

05 October 2022, Wednesday



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

# **NEWS CLIPPINGS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**



STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
AND  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE

Trusted Since 1898

The Manila Times



UPPER  
LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

10-05-22

TITLE:

PAGE

DATE

# DENR awards 622 land titles in Cagayan Valley

BY LEANDER C. DOMINGO

**B**AYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya: More than 600 land titles were awarded to beneficiaries under the Handog Titulo program of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

DENR Region 2 Executive Director Gwendolyn Bambalan said this was the result of the "Malawakang Handog Titulo Program" in the Cagayan Valley region that was launched in June this year.

Bambalan explained that the Handog Titulo program of the DENR aims to expedite the processing and issuance of public land patents to qualified individuals.

"It seeks to achieve security of tenure for poverty alleviation and economic development," she added.

According to the DENR, 622 patents were distributed to beneficiaries from Cagayan, Isabela, Quirino and Nueva Vizcaya during the recent second leg of the program.

Bambalan noted that for the island province of Batanes, the awarding of land titles will be held this October.

She said DENR in partnership with the Registry of Deeds (RoD)

and the local government units (LGUs) in the region is committed to provide land tenure security to rightful land occupants.

"We commit to strengthen the DENR-LGU partnership by providing secured property rights for every landowner," Bambalan said.

She said the program has been successful due to the strong collaboration with the RoD to expedite the awarding of unregistered patents to beneficiaries with the support of LGUs concerned in the region.



TITLE:

PAGE

DATE

# Gov't urged to protect the Sierra Madre

By DANESSA RIVERA

Agriculture and environment stakeholders are urging the government to enact laws that will protect Sierra Madre and other mountain ranges given its massive contribution to food security especially during typhoons.

Food security, advocacy group Tugon Kabuhayan said the government should also institutionalize support for the protection of the environment to ensure the country's food security.

"While we are grateful that the government has allotted P709 million worth of assistance to Karding-affected fishers and farmers, the same level of support should also be given to our environment, from ridge to reef.

This is not just to ensure protection and conservation, but food security as well for the generations to come. As the first law of ecology

states, everything is connected to everything else," it said.

Nagsama-Lamon Bay (Nagkakaisang Samahan ng mga Mang-ingisda sa Lamon Bay) convenor Jhun Pascua is pushing for the passage of proposed legislative measures such as the Watershed Protection Bill.

"It's vital that Congress process the Watershed (Protection) Bill again to continue protecting Sierra Madre," he said.

Save Sierra Madre Network Alliance Inc. executive director Conrad Vargas also called for the legislation of measures that will protect watershed areas including in the mountain ranges, and the halting of the construction of the Kaliwa Dam.

He also supports the creation of a Sierra Madre Council, like the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development, which was created under Republic Act 7611 or the

Strategic Environmental Plan (SEP) for Palawan Act to ensure that the province's fragile environment is protected, conserved, utilized, and managed effectively.

"This has long been pushed through a series of consultation and dialog with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Regions 1, 2, 3 and 4-A," he said.

Federation of Central Luzon Farmers' Cooperative (FCLFC) chairman Simeon Sioson said the Sierra Madre range has served as a wind and rain breaker for farmers during typhoons.

Sierra Madre is the longest mountain range in the Philippines. Spanning over 540 kilometers and runs from the province of Cagayan down to the province of Quezon, forming a north-south direction on the eastern portion of Luzon.

The Sierra Madre Mountain

Range has minimized the damage due to Super Typhoon Karding not only to crops and livestock, but also brood stock in Central Luzon, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) Region 3 director Wilfredo Cruz said.

Brood stock are mature fish used in aquaculture for breeding purposes.

"About 17 million brood stock would've been lost if not for Sierra Madre. Luzon is number one in aquaculture production, and Central Luzon or Region 3 produces 16 percent by value," Cruz said.

Tugon Kabuhayan convenor Norberto Chingcuanco said Sierra Madre's impact on Karding shows that nature is vital to ensuring a sustainable livelihood.

"We need nature for our livelihood. Aquaculture depends on clean water to survive and thrive. It is in our best interest to preserve the environment so

we can keep on producing fish," he said.

Former BFAR national director and Tugon Kabuhayan convenor Asis Perez said the six regions affected by Karding—Cordillera Autonomous Region, Ilocos Region, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Calabarzon, and Bicol Region—are connected through the three mountain ranges.

"The impact of Karding to everyone in the agricultural community might have been worse had it not been for Sierra Madre. The mountains both protect us from danger and ensure that we are able to produce food," he said.

Latest data from the Department of Agriculture showed losses in the sector reached P3.12 billion, devastating 170,762 hectares of farmlands, affecting 108,594 farmers and fisherfolk, and destroying 158,117 metric tons in volume of production.



STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
AND  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE



PAGE



LOWER



PAGE 1  
STORY



BANNER  
STORY



EDITORIAL



CARTOON

10-05-22

PAGE

DATE

TITLE:

# Law on Sierra Madre conservation pushed

**We need nature for our livelihood. Aquaculture depends on clean water to survive and thrive. It is in our best interest to preserve the environment so we can keep on producing fish**

BY MARIA ROMERO  
@tribunephil\_mbr

The Sierra Madre and its 500-kilometer vast range stretching along the eastern portion of Luzon served as blanket protection from the recent wrath of super typhoon "Karding," which devastated the rice-producing regions.

If it wasn't for the trees and slope of the mountain range, damage and losses from the typhoon could have been worse.

Thus, agriculture stakeholders are asking government authorities to pass a legislation that would help conserve Sierra Madre — stressing the significance of

the mountain range to protect the country from weather disturbances.

At a press conference on Monday, Central Luzon Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources regional director Wilfredo Cruz pointed out that the Sierra Madre mountain range also saved 17 million brood stock in the typhoon-hit areas.

"About 17 million broodstock would've been lost if not for the Sierra Madre. Luzon is number one in aquaculture production, and Central Luzon, or Region 3 produces 16 percent by value. By volume, it's also big," Cruz told reporters.

Broodstock is mature

fish used in aquaculture for breeding purposes.

"Karding" swept through Luzon after intensifying from a severe tropical storm to a super typhoon within hours. With maximum sustained winds of 195 kilometers per hour and gustiness of 240km/h, it is one of the strongest typhoons to have formed and made landfall this year.

## Sustainable livelihood

Norberto Chingcuanco, vice president for corporate planning of Feedmix Specialist Inc. also noted that Sierra Madre's impact on "Karding" shows that nature is vital to ensuring a sustainable livelihood.

"We need nature for our livelihood. Aquaculture depends on clean water to survive and thrive. It is in our best interest to preserve the environment so we can keep on producing fish," Chingcuanco said.

Last week, Rizal Representative Fidel Nograles pushed for House Bill 1972 mandating the Sierra Madre Development Authority to take over the conservation and management of the mountain range.

Nograles said the SMDA would conduct a comprehensive survey of the Sierra Madre region's physical and natural resources and draft a comprehensive plan to conserve and utilize them to promote its social and economic development.

Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park is the largest protected area of the Philippines, covering the northern range of the Sierra Madre Mountains of eastern Luzon.

The park is in the eastern part of the province of Isabela in Cagayan Valley consisting of a total area of 359,486 hectares, broken down to 287,861 hectares of land area and 71,652 hectares of coastline water area.



STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
AND  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE

# Daily Tribune

WITHOUT FEAR • WITHOUT FAVOR



UPPER  
 LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

10-05-22

TITLE :

PAGE

DATE

## P1.7-M illegal lumber seized

The seized lumber has an approximate volume of 20,748 board feet with an estimated market worth of P1,659,840

BY NONOY LACSON

ZAMBOANGA CITY — Authorities recovered about 21,000 board feet of highly-valued sawn lumber worth of P1.7 million left abandoned by illegal loggers in the inner forested areas of Barangay Nabalawag, Barira in Maguindanao.

Naval Task Group-Central commander Col. Eric Macaambac said that soldiers and personnel from the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao-Ministry of Environment Natural Resources and Energy seized the newly-sawn lumber in Sitio Bulubudtua.

The seized lumber has an approximate volume of 20,748 board feet and aside from the sawn lumbers, they also seized two units of chainsaws and one unit of heavy-duty bandsaws.

According to the BARMM-MENRE, there were no reports of any apprehension made during the illegal logging operations.

Macaambac said the lumber consisted of several highly valued forest trees, cut in different sizes and dimensions.

Marine troops from the Marine Battalion Landing Team-5 under the 1st Marine Brigade together with policemen of Barira Municipal Police Station and personnel of BARMM-Ministry of Public Order and Safety carried out the operations, which was in response to information that there is a rampant cutting of forest trees in Sitio Bulubudtua.

Authorities immediately formed a team to conduct a law enforcement operation in the village. The confiscated lumbers and logging equipment was temporarily kept at the compound of MBLT-5 in Barira.



TITLE:

PAGE

# Cebu town reclamation hits another snag

## Application to reclaim 235 hectares in Consolacion's coastal village sent back to local gov't; groups opposing project say it's victory for environment

By Ador Vincent Mayol  
@inquirervisayas

CEBU CITY—The 235.8-hectare reclamation project in Consolacion town, Cebu, has hit another snag.

The Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) returned the municipality government's application for an environmental compliance certificate (ECC), one of the requirements before a dump-and-fill project could move forward.

The failure of the town to submit additional requirements within the prescribed period was the main reason cited by the DENR for returning the application on Sept. 1.

The Inquirer tried to reach Consolacion Mayor Teresa Alegado, but she did not respond to phone calls or text messages on Tuesday. Dr. Nerito Martinez, a project consultant for Consolacion, declined to issue a statement when contacted by the Inquirer through phone.

Alegado and her predecessor, son Joannes, have been pushing to reclaim 235.8 ha of seawater, including the foreshore area, which the local government planned to transform into an economic and tourism hub called "Seafront City."

The project was in partnership with a private consortium, La Consolacion Seafront Development Corp., which was incorporated in October 2019 with a capital investment of P10 million, based on records of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Environmentalist groups, including Oceana Philippines, opposed the project, citing its "irreversible" impact on the environment as it would not only mean destroying marine resources but also leveling moun-



PROTECTING FISHING GROUND Fishermen in Consolacion, Cebu, and their supporters hold a fluvial parade in October 2021 to oppose a reclamation project backed by the local government, which they say will destroy their fishing grounds.

—CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

tains where rocks and soil would be taken as filling materials.

In a Sept. 20 letter to Gloria Estenzo Ramos, vice president of Oceana Philippines, EMB Central Visayas director William Cuñado said the draft environmental impact statement (EIS) for the project was returned to the municipality.

### Incomplete

Cuñado cited Department Administrative Order No. 2003-30, where the EMB would have to return the application if the proponent failed to submit additional information within the required period.

The proponent has 18 months to reapply with the additional information without having to pay processing and other fees. Otherwise, the matter would be treated as a new application.

The EMB said proponents of the Consolacion reclamation project had incomplete response to the additional information requested by the Environmental Impact Assessment Review Committee during the first meeting as well as issues raised by shipyard owners, Oceana and other groups opposing the project.

The local government also did not present full documen-

tation of the public hearing, including the attendance of stakeholders and the general public; information shared and how it was disseminated to various groups; summary of issues raised that were beyond the mandate of the EMB; and transcription and video documentation of the proceedings of the public hearing, among others.

Ramos, who represents Oceana, the largest international advocacy organization focused on ocean conservation, welcomed the decision of EMB.

"Consolacion, led by its mayor, should prioritize complying with its mandate of environmental protection under the Constitution, Local Government Code, Fisheries Code, and other related laws and regulations, and ensure that the strict legal/procedural requirements are met through environmental impact assessment and inclusion of stakeholders, including fisherfolk and coastal communities from the initiatory stage and onwards," she told the Inquirer.

"This is a victory resulting from the strong collaboration among stakeholders from various sectors and communities, including those from government, such as the Bureau of

Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) central office which directed the regional director to withdraw its controversial letter of no objection (Lono)."

### Notice

In March 2022, the BFAR in Central Visayas recalled its decision to issue a Lono to Consolacion, which would have attested that no marine ecosystem would be affected by its proposed project.

But fishermen from Consolacion and those from the neighboring cities of Mandaue and Lapu-Lapu protested, saying they had been fishing in the waters off Barangay Tayud, the proposed reclamation site.

Allan Poquita, the BFAR regional director, later recalled the Lono, explaining that the regional office had no authority to issue the document.

Environmental lawyer Liza Osorio considered the actions of the BFAR and EMB-DENR as "mini victories" in the fight against the reclamation project in Consolacion.

"This really puts all local governments and proponents of dump-and-fill projects on notice that they must comply with all environmental safeguards in our laws as there are now strict accountability measures in place," she said.

Osorio, legal and policy director of Oceana Philippines, said the pronouncement of former President Rodrigo Duterte to stop processing applications for reclamation projects in the country must be followed by the executive agencies unless lifted.

The Department of the Interior and Local Government has also ordered all local governments to seriously uphold their critical role in protecting the environment and complying with the safeguards provided by existing laws and regulations. *INQ*



NO-05-22

TITLE:

PAGE

DATE

## Idamay inaprub ni Digong - Pamalakaya 180 RECLAMATION PROJECT ILIGWAK

Nababahala ang grupo ng mangingisdang Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) sa mahigit 180 proposed reclamation project sa bansa, kabilang ang Manila Solar City na suportado ni dating pangulong Rodrigo Duterte.

Ayon sa Pamalakaya, ang reclamation project ng pamahalaan na kinabibilangan ng Manila Solar City Project, Manila Waterfront City Reclamation Project, Navotas City Coastal Bay Reclamation and Development Project at Pasay 360-hectare Reclamation Project, ay maaari umanong maging banta sa marine biodiversity ng bansa at sa kabuhayan ng mga mangingisda.

Sa 187 panukalang reclama-

tion project, hindi bababa sa 30 ang nasa Manila Bay, 19 sa Negros Occidental, 15 sa Panay, 19 sa Cebu at Bohol, at 25 sa Eastern Visayas, ayon sa Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA).

Gayunpaman, hindi lahat ng mga proyekto ay nagpapatuloy, dahil ang ilan ay naaprubahan, habang ang iba ay nakabinbin pa.

Dahil dito, nananawagan ang Pamalakaya kay Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos Jr., at sa bagong Department of Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Tony Yulo-Loyzaga na buwagin ang PRA, na umano'y walang silbing ahensya na nagpapadali sa malawakang pagkawasak ng kapaligiran.

Iginit din ng grupo na pas-

pasan ang pagpapasa ng house bill na nagbabawal sa lahat ng reclamation projects sa Manila Bay.

Sinabi ng Pamalakaya na ang pagtutol nito sa mga proyekto ay nakabatay sa science-based, dahil maaari nitong sirain ang kapaligiran at wasakin pangunahing kabuhayan ng maliit na pangingsda.

"It has been long proven by many scientists, experts, and fisherfolk that reclamation is catastrophic to marine and aquatic ecosystems. On top of its environmental impacts, reclamation entails massive displacement of fisherfolk and a consequent threat to local fish supply," dagdag pa ng tagapagsalita ng Pamalakaya. **(Dolly Cabreza/Carl Santiago)**



PAGE



UPPER  
LOWER



PAGE 1  
STORY



BANNER  
STORY



EDITORIAL



CARTOON

10-05-22

TITLE:

PAGE

DATE

## Trash trove



Recycling is more imperative today as trash also pollutes oceans. Plastic recyclers are at the forefront of the global movement to eliminate non-biodegradable  
**Turn to page A6**



## Trash trove

From page 1

waste by converting it into useful products.

A group of Dutch students collected and used plastics littering the sea, recycled plastic bottles, and household garbage to create an electric sports car, according to *Reuters*.

Lisa van Etten, team leader of the 22 students from Technical University of Eindhoven in The Netherlands, said they used flax and recycled PET bottles to make the car's chassis, and unsorted household waste for its interior.

Hard plastics from televisions, toys, and kitchen appliances were used for the car's body, while coconut and horse hair made up the seat cushions, *Reuters* reported.

The car they named Luca can run at a maximum speed of 90 kilometers per hour and range of 220 kilometers when fully charged, *Reuters* added.

At the ongoing Singapore Design Week, a variety of up-cycled products are exhibited, proving that household waste has unlimited potential as usable material.

Among the recycled products is a tube lamp made from washing machine duct. Singaporean artist and designer David Lee created the floor, table, and ceiling lamps by inserting LED strips into the flexible hoses before bending them into unique shapes, *CNN* reported.

The exhibition also features deck umbrellas made from palm tree bark, chairs produced from plastic trash, and rugs made from leftover dog hairs disposed by pet grooming shops.

Another exhibitor, Indonesian designer and teacher Adhi Nugraha, came up with a desk speaker through a waste reprocessing method she invented.

The speaker made from cow dung involved washing the manure with water to remove its foul smell and then mixing it with scrap plastic and wood glue, according to *CNN*. The mixture is then placed in a mold and dried in low heat until it hardens.

Aside from the cow dung speaker, Nugraha recycled the manure into lamps and stools.

WJG @tribunephl\_wjg





## 'Addressing uncertainties: Facing the world at breaking point'

By DR. SELVA RAMACHANDRAN

**W**E are living in uncertain times. Extreme weather patterns are becoming usual occurrences around the world. The onslaught of recent typhoons like Odette and Karding that swept parts of the Philippines clearly demonstrate the worsening climate crisis, greatly affecting those at the fringes of society. They provide a preview of what inaction on climate change can lead to: escalating needs for disaster response and recovery; increasing fiscal stress as the government is compelled to provide humanitarian aid to disaster-stricken areas; and widening gap across income groups as low-income groups are more often than not more vulnerable to climate-related disasters.

Unfortunately, these extreme events may become more frequent and even more damaging with the changing climate.

Headlines may scream for urgent action, but implementing change is tough. Filipinos, just like the rest of the world, may appear to be trapped in a whirlpool of real problems and possible solutions, fueled by the uncertain world we live in. It is unsettling lives everywhere, and perhaps more so for the Philippines—an archipelago that's situated along both the Pacific Typhoon Belt and the so-called ring of fire.

Global development has stalled. Until 2020, the global human development index—a measure of a nation's health, education, and average income—had risen every year since 1991 when UNDP began calculating it. It fell in 2020. And it fell again in 2021. And it fell almost everywhere: 90 percent of countries saw a decline in one or other year, wiping out five years of progress. The Philippines is no exception. In 2021, the country slid back to "medium" HDI category, after years of maintaining a spot amongst the "high" HDI group.

**Development today, with its new dimensions of uncertainty, is the focus of UNDP's Human Development Report 2022. The report examines the ways in which crises are piling up to unsettle life, and interacting with our changing planet, increasing polarization and societal transformation. These are all moving at unprecedented speed and scale and interacting with each other in ways we cannot ignore. We are navigating uncharted waters around the world.**

there is clamor for climate justice, with efforts to curb emission being contingent on climate finance, technologies, and capacity development, which developed countries are expected to provide in accordance with the Paris Agreement.

The future looks challenging, but this can be reversed. Our success will depend on our ability to take decisive action, and to prioritize policies that invest, insure, and innovate.



10-05-22

TITLE: ADDRESSING UNCERTAINTIES...

PAGE

DATE

Development today, with its new dimensions of uncertainty, is the focus of UNDP's Human Development Report 2022. The report examines the ways in which crises are piling up to unsettle life, and interacting with our changing planet, increasing polarization and societal transformation. These are all moving at unprecedented speed and scale and interacting with each other in ways we cannot ignore. We are navigating uncharted waters around the world.

An obvious example is humanity's impact on planetary processes, from rising temperature to dwindling wildlife. For the first time in history, manufactured materials, such as concrete and asphalt, outweigh the Earth's biomass. Microplastics are everywhere: in country-sized garbage patches in the ocean, in protected forests and distant mountaintops, in people's lungs and blood. This is threatening humanity's very survival.

Aside from the planetary crisis, we are faced with a quickly eroding social fabric. Our societies are divided all over the world. Globally, trust in one another is at its lowest recorded level, coming in at just 30 percent in the latest HDR 2022. This erosion of trust pushed people to extreme positions, with those feeling very insecure twice as likely to support extremist views, which makes it even harder for a society to take collective action. Locally,

We are not starting from zero. There is already progress to cheer from the dramatic increase in renewable energy capacity. With serious investment this could rapidly accelerate and ensure a more sustainable source of energy. As investment ramps up, people also need to feel safe. Alongside insurance for companies and countries, social protection should be the bedrock of our societies, with universal basic income and cash transfers helping insulate people from increasing shocks.

However, it is innovation that will be at the epicenter of us conquering the unknowable challenges ahead. Artificial intelligence is already helping in modelling climate change impacts and in predicting disasters. And we are only just scratching the surface.

Humanity's only certainty is that our future is uncertain. To thrive together, we must throw out the old rulebook and recognize the world has changed. We trialed a new playbook during the pandemic, from cash transfers reaching over a billion people to saving 20 million lives through vaccination in 2021 alone. This shows what is possible when we put our minds to it. It is time to usher in a new era. To rekindle hope and re-write the future. To decide that this is not our end, but the start of a new beginning.

*Dr. Selva Ramachandran is the UNDP Philippines Resident Representative*



STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
AND  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE



UPPER  
 LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

10-05-22

TITLE:

PAGE

DATE

# World at breaking point: Facing uncertainties

**W**e are living in uncertain times. Extreme weather patterns are becoming usual occurrences around the world. The onslaught of recent Supertyphoons like "Odette" and "Karding" that swept parts of the Philippines clearly demonstrate the worsening climate crisis, greatly affecting those at the fringes of society. They provide a preview of what inaction on climate change can lead to: escalating needs for disaster response and recovery; increasing fiscal stress as the government is compelled to provide humanitarian aid to disaster-stricken areas; and widening gap across income groups as low-income groups are more-often-than-not more vulnerable to climate-related disasters.

Headlines may scream for urgent action, but implementing change is tough. Filipinos, just like the rest of the world, may appear to be trapped in a whirlpool of real problems and possible solutions, fueled by the uncertain world we live in. It is unsettling lives everywhere.

Global development has stalled. Until 2020, the global human development index (HDI)—a measure of a nation's health, education, and average income—had risen every year since 1991 when the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) began calculating it. It fell in 2020. And it fell again in 2021. And it fell almost everywhere: 90 percent of countries saw a decline in one year or more, wiping out five years of progress. The Philippines is no exception. In 2021, the

## COMMENTARY

SELVA RAMACHANDRAN

country slid back to "medium" HDI category, after years of maintaining a spot amongst the "high" HDI group.

Development today, with its new dimensions of uncertainty, is the focus of UNDP's Human Development Report 2022. The report examines the ways in which crises are piling up to unsettle life, and interacting with our changing planet, increasing polarization and societal transformation. These are all moving at unprecedented speed and scale and interacting with each other in ways we cannot ignore.

An obvious example is humanity's impact on planetary processes, from rising temperature to dwindling wildlife. For the first time in history, manufactured materials, such as concrete and asphalt, outweigh the Earth's biomass. Microplastics are everywhere: in country-sized garbage patches in the ocean, in protected forests and distant mountaintops, in people's lungs and blood. This is threatening humanity's very survival.

Aside from the planetary crisis, we are faced with a quickly eroding social fabric. Our societies are divided all over the world. Globally, trust in one another is at its lowest recorded level, coming in at just 30 percent in the latest HDR 2022. This erosion of trust pushed people to extreme positions, with

those feeling very insecure twice as likely to support extremist views, which makes it even harder for a society to take collective action.

The future looks challenging, but this can be reversed. Our success will depend on our ability to take decisive action, and to prioritize policies that invest, insure, and innovate. There is already progress to cheer from the dramatic increase in renewable energy capacity. With serious investment this could rapidly accelerate and ensure a more sustainable source of energy. As investment ramps up, people also need to feel safe. Alongside insurance for companies and countries, social protection should be the bedrock of our societies, with universal basic income and cash transfers helping insulate people from increasing shocks.

However, it is innovation that will be at the epicenter of us conquering the unknowable challenges ahead. And we are only just scratching the surface.

Humanity's only certainty is that our future is uncertain. To thrive together, we must throw out the old rule book and recognize the world has changed. We trialed a new play book during the pandemic, from cash transfers reaching over a billion people to saving 20 million lives through vaccination in 2021 alone. This shows what is possible when we put our minds to it. It is time to usher in a new era, to rekindle hope and rewrite the future.

Dr. Selva Ramachandran is UNDP Philippines resident representative.



STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
AND  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE

# Daily Tribune

WITHOUT FEAR & WITHOUT FAVOR

B15  
PAGE

UPPER  
 LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

10-05-22

PH

PAGE

DATE



PHOTOGRAPH BY AL PADILLA FOR THE DAILY TRIBUNE @tribunephil  
OFFICIALS from various agencies test the new technology that will make vehicles compliant with the country's Clean Air Act.



TITLE:

PAGE

DATE

## High school helps reverse eco-devastation



POP GOES THE WORLD  
JENNY ORTUOSTE

GOOD news for the Philippine environment and eco-warriors everywhere!

A small public high school in Dagupan City was named the third top finalist in the new US\$250,000 (yes, that's in dollars) World's Best School Prize for Environmental Action.

Bonuan Boquig National High School (BBNHS) helped restore lost mangrove forests in their area to reverse the environmental devastation economically affecting their students who "mostly live near fish ponds and coastal areas," the event organizers said.

### The school's initiatives

Dagupan City has long been vulnerable to floods because its land is only about one meter above sea level.

After Typhoon Pepeng in 2009 left two-thirds of the city submerged in seawater, the city government began dredging rivers to reverse the flood's impact, but this caused the death of the mangroves in the area.

The loss of the mangrove forests exposed rivers to the "direct heat of the sun," damaging the ecosystem and resulting in the dying off of aquatic life, including fish, crabs, and shellfish.

This chain of events proved devastating for the area's economy, which relies heavily on fishing. With the livelihoods of many families destroyed, some of the students of BBNHS had to stop studying to work and help support their families.

Sometime after this, the school, with over 100 volunteers, planted thousands of mangrove propagules for several years along the Longos riverbanks to provide new habitats for fish.

The mangrove forests they tend to are now close

to complete rehabilitation and stabilization.

The school also conducted an International Coastal Cleanup in 2014 to clean the shores of Bonuan Beach.

The garbage collected was further sorted into biodegradable and non-biodegradable materials. Recyclable materials were turned into useful items such as garden pots and decorations. In another initiative, the school planted trees to rehabilitate a local dump site.

*"As an archipelago, the Philippines is extremely vulnerable to flood damage from typhoons and extreme weather events because of its location"*

### What is the prize?

There are five World's Best School Prizes -- for Community Collaboration, Environmental Action, Innovation, Overcoming Adversity, and Supporting Healthy Lives.

Founded by T4 Education, the prize is sponsored by large corporate donors from all over the world. It is meant to share the best practices of schools that conduct humanitarian and environmental initiatives that benefit their community, and celebrate their students and teachers.

BBNHS is the only Philippine school among the 10 shortlisted finalists.

They and the other finalist schools will share their best practices at events during World Education Week and through School Transformation Toolkits that provide their step-by-step instructions on their strategies and implementation methods.

Public voting ended last October 3. The winners will be announced on October 19, 2022 at World Education Week.

A US\$250,000 overall prize will be shared among the five winners, each to receive US\$50,000.

If BBNHS wins, they will use the money to "build a nursery that could house around 50,000 mangrove seedlings a year and push much-needed research to improve the techniques and technology on mangrove propagation and preservation."

### Why are mangroves important?

I can't emphasize enough the importance of the work BBNHS is doing.

According to the World Bank, "mangrove forests can provide real benefits in risk reduction to people and property" because they help prevent soil erosion, reduce the risk of flooding and erosion, and "support livelihoods and reduce social vulnerability by providing resources such as fish."

As an archipelago, the Philippines is extremely vulnerable to flood damage from typhoons and extreme weather events because of its location.

"Typhoon Haiyan [Ondoy] alone caused more than 6,000 deaths and over US \$2 billion in dam-

ages," wrote the WB.

"Between 2005 to 2015, 56 percent of property damage in the Philippines was due to typhoons and storms, and another 29% due to floods.

These impacts underlie why decision-makers are looking for effective and cost-effective approaches for flood risk reduction."

However, mangrove forests are being depleted "at alarming rates," with 19 percent of all the "world's mangroves lost between 1980 [and] 2005. In the Philippines, mangrove loss has occurred primarily due to conversion of land to other uses, including aquaculture and development."

Bonuan Boquig NHS, its students, faculty, parents, and volunteers deserve kudos for the work they are doing to preserve our environment.

With the effects of climate change creating more damage as time goes on, the school is a good example to others to "bloom where they are planted." They are an inspiration.

So let us look at what surrounds us wherever we happen to be, identify the problems affecting public safety and welfare, and come up with solutions that will provide tangible effects and benefits for our communities.



STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
AND  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE

PHILIPPINE DAILY  
BALANCED NEWS + FEARLESS VIEWS  
**INQUIRER**

*Ab*  
PAGE

UPPER  
 LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

10-05-22

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**NEWS BRIEFS**

**4 Vietnamese fishermen nabbed for cyanide fishing**

Four Vietnamese fishermen were apprehended by local authorities near Pag-asa (Thitu) Island in the West Philippine Sea for illegal fishing using sodium cyanide, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) said. The incident took place last Sept. 18 but they remained under government custody as of Monday for violating the Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998. The PCG said it also intercepted their fishing vessel locally known as "sampan," a small boat equipped with a compressor. Meanwhile, eight fishermen aboard two fishing boats were also rescued by the PCG's BRP Malapascua (MRRV-4403) in Recto Bank and Iroquois Reef also in the West Philippine Sea on Sunday. The BRP Malapascua continued its patrol in Ayungin Shoal, Sabina Shoal and other parts of the West Philippine Sea after the successful rescue, the PCG said. —FRANCES MANGOSING



10-05-22

DATE

PAGE

TITLE:

## Editorial

### DoE's rational approach to nuclear energy

**I**NTEREST in nuclear energy as a possible solution to some of the Philippines' perennial woes with electricity supplies that are barely adequate, unreasonably expensive and environmentally unfriendly has increased in the past two years, thanks to the attention given to the topic by former president Rodrigo Duterte and current President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. Sensing the moment, the most enthusiastic advocates of nuclear energy have redoubled their efforts to convince the government to refurbish and open the mothballed Bataan Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP), making their pitch at a recent forum on nuclear power.

Putting the BNPP into operation is an idea that is at best problematic in terms of safety and social acceptability, and is economically unwise. However, while we are firmly against throwing good money after bad to resurrect that historical relic, we believe nuclear power may very well have a role in the Philippines' energy future, and that it is worthwhile for the country to develop the capacity to properly utilize it. Fortunately, the Department of Energy (DoE) has the same perspective and is following a sensible, step-by-step approach toward creating the conditions that will allow the country to consider nuclear options.

Some key insights into the DoE's approach were provided by Energy Planning and Policy Bureau OIC Michael Sinocruz, who was a featured speaker at a conference on private sector financing for energy development held last week by the Energy Secure Philippines project under the US Agency for International Development (USAid).

Sinocruz's presentation was a brief overview of the Philippine Energy Plan (PEP) for 2022-2040, which his office is chiefly responsible for developing and monitoring. Much of the discussion focused on renewable energy (RE) as a key objective of the PEP is to increase the share of RE in the Philippines' energy mix to 50 percent by 2040. However, nuclear energy does figure prominently in the plan, much more so than in the previous PEP covering 2017-2030, and the brief portion of his talk Sinocruz devoted to it served to establish some realistic expectations.

First, Sinocruz described the Philippines as still being in the first phase of three with respect to the development of nuclear energy; the three phases, as described by the PEP, are "consider," "prepare" and "construct." Helped by former president Duterte's executive order directing the government to assess what is needed to create the necessary framework for nuclear energy, the DoE and other stakeholders are currently working through 16 action areas identified by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

### Promising solution

The implication of this is that the DoE is committed to ensuring the necessary technical, legal and regulatory groundwork is in place before moving on to the next phase, which would be actually choosing what type of nuclear energy technology should be deployed, and for what application. This is the part that may come as bad news to backers of the BNPP: while not ruling anything out or committing the Philippines to a definite course of action — because that could not possibly be known yet anyway — Sinocruz disclosed that the DoE was taking a close look at small modular reactor (SMR) technology in the 50- to 300-megawatt capacity range, as this seems to be a promising solution for stable, cleaner energy for off-grid areas, such as smaller individual islands.

This is promising news in our opinion because from the information that is available about the technology, it certainly does appear that it offers a useful combination of feasibility, safety, reliability and financial soundness, so long as the underlying administrative and regulatory necessities are properly addressed. And, of course, the technology will become even more refined as time passes.

Sinocruz's comments suggested that a considerable amount of time may pass before the Philippines is ready for nuclear power. According to the PEP, the timeframe between the end of "Phase 1" and the eventual start-up of a nuclear facility is about 10 years. So long as the DoE continues to use that time wisely to make step-by-step progress, the result will almost certainly be beneficial for the country.



## World is in life-or-death struggle for survival – UN chief

**UNITED NATIONS:** UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned Monday that the world is in "a life-or-death struggle" for survival as "climate chaos gallops ahead" and accused the world's

20 wealthiest countries of failing to do enough to stop the planet from overheating.

The UN chief said emissions of global-warming greenhouse gases are at an all-time high

and rising, and it's time for "a quantum level compromise" between rich developed countries that emitted most of the heat-trapping

►SurvivalA2

### ■ SURVIVAL FROM A1

## World is in life-or-death

gases and emerging economies that often feel its worst effects.

Guterres spoke as government representatives opened a meeting in Congo's capital Kinshasa to prepare for the major UN-led climate conference in the Egyptian resort of Sharm el-Sheikh in November. It's a time of immense climate impacts around the world — from floods that put one-third of Pakistan under water and Europe's hottest summer in 500 years to hurricanes and typhoons that have hammered the Philippines, Cuba and the US state of Florida.

In the last few weeks, Guterres has amped up a push for climate's version of asking polluters pay for what they've done, usually called "loss and damage," and he said Monday that people need action now.

"Failure to act on loss and damage will lead to more loss of trust and more climate damage. This is a moral imperative that cannot be ignored."

Guterres said the COP27 meeting in Egypt "must be the place for action on loss and damage."

In unusually critical language, he said commitments by the so-called G20 group of the world's 20 leading economies "are coming far too little, and far too late."

Guterres warned that current pledges and policies "are shutting the door on our chances to limit global temperature rise to 2 degrees Celsius, let alone meet the 1.5 degree goal."

"We are in a life-or-death struggle for our own safety today and our survival tomorrow," he said

"COP27 is the place for all countries — led by the G20 — to show they are in this fight, and in it together," Guterres said. "And the best way to show it is by showing up at COP27 in Sharm el-Sheikh."

Rich countries, especially the United States, have emitted far more than their share of heat-trapping carbon dioxide from the burning of coal, oil and natural gas, data shows. Poor nations like Pakistan and Cuba have been hurt far more than their share of global carbon emissions.

Loss and damage has been talked about for years, but richer nations have often balked at negotiating details about paying for past climate disasters, like Pakistan's flooding this summer.

The issue is fundamental for the world's developing countries and Guterres is reminding rich nations "that they cannot try and brush it under the carpet... G20 nations have to take responsibility for the great need their actions have caused," said Mohamed Adow of Power Shift Africa, which tries to mobilize climate action in Africa.

Princeton University climate science and international affairs professor Michael Oppenheimer said in an email that if high-income and other big emitters like China want the UN convention on climate change to remain useful, "they will need to grapple seriously with loss and damage."

Otherwise, he said, negotiations "are headed for interminable gridlock."

AP





STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
AND  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE

# Manila Standard



UPPER  
 LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

10-05-22

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_



**MANILA OCEAN PARK.** Visitors look at various sea creatures at the Manila Ocean Park Oceanarium in Manila City on Tuesday. (Inset) Francis Low, executive vice president and chief operating officer of Manila Ocean Park) and Dr. Stephen Roy C. Condino, founder and president of Wood, sign a partnership that aims to promote the reduction of plastic pollution. Wood Philippines makes handcrafted sunglasses made from bamboo and wood. **Norman Cruz and Joey O. Razon**





TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### *Cavite septage treatment plant opens in GenTri*

**GENERAL TRIAS CITY (GenTri), Cavite – Cavite Alliedkonsult Services (CAKSC) now officially opened the doors of its fully mechanized septage treatment plant at Golden Gate Business Park in Barangay Buenavista Monday, October 3, 2022.**

General Trias City Mayor Luis "Jon Jon" Ferrer IV, Vice Mayor Jonas Labuguen, Lionel Dalope, CESO V of DILG (Department of the Interior and Local Government)-Cavite Provincial Director, President of CAKSC Anthony V. Gedang, and CAKSC Chairman Eduardo Luis T. Luy led the ribbon-cutting ceremony and inauguration of the said septage treatment facility, the "biggest" in the country and can help Cavite province and

nearby provinces lessen their wastewater pollution.

Alliedkonsult is a product of a joint venture between MacroAsia Corporation and Envirokonsult.

Also present were the CAKSC board of directors, Carlo Benito T. Pascual II, Franclu Christopher T. Chua, Aaron P. Gedang, CAKSC Treasurer Amador T. Sendin, SVP (senior vice president) for legal and HR Atty. Marivic T. Moya, and Corporate Secretary Belgium S. Tandoc.

The fully mechanized treatment facility can help Cavite, and its nearby provinces lessen its wastewater pollution along Manila Bay and other bodies of water.

The said facility is designed to treat wastewater collected from the septic



**Mayor Luis 'Jon Jon' Ferrer IV (2nd from right) leads the ribbon-cutting ceremony and inauguration of the septage treatment facility together with Cavite Alliedkonsult Services (CAKSC) officials in Golden Gate Business Park in Bgy. Buenavista, Monday, Oct. 3, 2022.**

tanks program to expedite the provision of sewerage and sanitation services in the province that can help to reduce pollution loading in creeks and rivers that empty out to Manila Bay.

**Dennis Abrina**



TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## NDRRMC: Karding-affected population tops 1M

By **PRIAM NEPOMUCENO**

**THE number of persons affected by the onslaught of Super Typhoon Karding, which barreled through Luzon last week, has climbed to 1,074,141, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) said on Tuesday.**

This is equivalent to

299,519 families in 1,922 barangays in Ilocos Region, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Calabarzon, Mimaropa, Bicol, Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), and the National Capital Region.

The NDRRMC said only 780 families or 3,574 persons are still in 23 evacuation centers with the remain-

der either returning home or seeking shelter with families and friends.

The casualty count stands at 12 dead and five missing.

Of these figures, eight of the deaths are verified with the remaining four still undergoing validation along with the five missing.

Around 67 injuries were

also reported of which only two are confirmed as of this time.

Damaged houses also have climbed to 60,254 in Regions 1, 2, 3, Calabarzon, and the CAR.

Around 52,513 are classified as partially damaged while 7,741 are categorized as totally damaged.

PNA

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
**ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU**  
DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue,  
Diliman, Quezon City 1110  
Tel. No. (632) 8539-4378  
Website: [www.emb.gov.ph](http://www.emb.gov.ph) E-mail: [recordsco@emb.gov.ph](mailto:recordsco@emb.gov.ph)



**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

On the **ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE REPORT AND MANAGEMENT PLAN (EPRMP)** of the proposed **CEMENT GRINDING PLANT EXPANSION PROJECT** of the **ABBAH KING CEMENT CORPORATION** located in **BARANGAY MALBANG, MAASIM, SARANGANI**.

Notice is hereby given to all parties who wish to give their opinion regarding the implementation of the proposed **CEMENT GRINDING PLANT EXPANSION PROJECT** to attend the Public Hearing on:

Date	Time	Venue
13 October 2022 (Thursday)	9:00 AM <i>Registration starts at 8:00a.m.</i>	Barangay Malbang Covered Court, Maasim, Sarangani

The Public Hearing is being conducted in connection with the review of the EPRMP of the aforementioned project by the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The following is the project information:

Project Name	Cement Grinding Plant Expansion Project
Project Location	Barangay Malbang, Maasim, Sarangani
Project Capacity	600,000 MTPY
Proponent	Abbah King Cement Corporation

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

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

- EMB Region XII**  
DENR-Environmental Management Bureau XII  
Regional Government Center, Barangay Carpenter Hill,  
City of Koronadal, South Cotabato  
Tel. No. (083) 228-1071; 877-3312
- Maasim Municipal Hall**  
Maasim, Sarangani Province

For more details, please contact the EIAMD Division at this Office at telephone number (02) 8539-4378 loc. 116 through the project casehandlers Engr. Dexter Tabada and Ms. Amber Hagada MNSA.

(PDI - Sept. 28 & Oct. 5, 2022)

*[Handwritten signature]*