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Marcos must face key issues 'head-on'

BY CATHERINE S. VALENTE, MOISES CRUZ AND RED MENDOZA

PRESIDENT Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. must "battle head-on" urgent national concerns, as he marks his first 100 days in office, a political analyst said Friday.

Dr. Froilan Calilung, who teaches political science at the University of Santo Tomas, made the observation after the Marcos administration earned favorable ratings on 11 of the 13 key issues facing the country in the latest Pulse Asia survey.

➤ 'Head-on' A2

Speaking during a public briefing, Calilung said that overall, the President "did well" in his first three months, getting low marks only in tackling inflation, unemployment and low wages.

The survey results showed "a very good indication as to what and how the people would actually try to see his leadership as of the moment," he said.

"I would say that he did very well in many of the other parameters, like disaster response, for instance, post-pandemic rehabilitation, [the fight against] Covid-19," Calilung said.

Still, the government should "be sincere, act with a sense of urgency and lay out concrete plans" in resolving pressing issues such as inflation, which, he said, "is really a global problem."

"The peso is not the only currency

that is being devaluated for all we know, and there are many things that are beyond their control because this is dictated by global dynamics," he said.

"I think that the government should really try to battle head-on. *Ito talaga yung malaking problema na ating kinakaharap lalo na sa food security, gayundin sa inflation na 'to* (these are pressing issues that the country faced particularly the issue on food security and inflation)," Calilung said.

In the Pulse Asia poll, released on Thursday, the Marcos administration got a 78-percent rating in responding to the needs of calamity-hit areas and controlling the spread of Covid-19.

It showed that 69 percent of the respondents believed in the administration's efforts in promoting peace in the country, and 68 percent appreciated what it was doing to protect the welfare of overseas Filipino workers.

The administration got a 67 percent rating in fighting criminality and 62 percent in enforcing the rule of law.

It scored 59 percent in both creating more jobs and increasing workers' pay and 58 percent for fighting graft and corruption in government.

Fifty-seven percent appreciated the administration's initiatives in protecting the environment, while 52 percent were



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■ 'HEAD-ON' FROM A1

Marcos must face

happy with its efforts to defend the country's territorial integrity.

The Marcos government had lows of 42 percent on the issue of controlling inflation and 39 percent on poverty reduction.

In Pulse Asia's July survey, 57 percent of the respondents said inflation was the most urgent national concern that the Marcos administration should address. It increased by 9 percent in the latest poll, which was conducted from September 17 to 21.

The polling firm said the last survey does not account for other significant events such as the depreciation of the peso, the 50th anniversary of the declaration of martial law, and the senators' move to ban offshore gaming operators.

Calilung said the important thing is for Marcos to sustain the initial encouraging performance during the rest of his term.

In a press conference on Wednesday, Marcos said he believes he has assembled a "functional" government composed of the best and the brightest Cabinet members during his first 100 days in office.

He said his first 50 to 100 days in government focused on "putting out fires," particularly issues bounding the agriculture sector.

The President said his administration was able to renew and forge agreements with countries during his state visits to Indonesia and Singapore and his working visit to the United States.

Also on Friday, Speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez said the President's good showing in the Pulse Asia survey means he "is on the right track of governance."

Romualdez indicated that the President got off to a good start by having the smartest, brightest, and most ca-

pable Filipinos in his economic team and Cabinet.

He said the government's determination to keep the economy open while ensuring that Covid-19 is contained has led to greater mobility, more economic activity, more jobs, and higher incomes for the people.

Romualdez said the government is taking steps to ease the effect of external influences on domestic prices.

As far as the Department of Education (DepEd) is concerned, Marcos' biggest achievement in his first 100 days in office is the resumption of in-person classes.

Nearly 90 percent of schools in the country resumed in-person classes in August after more than two years of holding blended learning modalities, DepEd spokesman Michael Poa said in a briefing on Friday.

"When we brought back the learners in schools, we are not discounting Covid-19, so we are trying to do it as safely as possible," Poa said.

He said the DepEd has issued health and safety guidelines for students so that surge of cases could be prevented, as well as for teachers who will be infected with the virus.

Under the directive, teachers, non-teaching personnel and learners, regardless of their vaccination status, will be allowed to attend in-person classes.

In a brief statement on Friday, the Department of Health left it to students and school personnel to decide how and when is it safe to remove their masks in outdoor and open areas in schools.

Under the guidelines issued by the Civil Service Commission, school personnel who will not report for duty for being isolated for Covid-19 will be considered as an "excused absence" without salary deduction or loss of leave credits.



PBBM gets high approval in handling most issues, except inflation in survey

By SAMUEL P. MEDENILLA

PRESIDENT Ferdinand “Bongbong” R. Marcos Jr. got high approval in his handling of almost all major issues, except for those related to rising cost of living, according to the results of the new Pulse Asia Survey released last Thursday.

Of the 13 issues covered by the survey, Marcos got his lowest satisfaction rating for controlling infla-

tion, which was at 31 percent and was followed by poverty reduction at 39 percent.

This, despite the inflation rate slightly slowing to 6.3 percent last August from the 6.4 percent last July.

State statisticians reported the inflation rate accelerated again to 6.9 percent last month, but this was no longer covered by the latest Pulse Asia Survey, which was administered from September 17 to 21, 2022.

Meanwhile, the President got his highest approval rating, when it comes to calamity response with 78 percent.

Marcos has been visible in overseeing government response in the areas affected by the Abra earthquake in July and Tropical Storm “Florita” (international codename Ma-On) in August, and most recently, Super typhoon “Karding” (international code name: Noru).

His administration also got a

high approval rating for controlling the spread of Covid-19 with 78 percent, promoting peace in the country with 69 percent, protecting the welfare of overseas Filipino workers with 68 percent, fighting criminality with 67 percent, and law enforcement with 68 percent.

The Pulse Asia Survey also showed the approval rating of Marcos for creating more jobs (59 percent), increasing workers’ pay (59 percent) and fighting graft and corruption in government (58 percent), environment protection (57 percent), and defense of the country’s territorial integrity (52 percent).

The face-to-face interview survey covered 1,200 respondents nationwide and has a 2.8 percent error margin.



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Mineral thieves arrested

BY ALVIN MURCIA
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Operatives from the National Bureau of Investigation-Environmental Crime Division announced that they have arrested seven individuals in Tarlac City for mineral theft following a series of surveillance operations on 2 to 19 September 2022.

The NBI said that its surveillance confirmed the existence of a quarry operation located at Barangay Sta. Maria, Tarlac City and it was discovered upon

verification with the local government unit and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Mines and Geoscience Bureau in Region III that no quarry permits were issued within the area.

On 3 October 2022, environmental law enforcement was conducted with the assistance of the DENR-MGB Region III which resulted in the arrest of Barangay Captain Albert Mercado who was in charge of the illegal quarry operation and Barangay Councilor Arturo de la Cruz who served as the

checker/collector.

Their helpers who were also sighted within the premises of the quarry operation and were identified as Joel Santos; Jesus Santos; Jessie Santos; Jonathan Santos and Jerry Espinosa.

The suspects were caught in flagrante de licto conducting a quarry operation without the necessary documents from any of the concerned government agencies. One payloador and four trucks with a total value of P1,800,000 were seized and turned over to the appropriate office.



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Tserman, 6 pa timbog sa illegal quarry

Pito katao kabilang ang isang barangay chairman ang inaresto ng mga ahente ng National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) makaraang mahuli sa akto na nag-o-operate ng illegal quarry sa bulubunduking bahagi ng Tarlac City sa lalawigan ng Tarlac.

Sa ulat ng NBI-Environmental Crime Division (EnCD), nagsagawa sila ng surveillance operations noong Setyembre 2 at 19 sa Brgy. Sta. Maria, ng naturang lungsod, at nakumpirma ang presensya ng isang quarry operation. Nang beripikahin sa lokal na pamahalaan at Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), lumalabas na walang inaaprubahang per-

mits para sa operasyon ng quarry sa naturang lugar.

Dahil dito, Oktubre 3 nang magkasa ng operasyon ang NBI katuwang ang DENR-MGB Region III na nagresulta sa pagkakadakip ng mga suspek na sina Barangay Captain Albert Mercado na umano'y tagapamahala sa iligal na quarry operation, kaniyang barangay councilor na si Arturo Dela Cruz, na nagsisilbi namang checker; mga tauhan na sina Joel Santos, Jesus Santos, Jessie Santos, Jonathan Santos at Jerry Espinosa. Nakumpiska sa kanila ang isang payloader at apat na trak na may kabuuang halagang P1.8 milyon.

Narekober din ang

mga delivery receipts na nagpapakita na ang mga nakukuhang mga mineral sa quarry ay idinideliber nila sa mga lalawigan ng Cavite; Batangas at sa Gapan, Pampanga at iba pang lugar.

Sa imbestigasyon, ang kinikita sa quarry operation ay pinaghahatian umano nina Mercado at ng ilang tiwaling tauhan ng Tarlac provincial government sa 60:40 ratio na hatian.

Ang Royal Crown Monarch Inc., isang kumpanya na kinontrata ng Department of Public Works and Highways para sa konstruksyon ng mga proyekto sa Tarlac City ay kumukuhang rin ng mga materyales sa iligal na quarry. (Danilo Garcia)



TSERMAN, 6 PA HULI SA ILLEGAL QUARRYING

DAKIP ng mga ahente ng National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) ang pitong indibidwal kabilang ang isang barangay captain at isang councilor sa illegal quarrying sa Tarlac City.

Kabilang sa mga inaresto sina Barangay Captain Albert Mercado, Councilor Arturo Dela Cruz na nagsisilbing checker at collector, Joel Santos, Jesus Santos, Jessie Santos, Jonathan Santos at Jerry Espinosa na inabutan sa lugar ng quarry.

Ang mga suspek ay inaresto ng mga ahente ng NBI-Environmental Crime Division (EnCD) sa Tarlac City dahil sa pagnanakaw ng minerals.

Una nang nagsagawa ng serye ng surveillance

operations ang NBI noong Setyembre 2 at 19, 2022 at nang makumpirma ang quarry operation sa Bgy. Sta. Maria, ay ikinasa ang pag-salakay.

Sa beripikasyon, nalaman na walang inisyu na quarry permit ang Local Government Unit at DENR-MGB Region III.

Sinalakay ng NBI at DENR-MGB Region III ang lugar noong Oktubre 3, 2022 at naaresto ang mga suspek. Nakumpiska ang isang payloader at apat na trak na nagkakahalaga ng P1,800,000.

Nalaman na dinadala ang mineral sa Cavite, Batangas, Gapan, Pampanga, at iba pa.

Sinampahan ng kasong paglabag sa Section 103 (Theft of Minerals) ng RA 7942, kilala bilang "Philippine Mining Act of 1995" ang mga suspek sa Tarlac Prosecutors Office.

(Mylene Alfonso)



Mountains can break deadly winds but can also bring killer floods and landslides

AFTER AT y-phoon "Karding's" threat



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of deadly winds was interrupted by the mighty Sierra Madre range, we now see much renewed attention paid on the role of mountain ranges in disaster risk reduction and management, particularly in relation to threats from super typhoons.

► **ContrerasA5**

People began singing odes to the mother of all mountains, as if it was a new discovery.

We have to remind ourselves that for centuries, the Sierra Madre and all other mountains have repeatedly shielded vast areas of the archipelago from the effects of disastrous winds, especially those coming from the Pacific Ocean. The Sierra Madre, which stretches from Cagayan to Quezon province, may be the best-known, but we also need to mention the lesser known Diwata Mountains found in Eastern Mindanao facing the Pacific, straddling the province of Surigao del Norte down to the Davao Region.

The presence of mountains helps to further diminish the velocity of winds, which by nature is expected every time a typhoon makes a landfall. They may not be able to protect coastal areas facing the Pacific, but they practically become a shield to the more populous urban centers found in the central and western flanks of the archipelago. There is actually no mystery as to why there are fewer urban centers in our eastern coastline, and that there is a higher population density in the central and western provinces of the country. This is mainly the result of the pull factors provided by more favorable climatic conditions which render these areas relatively more hospitable.

The Bicol Region has always been characterized in official statistics as one of the poorest regions in the country despite its fertile volcanic soil. One can safely hypothesize

that this is due to the fact that the region is prone to extreme weather events, and is also vulnerable to volcanic eruptions. Thus, its ability to generate surplus and accumulate capital would be impaired, even if people there may not live in abject poverty. As a keen observer of the region, which I consider as my home because it is where I was born, I can further hypothesize that despite what the economic statistics suggest, the region is still blessed because of its fertile lands and the relatively slower rate of industrialization, much of its cultural ecology and political economy of remain anchored in cultures of reciprocity, where traditional institutions enable people to live well despite being deprived of material and measurable wealth.

In the face of constant threats of seasonal destructive typhoons, organic institutions of resilience may have been deeply planted and took root in Bicol, and in other regions similarly located. The same could be said for Aurora and Quezon provinces in Luzon, Samar and Leyte in the Visayas, and Dinagat, Surigao provinces and Davao Oriental in Mindanao. It would be interesting to see the level of organic resilience and the presence of social capital in these areas, and examine these in contrast to that of communities that are more protected, including those shielded by vast mountain ranges like the Sierra Madre.

It is also important to call out the fact that mountains alone, as a physical entity, cannot be the sole shield that

can protect people from the destructive effects of extreme weather events. While the Sierra Madre and the Diwata mountain ranges can break off and effectively reduce intense winds brought by typhoons, they cannot shield low-lying areas from the destructive effects of floods and landslides. These equally destructive events are the result of the absence of adequate forest and vegetative cover that can help regulate the discharge of water during heavy downpour and hold the soil to prevent landslides.

Indeed, logging — both legal and illegal — caused the loss of forest cover. But it is wrong to heap the blame solely on the logging industry. Other activities such as upland agriculture, mining, ranching and the conversion of mountain slopes to subdivisions, human settlements and golf courses have contributed to the transformation of our mountains into mothers of disaster during extreme weather events. The entire Baguio metropolitan area and even the Tagaytay highlands are sitting on mountain ranges that are prone to landslides, and whose bare and cemented slopes have spawned deadly flash floods, the likes of what we just saw in Banaue recently.

Human activity, both for subsistence and for capital accumulation, and for living comfortable lives, cannot escape responsibility. In fact, bare mountain slopes are not the only reason the plains are flooded during the rainy season. It is a scientific fallacy to generalize that every flood is caused by denuded mountains since there



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Mountains can break deadly winds but can also bring killer floods and landslides

are natural flood plains. Floods are in fact nature's way of distributing soil nutrients to fertilize farmlands, and its seasonality can also nourish inland lakes and rivers for fishing activities. This was however disrupted, and floods turned from bringing seasonal blessings into wreaking havoc when people began building settlements in these areas which effectively blocked natural waterways, and turned soil into cemented pavements that greatly reduced their absorptive capacities while increasing surface runoff which contribute to urban flash floods.

Indeed, we need mountain ranges like the Sierra Madre to protect us from the winds brought by extreme weather events. But we need them to be sufficiently covered with trees, and adequate and appropriate vegetation to prevent them from spawning floods and landslides that are as deadly and destructive. We also need to reexamine our land use policies and practices even in urban areas.

Calamitous floods and landslides are due not only to logging, but are also caused by un-ecological land use practices both on the mountain slopes and in the cities where people live in comfort. Much of the killer floods of "Ondoy" came from the slopes of the Sierra Madre, while the flash floods that inundated Santa Rosa City and neighboring towns spawned by "Milenyo" came from the Tagaytay highlands. We cannot rest in total comfort. We cannot always rely on mountain ranges to protect us from the deadly effects of the weather.



Editorial

Basura sa Dolomite Beach

HANGGANG ngayon, marami pa ring basurang nakukuha sa Dolomite Beach. Noong isang araw saku-sakong basura ang nakuha. Kahit araw-araw ay linisin ang kontrobersiyal na beach, marami pa ring basurang plastic ang sumasadsad dito. Ang mga basura ay galing sa estero, ilog, sapa sa Maynila at mga bayan na nakapaligid sa Manila Bay. Ang Dolomite Beach ay kabilang sa Manila Bay beautification project ng nakaraang Duterte administration na ginastusan ng P389 milyon. Tinambakan ng puting buhangin na galing pa ng Cebu beach para magmistulang Boracay. Hinakot ng mga barge ang puting buhangin patungong Manila Bay.

Noong nakaraang taon binuksan sa publiko ang Dolomite Beach sa kabila na may pandemya. Maraming nag-picture-picture. Dinagsa at pinagkaguluhan ng mga tao na nasabik makaraang makulong sa lockdown. Hanggang sa isara muli dahil maraming lumalabag sa health protocols. Ang iba ay walang face mask at dikit-dikit ang mga tao na para bang walang nanalasang virus.

Ngayon ay pansamantalang sarado ang beach dahil marumi. Nang manalasa ang Bagyong Karding, toneladang basurang plastic ang inanod sa dalampasigan. Ang maputing buhangin ng beach ay nangitim na dahil sa nakatambak na mga basura.

Mga basura na gaya ng single-use plastic, sachet ng shampoo, 3-in-1 coffee, cup ng noodles, plastic bottle ng softdrinks at iba pa. Ang mga basura ay iniluwa ng mga ilog, sapa at estero sa Manila Bay. Ginaawang basurahan ang karagatan ng mga walang disiplinang mamamayan.

Pinagtutulungang linisin ng mga tauhan ng Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) at Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang baybayin ng beach.

Nakadidismaya lang na pagkaraang gastusan ng miiyon ang Dolomite Beach, magiging sadsaran lang pala ng basurang plastic. Hindi rin mapakinabangan dahil kailangang linisin para gawing pasyalan. Magkaroon ng kampanya ang DENR at MMDA na maghigpit sa pagtatapon ng basura para hindi maging bagsakan ang ginastusang beach.

Isang suhestiyon na kapaki-pakinabang ay taniman na lang ng mga bakawan ang paligid ng beach para magkaroon ng harang sa mga inaanod na basura.



Phl faces highest disaster risk worldwide - study

By JANVIC MATEO

A new international report found the Philippines to have the highest disaster risk from natural hazards among 193 countries.

From eighth last year, the Philippines topped this year's World Risk Report released by Germany-based Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft and the Institute for International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict at Ruhr University Bochum (IFHV).

"Floods, heat waves and droughts are increasing seriously, and climate change is also having a massive impact on the assessment of risks," said Peter Mucke, project manager at World Risk Report 2022 and executive director at Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft.

"For a country's risk of an extreme natural event turning into a disaster, natural and climate-related exposure forms the first part of the equation. The second part is what is known as the vulnerability of society. This vulnerability is the factor of risk that can be directly influenced," he said.

Released annually since 2011, the World Risk Index indicates countries' disaster risk from extreme natural events and negative climate change impacts.

It is calculated based on exposure of populations to extreme natural events and the vulnerability of social domains to natu-

ral hazards and negative impacts of climate change.

Based on the study, the Philippines obtained an overall disaster risk score of 46.82 out of 100, the highest among the countries included in the index.

It scored "very high" across all indicators, including exposure (39.99), vulnerability (54.81), susceptibility (51.35), lack of coping capacities (57.81) and lack of adaptive capacities (55.48).

Following the Philippines were India (42.31), Indonesia (41.46), Colombia (38.37), Mexico (37.55), Myanmar (35.49), Mozambique (34.37), China (28.70), Bangladesh (27.90) and Pakistan (26.75).

Monaco and Andorra were identified as the countries with the lowest disaster risk with an overall score of 0.26, followed by San Marino (0.38), Sao Tome and Principe (0.48), Luxembourg (0.52), Liechtenstein (0.79), Singapore (0.81), Malta (0.94) and Bahrain (0.95).

According to the authors, the index this year has been completely revised conceptually and methodologically.

"The World Risk Index now comprises a total of 100 indicators instead of the previous 27. In particular, the inclusion of indicators on how populations have been affected by disasters and conflicts in the past five years, as well as on refugees, displaced persons and asylum

seekers in the new index – also against the backdrop of the major global migration movements – results in a significantly more accurate representation of the realities of life in many countries," said Daniel Weller of IFHV.

"In addition, the 'exposure' component has been significantly expanded: while earthquakes, hurricanes, floods, droughts and sea-level rise were taken into account in the previous World Risk Index, tsunamis are now added, and a distinction is made between coastal and riverine flooding," he added.

The report also looked at how digitization is being used for disaster preparedness and management, such as in knowledge acquisition, information dissemination, communication and control.

"Examples include the use of global databases for risk analysis, digital early warning systems, apps for recording damage and communication with those affected via social media platforms," read the report.

"With the rapid digitalization of disaster management, new weak spots and vulnerabilities are inevitably emerging. To counter these new vulnerabilities and to maintain the integrity of disaster relief, proactive leadership, digital security training, technical legal knowledge and cybersecurity investments are essential," it added.



Pinas, nangunguna sa global disaster risk index

Nangunguna ang Pilipinas sa listahan ng mga global disaster risk hotspots batay sa pinakabagong ulat ng World Risk Index, ang sumusukat sa pagkakalantad at kahinaan ng isang bansa sa mga natural na panganib.

Sa pag-aaral ng Germany-based Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft at ng Institute for International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict (IFHV) sa Ruhr University Bochum, ay

nakita na ang Pilipinas ay nakakuha ng index score na 46.82.

Isa rin ang Pilipinas sa mga bansang natukoy na delikado sa mga sakuna dulot ng matinding natural na pangyayari, na kinabibilangan ng lindol, bagyo o pagbaha.

Pumangalawa ang India sa index score na 42.31, pumangatlo ang Indonesia (41.46) at pang-apat ang Colombia (38.37). Ang Mexico, Myanmar, Mozambique, China, Bangladesh at Pakistan ay naging bahagi din ng nangungunang 10 bansa sa mundo na may pinakamataas na marka ng panganib sa kalamidad.

Ang mga "risk hotspot" ay sinasabing matatagpuan sa America at Asia.

Noong 2021, ika-walo ang Pilipinas sa risk index na may markang 21.39 at ika-9 sa mga bansang may pinakamataas na pagkakalantad sa kalamidad.

Ang Pilipinas ay tinatamaan ng average na 20 bagyo bawat taon at heograpikal na matatagpuan sa Pacific Ring of Fire. (Malou Escudero)



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Batay sa pinakabagong ulat ng World Risk Index, ang sumusukat sa pag-

kakalantad at kahinaan ng isang bansa sa mga natural na panganib ay nangunguna ang Pilipinas sa listahan ng mga global disaster risk hotspots.

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bansa sa mundo na may pinakamataas na marka ng panganib sa kalamidad.

Ang mga "risk hotspot" ay sinasabing matatagpuan sa Americas at sa Asia. Tiningnan sa pag-aaral kung paano ang 193 mga bansa ang mas madaling magkaroon ng mga sakuna gamit ang isang na-update na index.

Nakatuon din ang ulat ngayong taon sa kung paano makakatulong ang digitalization at mga bagong teknolohiya sa mga bansa na maghanda para sa mga natural na kaganapan at lumikha ng mga sistema upang tulungan ang mga appektadong komunidad.

Ang Pilipinas ay tinatamaan ng average na 20 bagyo bawat taon at heograpiikal na matatagpuan sa Pacific Ring of Fire. Noong 2021, ikawalo ang Pilipinas sa risk index na may markang 21.39 at ikasiyam sa mga bansang may pinakamataas na pagkakalantad sa kalamidad. -*Malou Escudero*



EDITORIAL

Most at risk to disasters

From first-hand experience, Filipinos are aware that the country is prone to disasters. Not a year passes without multiple typhoons, torrential monsoon rains, cataclysmic flooding, drought, volcanic eruptions and earthquakes hitting the country. Crop harvests are heavily affected by the whimsies of nature.

The country has consistently ranked among the world's most vulnerable to disasters. In the latest World Risk Report, however, whose amended metrics include the capacity of affected communities to cope with natural hazards, the Philippines is now ranked at the top of the list.

Among 193 countries, the Philippines garnered the worst index score of 46.82 in terms of high risk, exposure and vulnerability to disasters and calamities, according to the World Risk Report 2022 drawn up by Germany-based Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft and the Institute for International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict at Ruhr University Bochum.

While there are other countries such as Japan along the Pacific Ring of Fire that are prone to typhoons, powerful earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, their disaster preparedness and mitigation capabilities lower their vulnerability risk.

India came second to the Philippines with a score of 42.31 in the World Risk Index 2022, followed by Indonesia with 41.46, Colombia, Mexico, Myanmar, Mozambique, China,

Bangladesh and Pakistan.

Explaining the revised metrics in the latest index, the report said the risk assessment is now based not only on how severely natural hazards hit a particular area but also on how vulnerable society is to the effects of the disaster. The findings are meant to encourage responses that are proactive rather than reactive.

The index, the report explained, "aims to raise awareness about the relevance of social capacities in disaster preparedness among the public and decision-makers in all sectors of society, to provide guidance for practitioners in the prevention of humanitarian crises, and to support decisions in the allocation and prioritization of resources."

In the first year of the COVID pandemic in 2020, the Philippines ranked ninth in the World Risk Index with a score of 20.69. Last year, the country worsened to eighth place with a score of 21.39. This year, with the risk indicators widened to 100 from the previous 27, the country has emerged as the most at risk to the impacts of natural hazards. The indicators include impacts on displaced persons as well as social, economic and political conditions that affect responses to disasters.

Last Wednesday, President Marcos vowed that climate change resiliency and adaptation "are on top of the national agenda," with the responses of his administration to be smarter, more sustainable and responsible. The World Risk Report should further strengthen this resolve.



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Binay presents climate change emergency programs at global forum

Mayor Abigail Binay has presented the city's climate change emergency programs at the Daring Cities 2022 forum in Bonn, Germany.

Binay was a speaker at the global virtual forum tackling climate emergency held from Oct. 3 to 7.

"We have made climate change mitigation and adaptation a priority. We have identified key action areas and are working on both short-term

and long-term plans as well as an all-of-society approach that engages our citizens, businesses, and other stakeholders," she said in a statement posted on the city government's Facebook page on Thursday night.

Daring Cities, organized by ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability, is designed to empower urban decision-makers such as mayors to lead in the climate emergency.

Binay expressed confidence that by sharing practices and working together, cities can be more resilient to the impacts of climate change.

In a separate video message posted on ICLEI's Youtube channel, Binay said one of the remaining challenges in a climate emergency is finance, citing the gap between the need and the availability of funds at the local level.

"Even if there are funds available, they often struggle with designing bankable projects, projects that are attractive to invest in," she said.

Binay said it is important to address bottlenecks through technical assistance and project preparations facilities which can assist local governments in designing appropriate financial solutions.

- Emmanuel Tupas



BONN FORUM

Binay lays down climate change initiatives

As temperatures and sea levels continue to rise, low-lying coastal areas in cities like Makati have become more vulnerable to strong typhoons that bring floods.

BY ALVIN MURCIA
@tribunephil_alvi

Makati City Mayor Abby Binay presented her government's climate change initiatives as a speaker for Daring Cities 2022 held in Bonn, Germany the other day.

Daring Cities 2022 is a global virtual forum participated in by urban leaders focusing on climate emergency finance challenges facing local governments.

Binay said they have made climate change mitigation and adaptation a priority as she identified key short and long term action areas utilizing an approach that engages citizens, businesses and other stakeholders.

By sharing the best practices being utilized by the city government of Makati, Binay expressed the belief that more cities can make themselves more resilient against the impacts of climate change.

In a Youtube video, Binay said financing local governments across the globe to improve their climate change response initiatives is very important. She added the endeavor must be via public-private partnerships.

Alarm sounded

The forum was organized by the ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability, where the mayor is a member of its Global Executive Committee.

Even before the forum, Binay has been sounding the alarm on worsening calamities.

"As temperatures and sea levels continue to rise, low-lying coastal areas in cities like Makati have become more vulnerable to strong typhoons that bring floods and landslides," Binay said in a webinar organized by the Makati Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office.

"This will result not only in the disruption of public services but

also the displacement of families and even entire communities," she added.

1.8 degrees

Data from the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration have shown a 0.75 degrees Celsius increase in the country's annual temperature over the past 70 years.

By 2050, the temperature increase is expected to reach as high as 1.8 degrees Celsius.

The mayor laid out during the forum her administration's programs and initiatives intended to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions in the city.

Among the initiatives are the procurement of electric vehicles (e-vehicles) to be used by the city government, the installation of solar panels in public schools and government offices to minimize energy consumption, and ensuring the continuity of services during calamities.



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KWENTONG PHOENIX

Phoenix Petroleum adopted in 2012 a male Philippine Eagle at the Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) in Davao City, and renamed him 'Phoenix'. Previously known as 'Sultan', Phoenix was retrieved from Sultan Kudarat in 2002. He had been shot, but with care, gradually recovered.

The Philippine Eagle (*Pithecophaga jefferyi*) is the country's national bird, and is one of the rarest, largest, and most powerful eagles in the world. Phoenix Petroleum's support to the PEF is used to take care of Phoenix, the operation and maintenance of the eagle's breeding facility, and the associated conservation research and campaign of PEF.

We remain hopeful that the symbolic existence of its species will continue to bring the country pride, and help restore equilibrium in the ecosystem.

UNSTOPPABLE
#PhoenixRising

20



Phl dreams net zero via renewable energy

The study results clearly showed that a generation's opportunity is within reach for the Philippines' energy leaders.

BY MARIA ROMERO
@tribunephil_mbr

Power prices in the Philippines constantly fluctuate because of market volatility due to import dependence and heavy reliance on conventional fuel.

Thus, ramping up the development of our indigenous resources and aggressively shifting to renewable energy may provide answers to the perennial problem of unreliable and high electricity costs.

A global technology group Wärtsilä

Energy study showed that the Philippines can transition to net zero by 2050 through renewable energy-based systems. The transition can effectively cut power costs and greenhouse emissions simultaneously.

There is consensus in the international scientific community that to prevent extreme climate damages, global net human-caused emissions of carbon dioxide need to fall by some 45 percent from 2010 levels by 2030, reaching net zero by around 2050

According to a study published in the Rethinking Energy in Southeast Asia

report, the country can reach net zero by 2050 using renewable-based power systems supported by grid-balancing engines and energy storage.

Wärtsilä used Luzon, the country's largest island, as the model under two scenarios – the "Business As Usual" scenario without an emissions limit and a "Net Zero" scenario, where emissions were halved by 2040, before reaching net zero by 2050.

Factoring in the International Energy Agency's 'supper forecasted carbon prices, the study found out that the Levelized cost

of electricity in the "Net Zero" scenario is 23 percent lower than in the "Business As Usual" scenario. The reduction could translate to a whopping \$6.5 billion in annual savings.

"The study results clearly showed that a generation's opportunity is within reach for the Philippines' energy leaders. In the Philippines, renewables can be leveled up using flexible capacity to serve the current load while comfortably meeting rising power demand and decarbonizing at the lowest cost," Wärtsilä Financial & Market Analyst David Kayanan said.



E-planes soaring soon

NEW YORK (AFP) — Recent test flights suggest the era of electric airplanes is coming closer, but aviation experts caution that achieving commercial use hinges on regulatory approval which has an unknowable timeframe.

Eviation Aircraft successfully completed a test flight in Washington state last week, showcasing a plane the company plans to begin delivering to airlines in 2027.

That came on the heels of an Icelandair flight in August which carried Iceland's president and prime minister among its passengers.

Besides the benefit of eliminating carbon dioxide emissions, electric airplane travel potentially means less noise than conventional plane transport, as well as eliminating the need for jet fuel, a major expense for commercial airlines.

Next era

Gregory Davis, chief executive of Eviation, called last week's test flight the start of "the next era of aviation," and said it offered a glimpse of what "affordable, clean and sustainable aviation looks and sounds like."

But industry experts speak of a hazy timeframe before that future becomes reality, in part because of murkiness over how quickly US air safety authorities will move to greenlight new technology from a seven-year-old company with no operating history.

The two-seat Velis Electro, certified by the European Union Aviation Safety Agency in 2020, is the only electric plane currently cleared for service.

Eviation is "stepping into some unknown areas as far as how you certify and support electric aircraft," said Glenn McDonald, a principal at AeroDynamic Advisory, a consultancy.



W. COMMONS

VELIS Electro in action.

While the 2027 timeframe for the Eviation plane "could be realistic," McDonald noted that the Federal Aviation Administration has taken a more painstaking approach to certifications since the Boeing 737 MAX crashes in 2018 and 2019.

The two-seat Velis Electro, certified by the European Union Aviation Safety Agency in 2020, is the only electric plane currently cleared for service.

Michel Merluzeau, director of aerospace and defense analysis at AIR consultancy, said the end of the decade was probably a more realistic timeframe than 2027 for the US market.



Rejecting car-centrism

CAR centrism is the mistaken notion that cities should prioritize the flow of cars. It permeates Philippine urban and transportation planning, traffic management and even how our government spends. It is also one of the main causes of our mobility, health and environmental crises, affecting each and every Filipino. It is time to discard car-centric mindsets and decision-making.

The car-centric mindset sees roads congested with cars and concludes that more roads are needed. Behind this is also the perception that other options such as walking, cycling and public transport are unsafe, inadequate, inconvenient, difficult or unreliable. Car ownership has become an aspiration of many Filipinos who have to endure stressful daily commutes — it is regarded as the only way to achieve safe and dig-



MOBILITY
MATTERS

ROBERT SIY

nified travel. The car-centric mindset is taking us in the wrong direction.

What perpetuates the mindset is that many decision-makers are car users themselves and see their surroundings from the perspective of someone inside a car. They view fellow car users as the client that deserves attention. As a result, even though car owners are in a very small minority (only about 6 percent of Filipino households are car owners), many government policies, regulations and projects are designed to make travel easier for the few in cars regardless of the

► **Mobility B2**

MOBILITY FROM B1

Rejecting car-centrism

large negative impact on the vast majority of Filipinos.

When private motor vehicles are prioritized on roads, the effect is to promote and favor the travel option that is the least efficient, contributes to heavier traffic and pollution, results in poorer health outcomes, creates more socially isolated communities and accelerates climate change and environmental degradation. Car centrism breeds dependency by leaving Filipinos little choice except to opt for a private motor vehicle. With all the ills associated with more cars on our roads, it is time to reject car centrism.

The negative impact of car-centric decisions on the welfare of most Filipinos is apparent. For example, when roads are widened in order to create additional car lanes, sidewalks are often narrowed or eliminated. New bridges cross the Pasig River but are designed for cars — there is no public transport or pedestrian access and bike lanes are so narrow as to be dangerous for cyclists.

On many roads, footbridges are constructed in order to eliminate ground-level pedestrian crossings — this enables cars to have uninterrupted travel but pedestrians end up with a longer, more difficult walk, and those unable to climb stairs are excluded. Car parking spaces are required in buildings (and all of us end up paying for the added cost) even though only the minority who use cars benefit.

A significant part of our national budget is consumed in building urban infrastructure for cars. Based on the phenomenon of induced demand, more roads for cars attracts further car use, leading eventually to worse road congestion. Simply adding more roads to keep up with motor vehicle population growth is a futile exercise. It is like buying wider pants to fight obesity. And with only 6 percent of households owning cars, the potential for further congestion and pollution from additional motor vehicles is enormous. Roads and bridges are essential infrastructure, but they need to be placed in the service of the majority who travel without cars.

The sustainable solution is to make walking, cycling and public transport attractive and safe so that Filipinos choose these more efficient and environment-friendly options and leave their motor vehicles at home. On every street, we need to make sidewalks spacious, safe and accessible for persons of all abilities, even if it



means reducing lanes for cars. Adding trees and greenery on every path will lower street temperatures and make neighborhoods more pleasant for pedestrians. Where sidewalks are narrow, obstructed or missing, low speed limits and traffic-calming infrastructure should be introduced to keep pedestrians safe at all times.

Using part of our urban road systems to create a network of protected bike lanes plus the installation of "end-of-trip facilities" (e.g., bike parking, showers and changing rooms) can attract many more Filipinos to take up cycling for daily travel. Already, bicycle-owning households outnumber car-owning ones by 4:1. Bicycles are already in common use for weekend trips to the market or grocery store. With the manifold benefits from cycling (low cost, zero emissions, predictable travel times, and improved physical and mental health), it has the potential of becoming one of the most popular daily travel modes for Filipinos. Build it and they will bike.

The Philippines has long neglected its public transportation systems. This is being remedied but much more effort is needed. Already underway is the upgrading

and expansion of our rail systems with several major projects under implementation. This needs to be complemented by similar investments to improve our road-based public transport systems (bus, jeepney, UV express and tricycle services). Everywhere, we need to have more and better vehicles, stops, terminals, depots, dedicated lanes for public transport and bus rapid transit systems.

A car-centric strategy had led us to our current crises. The good news is that taking road space from cars and turning them into sidewalks, protected bike lanes and dedicated lanes for public transport is one of the best things we can do to improve our mobility, enhance our health, reduce our climate impact and make our cities and neighborhoods more livable. Even car owners will find less traffic on our streets if more people leave their cars at home. The only thing standing in our way — and what we need to reject at every turn — is car centrism.

Robert Y. Siy is a development economist, city and regional planner, and public transport advocate. He can be reached at mobilitymatters.ph@yahoo.com or followed on Twitter @RobertRsiy.



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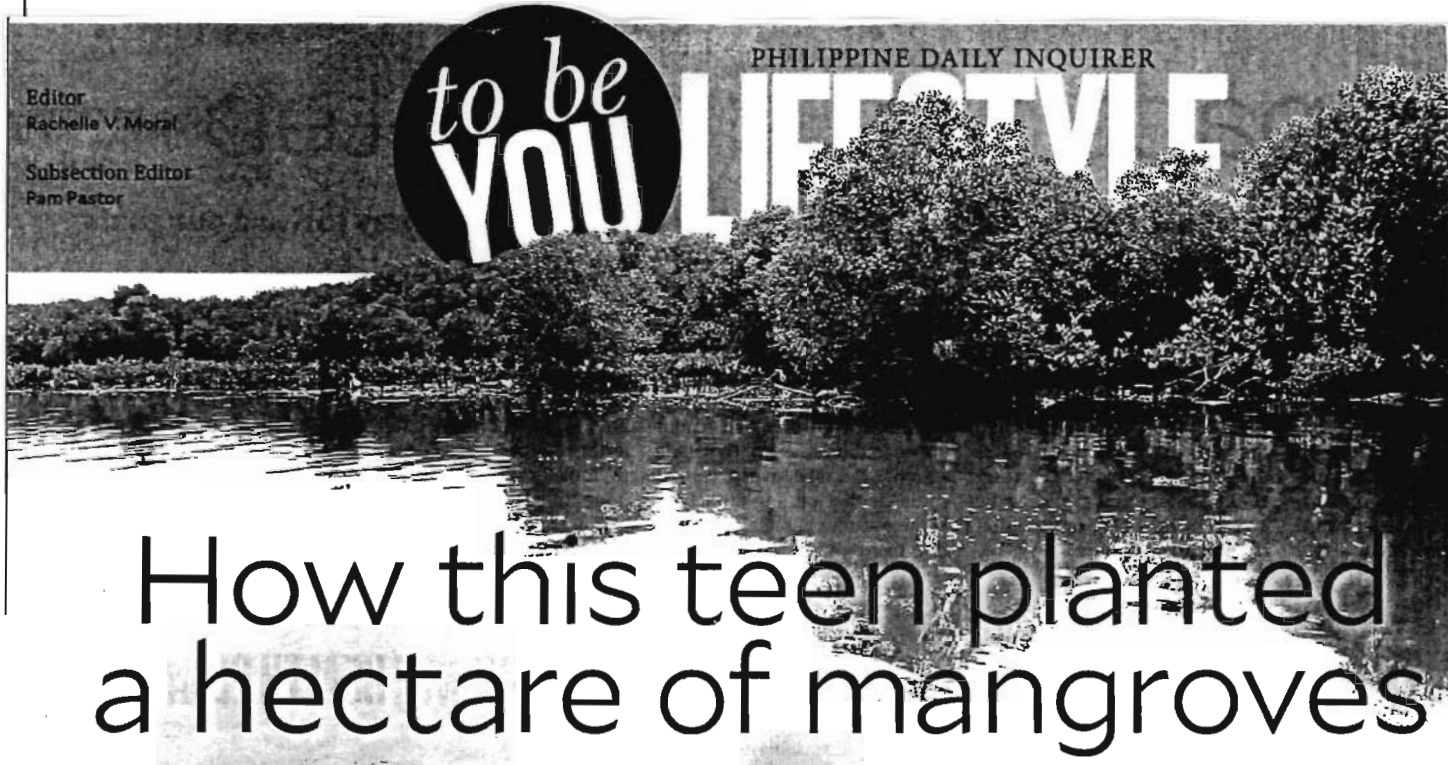


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Editor
Rachelle V. Moral

Subsection Editor
Pam Pastor

How this teen planted a hectare of mangroves

The mangrove trees in Noveleta, Cavite

‘We are contributing so much to climate change but contributing so little to changing things,’ says Mangrove Movement founder Tyler Uy, 17

By Pam Pastor
@turbochicken

T Tyler Uy had a mission: to plant one hectare of mangroves.

During his sophomore year, while the country was under lockdown because of the pandemic, the high school student from International School Manila (ISM) had an online internship at the United States Agency for International Development’s Fish Right. “I was compiling and refining reports for a marine biologist whose task was to ensure that fishing communities were practicing sustainable fishing habits,” he told Lifestyle.

It was this work that led to his interest in mangroves. “I learned that the Philippines has lost more than 50 percent of its mangroves. One hectare of mangroves can yield 800 kilograms of fish a year. They provide a breeding ground for shrimp, fish, crabs, mussels. Aside from marine life, their foliage is home to birds and insects, providing further biodiversity. Mangroves protect us from typhoons and flooding—they act as a barrier between land and sea. Mangroves are cool!”

Inspired by what he learned, the teen started Mangrove Movement. “It’s an advocacy to plant one hectare of mangrove trees and raise awareness about their importance, while also supporting local communities and encouraging sustainable buying practices.”

Why one hectare? “A hectare of mangroves can absorb 800 metric tons of carbon. This means cleaner air! It absorbs five times more carbon than a land forest does.”

Challenges

But, of course, there were challenges. Because of the pandemic, travel restrictions prevented him from traveling to remote areas where most of the country’s mangrove reserves are. “But as I did more research, I was excited to learn that there was one in Noveleta, Cavite, just an hour south of Taguig!”

He used Facebook to reach out to the people at the reserve and was pleased to discover that they were open to working with him. Uy’s next step? To raise funds.

“I was advised by my parents that it was better to sell something to raise funds rather than just asking for donations, though we gladly accept them, too.”

Uy needed products that wouldn’t just sell—they had to reflect Mangrove Movement’s dedication to sustainability and the environment. “It was also important to support Filipino-made products—a lot of people had lost jobs and businesses because of the pandemic. Since Christmas was approaching, I thought that the fastest way to raise funds was to make products for the season.”

His idea? To sell Christmas decor made of driftwood. “It’s basically wood that drifts on the sea and washes onto shore—no cutting of trees.”

Once again, he turned to Facebook. “I found a woodcraft shop in Paete, Laguna, that could work with my ideas. The owner, Mang Ronillo, had a thriving business prior to the pandemic but was then facing economic difficulties.”

First customers

Uy used his own birthday and Christmas money to kick things off. His supportive parents helped, too, with the promise that he would pay them back.

After a few weeks, he had his samples. His first customers were his *titas*. “I was able to get into the Katutubo Pop-up Markets and the *titas* started buying up my stock! I guess everyone loved the idea of the impact that these simple driftwood ornaments would have on the environment and on so many lives.”

Uy would also find out that the driftwood used for the products had been gathered by members of the Mangyan tribe and sold to the woodworkers. Before Mangrove Movement planted its first tree, it was already touching so many lives.

Their Christmas sales made it possible for them to plant a big batch of trees. But Uy knew he needed to plan ahead. “I realized that after Christmas, I would have no sales because there was no need for Christmas items. I had to come up with other products—this time hopefully products people my age would like.”

He worked with his sister Gabby and cousin Bea, who are fans of thrifting and upcycling. “I thought, why not piece together fabric remnants and make clothes out of them? Instead of going to landfill or ending up as rags, wouldn’t it be cool to piece them together to make clothes?”

With Bea helping him design, they came up with a line of sustainable



TITLE: *How this teen planted a hectare of mangroves* PAGE 2/3

t-shirts and sweatshirts that utilize dead-stock fabrics. "They're surplus fabrics that result from overordering. Since these are just leftovers from a big run, they are usually too small for companies to bother with. End cuts are the chopped-up pieces after mass-production cutting. Our t-shirts are made from a combination of dead-stock and end-cut fabrics."

Uy, now a 17-year-old Grade 12 student at ISM, juggles his studies and Mangrove Movement. "It is a lot of work. Weekends are spent updating the website and social media, coming up with product ideas, finding opportunities to sell products, fulfilling orders and visiting the mangroves. It is a balancing act between making sure [that] I maintain my grades and growing the Mangrove Movement."

Future projects

His cousin Bea has officially joined him in the movement. "We are both working on future projects. While it is not simple, it is fun and rewarding."

Uy isn't just the young man behind the movement—he actually goes out and plants the mangroves himself, too.

"The mud in which the mangroves grow best is heavy and sticky so physically, it can be pretty tiring. It is better to plant with bare feet than with boots because you tend to sink with their

weight. I learned this the hard way! You have to squat most of the time and you have to plant the trees a meter apart—like us, they need their personal space! I've planted with the river rangers, friends and family. At the end of the day, you are all exhausted but happy. It is an experience I will always cherish."

It's been a joy seeing the mangroves grow as well. "The mangrove trees I first planted are now as tall as I am so that it is extremely fulfilling. Seeing them makes everything worth it."

His time with the river rangers have taught him a lot of things. "The community that lives in the Noveleta Reserve is made up of river rangers and fishermen that take care of cleaning up the mangrove reserve. They live in very difficult conditions—no running water, no electricity and no infrastructure. It is a thankless job where endless piles of garbage from upstream have to be cleaned out. Despite this, they are passionate about their work and understand more than any of us the importance of protecting our mangroves. I asked if fishing in the reserve was only for the Noveleta community and I was surprised to learn that it is open to everyone. They told me that as long as you are hard-working and are willing to catch your

meal, you will never go hungry."

Bleak reminder

He added, "Through my visits at the reserve, I've come to love and respect this community that is so caring and giving despite their circumstances. Through the Mangrove Movement, I hope that there will be more food to share with everyone that needs it and that we will be able to help the community that lives there."

His trips to the reserve have led to moments of reflection as well. "What struck me about this location is that even while you are amongst the mangroves, you can see tall buildings and factories in the distance. It is a bleak reminder of how modernization has taken its toll on the environment. Hopefully, the mangroves we plant will, in a way, allow nature to win a bit."

Uy has already met his goal of planting a hectare of mangroves. Mangrove Movement has planted 10,000 mangroves, but Uy has no plans of stopping.

"We decided to keep on going. We definitely want to plant more trees. If you ask any kid my age what the biggest problem the world faces today, they will most probably say climate change. We are contributing so much to this problem but contributing so little to changing things. It is scary to think



Uy receives a certificate of appreciation from Noveleta Mayor Dino Reyes-Chua for planting 10,000 mangrove trees.



Mangrove Movement founder Uy and vice president Bea Tan with the Noveleta river rangers after a day of planting



Uy and Tan at the Katutubo Pop-up Market



Crossbody bag made with remnants and dead-stock fabric



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Tyler Uy standing knee-deep in mud with the 8-month-old mangrove trees he planted



Christmas wreath made of fabric remnants, scrap cyclone wire and driftwood gathered by the Mangyan tribe



Hanging angel decor (set of 5) made by Paete carvers using driftwood gathered by the Mangyan tribe. No trees were cut to make these woodcrafts.



Cotton patchwork t-shirt made with remnants and dead-stock fabric which otherwise would have gone to landfill waste

of the disasters we will have to witness and the wildlife we might no longer see. While I know that the Mangrove Movement is just a drop in the bucket, I hope it inspires people to take care of our only home.”

And he also wants to extend help to the community at the reserve. “While the mangroves are important, the community that cares for them is just as important. The families of the river rangers live in very poor conditions. To get in and out of the reserve to go to work or school, they have to pass through a path laden with uneven jagged rocks submerged in water. Every time we visit the reserve, it is a feat to pass through it. We hope to raise enough funds to have that path cemented and paved for them.”

Readers can help Mangrove Movement do this. They’re offering a wider range of sustainable Christmas products this year along with the sustainable clothing and bags. “We are excited about our Christmas wreaths which are made from metal and fabric scraps. The metal frame is made from old cyclone wiring and the fabrics are scraps which would have been thrown out.”

Mangrove Movement will be at the Katutubo Pop-up Market at the Bench Tower in BGC on Oct. 14 to Oct. 16. By November, their products will be available through domesticity.com.

Uy has plans of widening their selection of sustainable products, opening more sales channels and creating more awareness—things no doubt he can do, given his passion for this important project.

“The fact that one person can make a difference inspires me. I’ve met so many amazing people who create positive change in their own way—whether it be family or strangers, big or small, all of them inspire me to make a difference.”

His advice for other young people who want to make a difference? “Dive right in and do it. The best time is now. Don’t be afraid to ask for help, people want a chance to help.” *INQ*

Follow @mangrovementph on Instagram; visit mangrovementph.com.



MALYSIAN FIRM KEEN ON SETTING UP KENAF PLANTATIONS IN PH

Malaysia-based Kenaf Venture Global (KVG) plans to put up multiple kenaf plantations in the Philippines as part of a bigger plan to expand operations in Asia, with an initial investment plan of \$100 million for a 10,000-hectare farm which can generate about 300 jobs.

KVG CEO and cofounder Jazman Shahar Abdollah said they are already looking at three pieces of land in Mindanao and Luzon after conducting two ocular visits.

"We have identified a few lands where we can start cultivating and doing the planting in the Philippines," Abdollah said.

Aside from the Philippines, the group is also looking to invest in countries such as Indonesia and Thailand, to add to Malaysia and Cambodia.

Kenaf is a fast-growing crop under the hibiscus family that can grow to a height of 20 feet if tended well.

The body or stem of the plant is harvested for the bark and core, which can then be processed further to make a variety of products from mattresses to vehicle insulation and bicycle frames, down to more simpler things like rope, sack and paper.

The KVG executive said that places in the Philippines where rice and banana can grow without issues can also host kenaf plants.

He added that the prospective places they have surveyed in Mindanao are also safe from typhoons, which the Philippines experiences an average of 20 times a year.

"We also have kenaf seeds that can survive a few months under water," he said, adding that they are still determining which type of kenaf seeds among 16 varieties should be planted in future Philippine plantations.

Abdollah added that kenaf is also very resilient when it comes to pests, saying that while pesticide can be used to prevent infestation, a damaged crop can still be harvested and used since only its leaves are eaten by insects, leaving the stem mostly intact.



Jazman Shahar Abdollah

He said that kenaf plants can also be harvested a hundred days after planting, which makes two or three planting and harvest cycles possible within a year.

"In this business, we can do three cycles, which is more profitable. But if we want to do long-term business then we have to take care of the soil. That means that we cannot exhaust it," Abdollah said, citing that the ideal way is to stick to two planting and harvesting cycles in a year.

Abdollah said that they also intend to put up factories in the Philippines that can process the harvested plants, which would entail an additional initial investment of about \$20 million to \$25 million.

"After harvesting and within 24 hours, we need to bring that to the factory. At the factories, we use a few technologies. It depends on what we need at the end of the process," said Abdollah.

Abdollah said they are also planning to reach out to local firms to see what end products they can produce which will have local demand in the Philippines.

The KVG executive said that the global demand for the advanced products which uses the bark and core of the plant as components is a trillion-dollar global industry, with multiple plantations in the Philippines seen having the potential to generate billions of dollars of revenues each year. —ALDEN

M. MONZON INQ



Nagtabas ng sanga sa White Plains, todas

Dead on the spot ang isang lalaki nang aksidenteng madikit sa live wire habang ginupit ang mga sanga ng puno sa isang subdibisyon sa Quezon City, Biyernes ng hatinggabi.

Sa report ng Quezon City Police District (QCPD) Eastwood Police Station (PS-12), bandang alas-12:16 ng hatinggabi (Oct. 6), nang maganap ang aksidente sa Queensville St., Brgy. White Plains

Subd., Quezon City.

Sa inisyal na imbestigasyon ni P/Cpl. Bryan Ferrer, ng Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit (CIDU) ng QCPD, dis-oras ng gabi ay nakita pa umano ng testigong sina Rogelio Runas at Victor Canada na naggugupit ng mga sanga ang biktimgang si Porseso L. Pamulagan na pag-aari ng isang Mr. Co.

Habang abala sa pagtabas ay nadikit

umano ito sa high tension electric live wire at nakuryente saka tumilapon sa bangketa na nagresulta ng agaran niyang pagkamatay.

Agad na ini-report sa mga awtoridad ng security guard ng subdibisyon na si Jayson Leoveras ang insidente kung saan masusi ngayong nagsasagawa ng imbestigasyon ang mga awtoridad. **(Dolly Cabreza)**



Pioneer Adhesives turns eco-friendly

PIONEER Adhesives is making moves to reduce the use of plastic components in the packaging of its various epoxy products.

All Pioneer epoxies are usually sold as two-component products that require the consumer to extrude and mix equal parts prior to application. All previous epoxy tube packaging included a plastic spatula and mixing dish to aid the consumer in this process.

To reduce plastics in its products, Pioneer Adhesives launched its new packaging featuring the "eco-stick," a replacement for the plastic spatula that comes with all epoxy tubes. The eco-stick is made of bamboo, a strong, highly sustainable and 100-percent biodegradable material.

"It's also handcrafted by a local community here in the Philippines, paving the way to bring livelihood for people in that com-

munity," Pioneer Adhesives said.

According to the company, the original plastic mixing dish was replaced to further minimize the use of plastic.

"The blister board was redesigned to encourage the consumer to use it as the mixing dish. This provides additional purpose for the paper blister board which is typically thrown out," it added.

Pioneer Adhesives said the modifications yield 6 metric tons less plastic packaging. Initially covered by the new environment-friendly packaging include Pioneer Epoxy Tube Durasteel Five, Pioneer Epoxy Tube All Purpose and Pioneer Epoxy Tube Plus Five Clear.

"Although plastic is still being used in the packaging, these steps mark the activation of Pioneer's efforts to go green and help sustain the environment and the community," it said. **BELLA CARIASO**



Epson shows rise in global climate optimism

A RESEARCH from Epson showed that people see climate change as a primary threat on a par with the ongoing financial crisis and revealed that despite increasing climate impacts, climate optimism has grown to over 48 percent.

According to the latest findings from Epson's second Climate Reality Barometer, while the world economy proves to be a distraction from efforts to address climate challenges, climate change remains a primary concern for many.

The survey also revealed that people are increasingly optimistic that climate disaster can be averted in their lifetime. It showed, however, that there are significant variations in confidence levels, driven by factors such as economics and age.

The immediate financial issues are people's main concern. While "fixing the econ-

omy" (22 percent) and "rising prices" (21 percent) top the list of respondents' priorities, climate change ranks a very close third (20 percent).

The individual country members of the Group of Seven all record levels of optimism significantly below the 48 percent global average — Canada (36.6 percent), France (22.5 percent), Germany (23.8 percent), Italy (25.2 percent), Japan (10.4 percent), the United Kingdom (28.4 percent) and the United States (39.4 percent).

On the other hand, rapidly emerging and fast-growing economies record levels of climate optimism significantly above the global average: China (76.2 percent), India (78.3 percent), Indonesia (62.6 percent), Kenya (76 percent), Mexico (66 percent) and the Philippines (71.9 percent).

The study also stressed that age is a factor, with the oldest and youngest age ranges most concerned about climate change. Those 55 and over are the only group to cite climate change as its most pressing global issue (22.2 percent), while the 16 to 24 group is the only one to rank it second (19.3 percent) — all other age ranges rank it third.

Yasunori Ogawa, global president of Epson commented, "Epson's corporate purpose is focused on improving lives and the planet, and we will devote significant resources to achieve this."

"We hope that the Barometer's insights will help governments, industries and individuals to step up their efforts to avert climate disaster. While we know there is a long way to go, we believe we can build a better future if we

work together and act now," Ogawa added.

Growing global optimism appears to contradict climate reality. In 2022, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change announced that "human-induced climate change is causing dangerous and widespread disruption in nature and affecting the lives of billions of people around the world."

"The harsh reality is that the past seven years have been the warmest on record, and we run a real risk of passing safe temperature limits. Yet this survey shows that people across the world remain hopeful that their actions alongside those of government and corporations can transform society for the better," said Dr. Tara Shine, environmental scientist and co-chief executive officer of Change by Degrees.

EIREENE JAIRÉE GOMEZ



SM kicks off tree planting project

SM Foundation Inc., the social good arm of the SM group, and the Fast Retailing Foundation (FR Foundation), a foundation incorporated in Japan, formally launched the "Grow Trees Community" project in Nasugbu, Batangas last September 27 as the first stop of three provinces for their "treescaping" and reforestation initiative.

The Grow Trees Community project aims to plant and grow trees across the Philippines while helping create livelihood opportunities by working closely with the people's organizations in the communities. The project

also joins hands with Costa del Hamilo Inc., Manila Southcoast Development Inc. and the local government of Nasugbu.

"The core of our program is to go beyond planting trees. It also addresses the social and economic needs of communities by providing them with the means to engage in agroforestry. With this in mind, we want to build a strong foundation to keep growing communities by fostering collaboration and leadership in caring for the environment," said Cristie Angeles, SM Foundation assistant vice president for livelihood.

THE TIMES



Volunteers from SM Foundation and the community plant trees in Nasugbu, Batangas. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



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Belle Corporation (Belle) President and Chief Executive Officer Jackson Ongsip (back row, sixth from left) leads the Company's participation at the International Coastal Cleanup Day at the SM By the Bay Central Park on September 18, 2022. Also in the photo are Belle executives Sarah Miranda (back row, far left), Senior Assistant Vice President and Head of Human Resources; and AineeBanaria (back row, fourth from left), Chief Financial Officer; as well as employee volunteers from different company departments.

Belle joins International Coastal Cleanup

Belle Corporation, a member of the SM Group, joined the worldwide effort against the proliferation of waste along coastlines during the annual cleanup drive last month.

In a statement, the firm said its executives and employees, led by Belle's new President and Chief Executive Officer Jackson Ongsip, were at the International Coastal Cleanup held at the SM By the Bay Central Park.

"Through our participation in this event, we are reaffirming our commitment to cut down waste and show our fellow citizens the effects of improper waste disposal, which end up polluting our oceans and waterways," said Ongsip.

Belle was among the many corporates and non-government organizations and volunteers who trooped to the coastlines, joining hundreds more across the globe in pursuit of cleaner and pollution-free seas and environmental sustainability.

The firm is a developer of tourism and leisure destinations in the Philippines. Its

principal asset is the City of Dreams Manila in PAGCOR Entertainment City by Manila Bay, which is being leased on a long-term basis to Melco Resorts and Entertainment (Philippines) Corporation (Melco).

In addition to lease income, Belle is accorded a share in revenues or earnings from City of Dreams Manila's gaming operations through the operating agreement between its 79.78 percent-owned subsidiary, Premium Leisure Corp. (PLC), and Melco.

Belle also owns approximately one hectare of presently undeveloped land across from the City of Dreams Manila site.

South of Metro Manila, Belle owns significant real estate assets and develops premium residential report projects around Tagaytay City.


Among its exclusive destinations are the club and golf facilities and residential communities of Tagaytay Highlands and Tagaytay Midlands, as well as a further 800 hectares intended for future development. (James A. Loyola)



TITLE : _____

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DATE _____



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES BOARD
101 Pasay Rd., 1200, Pasay, Quezon City, Philippines 1100

PRIMEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE CORP.,
Applicant. Case No. 22-3437

NOTICE OF HEARING

Applicant, an authorized operator of the waterworks system within Cabanatuan City, province of Nueva Ecija, applies for the authority to increase water rates as follows:

PROPOSED TARIFF

Residential and Institutional

Pipe Size	0-5 m3 (min)	6-10 m3	11-20 m3	21-30 m3	31-40 m3	Over 40 m3
½"	P 164.50	33.20	36.40	40.00	43.70	52.00
¾"	P 263.50	53.10	58.20	64.10	70.00	83.20
1"	P 527.00	106.20	116.40	128.10	139.90	166.50
1 ½"	P 1,317.00	265.50	291.10	320.30	349.80	416.20

Residential and Commercial

Pipe Size	0-5 m3 (min)	6-10 m3	11-20 m3	21-30 m3	31-40 m3	Over 40m3
½"	P 164.50	33.20	36.40	40.00	43.70	52.00
¾"	P 263.50	53.10	58.20	64.10	70.00	83.20
1"	P 527.00	106.20	116.40	128.10	139.90	166.50

Commercial and Industrial

Pipe Size	0-15 m3 (min.)	16-30 m3	31-500 m3	501-1000 m3	Over 1000 m3
½"	P 1,110.00	79.40	98.10	119.60	119.60
¾"	P 1,776.00	127.10	156.90	191.30	191.30
1"	P 3,552.00	254.20	313.80	382.60	382.60
1 ½"	P 8,878.50	635.60	784.60	956.50	956.50
2"	P 22,197.00	1,588.90	1,961.50	2,391.20	2,391.20
3"	P 39,955.50	2,860.10	3,530.70	4,304.10	4,304.10
4"	P 79,911.00	5,720.20	7,061.40	8,608.20	8,608.20

Bulk Others

Pipe Size	Per cu.m.	Pipe Size	Per cu.m.
1"	P210.70	¾"	P 105.40

This application will be initially heard by the Board on 24 October 2022. The hearing will start at 9:00 o'clock in the morning at the NWRB-WUD Conference Room, 8th Floor, NIA Building, EDSA, Quezon City, at which time applicant shall present its evidence.

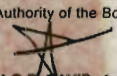
At least fifteen (15) days prior to the scheduled hearing, applicant shall publish this notice once in a newspaper of general circulation in the province of Nueva Ecija and serve by personal delivery or registered mail a copy of the (i) application and its attachments, and (ii) this notice, to all affected parties appearing on page 2 hereof.

Parties opposed to the granting of the application must file their written opposition supported by documentary evidence on or before the above scheduled date of hearing, furnishing a copy of the same to the applicant.

Failure on the part of any person affected to file its opposition on time and to appear at the hearing will be construed as a waiver of their right to be heard. The Board will proceed to hear and decide the application based on the evidence submitted.

Likewise, failure by the applicant to appear at the hearing shall amount to lack of interest on its part and the instant application shall be dismissed accordingly.

Witness the Honorable Executive Director of the National Water Resources Board this 6th day of September 2022.

By Authority of the Board:

Dr. SEVILLO D. DAVID, Jr., CESO III
Executive Director

Affected Parties:

The Secretary
Sangguniang Pantungso
Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija

The Barangay Chairmen
All the affected Barangays within
Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija

The General Manager
Cabanatuan City Water District
229 Brgy. Dicarma CVR,
Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija 3100

MT - Oct. 8, 2022