

06 October 2022, Thursday



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ENVIRONMENT FORUM – President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. (third from left) looks on as Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Secretary Bienvenido E. Laguesma (fourth from left) and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo Loyzaga (second from left) hold up a Memorandum of Agreement signed during the DENR multi-sectoral stakeholders forum at the Diamond Hotel in Manila on Wednesday, Oct. 5, 2022. Also at the event are (from left) Speaker Martin Romualdez, Presidential Management Staff Secretary Ma. Zenaida Angping, and Senator Cynthia Villar. (Noel B. Pabalate)



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Climate change adaptation on top of Marcos agenda

By HELEN FLORES

Building the country's resilience to natural disasters and climate change adaptation are on top of the administration's agenda, President Marcos said yesterday.

Speaking at the opening of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources multi-stakeholder's forum in Manila, the President called for a more robust collaboration to protect the environment.

"As your President, I assure you that our environment and our country's resiliency and adaptation to the new normals of climate change are on top of the national agenda," Marcos said.

"We ensure that the initiatives we will take will enable us to become smarter, more responsible, more sustainable in all that we do," he said.

He called on Filipinos to do their part in protecting the environment, saying "it's a fight that must be waged by all."

"In this collective fight, we are not soldiers; we are stewards. There will be no weapons to use; only behaviors and practices to improve upon," Marcos said.

"I have always believed that there is no greater shared responsibility than the care of our environment," he said.

Marcos also cited the importance of the three-day forum in allowing Filipinos to better understand climate change.

"It is an important initiative because as we all know, the issue of climate change is no longer the issue of the day, it is the issue of our times. And because of that, it requires the help, the assistance, the understanding of all of the citizens of the Philippines and, for that matter, of the world," he said.

The Chief Executive described the effects of climate change on the countries around the world as the "first truly global crisis that we have had to face."

"And I described it as such for the simple reason that every single citizen of the world is affected by climate change. And it will take the assistance, the help, the understanding of every citizen of the world to mitigate and to adapt to climate change," he said.

"So, let us join our efforts. I am certain we will pass on to our children a country and a world that are in a much better state than they came upon. We are only custodians of this beautiful planet that we live on. Let us take that responsibility seriously for many generations that will still follow," he said.

Marcos also said partners in different countries have made offers of assistance to the Philippines' climate change adaptation programs.

The meeting was attended by representatives from the private sector, non-government organizations, academe, among others.

The Department of Budget and Management has allocated P453.11 billion for climate change adaptation and mitigation in the 2023 National Expenditure Program. The amount is 56.4 percent higher than this year's P289.73 billion.

In a speech at the Asian Development Bank last week, Marcos said the country's post-pandemic economic recovery must be pro-environment, sustainable and responsive to people's needs.

In his recent visit to the US for the 77th United Nations General Assembly, Marcos lamented how the Philippines has become vulnerable to the effects of global warming and called on countries to cut their carbon emissions and provide technology transfer.



Big firms join govt talks on sustainable resource roadmap



PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr. delivers a speech at the 2022 Department of Environment and Natural Resources Multistakeholder Forum on Wednesday, October 5, 2022, at the Grand Ballroom, Diamond Hotel, Manila. [FACEBOOK.COM/BONGBONGMARCOS](https://www.facebook.com/bongbongmarcos)

By SAMUEL P. MEDENILLA [@sam_medenilla](https://twitter.com/sam_medenilla)

THE country's top corporations and other stakeholders joined in the start of the government consultations for the crafting of its new roadmaps to ensure the sustainable use of the country's water and other natural resources.

On Wednesday, President Ferdinand "Bongbong" R. Marcos, Jr. witnessed the launch of the multistakeholder dialogue organized by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at the Diamond Hotel in Manila.

Marcos urged the participants of the three-day event to provide inputs in the government's environment-related initiatives.

"Along with the outcomes of this

forum, I expect that we will be able to accelerate the DENR's mission of mobilizing our capacities and resources to preserve, conserve, and manage our environment," Marcos said.

"I also expect this forum to lay down a strategic direction to maximize the use of the country's natural wealth and to promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth," he added.

He stressed the important role



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of the private sector to successfully steer government policies to a "greener direction."

Among those present at the event were San Miguel Corporation President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Ramon S. Ang, China Banking Corporation chairman Hans T. Sy, Gokongwei Group chairman Lance Y. Gokongwei and First Gen Corporation chairman and CEO Federico R. Lopez.

In her speech at the event, Environment Secretary Ma. Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga said the forum will help them finalize their National Natural Resources Geospatial Database.

The outcomes of the event are also expected to help in the completion of the pending initiatives of DENR including the roadmap for water security; the scaling up and networking of capabilities for environmental observations, monitoring and analytics; integrated development of mangrove forests and marine protected areas; and

the climate resilient and sustainable tourism plan.

"With your support and under our new leadership, the DENR looks forward to charting the course towards achieving climate and disaster resilient inclusive green and blue recovery for our nation," Loyzaga said.

She said DENR will also be cooperating with other government agencies like the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) to help them achieve their goals.

During the forum, Loyzaga signed a new Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Labor and Employment Secretary Bienvenido E. Laguesma, which will allow DENR to tap DOLE's Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers (TUPAD) program for its National Forest Protection Program.

"This agreement will accelerate the creation of green jobs in the forest sector where they are needed the most," Loyzaga said.



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CHITCHAT.

President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. chats with Speaker Martin Romualdez during the 2022 Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Multistakeholder Forum held at the Diamond Hotel in Manila. **Ver Noveno**



PBBM: Climate change on top of government's national agenda

By Vince Lopez

PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Wednesday guaranteed that the Philippines' resiliency and adaptation to the "new normals" of climate change are on top of his administration's national agenda.

Marcos gave the assurance in a speech delivered during the 2022 multistakeholder forum organized by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at the Diamond Hotel in Manila.

"As your President, I assure you that our environment and our country's resiliency and adaptation to the new normals of climate change are on top of the national agenda. We ensure that the

initiatives we will take will enable us to become smarter, more responsible, more sustainable in all that we do," he said during the opening of the three-day forum.

"The road ahead will be long and it will be tough, but we must stay strong and accept that it will be a battle that we all must wage, and even more importantly, it's a battle that we must win," he added.

Marcos lauded the DENR for organizing a forum that gathers different stakeholders who are expected to forge collaboration with the agency and other state departments to craft and implement programs towards climate, disaster resilience, and sustainable development.

He said he is confident that the forum will serve as a platform for the participants to identify each sector's "unique and shared" challenges, bolster cooperation, as well as to gather information on priorities for possible inclusion in the DENR's policy agenda and the multi-year roadmap for programs, activities, and projects.

"I know it's only a beginning of a challenging but most important task

of protecting the only Earth and home that we know," Marcos said. "In this collective fight, we are not soldiers; we are stewards. There will be no weapons to use; only behaviors and practices to improve upon."

Marcos also emphasized the importance of utilizing and developing the country's natural wealth and resources.

He expressed optimism that the forum would yield "fruitful" discussions that will harmonize the DENR's policy agenda.

This, as he acknowledged the need to discuss measures to protect, conserve and manage the environment, given the country's vulnerability to the effects of climate change.



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Road to green economy long; water roadmap readied

BY JOCELYN MONTEMAYOR

PRESIDENT Marcos Jr. yesterday reaffirmed his administration's commitment to building the country's resiliency and improving climate change adaptation and called for a more robust collaboration from all sectors in protecting the environment while pushing for the country's development.

The President, at the opening of the 2022 Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Multi-Stakeholders Forum in Manila yesterday, said the road towards building a green economy will be long and tough, and everyone must stay strong, accept that it is a fight that must be waged by all, and, more importantly "a battle that must be won."

In a press conference on the sidelines of the same event, DENR Secretary Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga said the agency is crafting a roadmap which will be the basis in the creation of an umbrella body that will manage all water-related issues of the country.

The President assured the

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government is undertaking initiatives that will "enable us to become smarter, more responsible, more sustainable in all that we do."

Marcos said the effectiveness of a country's campaign and success in protecting the environment and addressing climate change will not be immediately

visible and only be tested during certain moments such as when a global crisis is averted or the impact of the calamities on people are lessened, if even prevented.

The President said he expects the three-day forum to provide the government and private partners a chance to actively collaborate in translating an integrated

and multi-stakeholder Resiliency Framework into actions that will sustain the growth of the sector.

Meanwhile, Loyzaga cited the need for an apex body to craft the strategy for the security of water which she said intimately linked with energy and food security.

"...As you know there are local

water utilities, then we have other bodies, there is NIA (National Irrigation Administration), MWSS (Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System) and various agencies and bodies that have water related functions," she said.

Loyzaga added: "There are so many demands for water supply and these demands need to be

balanced. One example is Angat Dam, its multi-purpose and when the water level doesn't make the required level, which of the uses should be prioritized and typically that's both energy and agri and so, domestic supply in Metro Manila is affected."

The DENR yesterday signed with the Department of Labor

and Employment an agreement meant to generate "green jobs" or occupations that help in preserving or restoring the quality of the environment in the country.

These include jobs related to protection, planting, forestation, monitoring and upkeep of areas, among others. - *With Jed Macapagal*



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Marcos to prioritize climate change adaptation

BY MICHELLE GUILLANG
@tribunephil_mish

Building the country's resiliency and improving climate change adaptation are on top of his administration's agenda, President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. assured on Wednesday.

"As your President, I assure you that our environment and our country's resiliency and adaptation to the new normals of climate change are on top of the national agenda," Marcos said.

He made the assurance during the opening of the 2022 Department of Environment and Natural Resources Multi-Stakeholders Forum in Manila, where he also called for a more robust collaboration to protect the environment.

"We ensure that the initiatives we will take will enable us to become smarter, more responsible, more sustainable in all that we do," he said.

For the President, the road ahead will be long and tough, and everyone must stay strong and accept that it's a fight that must be waged by all, and, more importantly — a battle that must be won.

"In this collective fight, we are not soldiers; we are stewards. There will be no weapons to use; only behaviors and practices to improve upon," he said.

He noted that victory will not come by defeating a visible enemy but will come at certain moments when averting a global crisis becomes imminent.

Marcos said triumph is at hand when there is clean air to breathe, safe water to drink, and lands and oceans to harness for the benefit of all Filipinos and for all humanity.

The President is optimistic that the three-day forum to bring about substantial outcomes that will focus on enriching not only the country's natural resources but also its national wealth.

He hopes the gathering will become an opportunity for the government and private partners to actively collaborate in translating an integrated and multistakeholder Resiliency Framework into actions that will sustain the growth of the sector.

"So let us join our efforts. I am certain we will pass on to our children a country and a world that are in a much better state than they came upon," he said.

"We are only custodians of this beautiful planet that we live on. Let us take that responsibility seriously for many generations that will still follow," he added.

He also expressed elation over the participation of the "big movers and shakers" from the private sector, NGOs, academe, and different countries around the world who have already offered assistance in the country's battle against the effects of changing climate.

The President's cousin House Speaker Martin Romualdez, Labor Secretary Bienvenido Laguesma, Senator Cynthia Villar, and members of the diplomatic corps were also in attendance.



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PHOTOGRAPH BY YUMMIE DINGDING FOR THE DAILY TRIBUNE @tribunephil y emi
PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr. attends the 2022 DENR Multistakeholders Forum on Wednesday in Diamond Hotel, Manila. Also in attendance is Speaker Martin Romualdez. Both officials presented plaques to awardees.



Climate change mitigation, adaptation top PBBM admin's agenda

PRESIDENT Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. on Wednesday guaranteed that the Philippines' resiliency and adaptation to the "new normals" of climate change are on top of his administration's national agenda.

Marcos gave the assurance in a speech delivered during the 2022 multi-stakeholder forum organized by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at the Diamond Hotel in Manila.

"As your President, I assure you that our environment and our country's resiliency and adaptation to the new normals of climate change are on top of the national agenda. We ensure that the initiatives we will take will enable us to become smarter, more responsible, more sustainable in all that we do," he said during the opening of the DENR's three-day forum.

"The road ahead will be long and it will be tough, but we must stay strong and accept that it will be a battle that we all must wage, and even more importantly, it's a battle that we must win," he added.

Marcos lauded the DENR for organizing a forum that gathers different stakeholders who are expected to forge collaboration with the agency and other state departments to craft and implement programs towards climate, disaster resilience and sustainable development.

He said he is confident that the forum will serve as a platform for the participants to identify each sector's "unique and shared" challenges, bolster cooperation, as well as to gather information on priorities for possible inclusion in the DENR's policy agenda and the multi-year Roadmap for Programs, Activities and Projects. "I know it's only the beginning of a challenging but most important task of protecting the only Earth and home that we know," Marcos said. "In this collective fight, we are not soldiers; we are stewards. There will be no weapons to use; only behaviors and practices to improve upon."

Maximize use of PH's natural wealth, resources
Marcos also emphasized the importance of utilizing and developing the country's natural wealth and resources.

He expressed optimism that the forum would yield "fruitful" discussions that will harmonize the DENR's policy agenda. This, as he acknowledged the need to discuss measures to protect, conserve and manage the environment, given the country's vulnerability to the effects of climate change. **PNA**



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PRESIDENT Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr (center), Speaker Martin Romualdez (3rd right), Senator Cynthia Villar, Presidential Management Staff Secretary Zenalda Angpin, Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Antonia "Toni" Yulo-Loyzaga, Labor Secretary Blenvenido Laguesma and Special Assistant to the President Secretary Anton Lagdameo join other guests during the 2022 DENR Multi-stakeholder Forum held at the Diamond Hotel in Manila. Photo by VER NOVENO



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SPEAKER ROMUALDEZ, PRESIDENT MARCOS AT DENR FORUM —President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. and Speaker Martin Romualdez attend the 2022 Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Multistakeholder Forum at the Diamond Hotel in Manila. *Photo by VER NOVENO*



SINA Pangulong Ferdinand 'Bongbong' Marcos, Jr. kasama si House Speaker Martin Romualdez (ikatlo mula kanan) sa isang photo opportunity nang dumalo ang mga ito sa 2022 DENR Multi-stakeholder forum kahapon sa Diamond Hotel sa Maynila. Kasama rin sa mga dumalo ang ilang government officials at gabinete ng Marcos administration. (Jeff Tumbado)



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\$500M BONDS

MARCOS ADMIN LAUNCHES FIRST FOREIGN BORROWING

The Marcos administration is debuting in the foreign debt market through offerings of at least \$500 million in five-, 10.5- and 25-year US dollar bonds.

The offerings consist of senior unsecured, fixed rate bonds registered with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission.

Respectively, the bonds will mature in October 2027, April 2033 and October 2047. The offering is tagged at a "benchmark size" for a dollar bond, meaning at least \$500 million.

Proceeds from all three bonds are intended for "general budget financing." Additionally, funds from the 25-year bonds are also meant to finance or refinance assets based on the national government's sustainable finance framework.

The last one is the Philippine's maiden sovereign "green bond," issued following the launch of the Philippine Sustainable Finance Roadmap. This laid out an action plan to mobilize financing for climate action initiatives, facilitate investments in climate-resilient public infrastructure, and develop projects that promote sustainable development in the country.

This latest lineup repeats that of the bond market sortie last March, from which the government raised a total of \$2.25 billion—\$500 million from five years, \$750 million from 10.5 years, and \$1 billion from the green bond.

The government forayed into the overseas commercial bond market barely a month after the Russian invasion of Ukraine wrought uncertainties on the global economy.

This time, on top of that, this bond market outing faces aggressively increased interest rates. The US Federal Reserve alone has, since March, raised their key rate by a total of 3 percentage points.

Philippine officials declined to provide details on these latest bond offerings, but provided the initial price guidance.

—RONNEL W. DOMINGO INQ



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Marcos: Private help needed to 'green' economy

PRESIDENT Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. called on the private sector to help in the "greening" of the economy, calling the building of resiliency to climate change a top administration priority.

Government agencies, private companies, non-government organizations, and the academic community must work together "to steer our practices and systems towards a greener direction," Mr. Marcos said at a forum organized by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

"I have always believed that there is no greater shared responsibility than the care of our environment," he said.

"Let us identify each sector's unique and shared challenges, bolster cooperation and gather information and priorities for possible inclusion in the DENR's policy agenda and

to be included in the multi-year roadmap for programs, activities and projects," he added.

Participants at the DENR-hosted event are expected to provide their input on climate and disaster resilience policy.

"We ensure that the initiatives we will take will enable us to become smarter, more responsible, more sustainable in all that we do," Mr. Marcos said.

At the United Nations General Assembly last month, Mr. Marcos urged that developed nations provide financing to poorer countries to address the "historical injustice" of climate change, which is thought to have been caused by the countries that industrialized early.

Mr. Marcos also asked them to transfer adaptation technology to vulnerable nations like the Philippines. — **Kyle Aristophere T. Atienza**



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editorial

Sierra Madre: Our protective shield

ONE of the most visible consequences of global warming is an increase in the intensity and frequency of extreme weather events. The Philippines recently suffered the wrath of Super typhoon Karding, by far the strongest storm that hit the country this year. The super typhoon killed a dozen people, affected 245,063 families, and destroyed about P3 billion worth of crops.

In a recent BUSINESSMIRROR article—Allowing nature to help us—Dr. Theresa Mundita S. Lim, the Executive Director at the Asean Centre for Biodiversity, said climate change may have something to do with the extreme weather conditions we are experiencing now, but we cannot wait for another disaster to remind us how much benefit we can derive from nature. For the Philippines, she said the most cost-effective solution may just be right in front of us—the rich biological diversity that our region has been blessed with to help us weather the storm.

“The Sierra Madre mountain acts as a resilience backbone that weakens the impact of disturbances from the East. The range, which covers the Quezon province all the way up to Cagayan, is strategically located as a breaker of strong winds originating from the Pacific. Together with the diverse ecosystems found inside it, the range absorbs large amounts of rainfall, thanks to the diversity of ecosystems found in the area,” she said.

Lim said these ecosystems are just some of the nature-based solutions that shield us from devastating hazards. Thus, our response should always integrate the protection of remaining natural ecosystems and the restoration of degraded ones. Not only are they useful as natural barriers in times of disaster, but they can also be sources of food and first aid when assistance is not immediately available because accessibility has been affected.

The chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources showed he has the same mindset when he filed House Resolution 430 seeking a congressional probe into the reported degradation of the Sierra Madre mountain range and to look for ways to protect it. Cavite Rep. Elpidio Barzaga Jr. said there is a need to conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, on the alleged degradation of Sierra Madre mountains “and how we shall protect our ‘Mother Mountain Range’ to prevent the occurrence of floods in various places in the Philippines.” (Read, “**House resolution seeks probe into ‘degradation’ of Sierra Madre,**” in the BUSINESSMIRROR, September 29, 2022).

The resolution cited Article 2, Section 16 of the Constitution, which provides that the state shall “protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature.”



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The Sierra Madre mountains, called the "backbone of Luzon," is the longest mountain range in the Philippines that has a total land area of 2.8 million hectares, which spans from Cagayan province in the north to Quezon province in the south. It surrounds the 10 provinces of Cagayan, Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino, Aurora, Nueva Ecija, Bulacan, Rizal, Laguna and Quezon.

The resolution said the "Mother Mountain Range plays an important role by acting as a natural shield against typhoons and floods coming from the Pacific Ocean. Its watershed supports the water system of Central Luzon, Cagayan Valley and Metro Manila."

Unfortunately, one of the reasons for the more destructive effects of recent typhoons is the denudation of the Sierra Madre. Illegal logging has led to soil erosion and increased flooding in the low-lying areas near the mountain range. Persistent deforestation, mining, and improper land use also led to the Sierra Madre's weakened capability to buffer mainland Luzon from incoming typhoons.

Catastrophic events like the destruction wrought by Supertyphoon Karding are imminent reminders for everyone to look at the big picture: That there's a need for a "whole of nation" approach to protect the Sierra Madre mountains from further degradation. A fully regenerated Mother Mountain Range has the power to protect us from natural calamity. Let's not destroy our natural shield against strong typhoons.



Masbate opens 500-hectare natural park

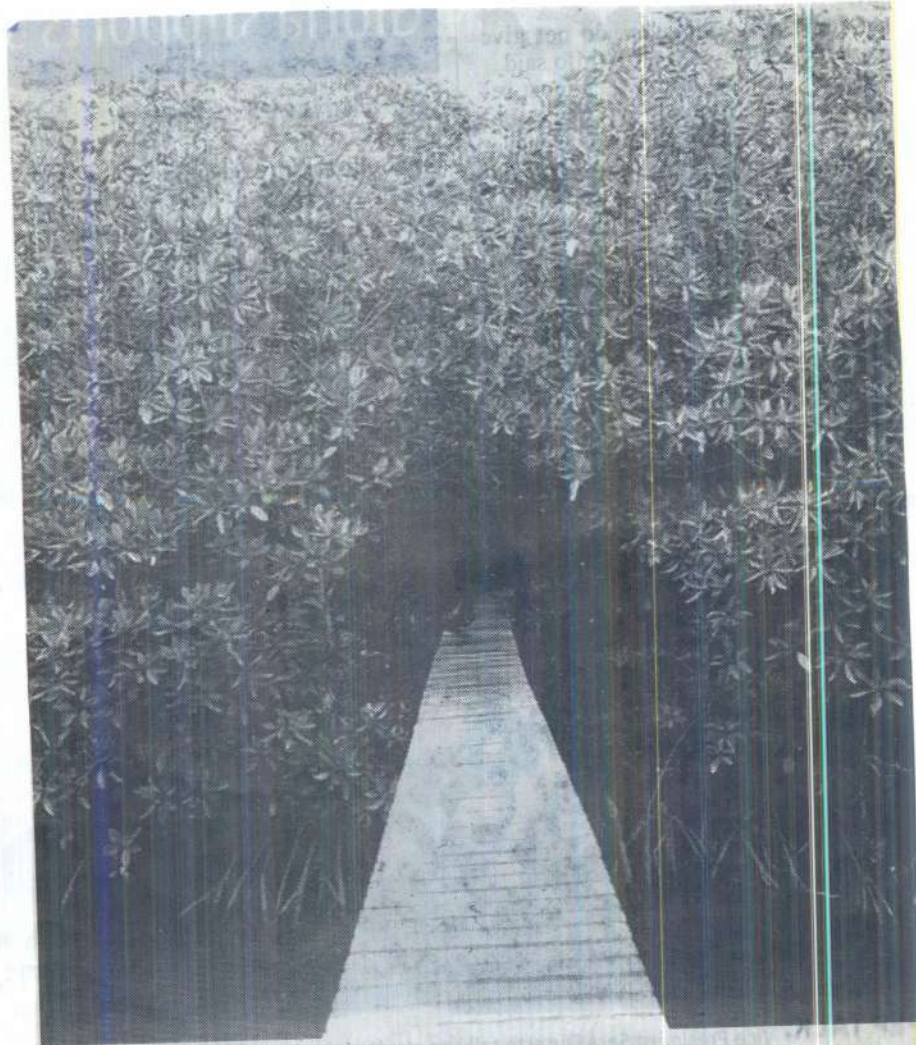
THE Bongsanglay Natural Park (BNP) in Masbate is now open to the public for day tours and overnight stays, according to Ana Bartolay, BNP Protected Area superintendent.

Located in the island of Ticao in Masbate, the Park has mangrove forests, which were declared a protected area under the category of Natural Park in 2000 and was subsequently legislated by Congress 18 years later.

Bongsanglay is composed of coastal and marine ecosystems, where 244 hectares host the mangroves and beach forests, while the remaining 275 hectares are a seascape of

pristine marine ecosystem and home to coral reefs. The park nurtures one of the country's remaining centuries-old 34 mangrove forests, having the distinction of being the only primary growth mangrove forest in the entire Bicol Region.

The Philippines is blessed with abundant mangrove forests dotting the archipelago, most of which are declared protected areas – like Bongsanglay. “Mangrove forests, aside from enhancing the beauty of the place, assures continued supply of food and livelihood opportunities to local communities – and, yes, clean air,” Bartolay said.



MASBATE'S NATURAL PARK. Masbate formally opens to the public its 500-hectare Bongsanglay Natural Park on Ticao Island, half of which is dominated by mangroves where visitors can leisurely take a stroll on footbridges.



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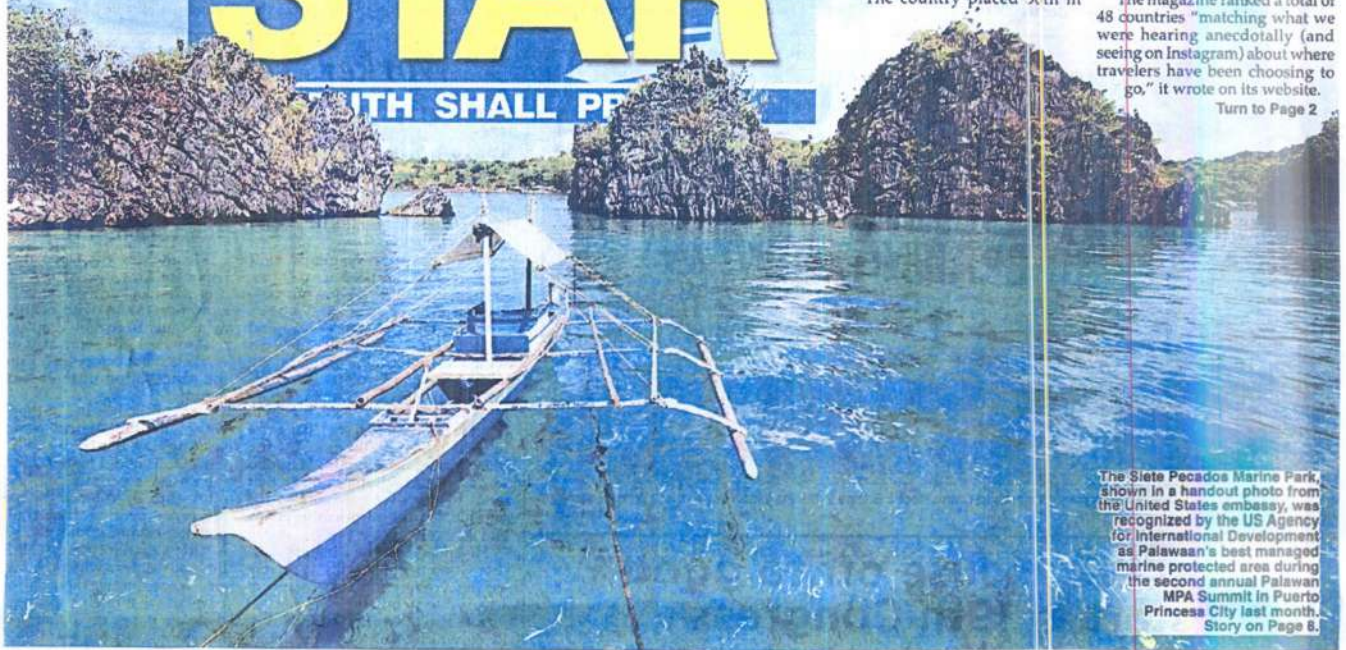
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THE PHILIPPINE STAR

TRUTH SHALL PREVAIL



Phl wins Condé Nast tourism awards

By GHIO ONG

The Philippines, along with some of its famous tourist spots, was hailed as one of the world's top countries for tourism by a Western travel publication. The country placed 30th in

the "Top Countries in the World" at the Condé Nast Traveler 2022 Readers' Choice Awards with a score of 86.66. Portugal topped the list with 91.22.

The magazine ranked a total of 48 countries "matching what we were hearing anecdotally (and seeing on Instagram) about where travelers have been choosing to go," it wrote on its website.

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The Siete Pecados Marine Park, shown in a handout photo from the United States embassy, was recognized by the US Agency for International Development as Palawan's best managed marine protected area during the second annual Palawan MPA Summit in Puerto Princessa City last month. Story on Page 8.

Phl From Page 1

Boracay topped the list of the 10 "Top Islands in Asia" in the same award by Condé Nast Traveler with a score of 95.13.

The list also included Palawan, which placed eighth, with a mark of 88.99.

The Department of Tourism said it was thrilled by the country's win in the Condé Nast Traveler awards.

"As we usher in this new era of travel post-pandemic, our focus is to

continue building confidence toward travel to the country by ensuring improvement in ease of access, prioritizing tourist safety and convenience and encouraging sustainable tourism practices," Tourism Secretary Christina Garcia Frasco said in a statement yesterday.

She also assured local and foreign tourists that their health and well-being will remain the government's top priority as it relaxed its policy on the use of face mask outdoors and "recalibrated" its health and safety protocols against COVID-19.



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US awards 4 Palawan marine protected areas

The United States government, through the US Agency for International Development (USAID), has recognized and granted awards to four of Palawan's best marine protected areas (MPA). At the second annual Palawan MPA

summit held in Puerto Princesa City on Sept. 20, the Siete Pecados Marine Park was named best-managed MPA while the San Jose MPA was named best emerging MPA.

The Balisungan and Bulalaco MPAs were recognized as best community managed and best locally managed MPAs, respectively.

The Calamianes MPA network, an inter-local government unit alliance of Busuanga, Coron, Culion and Linapacan, received a special award.

USAID Philippines deputy mission director Rebekah Eubanks and Palawan Gov. Victorino Dennis Socrates presented the Palawan MPAs Empowered through Awards and Recognition to Enrich Marine Life or PEARL awards to the four USAID-supported MPAs located in Coron, Calamian Islands.

The US government through the US embassy said MPAs help protect the Philippines from illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing that endanger the livelihood and well-being of coastal communities.

"Since 2018, USAID Fish Right has supported local governments and communities in the Calamian archipelago to address biodiversity threats, improve marine ecosystem governance, advance sustainable fisheries management and increase fish biomass," Eubanks said.

- Michael Punongbáy



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Boracay Asia's top island in Condé Nast Awards

TRUE to its reputation, Boracay again emerged as the top island in Asia in the 2022 Readers' Choice Awards of the travel magazine *Condé Nast Traveler*.

Palawan ranked eighth among the top

10 islands in Asia among the magazine's readers.

Moreover, the Philippines ranked 30th among *Condé Nast Traveler* readers' top 48 countries.

"We are extremely grateful for these international awards for the Philippines based on the opinion and experience of travelers from all over the world," Tourism Secretary Christina Garcia-Frasco said.

"As we usher in this new era of travel post-pandemic, our focus is to continue building confidence toward travel to the country by ensuring improvement in

► AwardsA2

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Boracay

ease of access, prioritizing tourist safety and convenience, and encouraging sustainable tourism practices," she added.

The Department of Tourism "is one with all our tourism stakeholders, from the local government units, private sector partners, and our fellowmen in celebrating these victories for the Philippines from *Condé Nast Traveler*," she said. **REINA C. TOLENTINO**



STRATEGIC
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Boracay, Palawan named top tourist destinations

Premiere travel magazine Condé Nast Traveler has hailed the country's top tourist destination, Boracay Island, the Top Island in Asia, in the magazine's 35th edition of Traveler Readers' Choice Awards.

Besides Boracay, Palawan was also cited by Condé Nast, ranking 8th, while the Philippines was also awarded one of the Top Countries for tourism in the world ranking 30th.

"We are extremely grateful

for these international awards for the Philippines based on the opinion and experience of travelers from all over the world. As we usher in this new era of travel post-pandemic, our focus is to continue building confidence towards travel to the country by ensuring improvement in ease of access, prioritizing tourist safety and convenience, and encouraging sustainable tourism practices," Tourism Secretary Christina Garcia

Frasco said, reacting to the recent citation.

Frasco added that recognitions such as that of Condé Nast, affirm the DoT's efforts to herald not only the country's natural wonders but also its readiness to become the preferred tourist destination in Asia.

"The Department is one with all our tourism stakeholders, from the local government units, private sector partners, and our fellowmen in celebrating these

victories for the Philippines from Condé Nast Traveler.

"We are confident that the acclaim for our flagship destinations will help garner more international interest for our country. With President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr.'s thrust to expand and equalize tourism opportunities nationwide, the development and promotion of our other emerging destinations will follow suit soon," the tourism chief added.

RAFFY AYENG



Boracay bags top island in Asia award; Palawan ranked 8th

By JUN MARCOS TADIOS

The island of Boracay was awarded as Asia's top island in the recent Conde Nast Traveler (CNT) Readers' Choice Award, the Department of Tourism (DOT) announced on Wednesday, Oct. 5.

Tourism Secretary Christina Garcia Frasco said this was a pivotal back-to-back win in the 2022 CNT award.

Aside from Boracay, the DOT said Palawan claimed the eighth spot.

Meanwhile, the Philippines is ranked 30th as the top tourist destinations.

"We are extremely grateful for these international awards for the Philippines based on the opinion and experience of travelers from all over the world. As we usher in this new era of travel post-pandemic, our focus is to continue building confidence towards travel to the country by ensuring improvement in ease of access, prioritizing tourist safety and convenience, and encouraging sustainable tourism practices," said Frasco.

She added that the recognition given to Philippine tourism is a manifestation that the nation indeed is opening doors to a wider spectacle.

"Recognitions such as these af-

firm our efforts to herald not only our country's natural wonders but also our readiness to become the premier tourist destination in Asia. The Department is one with all our tourism stakeholders, from the local government units, private sector partners, and our fellowmen in celebrating these victories for the Philippines from Condé Nast Traveler," Frasco said.

"We are confident that the acclaim for our flagship destinations will help garner more international interest for our country. With President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr.'s thrust to expand and equalize tourism opportunities nationwide, the development and promotion of our other emerging destinations will follow soon," she added.

Palawan, which garnered an 88.99 rating, is an equally heralded island destination in the CNT Asia list along with Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, and Japan.

The CNT Readers' Choice Awards also recognized top resorts in Asia awards, including the Shangri-La Boracay Resort (fifth); El Nido Resort in Pangulasian Island (eighth), and Shangri-La's Mactan Resort and Spa in Cebu at 20th spot.



Claim for damages not allowed in Writ of Kalikasan

Dear PAO,
I am a condominium unit owner. Last month, we discovered that a petroleum pipeline that runs at the back of the building leaked. The incident forced us to abandon our units, and to lease units in the neighboring area to temporarily billet ourselves, while repair and restoration were undertaken. To prevent the incident from happening in the future, we (residents) filed a petition in court for the issuance of a Writ of Kalikasan. May we include in said petition our claims for damages?



DEAR PAO
PERSIDA
ACOSTA

Mark

Dear Mark,
Writ of Kalikasan is a remedy available to a natural or judicial persons, entity authorized by law, people's organization, nongovernmental organizations, or any public interest groups accredited by or registered with any government agency, on behalf of persons whose constitutional right to a balanced and healthful ecology is violated, or threatened with violation by an unlawful act or omission of a public official or employee, or private individual or entity, involving environmental damage of such magnitude as to prejudice the life, health or property of inhabitants in two or more cities or provinces. (Rule 7, Section 1, Rules of Procedure for Environmental Cases, (AM 09-6-8-SC).

Its main aim is to direct those responsible to cease and desist from committing acts or neglecting the performance of a duty in violation of environmental laws resulting in environmental destruction or damage; to protect, preserve, rehabilitate or restore the environment; and to monitor strict compliance with the decision and orders of the court, among others. (Sec. 15, Rule 7, Id.) However, Section 15 (e), Rule 7 of the same Rule specifically provides that:

"Section 15. Judgment - Within sixty (60) days from the time the petition is submitted for decision, the court shall render judgment granting or denying the privilege of the writ of kalikasan.

"The reliefs that may be granted under the writ are the following: x x x

"(e) Such other reliefs which relate to the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology or to the protection, preservation, rehabilitation

or restoration of the environment, except the award of damages to individual petitioners."

In a decision involving similar facts, the Supreme Court, in the case of *West Tower Condominium Corp. v. First Philippine Industrial Corp.* (CA 194239, June 16, 2015), penned by

Associate Justice Presbitero Velasco Jr., had the occasion to explain the aforesaid provisions, thus:

"The Court will refrain from ruling on the finding of the CA that the individual directors and officers of FPIC and FPC are not liable due to the explicit rule in the Rules of Procedure for Environmental cases that in a petition for a writ of kalikasan, the Court cannot grant the award of damages to individual petitioners under Rule 7, Sec. 15 (e) of the Rules of Procedure for Environmental Cases. As duly noted by the CA, the civil case and criminal complaint filed by petitioners against respondents are the proper proceedings to ventilate and determine the individual liability of respondents, if any, on their exercise of corporate powers and the management of FPIC relative to the dire environmental impact of the dumping of petroleum products stemming from the leak in the WOPL in Barangay Bangkal, Makati City.

"Hence, the Court will into rule on the alleged liability on the part of the FPIC and FGC officials which can, however, be properly resolved in the civil and criminal cases now pending against them." (Emphasis supplied).

Based on the foregoing, it is clear that, in a petition for the issuance of a Writ of Kalikasan, you cannot include claims for damages in your prayer/s. Otherwise, the same will not be granted by the court. However, you are not left without resort. You may still file separate criminal and civil complaints arising from the same incident to hold those persons liable to pay for damages, if warranted.

We hope that we were able to answer your queries. This advice is based solely on the facts you have narrated and our appreciation of the same. Our opinion may vary when other facts are changed or elaborated.

Editor's note: Dear PAO is a daily column of the Public Attorney's Office. Questions for Chief Acosta may be sent to dearpao@manilatimes.net



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GLOBAL POWER INDUSTRY REPORT

NUCLEAR SHARE IN ENERGY PIE SMALLEST IN FOUR DECADES

LONDON—The share of nuclear power in global gross electricity generation fell below 10 percent last year to the lowest in around four decades, an industry report showed on Wednesday.

Nuclear energy generated 2,653 terawatt hours of electricity last year, accounting for 9.8 percent of global generation—the lowest since the 1980s, the annual World Nuclear Industry Status Report showed.

Proponents of nuclear say as a low-carbon power source it could be vital in helping countries meet climate targets, but several plants around the world are coming to the end of their life expectancies and many new ones have faced delays.

The most nuclear power in the world is generated in the United States, followed by China.

As of mid-2022, 411 reactors were operating in 33 countries, four less than a year earlier and 27 below a 2002 peak of 438.

The slow pace of new projects coming on stream has meant the average age of reactors is around 31 years old.

Out of 53 reactors under construction currently, at least half of the projects are delayed. Five new units became operational in the first half of this year, while eight closed last year.

Losing to renewables

Global investment in new nuclear construction projects last year was around \$24 billion, accounting for 6.5 percent of total investment of \$366 billion in nonhydro renewables projects.

Nuclear power is also losing ground to renewables in terms of cost as reactors are increasingly seen as less economical and slower to build.

The levelized cost of energy—which compares the total lifetime cost of building and running a plant to lifetime output—fell to \$36 per megawatt hour (MWh) last year for solar photovoltaic from \$359/MWh in 2009, while the cost for wind fell to \$38/MWh from \$135/MWh, the report showed.

However, nuclear power costs rose by 36 percent last year to \$167/MWh from \$123/MWh in 2009. —REUTERS



Countries must push innovation - FAO

TO ensure the sustainability of the global forest sector, countries will need to push innovation and investments, as well as policy coherence, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations said.

In its latest industry report, FAO said the overall consumption of primary processed wood products is expected to grow 37 percent by 2050 in a business-as-usual scenario.

Jointly produced by FAO, the International Tropical Timber Organization and the consultancy Unique land use GmbH, the report was launched during the 26th Session of the Committee on Forestry, and is relevant to Sustainable Development Goals 12 and 15. It combines the results of a long-term outlook for the forest sector to 2050, with an assessment of wood demand in a sustainable economic environment.

Based on the "Global forest sector outlook 2050: Assessing future demand and sources of timber for a sustainable economy," the consumption of primary processed wood products is expected to reach 3.1 billion cubic meters of roundwood equivalents — a measure of logs used in the making of wood-based products — by 2050.

FAO said the increase in consumption will be at least 8 percent higher in a bioeconomy scenario when two modern wood products are considered substituting nonrenewable materials. In a scenario of a more accelerated transition to the bioeconomy with a stronger participation of these two products, the rise in consumption of primary wood products could reach 23 percent more than in the business-as-usual scenario.

The report described wood as renewable, recyclable, climate friendly and versatile, which is

increasingly being used to replace nonrenewable materials. It is a critical material to the efforts to address the global threats to climate, biodiversity and environment caused by the excessive use of nonrenewable materials.

Mass timber and engineered wood products in construction, man-made cellulose fiber for textile production, and more modern forms of wood for energy are the most prominent wood products for large-scale substitution of nonrenewable materials.

"The forest sector is critical for resilient and sustainable economies. Ensuring the sustainability of the forest sector will require innovation and investments, but also policy coherence," said Ewald Rametsteiner, deputy director of FAO's Forestry Division.

To keep up with the growing demand, the report noted the need to increase productivity through sustainable forest management in existing forests, and encouraging wood production as part of land restoration programs and projects. If naturally regenerated forest production remains stable, the planting of at least 33 million hectares of new forests will be needed, it added.

As for investments to maintain and expand industrial roundwood production, there is a need for around \$40 billion per annum by 2050. Another \$25 billion per annum investment in modernization and in establishing industries may also be required, according to the global forest sector outlook 2050.

Moreover, the report said that up to 1 million new jobs, many of them in developing countries, could be created by growing the market for wood as a replacement for nonrenewable materials.

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Editorial

DoJ ruling on 'green energy' a potential boon for PH

THE ruling released earlier this week by the Department of Justice (DoJ) that "green energy" can be 100-percent foreign-owned both surprised and cheered renewable energy (RE) advocates and economy-watchers, and we certainly agree that it was a most welcome decision. The objective of the Department of Energy (DoE) and the rest of the government should now be to quickly develop policies to take advantage of the potential investment boom the ruling should encourage.

To clarify, what the DoJ was considering was whether or not there is a constitutional obstacle to ownership of RE resources, or in other words, whether the 60-40 ownership rule in Section 2, Article XII of the Constitution applies as it does for other resources such as minerals or oil and gas. The DoJ ruling, which was actually signed by Justice Secretary Jesus Crispin Remulla on September 29, determined that it does not.

It said, "the constitutional foreign ownership restriction on the exploration, development and utilization of natural resources only covers things that are susceptible to appropriation, thus excluding the sun, the wind and the ocean." Put another way, no one can actually "own" sunshine, moving air, or moving water in ocean currents, so these do not represent finite resources of the country in the same way mineral or petroleum deposits do.

In line with this, the ruling did point out that hydropower is an exception, as it relies on the country's water resources. Even though these may not be

unrecoverably used by a hydroelectric facility, it still diverts the water from other potential uses, and so remains covered under the 60-40 rule.

The DoJ also pointed out that the ruling by itself does not change existing laws and regulations. Before more foreign investments in renewables are allowed, the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of the Renewable Energy Act of 2008 (Republic Act 9513) must be amended to conform with the opinion, it said.

"The Philippines represents a tantalizing market for energy investment, first because it clearly has a great deal of unmet demand for energy, and second, because it is ideally situated to harness solar, wind and ocean resources."

Ambitious goals

That is already under way, according to Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla, as the DoE has set ambitious goals of increasing the share of RE in the Philippines' energy mix to 35 percent by 2030 and 50 percent by 2040. These objectives have become a bit daunting, as the country has actually moved in the other direction in recent years; from a high of about 36 percent in 2006, RE now makes up only about 21 percent of the energy mix. With the exception of hydropower — which is not covered under the recent DoJ ruling — individual RE projects are generally smaller in scale than individual projects using conventional sources of energy such as coal or natural gas. Thus, in order to accumulate the RE capacity necessary to achieve the targets, the country will have to attract a great many investors.

That need not be a difficult challenge, however. As the head of the International Energy Agency (IEA) stressed in a recent forum, renewable energy is one of the fastest-growing business and investment sectors in the world, and will be for some time to come given critical global concerns on fighting climate change. From an investor's point of view, the Philippines represents a tantalizing market, first because it clearly has a great deal of unmet demand for energy, and second, because it is ideally situated to harness solar, wind and ocean resources. It is very likely that there are already a large number of investors who are simply waiting for the "green light," which would be switched on as soon as the needed revisions to RA 9513 and other relevant regulations are completed.

With the DoJ's ruling allowing 100 percent foreign ownership in RE, the DoE should continue to promote joint ventures and domestic investment in the RE sector as well, as the decision allows a great deal of flexibility. The most important benefit of foreign investment is not the direct investment itself, but the potential for technology and knowledge transfer. After all, if the Philippines is a good market for RE, there is no reason why it should not also strive to become a leader in RE development and manufacturing.



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Barangay leaders of Guiuan bring their mining questions to Cagdianao, Hinatuan



BARANGAY captains and kagawads of Guiuan, Eastern Samar, direct their questions about mining to experts at the mine sites

BARANGAY captains and councilors from the 30 coastal barangays of Guiuan, Eastern Samar, including Manicani, personally directed their questions about responsible mining to the experts at Cagdianao Mining Corp. (CMC) and Hinatuan Mining Corp. (HMC), subsidiaries of Nickel Asia Corp. (NAC).

A 33-strong delegation traveled all the way from Eastern Samar to the Province of Dinagat Islands, where CMC has its operations, and to Surigao del Norte, where HMC operates, for a back-to-back comprehensive mine tours.

The mine tour is part of the requirements of the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, in preparation for the resumption of the mining operations of HMC's Manicani Nickel Project (MNP) which is under the jurisdiction of the Municipality of Guiuan.

HMC-MNP was recently granted the permit by the DENR to resume its mining

operations in Manicani.

Being members of PAMB, the barangay captains and kagawads of the coastal barangays expressed particular interest in the details of the environment protection and enhancement programs of the two mining companies.

Most of them have not seen an active mine before and their questions focused on the impact of mining to the environment.

One particular feature of the mines that impressed them was the technology of the series of water chambers that start in "canal curtains" surrounding the open mine that wind-up in wide settling ponds, plus the silt booms at the exact discharge point before the run-offs enter the body of water surrounding the island. Both CMC and HMC proudly have this system in place, meticulously designed to ensure the protection of marine life and water resources around the mine sites.

"We specifically requested for this mine tour for us to gain the experience

that will help us explain to other PAMB members how mining will be done in Manicani and what we have witnessed in CMC and HMC gave us confidence to give our full support to HMC-MNP," says Barangay Captain Leo Lacaba of Barangay 6, the designated spokesperson for the group.

Rehabilitation and environment enhancement also gathered multiple questions and the showcase of HMC's mine eco-tourism sites where guests enjoyed tea from herbs growing at the mined-out areas provided adequate answers.

The barangay leaders conveyed satisfaction, some admitting they only fully understood what responsible mining was after the mine tours, debunking every misinformation they have harbored all these years.

"I had misgivings about mining, I was one of those who would shut down favorable opinions about responsible mining, but I now admit I was misinformed so I thank NAC for this learning opportunity," says Nida Sabalbirino, Captain of Barangay 11.



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EDITORIAL



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Road to green economy long; water roadmap readied

BY JOCELYN MONTEMAYOR

PRESIDENT Marcos Jr. yesterday reaffirmed his administration's commitment to building the country's resiliency and improving climate change adaptation and called for a more robust collaboration from all sectors in protecting the environment while pushing for the country's development.

The President, at the opening of the 2022 Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Multi-Stakeholders Forum in Manila yesterday, said the road towards building a green economy will be long and tough, and everyone must stay strong, accept that it is a fight that must be waged by all, and, more importantly "a battle that must be won."

In a press conference on the sidelines of the same event, DENR Secretary Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga said the agency is crafting a roadmap which will be the basis in the creation of an umbrella body that will manage all water-related issues of the country.

The President assured the

See ROAD > Page A2

government is undertaking initiatives that will "enable us to become smarter, more responsible, more sustainable in all that we do."

Marcos said the effectiveness of a country's campaign and success in protecting the environment and addressing climate change will not be immediately

visible and only be tested during certain moments such as when a global crisis is averted or the impact of the calamities on people are lessened, if even prevented.

The President said he expects the three-day forum to provide the government and private partners a chance to actively collaborate in translating an integrated

and multi-stakeholder Resiliency Framework into actions that will sustain the growth of the sector.

Meanwhile, Loyzaga cited the need for an apex body to craft the strategy for the security of water which she said intimately linked with energy and food security.

"...As you know there are local

water utilities, then we have other bodies, there is NIA (National Irrigation Administration), MWSS (Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System) and various agencies and bodies that have water related functions," she said.

Loyzaga added: "There are so many demands for water supply and these demands need to be

balanced. One example is Angat Dam, its multi-purpose and when the water level doesn't make the required level, which of the uses should be prioritized and typically that's both energy and agri and so, domestic supply in Metro Manila is affected."

The DENR yesterday signed with the Department of Labor

and Employment an agreement meant to generate "green jobs" or occupations that help in preserving or restoring the quality of the environment in the country.

These include jobs related to protection, planting, forestation, monitoring and upkeep of areas, among others. - *With Jed Macapagal*



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Marcos to prioritize climate change adaptation

BY MICHELLE GUILLANG
@tribunephil_mish

Building the country's resiliency and improving climate change adaptation are on top of his administration's agenda, President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. assured on Wednesday.

"As your President, I assure you that our environment and our country's resiliency and adaptation to the new normals of climate change are on top of the national agenda," Marcos said.

He made the assurance during the opening of the 2022 Department of Environment and Natural Resources Multi-Stakeholders Forum in Manila, where he also called for a more robust collaboration to protect the environment.

"We ensure that the initiatives we will take will enable us to become smarter, more responsible, more sustainable in all that we do," he said.

For the President, the road ahead will be long and tough, and everyone must stay strong and accept that it's a fight that must be waged by all, and, more importantly — a battle that must be won.

"In this collective fight, we are not soldiers; we are stewards. There will be no weapons to use; only behaviors and practices to improve upon," he said.

He noted that victory will not come by defeating a visible enemy but will come at certain moments when averting a global crisis becomes imminent.

Marcos said triumph is at hand when there is clean air to breathe, safe water to drink, and lands and oceans to harness for the benefit of all Filipinos and for all humanity.

The President is optimistic that the three-day forum to bring about substantial outcomes that will focus on enriching not only the country's natural resources but also its national wealth.

He hopes the gathering will become an opportunity for the government and private partners to actively collaborate in translating an integrated and multistakeholder Resiliency Framework into actions that will sustain the growth of the sector.

"So let us join our efforts. I am certain we will pass on to our children a country and a world that are in a much better state than they came upon," he said.

"We are only custodians of this beautiful planet that we live on. Let us take that responsibility seriously for many generations that will still follow," he added.

He also expressed elation over the participation of the "big movers and shakers" from the private sector, NGOs, academe, and different countries around the world who have already offered assistance in the country's battle against the effects of changing climate.

The President's cousin House Speaker Martin Romualdez, Labor Secretary Bienvenido Laguesma, Senator Cynthia Villar, and members of the diplomatic corps were also in attendance.



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Priority bills ng Marcos admin nasa 23 na

ITINATAYANG nasa 23 na ang priority bills ng administrasyong Marcos. Ito ang inihayag ni Presidential Legislative Liaison Office Secretary Mark Llandro "Dong" Mendoza sa Senado bilang tugon sa tanong ukol sa priority measures ng Chief Executive.

Kabilang sa mga bagong batas na nadagdag sa priority list ang 2023 General Appropriations Act, bill strengthening the regulatory functions of

REYES

Maritime Industry Authority, bill for the condonation of unpaid amortization, interest of loans of agrarian reform beneficiaries, at Medium-Term Fiscal Framework."

Bagama't ang MTFF ay hindi bill o batas na nangailangan ng pagsasabatas, ang dalawang Kapulungan ng Kongreso ay in-adopt ang magkahiwalay na resolusyon na nagpapahayag ng pagsuporta para sa six-year fiscal plan ng administrasyong

Marcos. Sa kanyang kauna-unahang SONA, hiniling ni Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos Jr. sa Kongreso na kagyat na ipasa ang 19 panukalang batas sa ilalim ng kanyang administrasyon.

Kabilang na rito ang National Government Rightsizing Program, Budget Modernization Bill, Valuation Reform Bill, Passive Income and Financial Intermediary Taxation Act, E-Governance Act, Internet Transaction Act or E-Com-

merce Law, Government Financial Institutions Unified Initiatives to Distressed Enterprises for Economic Recovery, Medical Reserve Corps at National Disease Prevention Management Authority.

Gauyundin ang Creation of the Virology Institute of the Philippines, Department of Water Resources, Unified System of Separation, Retirement and Pension, E-Governance Act, National Land Use Act, National Defense Act, Mandatory Reserve Officers' Training Corps and National Service Training Program, Enab-

ling Law for the Natural Gas Industry, Amendments to the Electric Power Industry Reform Act or EPIRA (RA 9136) at Amendments to the Build-Operate-Transfer Law.

Inaprubahan naman ng Senate panel ang panukalang budget ng PLLO para sa taong 2023. Maliban sa PLLO, inaprubahan din ng Senate finance subcommittee ang panukalang P193 million budget ng Philippine Racing Commission at panukalang P191.26M budget ng Authority of the Freeport Area sa Bataan para sa taong 2023. KRIS JOSE



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MAS MALAKING PERA SA BASURA NANDITO NA

DUMATING kamakailan ang ilang opisyal ng German firms na involved sa recycling at waste management para humanap ng makakatambal na mga kumpanyang Pinoy, bilang bahagi ng 2022 German-Philippine Business Conference.

Sabi ng mga ito, malaki ang potensiyal ng Pinas kung ang pag-uusapan ay basura, pagre-recycle at pamamahala nito.

Bakit? Kasi raw, ang ating bansa ay pangatlo sa mga bansa ng Southeast Asia na nagpoproduce ng solid waste at pinakamalaking bansa na 'plastic emitters' sa buong mundo, dahil mayroon 60-bilyong plastic bags na ginagamit dito kada taon.

Eh di wow! Sa kanila raw pag-aaral, mayroong 16.6 million tons ng solid waste ang naitala

natin noong 2020. At pagdating ng 2030, mada-dagdagan ng tinatayang limang kilogram ng solid waste per capita, kada taon.

Kaya nga raw ang mga German companies na 2G Energy AG, BOMAG GmbH, CUTMET-ALL plus Carbide Germany GmbH, EUWELLE Environmental Technology GmbH at Vecoplan AG, ay nagkaisa sa pagsasabi na ang pagsasala ng mga basura o waste reduction, na gamit ang reformed waste recycling at pollution control ay mahalagang bahagi para makatulong sa Pinas patungo sa sustainable economy.

Ikinatutuwa rin ito mismo ng Executive Director ng German-Philippines Chamber of Commerce and Industry na si Christopher Zimmer, dahil sa ginugol na



REMATE OPINION

DALA KO EGCO

NI JOEL M. SY EGCO

panahon ng mga opisyal ng German companies para lamang magpunta rito at ibahagi ang kanilang mga kaalaman sa mga maaari pa nilang maging ka-partner, kung paano magiging pera pa ang mga basura.

Sa aking palagay magbibigay pa ito ng malaking puwang para tumibay ang 'bilateral business relations' sa pagitan ng Pilipinas at ng Germany.

Sa nakalap kong pahayag ni Philippine Alliance for Recycling and Material Sustainability founding president at commissioner na si Crispiano Lao, 44,610 tonelada

lang naman ng basura ang ating naililikha sa araw-araw.

Malaking bagay ito kung magagawa pa nating pera muli ang gabundok na basura natin sa araw-araw.

Yung ang mismong nangangalakal sa ating mga komunidad lamang ay naitatawid na ang pangangailangan sa pagbabasura, eh paano pa kaya kung may katambal na tayong mga bihasa sa recycling at waste management?

oOo oOo oOo
Assalamu Alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh!