

01 October 2022, Saturday



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DBM allots P1.5B for Manila Bay rehab

A RANKING official of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) has allocated at least P1.5 billion for the rehabilitation of Manila Bay in 2023.

"We are dependent on the budget being provided to us by Congress. Based on the mandamus order from the Supreme Court, we have legal framework to clean the Manila Bay and for 2023, we are focusing on the river systems," Environment Undersecretary Jonas Leones said.

Leones added that the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) should tap *barangay* (villages) to stop the dumping of garbage in the waterways.

"We are asking the help of DILG Secretary [Benjamin] Benhur Abalos to require barangay to stop the garbage accumulation in the water tributaries," Leones said.

He said areas in Metro Manila, Region 3 (Central Luzon) and Region 4-A (Calabarzon or Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon) continue to contribute to the pollution at the Manila Bay.

"The Manila Bay consists of three regions. At the National Capital Region alone, there are many water tributaries where informal settlers live. They have no sanitation facilities, they are just using as big toilet the water bodies, the creeks," Leones noted.

He added that the Environment department will continue to rehabilitate the Dolomite beach before awarding its supervision to either the Department of Tourism (DoT) or the Manila local government.

"We will continue our maintenance until such time we are able to turn over the Dolomite beach either to the DoT or the LGU (local government unit)," he said.

At the same time, Leones admitted that the target of making water at the Dolomite beach in Manila Bay is not possible as coliform level increased to 2,400 most probable number (mpn) per 100 milliliters (ml) compared to the target of 100 mpn per 100 ml, which is considered safe for swimming.

Leones said the coliform level increased from the previous 500 mpn per 100 ml as the dumping of garbage persists.

"We cannot meet our target as so far, the lowest coliform level at the baywalk is at 2,400 (mpn per 100 ml)," Leones said.

However, he maintained that the water quality at the Dolomite beach has greatly improved compared to the billions of coliform levels prior to the rehabilitation.

"Before the rehabilitation, the Manila Bay was really polluted with billions of coliform levels. We cleaned the bottom of the Manila Bay," Leones added.

He added that pouring of crushed dolomite in the 500-meter stretch of the Manila Bay helped in the rehabilitation of the area.

"After we poured dolomite, the water became constant because of our intervention. The coliform level ranges from 1,000 to 2,000 (mpn per 100 ml), although our target is 100 (mpn per 100 ml)," Leones said.

BELLA CARIASO



NO-01-22

TITLE: _____

PAGE _____

DATE _____

DENR urges public to support coastal cleanup

By **CORY MARTINEZ**

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) called for more collaboration among all sectors to address coastal litter through targeted beach cleanup activities.

Director Rodelina de Villa, Officer-in-Charge (OIC) of DENR-Metropolitan Environmental Office (MEO) West, made the appeal during the recent cleanup drive at the Manila Baywalk Dolomite Beach, wherein 4,500 sacks of garbage were collected.

The cleanup activity, which was participated by over 4,000 volunteers, was in celebration of the Inter-

national Coastal Cleanup (ICC) Day 2022.

De Villa commended the volunteers who joined the activity but said, "there is still a big and daunting task that needs support from communities."

"We can make a difference by bringing communities and people together to clean up beaches. Proof of this are organizations and individuals coming together at the Baywalk Dolomite Beach," de Villa said.

The event with the theme "Fighting for Trash Free Seas-Pilipinas: Ending the Flow of Trash at the Source," is one of eight DENR-led cleanup activities in Metro Manila in observance of ICC Day, which is held annually every third Saturday of

September.

De Villa disclosed that the collected garbage mainly consisted of plastic wastes, dried water hyacinths, and marine debris.

"Volunteers from government, private organizations, and private individuals came to the Baywalk's coastline with their own garbage bags as well," de Villa said.

Data from the DENR-

MEO-West, whose task is to oversee the maintenance of the 500-meter beach walk, has shown that 147,939 sacks of solid waste have been collected in cleanup activities held from July 12 to September 14.

During the period, a total of 83,109 sacks of water hyacinth were also collected, including 2,224 sacks of marine debris.



4,500 sako ng basura, nakolekta sa Manila Baywalk

Umaabot sa 4,500 sako ng basura ang naukuha ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) matapos magsagawa ng cleanup drive sa Manila Baywalk Dolomite Beach sa Maynila.

Ayon kay DENR-Metropolitan Environmental Office (MEO) West OIC Director Rodelina de Villa, bahagi ito ng selebrasyon ng International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) Day 2022.

Nasa mahigit na 4,000 volunteers ang nakibahagi sa cleanup

activity. Tema ng aktibidad sa taong ito ang "Fighting for Trash Free Seas-Pilipinas: Ending the Flow of Trash at the Source."

Kabilang sa mga nakolektang basura ang mga plastic wastes, dried water hyacinth, at marine debris.

Ayon kay De Villa, nasasalamon sa Manila Baywalk ang pagtutulungan ng lahat ng sektor upang matugunan ang coastal litter sa pamamagitan ng mga isinasagawang beach cleanup activities. (Angie dela Cruz)



The Masungi crisis



"THIS is how the DENR should do it."

Then Environment Secretary Gina Lopez declared these words when she visited Masungi Georeserve in August of 2016. She liked the genuine care and dedication invested upon the geological heritage comprising karst pinnacles and their indigenous biodiversity in southern Sierra Madre.

There and then, the Secretary asked the Masungi Georeserve Foundation (Masungi) to similarly restore and conserve some 3,000 hectares of adjacent denuded mountains in two protected areas cum national park, game preserve and wildlife sanctuary within the heavily deforested Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape and the Kaliwa Watershed Reservation.

The DENR would clear the area of illegal occupants while Masungi would reforest and rewind the same at no cost to government nor income to Masungi, under a conservation agreement called the Masungi Geopark Project (MGP).

It is not a commercial or land grabbing venture as protected area opportunists falsely portray.

For sure, the MGP can be improved and strengthened but the priority should be to protect the area from those that would destroy it for their commercial interests.

The Masungi Georeserve is an integral part of the Rizal ecosystem.

It is not just one of the international leaders in sustainable tourism and home to hundreds of species of flora and fauna, it has also been fundamental in ensuring the reforestation of the southern Sierra Madre range within the Upper Marikina watershed, which protects low-lying areas from the worst effects of typhoons and rains, including flooding and erosion.

To date, Masungi has physically recovered a vast track of about 2,000 hectares of forestland including four of the remaining Benguet Pine groves planted by the Marcos Administration in the 1970s, installed and manned 12 Ranger Stations, cleared and maintained 15 kilometers of trails and planted and nurtured with volunteers about 100,000 native forest trees.

Now feeling safe and secure from intruders, grazing animals and forest fires, pine cones are germinating after decades of dormancy.

These accomplishments are deemed even more remarkable in the face of aggression from protected area offenders and silence from the DENR.

Two Masungi Park rangers were shot in July 2021 and seven more were mauled in February 2022.

Those attacks, and many other acts of harassment coupled with black propaganda, happened next to a police station within a protected area where quarries, swimming pool resorts, a PENRO and a police general hold prominent and questionable presence.

In the same period the MGP became a global model for conservation and sustainable development earning awards and honor for the country from international bodies like the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), the Global Water Partnership, and the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC), among others.

In July 2022, Masungi rangers also received the International Ranger Awards from the IUCN and the International Ranger Federation for their exceptional

valor, fortitude, and resilience in the face of serious threats.

Just this week, on September 27, the Masungi Geopark Project won an award from the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Action Awards.

The youth-led project, which aims to fight deforestation and climate change through geotourism, topped this year's Inspire Category and bested over 3,000 other applications from 150 countries.

"I would like to dedicate this award, first and foremost, to our rangers and our team who are getting their hands and feet dirty to defend our remaining forests," said Billie Dumaliang, co-founder and trustee of Masungi Reserve, as she accepted the award in Bonn, Germany.

"The Masungi Georeserve is not just one of the international leaders in sustainable tourism and home to hundreds of species of flora and fauna, it has also been fundamental in ensuring the reforestation of the southern Sierra Madre range..."

Yet, instead of thanking Masungi and running after the patently maleficent quarries, resorts, the PENRO and the police general — pursuant to their contractual obligation and bounden duty — certain local and regional DENR officials would rather stop the conservation project and terminate the MGP.

With the MGP down and gone, the misplaced quarries and resorts can enjoy the protected area to themselves.

Responsible DENR officials refuse to cancel erring quarries.

They fast track PAMB approvals to legitimize odious swimming pool resorts that disrupt vital waterways.

They also stop Masungi from installing temporary checkpoints to defend the protected area as well as rangers who defend it. But they turn a blind eye to rampant permanent construction and illegal developments.

In the guise of contract review, the DENR squandered five precious years evading its contractual obligation to clear the site of illegal occupants, leaving the protected area and its conservation partner alone in peril.

The DENR did not lift a finger to help Masungi and even tried to justify the attackers when Masungi's helpless rangers were violently shot and mauled.

Despite the bad faith it has seen and the dangers it faces, Masungi remains true and steadfast in its mission to restore and defend the area from further degradation, for the benefit of future generations.

The Masungi crisis is emblematic of the Philippine and global environmental and climate crisis.

I am confident that newly confirmed DENR Secretary Toni Yulo-Loyzaga will see beyond the fog of her bureaucrats and come down on the side of planet and people.



10-01-22

TITLE :

PAGE /

DATE

Averting a climate induced disaster

How serious is the damage caused by climate change?

Information on the website of the Philippine Climate Change Commission says the phenomenon – a long-term change in the average weather patterns that have come to define Earth's local, regional and global climates – aggravates the long-festering problems of migration, poverty, social conflict and political instability.

The CCC is the government's lead policy-making body tasked to coordinate, monitor and evaluate government programs related to climate change.

"It disproportionately affects the poorest of the poor through food insecurity, higher food prices, lost livelihood opportunities, and adverse health impacts," the CCC says.

The ordinary Filipino should get acquainted with the term "carbon emissions" – carbon compound, such as carbon dioxide, released into the atmosphere, often through human activity like the burning of fossil fuels such as coal or gas.

The CCC says the most immediate problem now is that the level of global carbon emissions will lead to a 4°C global warming scenario by the end of the century. Which is bad for humans.

"For vulnerable developing countries like the Philippines, 1.5 is that threshold of chance and hope. Limiting global warming to 1.5°C is still technically and economically feasible, but will require rapid and far-reaching transitions, especially in land, energy, industry, buildings, transport and cities."

"To contain warming at this level, man-made global net carbon dioxide emissions would need to fall by about 45 percent by 2030 from 2010 levels and reach 'net zero' by mid-century."

"This means that any remaining emissions would need to be balanced by removing carbon dioxide from the air."

Just "a 2°C temperature increase would exacerbate diminishing Arctic Sea ice, rising sea levels, and extreme weather/climate events and second-order impacts, such as coral bleaching and degradation of ecosystems, among others. There would be increased risks to health, livelihoods, food security, water supply, human security and economic growth."

There will also be "a reduction in crop yields and nutritional quality. Livestock are also affected with rising temperatures as reflected by

“
A 2°C
temperature
increase would
exacerbate
diminishing
Arctic Sea ice,
rising sea levels,
and extreme
weather/climate
events and
second-order
impacts.”



TITLE:

*Averting a Climate induced
disaster*

PAGE

2

2023-01-22
DATE

the changes in feed quality, incidence of diseases, and limited water resource availability. Further, risks from vector-borne diseases like malaria and dengue fever are also projected to increase.”

In other words, such levels of global warming – a direct consequence of climate change – will cause chaos.

What can people do to avert such a grim scenario?

Bill Gates, in his new book, *How to Avoid a Climate Disaster*, said in his discussions with people who have direct experience with the problem and who can offer solutions, he is convinced of three things:

“1. To avoid a climate disaster, we have to get to zero greenhouse gas emissions.”

“2. We need to deploy the tools we already have, like solar and wind, faster and smarter.”

“3. And we need to create and roll out breakthrough technologies that can take us the rest of the way.”

“The case for zero was, and is, rock solid. Setting a goal to only reduce our emissions – but not eliminate them – won’t do it. The only sensible goal is zero.”

Here’s what ordinary citizens can do, as suggested by <https://www.priveb.org/blog-post/ten-ways-you-can-mitigate-climate-change>:

“Tell companies that if they want you to buy their products, they need to be energy efficient, use renewable energy, and minimize waste. When it’s time to replace appliances, buy the most energy-efficient ones you can afford. Switch to LED light bulbs and change your transportation.”

“Conserve water. Check for leaks and fix them quickly.”

“Eat less meat and more plant-based foods.”

“Reduce food waste. Bring your own take-home container to a restaurant to take home leftovers and avoid using a disposable container. One-time-use containers waste resources and energy, leading to greenhouse gas emissions. Compost uneaten food instead of sending it to a landfill where it releases methane when it decomposes.”

“**To contain warming at this level, man-made global net carbon dioxide emissions would need to fall by about 45 percent by 2030 from 2010 levels.**”



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

Daily Tribune

WITHOUT FEAR • WITHOUT FAVOR



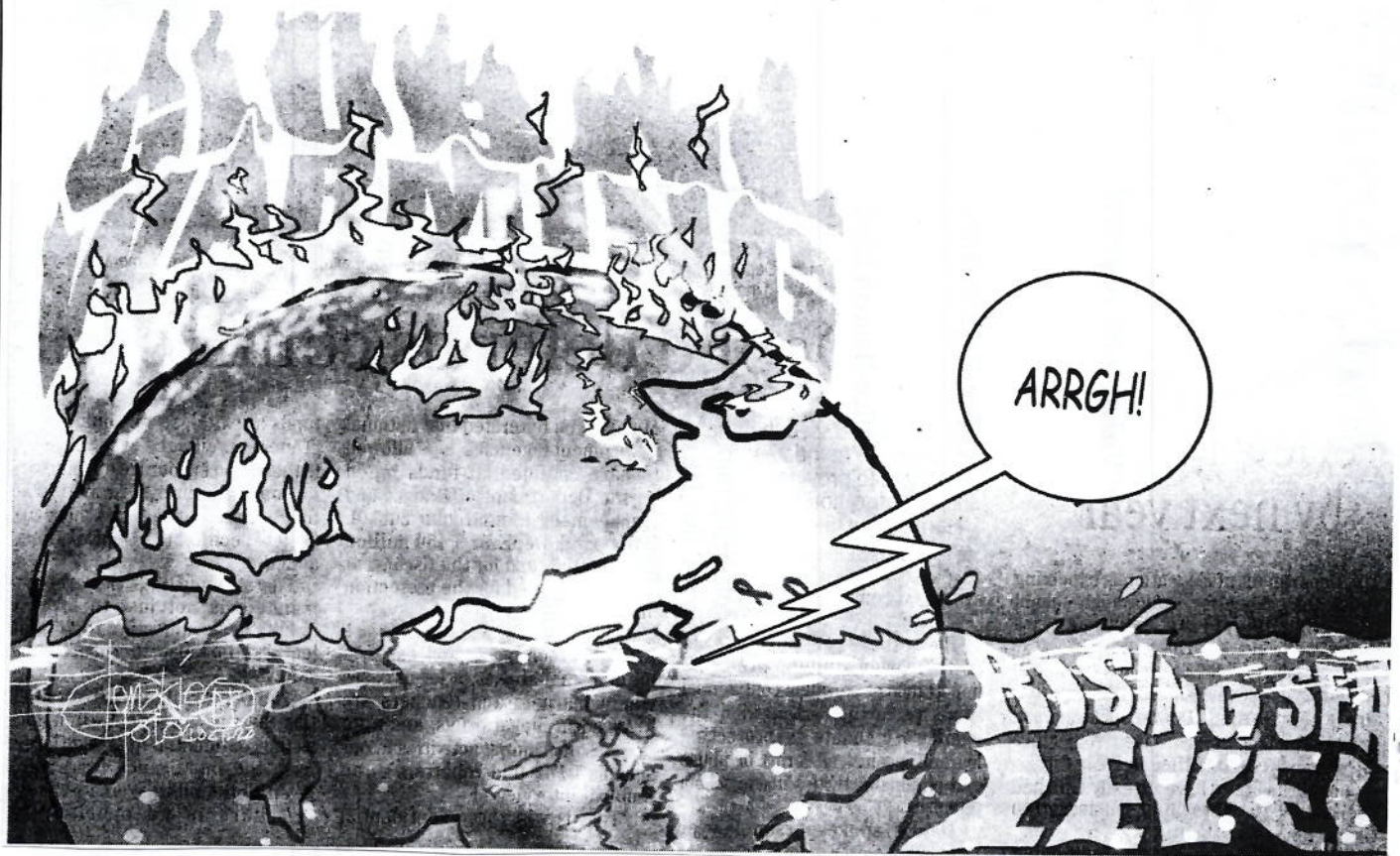
TITLE:

Averting a Climate induced disaster

PAGE 3

20-01-22

DATE




PAGE
UPPER

LOWER
PAGE 1
STORY
BANNER
STORY
EDITORIAL
CARTOON

70-01-22
DATE

TITLE: _____

PAGE _____

DATE

Editorial

The renewable energy economy

DURING a media roundtable on Thursday hosted by CNBC as part of the Asian Development Bank's annual meeting week, International Energy Agency (IEA) Executive Director Fatih Birol made an attention-grabbing assertion. There is a renewable energy economy rapidly growing around the world, Dr. Birol said, and most developing countries in Asia are quickly being left behind.

The most interesting point Birol made was that the pace of renewable energy development is not necessarily dependent on climate change concerns. "Forget about climate change," he said, meaning that based on conventional measures alone, such as cost, efficiency and ease of construction, developing renewable energy sources rather than conventional ones makes the most economic sense. When climate change concerns are taken into account, Asian countries whose energy policies are still too dependent on conventional energy sources such as coal, and are among the most vulnerable to climate change effects, are putting themselves at a disadvantage both economically and environmentally.

Dr. Birol did not single out the Philippines as one of those Asian countries "falling behind," but the implied mild rebuke was hard to miss; after all, Energy Regulatory Commission Commissioner Monalisa Dimalanta was one of his fellow guests on the program, and the Philippines is one of the few countries in Asia where renewable energy has actually declined as a proportion of the overall energy mix. From about 34 percent in 2012, the share of renewable energy in the Philippines' energy mix is now down to about 22 percent despite ambitious targets included in a succession of energy policy "road maps."

There was, however, a hopeful sign that a negative trend may turn around, in an announcement by the Department of Energy (DoE) that coincidentally reached the public at about the same time Birol and his fellow experts were sharing their views with CNBC. Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla announced that, beginning in 2023, all distribution utilities, electric cooperatives and retail electricity suppliers will be required to source at least 2.52 percent of their annual electricity supply from renewable energy sources, an increase from 1 percent currently.

Lotilla's order in Department Circular 2022-09-0030 was actually signed on September 23, but was only made public this week. The directive also calls for an annual review of the energy sourcing to ensure compliance with the new minimum, and allows for periodic adjustments of the requirement in case development of eligible renewable energy plants is faster or slower than anticipated.

The new requirement is only a small step, but it is at least a positive one toward the government's objectives to increase the share of renewable energy in the country. As it stands now, the DoE is targeting a 35-percent share of renewables in the energy mix by 2030 and 50 percent by 2040. To achieve those goals, Lotilla said, about 53,000 megawatts (MW) of renewable capacity will need to be built — about 44,000 MW in solar and wind generation capacity, with the remainder divided among hydroelectric, geothermal and biomass-fueled plants. In addition, the DoE is also anticipating about 19,000 MW in natural gas-powered generation plants; gas is certainly not renewable, but it is considered a cleaner, "transition" source of energy that allows the country to keep the moratorium on new coal plants in place.

One benefit of the new higher minimum renewable energy requirement, Lotilla stressed, is that it would attract increased investment in renewable energy development, as it signals to prospective investors that there is a larger market demand. In terms of where the Philippines should look for those investors, IEA's Birol had a one-word answer when asked where Asian countries should seek help in expanding their own renewable energy programs: India.

The reason for this, Birol explained, is that having the challenge of providing energy to a huge population, India has developed renewables — particularly solar power — on a massive scale, including the manufacturing of renewable energy components and systems. Partnering with Indian investors would not only give the Philippines access to considerable financial resources, but more importantly, a great deal of knowledge and technology transfer to further develop our renewable energy sector and keep up with the new economy.



TITLE:

PAGE

80-01-22
DATE

Services Inc. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Sierra Madre's conservation will help keep its role as protector of the environment and of humanity while helping avert climate-related catastrophes



By RORY VISCO

WHAT should have been a typically regular (and supposedly relaxing) Sunday morning for everyone after a busy week was jolted when the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) announced that an approaching typhoon named Karding (international code name Noru) was elevated to supertyphoon status.

All because the typhoon went into a "period of explosive intensification," a situation wherein a tropical cyclone's maximum sustained winds increase by more than 65 kph within 24 hours. In the case of Karding, the wind surge reached a staggering 90 kph. The state weather firm says that

though explosive intensification is rare, what happened to Karding was not the first.

Burdeos in Quezon and Dingalan in Aurora were among the first to feel the destructive wrath of Karding and left massive damage to property and infrastructure.

The rest of Luzon, including Bu-

lacan, Pampanga, Rizal, Zambales, Bataan, Tarlac, Nueva Ecija, including Metro Manila, all experienced torrential downpours that led to massive flooding, landslides and other upheavals. Classes and work were suspended in these areas, while flights were also canceled.

But before making landfall, Karding packed sustained winds of 185 kph and gustiness of 230 kph, yet later weakened when it slammed the Sierra Madre mountain range, long touted as a "bagyo buster" by many Filipinos.

A special place called Sierra Madre STRETCHING to about 10 provinces—Cagayan, Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya, Nueva Ecija, Quirino, Aurora, Quezon; Rizal, Laguna and Bulacan—the land area of the 540-km Sierra Madre mountain range covers an estimated 1.4 million hectares. It is home to a diverse collection of

CONTINUED ON A2



TITLE:

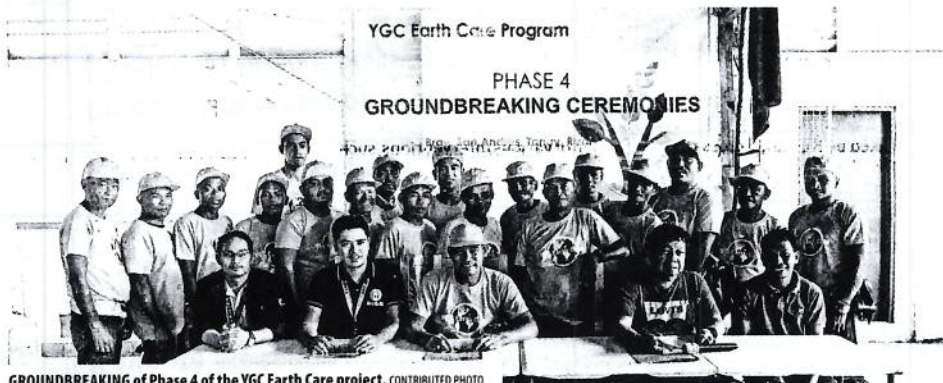
PAGE

2

DATE

2021 2 2

PROTECTING THE PROTECTOR



GROUND BREAKING of Phase 4 of the YGC Earth Care project. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTINUED FROM A1

flora and fauna and also a major contributor to the water supply of Metro Manila.

But aside from its massive geographical grandeur and role in preserving biodiversity, the Sierra Madre mountain range is also called Luzon's backbone for its significant role in protecting Luzon primarily from severe weather disturbances such as Karding, and also past supertyphoons like Ompong that made landfall in Cagayan in 2018, Lawin that also hit Cagayan in 2016 and typhoon Karen that slammed Baler in Aurora province also in 2016.

Though this is still largely debatable, many still believe that the Sierra Madre mountain range greatly helps in dissipating, even in the slightest manner, the strongest typhoons coming from the Pacific Ocean that ever hit Luzon.

Call to save Sierra Madre

AFTER renewed observations that it has yet again saved Luzon, there is now a widespread call to protect Sierra Madre, what with all the degradation happening in the area from illegal logging, gold and limestone mining, construction aggregate quarrying, deforestation and dam building. Critics include among the culprits the highly controversial Kaliwa Dam project.

Cavite Rep. Elpidio Barzaga Jr., chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources, filed House Resolution 430, asking Congress to look into these activities, i.e., if indeed they "are being conducted at the Sierra Madre mountains" that can hurt what he called the "Mother of Mountain Ranges" in the Philippines and if environmental impact assessments were done, and also to come up with ways to protect it.

Another congressman, Rizal Fourth District Rep. Fidel Nograles, joined the fray by repeating his call to institute a Sierra Madre Develop-

ment Authority or SMDA by sponsoring House Bill 1972.

Private sector does its share

BACK in 2011, the Yuchengco Group of Companies (YGC) launched what it called a "forward-looking" project the objective of which was to plant 50,000 native trees within the sprawling Mount Bangkaan in Sierra Madre, covering about 100 hectares.

It was a crucial decision in choosing Mount Bangkaan, where the forest cover was largely denuded already, even if it is considered a huge part of the micro basin of the Laiban Watershed, a vital potential source of water for Metro Manila.

Unfortunately, the state of Mount Bangkaan at that time was similar to what's happening in Sierra Madre and other forestlands in the country. So YGC partnered with the Indigenous People (IP) of Tanay and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to launch that same year the YGC Earth Care Project, a massive reforestation initiative that will benefit not only Sierra Madre's biodiversity but also the entire population of Metro Manila through a sustainable watershed protection.

To date, 23,000 forest trees have already been planted on 58 out of the planned 100-hectare coverage, and most trees are now over 20 feet high. After 10 years, the once-denuded forest is now teeming with forest life. The endemic native trees are now significantly contributing to watershed protection and safeguarding biodiversity.

Helen Yuchengco Dee, YGC chairperson, thanked their dedicated partners such as the DENR for the 100 hectares it entrusted to YGC and for continuously sharing its expertise in forest management, and to the IPs of Mount Bangkaan—the Dumagats and the Remontados—who have warmly embraced this project from the

start and faithfully nurtured the trees as their own.

Dee also commended their YGC Earth Care Mountaineers, the volunteers from the various YGC companies "who have selflessly shared their time and energy in ensuring that we maintain this fine balance, protecting the present and our future."

Going to Phase 4 of protection

SO, what's in store for the remaining 42 hectares that needed to be covered under the project? According to Liwayway Gener, executive vice president of YGC Corporate Services Inc., Phase 4 is significant because they will implement an agroforestry model that will address both environmental and socioeconomic goals.

The next phase will blend sustainable life for the IPs through reforestation activities and watershed protection that will benefit 21 IP families, 11 of them working already with YGC for over 10 years.

Just recently, mostly fruit trees and crops totaling 6,000 high-grade saplings of Guimaras mango, RCF avocado, Haitian star apple, Bangkok santol, and R5 rambutan have been readied for planting. A timeframe of between three and five years is seen for the trees to start to bear fruits and the socioeconomic objectives for the IPs are expected to be attained and YGC's Sustainable Life Program for the IPs will be met.

"Through our initiatives like the YGC Earth Care Project, we underlined the weight of our decisions and showed others how we must be responsible and accountable stewards of the environment," Dee said.

"What we take, we must give back—ensuring balance, peace, stability and sustainability. Remember, the actions we take today have a direct consequence on our tomorrow. And this impact is not limited to our own personal sphere, it affects us all," she added.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

BusinessMirror

A broader look at today's business

PAGE
UPPER

LOWER
PAGE 1
STORY
BANNER
STORY
EDITORIAL
CARTOON

TITLE:

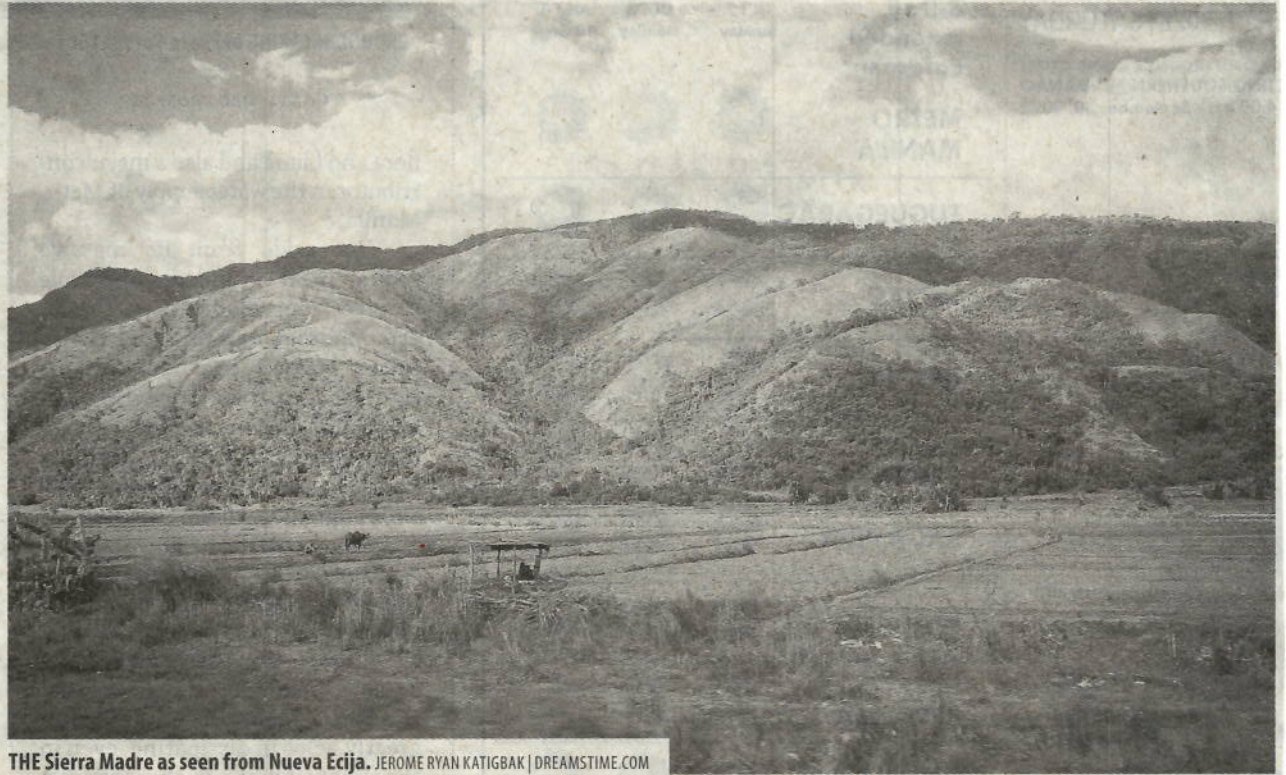
Protecting the protector

PAGE

3

2013 22

DATE



THE Sierra Madre as seen from Nueva Ecija. JEROME RYAN KATIGBAK | DREAMSTIME.COM



Bonuan Buquig Natl HS: Finalist for World's Best School Prize for Environmental Action

A PHILIPPINE school made it as a Top 3 finalist for the new \$250,000 World's Best School Prizes, launched this year by T4 Education in collaboration with Accenture and American Express.

Bonuan Buquig National High School, a public high school in Dagupan City, Pangasinan that restored lost mangroves to reverse the environmental devastation, landed third for the World's Best School Prize for Environmental Action.

According to event organizers, the five World's Best School Prizes—for Community Collaboration, Environmental Action, Innovation, Overcoming Adversity, and Supporting Healthy Lives—celebrate learning institutions for their pivotal role in developing the next generation of learners, and for their enormous contribution to society's progress especially in the wake of the pandemic.

Aside from Accenture and American Express, the prizes were founded by T4 Education in collaboration with Yayasan Hasannah, Templeton World Charity Foundation, the Lemann Foundation, D2L, Mellby Gård, and Universidad Camilo José Cela to share best practices of schools that are transforming the lives of their students and making a real difference to their communities.

"[We are] proud to collaborate with T4 Education on the World's Best School Prize for Environmental Action, which celebrates schools' incredible efforts to empower the next generation to harness new technologies and innovative practices that tackle the global sustainability issues that impact us all," Global Sustainability Services Lead and Chief Responsibility Officer Peter Lacy of Accenture said. "Through this prize, we aim to recognize the tools and techniques nurtured by schools and share them with a broad audience, enabling others to replicate their work and multiply the impact at speed and scale. Teachers everywhere will

be inspired by the example of this outstanding Philippine school."

"We are pleased to recognize students and educators who are taking action to protect the environment and their futures," Head of Corporate Sustainability Madge Thomas of American Express said. "As we... work to advance climate solutions, we will continue to support programs and partnerships like this one to help build more climate resilient and equitable communities."

Thomas furthered: "The World's Best School Prizes surface the expertise of inspirational schools from every corner of the globe. It's time for governments everywhere to listen to their voices."

"As the world looks to rebuild from the... pandemic, far too many children will continue to be left behind—unless we see urgent action on education," said Vikas Pota, who is the founder of T4 Education and the World's Best School Prizes. "Leaders must learn from the knowledge and experience contained within our schools, because those on the frontlines of education know better than anyone else the change we need to see."

Reversing devastation

IN 2009 Typhoon Pepeng (international name Parma) left two-thirds of the city submerged in flood water. Fishponds, rice fields and other industries in the community were heavily damaged. The city government, aware of its geographical challenges on land that is only 1 meter above sea level, started to dredge rivers to reduce the impact of the flood, but it came with unintended consequences.

Bonuan Buquig National High School took action to support its students and save the local environment as it planted thousands of mangrove propagules each year, which have provided new habitats and shelter for fish. As a result, the mangroves along the banks of Longos River are nearly



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

BusinessMirror

A broader look at today's business

AG
PAGE

UPPER
LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

TITLE:

Bonuan Buquig Nat'l HS: Finalist for

PAGE

L12

20-01-22

DATE

World's Best School Prize for Environmental Action

rehabilitated and stabilized.

The school also initiated a coastal clean-up in 2014, working with volunteers in the shorelines of Bonuan Beach. It also planted trees to rehabilitate a local dump site. Collected garbage was then classified and accounted for to determine the number of biodegradable and nonbiodegradable materials. Recyclables were upcycled as garden pots and decorations.

Should it be eventually recognized, Bonuan Buquig National High School said it will use the prize money as fund to build a nursery that could house around 50,000 mangrove seedlings a year, then push for much-needed research to improve techniques and technology on mangrove propagation and preservation.

Next steps

THE Top 3 finalists for each of the five World's Best School Prizes will now be entered into a public advisory vote, where the public has until October 2 to tell judges who they think should win each prize at worldsbestschool.org/

The Judging Academy, composed of distinguished leaders all across the globe including academics, educators, nongovernment organizations, social entrepreneurs, government, civil society and the private sector, will be presented with the results of the public advisory vote, and will assess the finalists based on rigorous criteria.

Winners will be announced on October 19 during World Education Week, where each will receive an award of \$50,000.

All shortlisted schools in the five awards will share their best practices during the World Education Week through School Transformation Toolkits that showcase their "secret sauce" to innovative approaches, and step-by-step methods on how others can replicate their methods to help improve education everywhere.



Masungi Geopark Project wins UN award

BY BELLA CARIASO

THE Masungi Geopark Project won the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Action Award under the Inspire Category.

Out of 3,000 entries from over 150 countries, the Masungi Geopark Foundation topped the competition for its youth-led efforts in combating deforestation and climate change through the restoration and protection of the Masungi landscape and parts of the Upper Marikina Watershed.

The judges commended Masungi for being "bold enough to participate in national legislative inquiries, and direct lobbying and going above and beyond through their engagement with the general public, and the creativity of their storytelling."

In her acceptance speech during the awarding ceremony held in Bonn, Germany, Masungi trustee Billie Dumaliang dedicated the award to Masungi rangers and

team, whom she said are the ones "getting their hands and feet dirty to defend our forests."

"You don't know how much this means to us, at such a critical time when our work continues to be undermined and under-supported in our home country," Dumaliang said.

She also thanked the allies, partners and the entire community who have helped the project endure.

"To the people who have said that we are dreaming too big, that this is the way things have always been, and that we are pushing too far. This is for you. This is a reminder that we will not stop. That we will win in the end with our energy and creativity," she added.

Dumaliang cited the study of the Global Witness, which said

that the Philippines is one of the most dangerous countries in the world for environmental defenders.

"We are not only representing Masungi but all Filipinos who suffer the most from the climate crisis and all environment defenders, who are risking their lives for our shared future," she said.

Heralded as one of the most innovative nature-based projects in the world, Masungi has won numerous international awards and recognition.

It is a landmark Filipino forest restoration project that has been lauded for its effective and sustainable models in conservation, engineering, community engagement, geotourism and conservation financing.

Previous global recognitions and awards include those from the UN Development Program, International Union for Conservation of Nature, National Geographic, UN World Tourism Organization, World Travel and Tourism

Council, and the Global Water Partnership.

Dumaliang said quarrying companies with mineral production sharing agreements (MPSAs) are currently the biggest threat to Masungi's efforts.

"Masungi continues to call on the government to finally cancel the large-scale MPSAs covering more than 1,000 hectares of critical watershed and protected areas," she said.

The Masungi Geopark Project started in 2017 through an agreement with the government. It became one of the largest collaborative reforestation efforts in the country using self-generated funds from low volume geotourism.

Over 2,000 hectares of land have been rescued, 17 ranger stations and 18 kilometers of monitoring trails established, 100 rangers and 200 partners engaged, and over 200 households have been supported, while more than 70,000 native trees have been planted and nurtured.



TITLE :

PAGE

DATE

80-01-22

SMC urged to scrap fossil gas projects

PHILIPPINE-BASED think tank Center for Energy, Ecology and Development (CEED), along with Filipino environment and sustainable energy advocates, youths and religious organizations on Thursday urged San Miguel Corp. (SMC) to abandon its fossil gas projects in the pipeline and instead exert its resources to advance renewable energy in the country.

On its 132nd anniversary, SMC is in trouble for its controversial liquefied natural gas (LNG) projects, which exacerbate electricity prices, worsen energy security and bring about biodiversity issues in the Philippines.

Various groups across the country launched a campaign on Thursday, titled "San Miguel's Latest Brew: Dirty Energy," calling on SMC to uphold its sustainability commitments by canceling its LNG to power and associated infrastructure projects, and shifting its priority to renewable energy projects.

They argued that SMC's massive LNG expansion projects drive higher electricity prices due to LNG's volatility, exacerbated by the global energy crisis. Furthermore, these

projects threaten biodiversity and livelihoods in host communities.

"SMC's anniversary calls for no celebration as it chooses to invest in fossil gas despite many reports warning us of restricted LNG supply and its record-high prices," CEED Executive Director Gerry Arances said in a statement.

Ahead of the completion of the construction of its gas projects, SMC, along with Manila Electric Co., has already filed a motion for price adjustment in an attempt to pass the burden to consumers after suffering P15 billion in losses from two of its power plants, including its recently acquired natural gas plant in Ilijan, Batangas.

"It is worrying to think that in the more coming years, consumers will continue to bear the brunt of a company that prioritizes profit over the welfare of Filipino people," said Leody de Guzman of Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino.

Consumers are also protesting against SMC projects as it will threaten major livelihood sources, including the fishing and tourism sectors. In Batangas, San Miguel's

gas-to-power project is found to inflict damage to the Verde Island Passage (VIP), known to marine scientists as the "Amazon of the Oceans" and "Center of Marine Shore Fish Biodiversity."

"Ensuring the health of Verde Island Passage is equivalent to ensuring the livelihoods of those who rely on its bounty, the rich underwater life that nourishes us, the communities who deserve clean waters and clean air, electricity consumers who plea for affordable, clean and renewable sources of energy, and our common home that is longing for respite from destruction," added Fr. Edwin Gariguez, lead convenor of Protect VIP.

"We call on SMC to abandon its fossil gas projects in the pipeline and instead exert its resources to advance renewable energy in the country, which they are very much capable of. They should work on creating a legacy where they indeed made our world better by paving the path for 100 percent renewable energy which is accessible, reliable and affordable for all," Arances ended.

EIREENE JAIREE GOMEZ



TITLE :

PAGE 1/2

DATE

2011-01-22



ENTERTAINMENT

'Delikado' to cap human rights film fest

"We want to get the film shown as widely as possible, more importantly, to where similar battles are fought," said Australian filmmaker Karl Malakunas, whose documentary "Delikado" will be screened at the 10th Active Vista International Human Rights Festival tonight. "Delikado" follows three environmental crusaders as they confront betrayal and murder in the battle to save Palawan's forest.

—STORY BY MARINEL R. CRUZ



"We want to get the film shown as widely as possible, more importantly, to where similar battles are fought," said Australian filmmaker Karl Malakunas, whose documentary, titled "Delikado," will mark the end of the 10th edition of the Active Vista International Human Rights Festival tonight.

"Delikado" follows three environmental crusaders Robert "Bobby" Chan, Efren "Tata" Balladeres, and Nieves Rosento confront betrayal and murder as they battle to save Palawan, an island paradise famed as the Philippines' "last ecological frontier."

It is a timely film emblematic of the struggles globally for land defenders as they are being killed in record numbers while trying to save natural resources from being plundered by corporations and governments.

"I'm so excited at another opportunity to screen the film in the Philippines. More so, with such an amazing organization and its values being aligned with ours, we felt very lucky that we're selected

as the closing film [for AVX: Visions X Movements]. Of course, more broadly, we want to get the film shown in the Philippines as much as possible," said the Hong Kong-based Malakunas in a phone conversation on Wednesday.

Standing ovation

"Delikado," which Malakunas began working on in 2011, premiered at the 18th Cinemalaya film fest in August. "There was a standing ovation for Bobby, Tata and Nieves, and they were almost crying. It was really

very emotional and magical," recalled Malakunas.

"As part of our impact campaign, we are working to have community screenings around the Philippines and, most importantly, where similar battles are being fought. We have had the chance to screen it in Aklan, Baguio and another one in Manila. We're also aiming to have it shown in universities and schools for next generation to help inform them and inspire them," said the director when we asked about his future plans for the film.

Malakunas said the key participants in the documentary have seen it way ahead of everyone, "because we're tackling sensitive stories and we wanted all of them to feel comfortable with it. During the Cinemalaya event, they also came, along with the others who have never been out of Palawan before. They were so excited. It was incredible to see the audience react to them and to celebrate them as heroes," the director recalled. "I value the fact that they're being appreciated and their heroic acts. The film is an opportunity for them to be

seen as the heroes that they are."

Malakunas, who lived in the Philippines for some nine years as Manila bureau chief for the international news agency Agence France-Presses (AFP), first wrote the story 11 years ago today.

"It's been over five years of hard work since we started filming," Malakunas recalled. "I have a full-time job. I have a family and two children, but I've put in all the extra time I had into making this film because I care about the issues and I'm inspired so much by the



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE



TITLE:

'Delikado' to cap human rights
film fest

PAGE

4/2

DATE

bravery and courage of the participants in the film. It feels like another member of my family."

Emotionally invested

Malakunas, whose work has since required him to transfer to Hong Kong, added: "It means everything to me. I care so much about the people I spent a long time with. It's still hard emotionally to talk about some of the hardest part of the film, particularly what happened to 'Kap' Ruben (Arzaga) and his family. It still shakes me up to watch that part of the film. So I guess I can be more emotionally invested in the project."

In fact, he recalled participating in a Q&A session of a festival in Melbourne, Australia, where he "just cried all the way through it."

He continued: "The people whose lives I've been lucky enough to document, are so amazing. The battles that they're fighting are just so important, not just for the future of Palawan and the Philippines but for the world in terms of saving our planet. They are on the front line of that change and they represent the land defenders in all the battles taking place around the world."

C5

FROM C6

We then asked him to share some of the things he appreciated about the Philippines and its people when he was still living here. To this, Malakunas replied: "I've lived more of my adult working life in the Philippines than anywhere else. It's hard to talk about it without being cliché, but it's really the warmth, energy and strength found there. There is such an amazing sense of fun and joy for life that people in the Philippines still hold on to despite the hardships that they face and that's constantly inspiring. I met a lot of good friends there."

Malakunas described the Philippines as "a naturally beautiful place," and added that his favorite Pinoy food are *kinilaw* and *gising-gising*. He continued: "I am also fascinated ...



Karl Malakunas

[by] its history and the culture. I've read 'Noli Me Tangere' and 'El Filibusterismo.' It's a lot of different things that sealed my love of the country."

The film is coproduced by Malakunas, Marty Syjuco, Michael Collins and Kara Magsonoc-Alikpala. INQ