiintindihan ng DENR ang tugon ng 'preventive at criminal justice system sa wildlife at forest crime.

Samantala, idinagdag ni Sampulna na ang 'concerned agencies' ay maaaring sumali para matukoy ang systematic issues at magkasundo sa 'evidence-based recommendation' bilang sagot sa legislative, enforcement, prosecution at judiciary facets ng wildlife trade sa pamamagitan ng toolkit. Bukod dito, hinikayat din ng kalihim ang iba pang government officials na labanan ang multi-million na illegal business dahil ang environmental crimes ay patuloy na sumisira sa ating critical ecosystems at nagpapalala sa kahirapan.

SANTI CELARIO



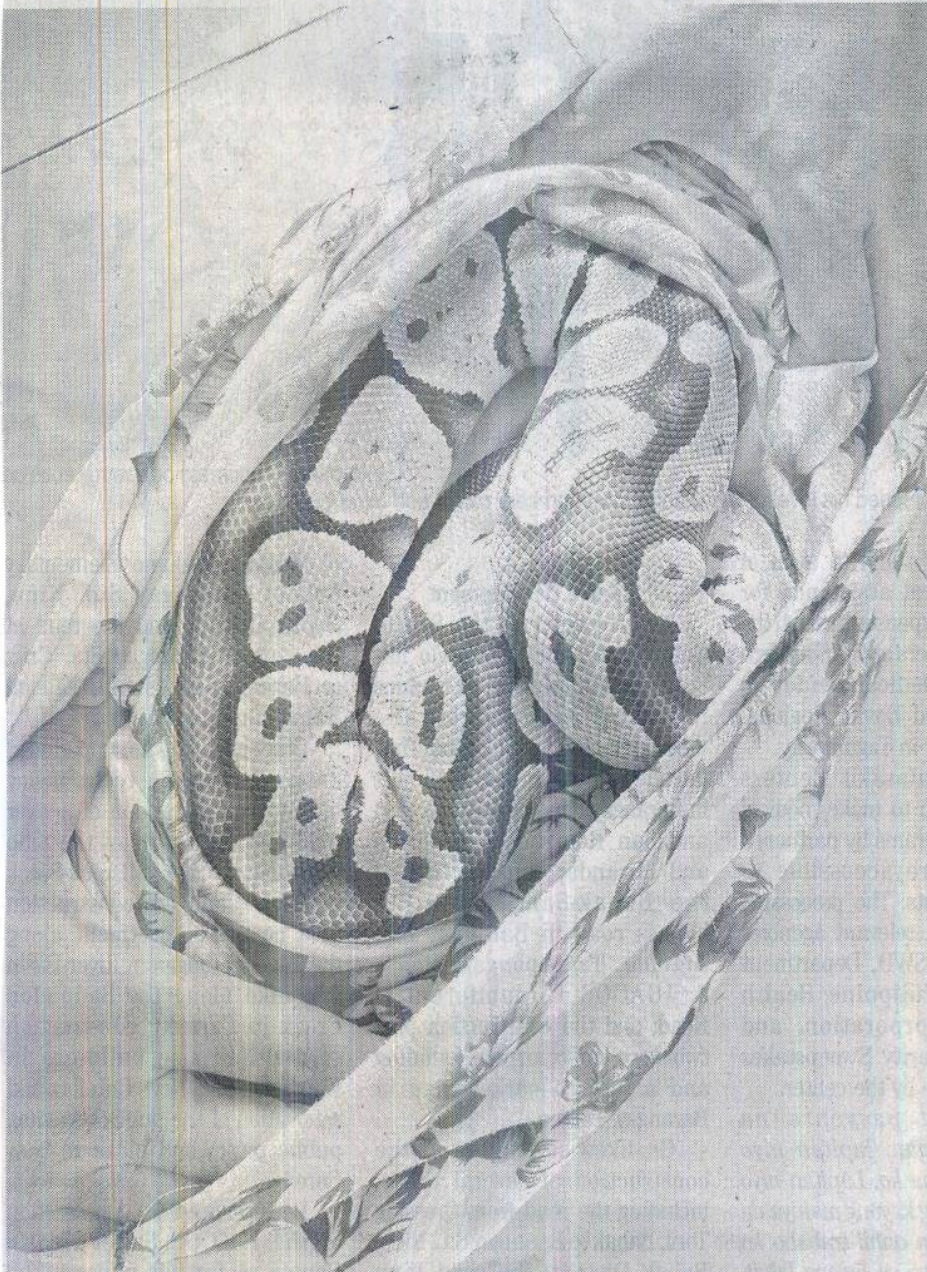
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3 'ball pythons' rescued in Bataan



DENR said it has not issued local transport permit for the said wildlife

BY JONAS REYES

DINALUPIHAN, Bataan — Three suspected ball pythons seized by police in a sting operation have been turned over to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) office in Bataan.

The snakes were rescued during an entrapment operation in Barangay Layac, Dinalupihan conducted by the Bataan Maritime Police Station under the Philippine National Police Maritime Group's Regional Maritime Unit 3, according to DENR.

The Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office of Bataan received the reptiles.

DENR said it has not issued local transport permit for the said wildlife.

Through the assistance of DENR-City Environment and Natural Resources Office in Dinalupihan, the pythons were brought to the Wildlife in Need non-profit organization's facility in Subic Bay Freeport, Zambales for proper care and rehabilitation.

Python regius or ball python is listed in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora Appendix II. Under Section 6 of DENR Administrative Order 9, series of 2019, such species are categorized as endangered, so any trade of the animal is illegal and prohibited.

The DENR urges the public to abide by Republic Act 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act and to report illegal wildlife activities and turn over wild animals to the concerned office for proper handling, rehabilitation or release.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF DENR PENRO BATAAN

ONE of the alleged ball pythons seized by police in a buy-bust operation.



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EMB clears 22 potential landfills in Cordillera

Sites passed 13-point checklist that ensures compliance with environmental laws

By Vincent Cabreza
@InqNational

BAGUIO CITY—As the Cordillera population grows, 22 possible sites for engineered sanitary landfills have hurdled the initial examination of the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) and may be added to nine facilities currently serving or are being put up for the 1.797 million residents in the mountainous region.

Bucay town in Abra province, Flora and Conner towns in Apayao province, Besao town in Mountain Province, Balbalan town in Kalinga and Mayoyao town in Ifugao are putting up their own landfills, said EMB Cordillera Director Maria Victoria Abrera.

Three more possible landfill sites in Abra passed EMB scrutiny, 13 in Benguet, two in Ifugao and four in Mountain Province, she added.

According to Abrera, the areas that currently have active landfills are the towns of Alfonso Lista and Lamut in Ifugao, which is home to the world famous rice terraces; Apayao's Pudtol, Calanasan and Luna towns; Tabuk City and Rizal town in Kalinga; and Benguet's La Trinidad Valley and a private compound of gold producer Lepanto Consolidated Mining Corp. in Mankayan town.



FROM DUMP TO PARK This used to be a mountain of garbage in Baguio City that toppled in 2011, killing six people and burying houses in 20,000 cubic meters of trash. The Baguio government has converted this area into an ecological park. —VINCENT CABREZA

As of the 2020 Census, these Cordillera provinces have had their respective populations rise, which would generate corresponding increases in solid waste.

But at the start of the coronavirus pandemic in 2020, the Philippine Statistics Authority observed slight drops in population in 10 Abra municipalities, two Apayao towns, four Benguet towns, four Ifugao towns, one town in Kalinga and five towns in Mountain Province.

EMB inspectors have been strict about a 13-point checklist before approving landfill projects due to the terrain, making sure these potential waste facilities would not be within the proximity of surface and

groundwater sources, or environmentally critical areas, Abrera said at a briefing on May 25.

Waste to energy

However, no landfill is serving one of the region's most populated localities, Baguio City, which saw its population grow to 366,358 in the 2020 Census from 345,366 in 2015.

Mayor Benjamin Magalong said they were considering a proposal to convert plastic waste into fuel pellets to reduce the city's daily average of 190 tons of rubbish.

Businessman Robert John Sobrepeña has been negotiating with Sablan town in Benguet to put up a waste-to-en-

ergy facility there instead to serve Baguio and five adjoining Benguet towns, which are part of an economical coalition called BLISTT (Baguio and the towns of La Trinidad, Itogon, Sablan, Tuba and Tublay).

Baguio has no area suited for a landfill, and has spent P100 million annually to haul its waste to a landfill in Tarlac province.

Its only open dump in Barangay Irisan was closed and has been transformed into an ecological park.

The former dump was the subject of a 2012 writ of *kalikasan* won in court by the late Bishop Carlito Genson and residents of Irisan and neighboring Tuba town in Benguet, including national artist Ben Cabrera (also Bencab), after a massive trash slide buried homes at Asin Road in 20,000 cubic meters of garbage. The dump, which the community had previously shut down, was toppled by a storm and had killed six people including a pregnant woman.

The new park has replaced what used to be a 16-story trash mountain (equivalent to approximately 10,000 truckloads of garbage), a development that led the EMB to request the Court of Appeals to lift a temporary environmental protection order over the decommissioned Irisan facility, said Abrera. *INQ*



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Bulacan province warned on worsening garbage problem

BY PETER TABINGO

GOVERNMENT auditors have urged the provincial government of Bulacan to take steps to address the issue of solid waste management, particularly the reduction of volume of trash through segregation.

In its 2021 report on the province released last May 26, the Commission on Audit noted that Bulacan failed to implement any of the high-impact programs, projects, and activities (PPAs) listed in its 10-Year Provincial Solid Waste Management Plan (PSWMP) 2021-2030.

The PSWMP was submitted to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB) Region 3 on August 19, 2021.

Among the pressing matters cited in the 10-year plan were the need to enforce rules governing disposal of solid waste, conversion of recyclables into usable products, compliance with segregation at the household and non-household sources and establishing a central materials recovery facility (CMRF) in addition to 569 material recovery facilities in the various barangays.

While public offices complied with the guidelines of disposing trash according to material type to separate those that are degradable from the ones that would take longer to decompose, their good intentions went to naught.

“The practice of segregation of wastes in various offices of the province became futile as the collected garbage were hauled together

at the transfer site,” the COA noted.

With the head of the Bulacan Environment and Natural Resources Office (BENRO) having been appointed only recently, the plan for a functional CMRF has not moved past the drawing board.

“As of now, the motorpool in Tabang, Malolos still serves as a temporary transfer site for hauled regular wastes,” the audit team said.

It reminded the provincial government that under RA 9003, it is required to ensure that the solid waste management program must ensure the protection of public health and the environment.

The breakdown of expenses of the province showed its payment for Environmental/Sanitary Services increased from P16.58 million in 2020 to P18.38 million in 2021.



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House okays bill on proper plastic waste disposal

By Jester Manalastas

THE House of Representatives, led by Speaker Lord Allan Velasco, ratified the bicameral conference committee report on the bill that would mandate large companies to adopt and implement policies for the proper management of plastic packaging wastes.

The House and Senate settled the disagreeing provisions of proposed "Extended Producer Responsibility Act of 2022," amending for the purpose Republic Act 9003 or the "Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000."

The bill now awaits the signature of President Rodrigo Duterte whose term will end by June 30.

When enacted into law, the measure would institutionalize the extended producer responsibility (EPR) mechanism as a practical approach to efficient waste management, focusing on waste

reduction, recovery and recycling.

It will also focus on the development of environment-friendly products that advocate the internationally accepted principles on sustainable consumption and production, circular economy, as well as producers' full responsibility throughout the life cycle of their plastic products.

The bill defines circular economy as an economic model of creating value by extending product lifespan through improved design and servicing, and relocating ways from the end of the supply chain to the beginning.

The said measure was crafted in response to the clamor for the regulation of single-use plastics and its production, importation and disposal by in-

dustries.

Through the EPR, obliged companies "have the responsibility for the proper and effective recovery, treatment, recycling or disposal of their products after they have been sold and used by consumers" to reduce packaging waste generation and improve the recyclability and reusability of packaging wastes.

Obliged companies would include producers, manufacturers and importers of consumer goods using plastic packaging. They shall be responsible for making financial contributions to support the collection, recovery, transportation, processing, recycling and disposal of their plastic packaging wastes.

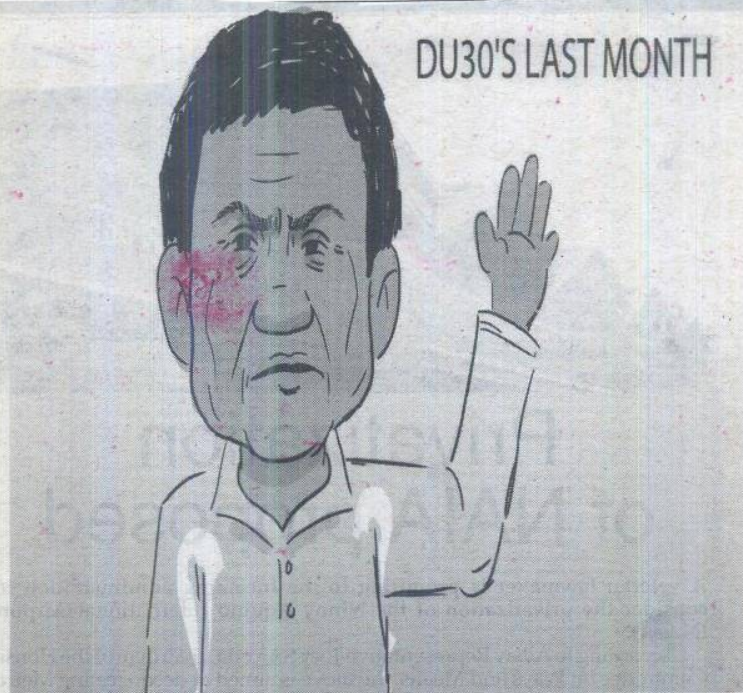
Micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) would not be required to have EPR programs, the bill stated.



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Waste control

IF waste creation cannot be avoided, it should at least be minimized to prevent further ecological degradation.

The biggest contributors to solid and other wastes are business and industry, particularly manufacturing.

Product packaging, mostly plastic and other synthetic or non-biodegradable materials, is the main culprit.

Quite thankfully, the House of Representatives on Thursday ratified a bicameral conference committee report on a bill seeking to institutionalize the practice of extended producers' responsibility 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," she said.

She noted that plastic waste makes up a significant share of the overall generated waste, 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," the lawmaker 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," the lady solon said.



ECOTOURISM A VITAL LIFELINE FOR COMMUNITIES

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL PARKS SLOWLY COMING TO LIFE

By Gregg Yan
@InquirerBiz

Though she hasn't erupted in 70 years, Mt. Hibok-Hibok in Camiguin has been especially quiet lately. From March 2020 to November 2021, the Timpoong Hibok-Hibok Natural Monument hosted exactly zero visitors.

"Mt. Hibok-Hibok was once a popular hiking destination, especially after Pinoy Mountaineer featured it in 2007. Climbers came daily because our volcano offers elements of other famous Mindanao mountains: Mt. Apo's crater lake, the roped ascents of Mt. Kitanglad, even Mt. Dulang-Dulang's mossy forest. Visitors often dive straight to the sea after climbing, for Camiguin is surrounded by famed beaches like white island," explains mountain guide Ronald Rabiles as we trek up a fern-filled trail. Ecotourism is a vital lifeline of Philippine protected areas. Zero visitors mean no employment for guides and porters, plus less funds for park upkeep.

Here in Mt. Hibok-Hibok, guides earn around P1,500 (\$30) daily, while porters make P800 (\$16) for hauling 20 or so kilos of supplies. "I come from three generations of mountain guides. This is a way of life for my father, myself and my son," adds Ronald. "The two-year COVID lockdown hit us hard. Losing our main means of income was like sweeping the rug from under us. I had to look for other ways to support my five kids. Good thing I found temporary employment as a welder and day laborer. I'm one of the lucky ones: other guides tilled land just to feed their families."

Visitors trickling in

After two years, the country's national parks are finally seeing an influx of visitors. Apo Reef in Occidental Mindoro hosted just 35 tourists from March 2020 to March 2022. Since reopening in April 2022, 212 people have visited the park, generating nearly P250,000 from fees. Mt. Pulag, the highest peak in Luzon, saw visitor numbers drop from over 43,000 in 2019 to just

over a thousand in 2021. Numbers are rebounding with over 2700 visitors since January 2022, generating nearly P500,000 in revenues. With easing travel restrictions, officials from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) hope to see more people visiting Mt. Hibok-Hibok and other Philippine national parks.

"We started accepting clients in December 2021. Since then, over 130 people have visited the mountain, generating about P31,000 in park fees and employing dozens of guides and porters. Clients are the lifeblood of the mountain," says Camiguin-based DENR forester Lito Babaison.

We're this month's latest batch of visitors. Our mixed

team from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Department of Tourism (DOT) and DENR employed over 20 guides, rangers and porters. We're here to shoot a video for YoPA or the Year of the Protected Areas, launched on May 23.

A collaboration between the DENR, DOT and Department of the Interior and Local Government, YoPA aims to bring visitors back to the country's national parks—renowned biodiversity bastions like Mt. Hamiguitan in Davao Oriental, Bongsanglay Natural Park in Masbate and the Balinsasayao Twin Lakes in Negros Oriental.

"The Philippines hosts 246 protected areas and all of them need funding. With the challenges brought about by the

COVID pandemic, government resources are thinly stretched, so part of upkeep funds must come from the public via ecotourism. A good way to sustain our protected areas is to ensure they're regularly visited by tourists," says DENR Biodiversity Management Bureau director Natividad Bernardino.

Climbing the volcano

It's tough going up Yumbing Trail, one of two paths up Mt. Hibok-Hibok. I'd just climbed a mountain in Africa and this trail is no walk in the park, bristling with thorny rattan palms which love to latch onto clothing. Mountaineers call these "teka-teka" vines for "teka-teka" or "Wait a minute while I extricate myself from these damned vines!" The two-day trek starts among a swaying sea of coconut palms. Soon the trail transforms into a Jurassic Park set, walls of green obscured by wet, rolling mist. Near the top, the trail opens up into a grassy crater several football fields wide. There's a small lake where

swiftlets and other birds play.

"Don't talk or laugh too loudly," cautions Ronald. "The old ones swear this mountain hosts an enchanted spirit guardian who lives in the lake." I silently cancel my original plan of going swimming. That night, Ronald swore he saw the spirit walking through our campsite, protecting us.

As we descend the next day, Ronald turns to me. "Climbers keep mountains alive, but some aren't so disciplined. We guides aren't just here to take you to the peak and back, but to ensure no one leaves garbage or lights a fire which can burn down the park. We also have 'plantitas' who love to pluck orchids and other plants illegally. Like the guardian in the lake, we protect this mountain, too. A beautiful mountain will attract visitors, which means we'll always have jobs." Mt. Hibok-Hibok hasn't erupted since 1953, but the fire of Ronald and its other protectors are definitely keeping this volcano stoked and alive. —CONTRIBUTED INQ



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PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF SARANGANI PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
DIVERS put a crown of thorns starfish in a net.

Starfish collection highlights SarBay fest

COT infestation has been a great problem of Sarbay

BY NONOY E. LACSON

ZAMBOANGA CITY — “Divers and local residents of Sarangani province have joined hands in collecting crown of thorns starfish (COT) at Barangay Gumasa as part of the celebration of the Sarangani Bay (SarBay) Festival this year.

The COT has seriously affected the beautiful beach site of Sarangani Bay specifically the coastal areas of Glan and Maasim, Sarangani Governor Steve Solon said on Sunday.

Since we cannot handle big

activities yet and COT infestation has been a great problem of Sarbay recently, we thought of making the ‘I Love Clean Sarbay’ as the facade of this year’s celebration, he said.

The COT collection started on 25 May in Glan and covered the 15 coastal barangays of Baliton, Batulaki, Big Margus, Buriyas, Cablalan, Glan Padidu, Gumasa, Kapatan, Lago, Pangyan, San Jose, Small Margus, Taluya, Tango and Tapon.

On 26 May, the coastal villages of Kamanga, Tinoto, Malbang and Colon located in the town of Maasim, Sarangani also

participated in the activity.

COT were collected along the Gumasa Bay located in Glan, Sarangani.

Gumasa Beach is a six-kilometer white sand beach on a crescent-shaped cove on the eastern shore of Sarangani, facing the Celebes Sea.

Around 110,000 COT have been collected along the coastal areas of Glan and Maasim.

The governor said the beach is just one hour drive away from General Santos City.

It was reported that from November 2021 until February 2022, around 110,000 COT have

been collected along the coastal areas of Glan and Maasim.

According to Solon, this year’s Sarangani Bay Festival was anchored on the theme Wake Up Sarbay in line with the festival’s comeback after its two-year break due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Solon said that as an initiative to help the tourism establishments in the province which were affected by the pandemic, Sarbay Fest 2022 also included two-night live band gigs at Coco Beach Resort on 27 and 28 May.

Solon said the venue accommodated only 70 percent of its capacity in compliance with the province health protocols under Alert Level 2.



BORACAY MANAGEMENT IBABALIK SA LGU SA HUNYO 30

NAKATAKDANG ibalik ng pamahalaan ang pangangasiwa sa isinasagawang rehabilitasyon ng Boracay Island sa local government unit sa hudyat ng pagtatapos ng termino ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte sa Hunyo 30 ng taong kasalukuyan.

Ayon kay Interior Secretary Eduardo Año, wala naman aniya silang duda sa kakayahang LGU, kasabay ng pahayag na halos papatapos na ang rehabilitasyon sa islang paboritong pasyalan ng mga turista. Aniya, mayroon na lamang maliit na bahagi ng proyektong naantala ng pandemya ang kailangang tapusin.

"Yung sa Boracay kasi

hanggang June 30 na lang din yung existence ng BIATF at ito ay ite-turnover na natin sa LGU. Bale yung LGU na yung magiging pinaka magpatakbo ng Boracay," sambit ni Año sa isang panayam.

Gayunpaman, posible pa rin naman aniyang pasukin ng national government ang naturang isla sakaling piliin ng susunod na administrasyon na bumuo ng panibagong Inter-Agency Task Force na tatapos sa naantalang rehabilitasyon sa nalalabing bahagi ng isla.

Buwan ng Setyembre 2021 nang lagdaan ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang Executive Order 147 na nagpapalawig ng termino

ng Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force hanggang sa pagtatapos ng kanyang termino.

Taong 2018 nang buuin ng pamahalaan sa bisa ng EO 53 ang BIATF para pangasiwaan ang rehabilitasyon ng isla.

(LILY REYES)



MAJOR LAND AND HYDROLOGIC DISTURBANCES IN AND AROUND MASUNGI GEORESERVE CAN HAVE 'EXPENSIVE CONSEQUENCES' – NEW NATIONAL MUSEUM REPORT

The National Museum of the Philippines underscored the geological, botanical, and zoological importance of the Masungi Georeserve in a new report released in time for the International Day of Biological Diversity on May 22, 2022.

In a letter to DENR Secretary Jim O. Sampulna dated May 6, 2022, Luli M. Arroyo-Bernas, Chairperson of the National Museum of the Philippines, said the report was prepared to "further strengthen and substantiate the Department's plans to preserve the area." "I hope this report and the recommendations specified can form a useful basis and tool for assessing and determining the important measures to protect and conserve the area," she said.

The report describes the sensitivity of the Masungi Georeserve to various disturbances, its interconnectedness with the surrounding watersheds, and ways towards its conservation. It underscores the imperative to leave it untouched, away and safe from human activity.

"The quality of any karst environment depends upon the relationship of water, land, vegetation, and soil (World Commission on Protected Areas, 1997). The water that is being referred to often comes from a wide catchment area. As such, any disturbance in the hydrologic system, not only in the georeserve itself but in the whole watershed may threaten the overall karst system including its relation to water level and water quality," the report said.

The report also discussed that anthropogenic activities in the vicinity

of the geopark may not cause direct destruction in the geopark itself, but may still disrupt the karst systems. This includes activities such as forestry, agricultural activities, land clearance, quarrying, waste disposal, or other landfill and other developmental activities. "Major land or hydrologic disturbance, even outside the actual karst landscape, can have expensive consequences," it stressed.

The report confirms that while the Masungi Georeserve is deemed safe from earthquake-induced hazards, it is particularly susceptible to weather-induced hazards. It said that based on a Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) report in the PHIVOLCS HazardHunterPh, the site has a high susceptibility rating to rain-induced landslides. Numerous old or inactive landslides were also noted, signifying its susceptibility to such hazards.

The new report hopes to inform the conservation and sustainable utilization and management of the Masungi Georeserve amid ongoing challenges faced by the karst landscape in Baras, Rizal.

"The National Museum of the Philippines is one with various conservation efforts for its protection and preservation. This remaining untouched area near Metro Manila is one of the 10% limestone-exposed formations in the Philippines that dates back to Paleocene age (Unlay, 2017)," the report said. The authors likewise suggested producing more scientific publications and popular articles that will enhance the public's awareness of the importance of Masungi and

the unique biodiversity of its karst ecosystem.

In April 2022, more than 30 national and international experts and leaders released a joint letter asking President Rodrigo Duterte and DENR Secretary Jim Sampulna to cancel quarrying agreements over 1,300 hectares of the Masungi landscape. However, the DENR has not canceled the said agreements as of this writing despite the quarry companies' "gross violations constituting breach of their contracts" and the laws prohibiting quarrying in protected areas.

"Why the quarry agreements haven't been canceled by now, two years after DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu's instructions to cancel them in March 2020, and one year after Show Cause orders were issued in April 2021, is already raising a lot of eyebrows. The reasoning that there is no need to cancel them since the quarries are not yet operational is a feeble one.

As discussed in the new National Museum report, major land and hydrologic disturbance — quarrying included — of the karst landscape can have expensive consequences.

Ordinary citizens cannot take comfort in a temporary suspension of these quarrying agreements, which could simply be lifted later on. The government must show its concern for the Filipino people and its resolve to protect the watershed by formally canceling the quarry contracts without further delay," Reynard Francisco, Environment Chair of the Rizal Youth Provincial Development Council, said.



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THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
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THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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Filipino scientist receives UN Sasakawa Award for disaster risk reduction

By JALEEN RAMOS

A Filipino scientist received the United Nations' Sasakawa Award for his initiatives in disaster risk reduction.

Glenn S. Banaguas, founder of the Environmental and Climate Change Research Institute (EC-CRI), leads the Climate Smart Philippines program which tackles disaster risks reduction and prevention of damage and losses from climate change.

"I extend my thanks and gratitude to the organizers of the UN Sasakawa Award for recognizing Climate Smart Philippines' efforts to empower people from all walks of life to develop evidence-based, humane, and gender-responsive solutions," he said during the awarding ceremony in Bali, Indonesia on May 26.

Banaguas bested over 200 nominations worldwide.

Banaguas is a scientist, a diplomat, and an expert in the areas of

environment, climate change and disaster risks, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNNDR) said in its website.

"He has created a "Climate Smart" program to support vulnerable communities in the ASEAN region in building resilience and adapting to the climate change through sustainable practices," it added.

Save the Children - Philippines also won the award in the Organization category.



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Last full cabinet meeting isasagawa ni PDU30 ngayon - Malakanyang

ISASAGAWA ngayong araw ang huling full cabinet meeting ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte bago ito bumaba sa puwesto.

Subalit hindi naman kinumpirma ni Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) Chief at Acting Spokesperson Martin Andanar kung anong oras ang cabinet meeting.

Matatandaang, madalas isinasagawa ni Pangulong Duterte ang pagpupulong sa gabi.

Una rito, bago ang nakatakdang full cabinet meeting ay magsasagawa muna bukas ang kasalukuyang administrasyon ng Duterte Legacy Summit sa Philippine International Convention Center (PICC).

Ayon kay Andanar na sa naturang aktibidad, lahat daw ng sangay ng gobyerno ay magbibigay final report sa publiko kung ano ang mga nagawa ng administrasyong Duterte.

Sa Hunyo 30 ay matatapos na ang termino ni Pangulong Duterte at papasok na ang administrasyon ni President elect Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. (Vanz Fernandez)



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China 'harasses' PHL research, exploration ships—US think tank

By MALOU TALOSIG-BARTOLOME
@maloutalosis

CHINA has allegedly harassed marine research and hydrological exploration activities inside the Philippine exclusive economic zone since March, the US-based think tank Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative reported.

"Chinese coast guard and militia dangerously harassed Philippine and Taiwanese vessels in the Philippine EEZ in three separate showdowns in March and April. Beijing giving the Marcos admin a preview of what it can expect," Greg Poling, senior fellow and director of AMTI wrote on Twitter.

The first incident happened last March in a "cat-and-mouse" chase involving the Taiwanese research vessel, The Legend, that started northwest of Babuyan Islands in Batanes and ended near the Panatag (Scarborough) Shoal in Zambales.

The Legend was conducting hydrographic surveys off Babuyan Islands when a Coast Guard vessel based in Panatag (Mischief) Reef began shadowing it dangerously close at a distance of 2-3 nautical miles on March 24.

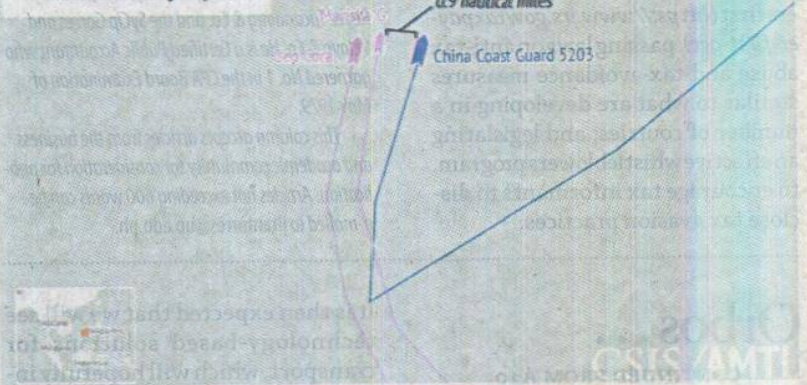
Taipei immediately dispatched its own Coast Guard from Pratas Island and maneuvered to keep the Chinese Coast Guard away from the Legend for two days. China continued to shadow Legend when it moved closer to the Philippine coast, towards the disputed Scarborough Shoal. It was during this time that the Philippine Coast Guard patrol vessel BRP Capones accompanied the Taiwanese vessel. The Chinese Coast Guard stopped tailing the Taiwanese vessel when the latter returned to Taiwan on April 9.

The second incident happened on April 4, around 60 miles off the western coast of Palawan. A Norwegian survey ship, the Geo Coral and its supply ship Mariska G were contracted to conduct seismic surveys by the PXP Energy Corp. near Recto (Reed) Bank, southwest of the Malampaya gas field. They had just arrived at SC 75 when they picked up a tail from a Chinese Coast Guard vessel.

84 miles west of Palawan

April 5, 2022

China Coast Guard
Philippine-contracted seismic survey ships



AMTI's infographic shows the incidents involving the Norwegian survey ship, the Geo Coral and its supply ship Mariska G, which were contracted to conduct seismic surveys by the PXP Energy Corp. near Recto (Reed) Bank, southwest of the Malampaya gas field, at SC 75.

The Chinese Coast Guard vessel followed the two vessels until the Philippine Department of Energy ordered PXP Energy to put on hold all exploration activities for SC 75 and SC 72.

On April 21, Chinese law enforcement and militia ships again interfered with Philippine research activity. The M/V DABFAR, a 60-meter research vessel operated by the Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, was heading for Ayungin (Second Thomas) Shoal when a Chinese Coast Guard vessel pursued the DABFAR at "extremely close distances, coming as close as 100 meters in multiple instances."

Then another Chinese Coast Guard vessel and two Hainan-based militia vessels closed in from the north. Feeling the pressure, the DABFAR retreated toward Pag-asa Island. Then the Philippine Coast Guard's BRP Cape Engaño later on approached the Ayungin Shoal and was again shadowed by the same Chinese Coast Guard vessel and militia vessel that harassed DABFAR at distances of "approximately 1 nautical mile." The three vessels were around 6 nautical miles east of the Ayungin shoal when three more Chinese militia vessels came and flanked them

to the east of Cape Engaño.

A standoff ensued for several hours, and Cape Engaño later turned back eastward, before heading toward unoccupied Whitsun Reef.

"All three incidents demonstrate Beijing's determination to control maritime activity within the nine-dash line, and to create a high risk of collisions at sea to do so. In one instance, its tactics clearly succeeded, convincing the Philippines to backpedal on an October 2020 decision to lift a nearly decade-old moratorium on oil and gas exploration in areas of its continental shelf that fall within the nine-dash line. This follows a complete lack of progress on joint exploration despite a 2018 memorandum of understanding with Beijing, making it unclear whether the Philippines will ever be able to access its hydrocarbon resources at Reed Bank," the AMTI said.

"On other fronts, Philippine law enforcement, navy, and marine science actors have been stepping up their activities in the South China Sea despite an increasingly assertive China. But with a new administration taking power at the end of June, it remains to be seen how forcefully the Philippines will continue to assert those rights," it added.



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel Nos. 929-6626 to 29; 929-6633 to 35
929-7041 to 43; 929-6252; 929-1669
Website: <http://www.denr.gov.ph> / E-mail: web@denr.gov.ph

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
No. 2022 - 08

MAY 02 2022

SUBJECT: MORATORIUM IN THE ACCEPTANCE OF NEW APPLICATIONS FOR SPECIAL EXPLORATION PERMIT/ GOVERNMENT SEABED QUARRY PERMIT

WHEREAS, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) shall be the primary agency responsible for the conservation, management, development, and proper use of the State's mineral resources, including those in reservations, watershed areas and lands of the public domain, and that the DENR Secretary shall have the authority to promulgate such rules and regulations as may be necessary to implement the intent and provisions of the Republic Act No. 7942¹;

WHEREAS, the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) shall be a line bureau primarily responsible for the implementation of the Act and shall have the direct charge in the administration of mineral lands and mineral resources both inland and offshore, and shall undertake geological and exploration surveys;

WHEREAS, Presidential Decree No. 1084 dated February 4, 1977, created the Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA) then known as Philippine Estate Authority and vested it with the responsibility for integrating, directing and coordinating all reclamation projects and to reclaim lands, including foreshore and submerged areas, by dredging, filling or other means. PRA was also vested by a Presidential Directive, dated 2 April 1997, to undertake exploratory surveys and hydrographic studies nationwide and identify suitable areas and sources of dredgefill materials for reclamation projects;

WHEREAS, as a result of overlapping functions of DENR-MGB and PRA, Executive Order No. 153 was promulgated to properly delineate the functions and responsibilities of the government agencies to conform with RA No. 7942. Now, PRA shall be responsible for the approval of bids or awards for contracts of work for Government Reclamation Projects and shall also be responsible for the identification of Borrow Areas as sources of Dredgefill Materials for all Government Reclamation Projects. All related mining operations in borrow areas of PRA and Qualified Persons shall be subject to monitoring by the DENR, for compliance with RA No. 7942, Presidential Decree (PD) No. 1152², PD No. 1586³, RA No. 7586⁴, United Nations Convention on the Law of Sea and all their implementing rules and regulations;

WHEREAS, Presidential Directive No. 2022-016 entitled "Deferring Acceptance of New Applications for Reclamation Projects" received by this Office;

WHEREAS, the said directive states that "the President directed the DENR and PRA to put on hold the acceptance of all new applications for reclamation projects in the country; and ensure that the pending applications strictly comply with all legal requirements;"

WHEREFORE, the foregoing premises considered and pursuant to the Presidential Directive No. 2022-016, a **MORATORIUM** on the acceptance of all new applications for Special Exploration Permit/Government Seabed Quarry Permit shall be in effect and shall remain valid until superseded by a subsequent Presidential directive or an intervening event which renders compliance therewith implausible. Likewise, the directive automatically ceases upon full compliance by the appropriate government agencies.

All orders and other policy issuances or directives that are contrary or inconsistent with this Administrative Order are hereby superseded or modified accordingly.


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

JIMO SAMPOLNA
Acting Secretary



¹ An Act Instituting a New System of Mineral Resources Exploration, Development, Utilization and Conservation
² Philippine Environmental Code
³ Establishing an Environmental Impact Statement System, Including Other Environmental Management Related Measures and for Other Purposes
⁴ An Act Providing for the Establishment and management of National Integrated Protected Areas System, Defining its Scope and Coverage, and for Other Purposes





Republic of the Philippines
 Department of Environment and Natural Resources
 Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
 Tel. Nos. 929-8826 to 29; 929-6633 to 35
 926-7041-7041 to 43; 926-8252; 929-1669
 Website: <http://www.denr.gov.ph/> E-mail: wcb@denr.gov.ph

**NOTICE OF BIDDING
FORESHORE LEASE APPLICATION**

Notice is hereby given that the DENR-CENRO at Olongapo City will accept oral or written bids not later than (10:30 AM) on July 27, 2022 for the lease of the tract of land herein below described:

Location : Brgy. San Isidro, Cebangan, Zambales
 Description : Plan Fil-03-038527
 Beginning at a point marked "1" of Plan Fil-03-038527, being N 53°51'W., 2,808.20m. from BLLM 1, PLS 468-D to corner 1.

Thence:
 Line 1-2: S12°54'E., 17.17 m.; Line 2-3: S66°13'W., 20.26 m.,
 Line 3-4; N12°58'W., 17.67 m.; Line 4-1: N67°36'E., 20.34 m.,

Boundaries:
 North : Foreshore
 East : West Philippine Sea
 South : Foreshore
 West : Salvage Zone

Area : 348.0 square meters

Appraised : Land : P 6,786.00

Value of : Proposed/Existing Improvements : None

Applied for by : **MARTIN GABRIEL A. TIÑO**

Approved Annual Rental : **P6,786.00**

The right to lease the land will be awarded to the person offering the highest annual rental, which shall not less than three percent per centum (3%) of the value of the 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 the bidding, he must be a qualified public land applicant, and must, before the commencement of the same, make a deposit equivalent to at least three (3) months' rental. Only deposit in cash, money, order, treasury warrant, certified 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 is raised shall not be accepted. The right is reserved to reject any or all bids.

(SGD.) **JOWELL F. DELLOSA**
CENR Officer

MT- May 30, June 6, 13, 20, 27 & July 4, 2022



PAGE



UPPER

LOWER



PAGE 1
STORY



BANNER
STORY



EDITORIAL



CARTOON

05-30-22

TITLE: _____

PAGE _____

DATE _____



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 10:00 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. 041007-4-A

Area : 39,393 sqm.


Applied for by : Holcim Mining and Development Corp.
represented by Renato A. Baja

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.



MAY 5, 2022
Date

[Signature]
ISAGANI Q. AMATORIO
CENR Officer





Department of Environment and Natural Resources
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU
 2698 Compounding, Veterans Avenue, Diliman-Corona City 1716
 Tel. Nos. (032) 8539 4378
 Website: www.emb.gov.ph Email: records@emb.gov.ph

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On the **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) REPORT** of the proposed **SEAFRONT CITY PROJECT**, a reclamation project of **LGU-MUNICIPALITY OF CONSOLACION** to be located in Barangay Tayud, Municipality of Consolacion, Province of Cebu.

Notice is hereby given to all parties who wish to give their opinion regarding the implementation of the proposed **SEAFRONT CITY PROJECT** to attend online-Public Hearing that is scheduled as follows:

| Date | Time | Zoom Link |
|--------------|--|---|
| 14 June 2022 | 9:00 AM <i>(Registration will start at 8:30 AM)</i> | https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3021561080?pwd=UXFucDNDcDdCbTNSVWVhbDlU_KQJDUtQ9 Meeting ID: 302 156 1080 Passcode: LGU |

This Public Hearing is being conducted in connection with the LGU-Municipality of Consolacion's application for an 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 | LGU-Municipality of Consolacion |
| Project Name | Proposed Seafront City Project |
| Project Location | Barangays Tayud, Municipality of Consolacion, Province of Cebu |
| Nature of the Project | Major Reclamation Project |
| Area | 235.8 hectares |

All interested parties who wish to attend or participate in this online Public Hearing should preferably confirm their attendance/participation through the above **Zoom and Face to Face** platform.


Likewise, they 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.

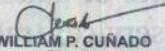
The project's EIS and Executive Summary for the Public are downloadable at our website: www.eia.emb.gov.ph (kindly access the Notice of Public Hearing/Consultation link found on our website), while copies will be available in the following offices:

EMB Region VII
 DENR Compound, Greenplains Subdivision, Banilad, Mandaue City
 Tel. No. (032) 260-9777

MPDO-Consolacion
 Municipal Hall, Municipality of Consolacion, Cebu

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. Polintan** or at this email: joel_polintan@emb.gov.ph.




ENGR. WILLIAM P. CUÑADO
 Bureau Director

Digitally signed by
 Cuñado William
 Purgatorio

MT - May 30 & June 6, 2022

30 MAY 2022, MONDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Philippines confirms 200 new COVID-19 cases, weekly positivity rate slightly higher

Agence France-Presse

Posted at May 29 2022 11:07 PM



San Juan City rolls out its second booster shots against COVID-19 for senior citizens and medical frontliners at the Vmall Greenhills vaccination site on May 20, 2022. *Jire Carreon, ABS-CBN News*

MANILA - The Philippines recorded 200 new COVID-19 cases on Sunday, data from the Department of Health showed.

The number of active cases is 2,434. Of the fresh infections, 82 are from Metro Manila.

The country's total cases has climbed to 3,690,254.

The first confirmed coronavirus infection in the Philippines was reported on January 30, 2020, involving a Chinese woman who arrived from Wuhan City, China where the disease is believed to have first emerged.

Data from the Department of Health showed the number of deaths at 60,455, with no new death recorded Sunday. The total recoveries also reached 3,627,365.

ABS-CBN Data Analytics Team head Edson Guido said the positivity rate for the week of May 22 to 28 is 1.2 percent, slightly higher than the 1.1 percent recorded the previous week.

Edson C. Guido @EdsonCGuido

LOOK: DOH reports 200 new cases and 0 new deaths today.

NCR with 82 new cases today.

The positivity rate for the week of May 22 to 28 is 1.2%, slightly higher than the 1.1% recorded the previous week.

Nationwide Cases Data

| | | | | |
|-------------|--------------|-----------|--------|------------|
| Total Cases | Active Cases | Recovered | Dead | New Deaths |
| 3,690,254 | 2,434 | 3,627,365 | 60,455 | 0 |

Weekly Cases by Date of Onset of Illness

7:17 PM · May 29, 2022

96 Reply Share

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The DOH earlier announced the detection of the highly transmissible omicron BA.4 subvariant from a Filipino who traveled from the Middle East earlier in May.

Some 70 million or 78.61 percent of the target 90 million people in the country have been fully vaccinated against the respiratory disease. Of those who received their primary series, 14 million have received their booster shots.

Malacañang announced that Metro Manila will remain under Alert level 1 until the middle of June.

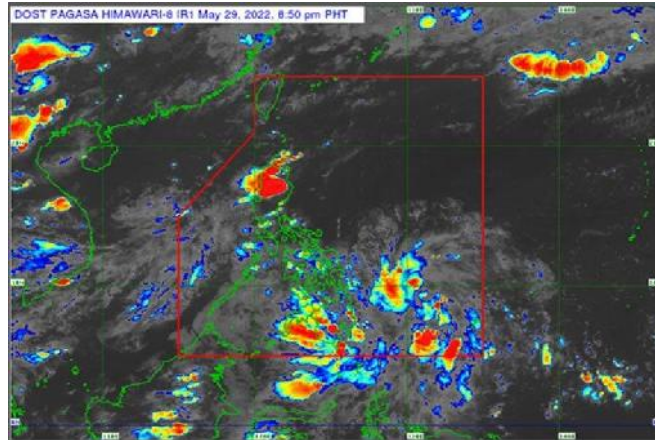
The Philippines will likely keep Alert Level 1 as the lowest step in COVID-19 restrictions until President Rodrigo Duterte's term ends on June 30, Health Secretary Francisco Duque III earlier said.

Authorities continue to remind the public to follow minimum health protocols, especially wearing of face masks.



Approaching LPA to bring rain in Mindanao

[Michael Punongbayan](#) - The Philippine Star May 30, 2022 | 12:00am



The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), in a weather update yesterday, said this weather disturbance has a low chance of developing into a typhoon.

PAGASA

MANILA, Philippines — Some parts of Mindanao may experience more rainfall in the next three days due to an approaching low-pressure area that might enter the Philippine area of responsibility.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), in a weather update yesterday, said this weather disturbance has a low chance of developing into a typhoon.

However, the LPA, last sighted 1,075 kilometers east-southeast of Mindanao, may bring rains to some areas including the Davao region, South Cotabato, Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani and General Santos City.

PAGASA said it would continue to monitor the weather disturbance and will issue necessary advisories and warnings when necessary.

Meanwhile, the southwest monsoon or habagat continues to affect the western sections of Luzon and Visayas and is forecast to bring more rainfall in the provinces of Palawan, Occidental Mindoro, Zambales and Bataan.

Metro Manila and the rest of Luzon will continue to experience localized thunderstorms, especially in the afternoon to evening.

PAGASA, in a three-day weather outlook, said the rest of Visayas and Mindanao would also experience localized thunderstorms.

30 MAY 2022, MONDAY



DENR

NEWS

ALERTS

VLOGS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Please click this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2kmZ0t9jiNM>

#BasecoBeach #BasecoUpdate #BattleForManilaBay

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MANILA

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