

03 September 2022, Saturday



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



The promise of Laguna de Bay

EVERYMAN

By Melandrew Velasco

OUR country is blessed with a pool of water resources. Yet, the problem of water supply persists.

Water is essential to irrigate agricultural lands, drive power plants, and serve the needs of industries and for household consumption.

And, the growing market's water requirements must be met anytime.

One water resource that holds immense potential is the Laguna de Bay. It is the largest inland body of water in the country and one of the largest in Southeast Asia.

It has a total volume of 3.2 billion cubic meters, a shoreline of 220 kilometers and an average depth of 2.5 meters.

Its water comes from rivers and streams, rainwater, stormwater runoff and sewage.

The existing uses of the lake include fisheries, flood control, industrial cooling, irrigation, power generation, recreation, and source of potable water.

According to the Laguna Lake Development Authority, an estimated 13,000 fishermen depend on the lake for their livelihood with the lake producing about 80,000-90,000 metric tons of fish a year.

It is also used for flood control. The Manggahan Floodway diverts floodwater from Marikina River into the lake. As for power generation, water is pumped to the Caliraya Reservoir to generate electricity.

Although the lake water is no longer as pristine as it used to be, Laguna de Bay is known for recreational activities such as fishing, boating and sailing.

The lake also provides water to irrigate farm lands in the lake region. It is also the source of industrial cooling water and supplies domestic water supply requirement of nearby towns and portions of the Metropolitan Manila area.

Sadly, Laguna de Bay also serves as a huge waste sink. It has become the catch basin of industrial and domestic wastewater pollution coming

from the areas that border the lake – among these are Laguna, Rizal and the Metropolitan Manila cities and municipalities.

Solid and liquid wastes from households, agricultural areas, industries, and livestock and poultry production are carried as surface run-off through the basins of the lake.

Polluted water from the Marikina and Pasig Rivers also flow into the lake.

An article from UN Environment Programme website stated that while agricultural and industrial run-off contributed to the lake's declining health, the biggest contributor to eutrophication is human waste.

“An estimated 13,000 fishermen depend on Laguna de Bay for their livelihood with the lake producing about 80,000-90,000 metric tons of fish a year”

“Specifically the domestic waste and untreated sewage that flows into the lake daily from the more than 12 million inhabitants of the 29 towns and hundreds of informal settlements that ring its shores.”

In the same article, LLDA General Manager Jaime ‘Joey’ Medina said: “Eighty per cent of the biochemical oxygen demand [an indicator of organic pollution] is from household pollution.”

Despite this, the promise of Laguna de Bay as a vast water resource to meet the demands of nearby provinces and the National Capital Region remains.

Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) concessionaire Maynilad Water Services, Inc. in 2011 formally unveiled its Putatan Water Treatment Plant that taps Laguna de Bay as alternative water source.

Another treatment plant was inaugurated in 2019. Raw water quality however has affected the facilities' production capacity particularly during algal blooms.

The cost of treating water sourced from Laguna de Bay is more than the cost of treating water from major dams.

“Rather than investing additional funds to keep upgrading our treatment technology, we think the more sustainable option is to protect the lake,” Maynilad President and Chief Executive Office Ramoncito S. Fernandez said. “Maynilad's water treatment capacity can be affected by the varying water quality of the lake,” he added.

A previous project involving a Belgian company, Baggerwerken Decloedt En Zoon intended

to dredge Laguna de Bay and increase its depth to meet global standard for harvesting lake water for purification was scrapped by the government in 2011.

Laguna de Bay stakeholders are proposing the adoption of an action plan to rehabilitate, protect and preserve the biodiversity of Laguna de Bay and promote its sustainable development similar to that adopted in the rehabilitation of Boracay and Manila Bay which involved the creation of a task force for the purpose.

The Manila Bay Task Force, meanwhile, was created pursuant to Administrative Order 16 series of 2019.

Among others, it is charged with ensuring that the concerned agencies and LGUs under-

take appropriate measures relative to violation of environmental laws, and “improve resource management of the Manila Bay and create models of inter- LGU cooperation in ecosystem management, with special focus on the Laguna Lake and Pasig River.”

Like Manila Bay, Laguna de Bay's shoreline extends across many local government units and it is essential for them to come up with a concerted effort in the rehabilitation of the lake.

The stakeholders believe a task force will be the right body to spearhead the endeavor.

(MTV is a book author whose works include “Silver Linings” featuring the EDSA heroes and one on Paranaque City).



09-03-22

TITLE:

PAGE 1/2

DATE

■ MAKABENTA FROM A1

World climate declaration: 'There is no climate emergency'

World climate declaration: 'There is no climate emergency'

First word

THE
Global
Climate
Intelli-



OBSERVER

YEN
MAKABENTA

gence Group, an international foundation of scientists and professionals, issued on August 22 a document called the "World Climate Declaration," signed by 1,200 scientists and professionals from around the world that firmly contends that, "there is no climate emergency."

The declaration joins the currently intense debate on climate change between climate alarmists and climate skeptics to help guide public understanding of the issue and assist government policymakers in navigating climate issues.

► MakabentaA5

The full text of the world climate declaration reads:

"Climate science should be less political, while climate policies should be more scientific. Scientists should openly address uncertainties and exaggerations in their predictions of global warming, while politicians should dispassionately count the real costs as well as the imagined benefits of their policy measures.

Natural as well as anthropogenic factors cause warming.

The geological archive reveals that Earth's climate has varied as long as the planet has existed, with natural cold and warm phases. The Little Ice Age ended as recently as 1850. Therefore, it is no surprise that we are now experiencing a period of warming.

Warming is far slower than predicted.

The world has warmed significantly less than predicted by IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) on the basis of modeled anthropogenic forcing. The gap between the real world and the modeled world tells us that we are far from understanding climate change.

Climate policy relies on inadequate models.

Climate models have many shortcomings and are not remotely plausible as policy tools. They do not only exaggerate the effect of greenhouse gases, they also ignore the fact that enriching the atmosphere with CO2 is beneficial.

CO2 is plant food, the basis of all life on Earth. CO2 is not a pollutant. It is essential to all life on Earth. More CO2 is favorable for nature, greening our planet. Additional CO2 in the air has promoted growth in global plant biomass. It is also profitable for agriculture, increasing the yields of crops worldwide.

Global warming has not increased natural disasters. There is no statis-

tical evidence that global warming is intensifying hurricanes, floods, droughts and suchlike natural disasters, or making them more frequent.

However, there is ample evidence that CO2-mitigation measures are as damaging as they are costly.

Climate policy must respect scientific and economic realities.

There is no climate emergency. Therefore, there is no cause for panic and alarm. We strongly oppose the harmful and unrealistic net-zero CO2 policy proposed for 2050. Go for adaptation instead of mitigation; adaptation works whatever the causes are.

Our advice to the European leaders is that science should strive for a significantly better understanding of the climate system, while politics should focus on minimizing potential climate damage by prioritizing adaptation strategies based on proven and affordable technologies."

The declaration was signed by 1,200 scientists and professionals, including 27 or so individuals designated as "world climate ambassadors." The complete list of signatories can be read in the Clintel website, www.clintel.org.

Many prominent names in the climate debate, including Professor William Happer of Princeton University, have signed the declaration. United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres has not issued a comment on the declaration.

Savage blow

Climate Depot.com posted on August 23 this report by Chris Morrison on the declaration:

"The political fiction that humans cause most or all climate change and the claim that the science behind this notion is 'settled,' has been dealt a savage blow by the publication of a 'World Climate Declaration (WCD)' signed by



TITLE: world climate declaration: 'There is no climate

PAGE 2/2

DATE

emergency'

over 1,200 scientists and professionals. There is no climate emergency, say the authors, who are drawn from across the world and led by the Norwegian physics Nobel Prize laureate Professor Ivar Giaever. Climate science is said to have degenerated into a discussion based on beliefs, not on sound self-critical science.

The scale of the opposition to modern-day 'settled' climate science is remarkable, given how difficult it is in academia to raise grants for any climate research that departs from the political orthodoxy. Another lead author of the declaration, Professor Richard Lindzen, has called the current climate narrative "absurd," but acknowledged that trillions of dollars and the relentless propaganda from grant-dependent academics and agenda-driven journalists currently says it is not absurd.

Particular ire in the WCD is reserved for climate models. To believe in the outcome of a climate model is to believe what the model makers have put in. Climate models are now central to today's climate discussion and the scientists see this as a problem. "We should free ourselves from the naïve belief in immature climate models," says the WCD. "In future, climate research must give significantly more emphasis to empirical science."

Since emerging from the "Little Ice Age" in around 1850, the world has warmed significantly less than predicted by the IPCC on the basis of modeled human influences. "The gap between the real world and the modeled world tells us that we are far from understanding climate change," the WCD notes.

The declaration is an event of enormous importance, although it will be ignored by the mainstream media. But it is not the first time distinguished scientists have petitioned for more realism in climate science. In Italy, the discoverer of nuclear anti-matter Emeritus Profes-

sor Antonino Zichichi recently led 48 local science professors in stating that human responsibility for climate change is "unjustifiably exaggerated and catastrophic predictions are not realistic." In their scientific view, "natural variation explains a substantial part of global warming observed since 1850." Professor Zichichi has signed the WCD.

The declaration notes that the Earth's climate has varied for as long as the planet has existed, with natural cold and warm periods. "It is no surprise that we are experiencing a period of warming," it continues. Climate models have many shortcomings, it says, "and are not remotely plausible as global policy tools." They blow up the effect of greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide, but ignore any beneficial effects. "CO2 is not a pollutant," it says. "It is essential to all life on Earth. Photosynthesis is a blessing. More CO2 is beneficial for nature, greening the Earth; additional CO2 in the air has promoted growth in global plant biomass. It is also good for agriculture, increasing the yield of crops worldwide."

In addition, the scientists declare that there is no statistical evidence that global warming is intensifying hurricanes, floods, droughts and such-like natural disasters, or making them more frequent. "There is no climate emergency," the declaration goes on. "We strongly oppose the harmful and unrealistic net-zero CO2 policy proposed for 2050," it says, adding that the aim of global policy should be "prosperity for all" by providing reliable and affordable energy at all times."

Mayor Abigail Binay could become a laughingstock with her proclamation of a climate emergency in Makati.

Makati residents and workers can divine what's in the future for them, if they survey the bleak life in California today.

yenobsever@gmail.com



PERSPECTIVE

Thinking like a tree: A tribute to life sustainers

BY JAN LUNDIUS

Last of 2 parts

EACH branch and leaf adapts itself to the presence of its neighbors. Plants support each other. They unite death and life. Dead branches and leaves fertilize the soil, while roots and capillaries pump water out of the ground. A life-giving cycle that transforms, regulates and creates. Through evapotranspiration, forested areas charge the atmosphere with water vapor and thus create rain, nourishing vegetation and replenishing the groundwater. Leaves capture part of the solar energy, which they transform into organic matter saturated with cosmic energy. The life cycle of trees is determined by the length of the days and varied temperatures. They constitute a living source, which flow of oxygen and nutrients is consumed by animals and humans. Furthermore, trees contribute to the formation of the ozone layer, which protects us from the sun's excessively strong ultraviolet rays.

Roots intertwine/communicate with other roots. Together with the mycelial threads of fungi, an underground life-promoting biosphere is created — the mycorrhiza, where bacteria fix nitrogen and supply the trees with minerals that otherwise would be difficult to obtain, such as phosphorus, magnesium, potassium, copper, zinc and manganese. If you give the plants nutritional supplements in the form of artificial fertilizers, they stop feeding the symbiotic fungi, which die and disappear. A growing tree becomes increasingly complex. Filled as its crown is with buds and new shoots it is constantly renewed. It spreads out and protects the earth. Flowers, leaves and fruits flourish within its crown. Trees are always directed

toward the future. They are never completed, growing and developing in unison with the time cycles of the cosmos. Quietly, they compromise with the forces surrounding them. The patient adaptability of trees is completely different from humans' everyday life, which increasingly is built up from fragments in the form of e-mails, text messages and tweets, communication processes that alienate us from life, from closeness to nature and our fellow human beings.

The tree has an inner time, manifested through its annual rings. When we experience how a tree we have planted begins to grow we sense the future and gain confidence in it. Trees adapt to difficult conditions and can provide us with life and beauty. They meet our expectations.

Leaves are the elementary, structural and functional unit of a tree. A large tree carries millions of leaves diligently transforming light and water into matter and not least, fruits and seeds. Trees are firmly rooted in the earth, though that hasn't hindered them from spreading across the world. Their seeds break free from the anchorage of roots and branches, to be carried away by animals, people, wind and water.

Even though trees sustain life and provide us with joy and inspiration, we do not revere them. Instead, we abuse them, exploit them mercilessly, killing them for personal gain and profit. We have left the geological epoch of the Holocene behind and entered the Anthropocene (when everything is changed by humans). Even if we, against all odds, were to experience a population decline and if agriculture became dependent on sustainable farming methods, we have irreversibly altered our living conditions — the atmosphere, the hydrosphere and the biosphere. Is there any hope for humanity to sur-

vive? Can trees give us hope?

Many of us assume that tropical forests generate their abundance from fertile soil. But the soil they grow upon is generally quite poor and constantly washed by abundant rains. It is not on the ground that we find the greatest fertility, but in the tree crowns. Jungles believed to be primeval forests have often taken over land earlier used for agriculture. Large parts of the Amazon forest were once populated by farmers who perished and disappeared through smallpox and other deadly diseases brought to them by the Europeans. Many of today's lush and abundant tropical forests grow upon land that has been depleted either by rain, or intensive agriculture.

The adaptability of trees is amazing. Deserted land, even if it has been devastated by industrial/harmful mono-cultivation and/or once harbored forests subjected to reckless depredation, have demonstrated a remarkable ability to revive itself, creating hybrid ecosystems where life of the old kind mix with newly introduced plants while adapting to drastically changing environmental conditions. Such regenerated, self-planted forests exhibit an unexpected diversity of species that protect soil and plant life, fix atmospheric carbon, and begin to produce timber, wood and charcoal. For example, in the Brazilian District of Para, 25 percent of the area taken from the Amazon jungle has become forest land again and strangely enough its capacity to bind carbon dioxide is 20 times greater than that of the old forests, while birds and other animals have returned.

However, this cannot mean that we can continue exterminating earth's essential life sustainers, i.e., trees and forests. Soon it will be far too late to save them, ourselves and our descendants. **IPS**



Declaration of Wawa Dam as tourist destination hailed

A **LAWMAKER** has hailed the approval at the committee level of a bill seeking to declare Wawa Dam in Montalban as a tourist destination, as he emphasized it would be crucial in providing economic opportunities to the residents of the town.

"Nagpapasalamat tayo na aprubado na ng Committee on Tourism ang House Bill [HB] No. 2962. Wawa Dam has long been a tourist attraction, and we need government support to fully develop it for the benefit of the people," Rizal 4th District Representative Fidel Nograles said.

HB No. 2962, or the "Development of Wawa Dam

Act," mandates the formulation of a comprehensive development plan involving the construction, installation, and maintenance of applicable facilities and infrastructure that would enhance, develop, and promote tourism in the area as well as improve accessibility and security of tourists.

The Department of Tourism (DOT), Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), and the local government units (LGUs) concerned are tasked with creating the development plan within one year of the bill's approval.

The DOT is also tasked with immediately implementing the said plan and integrating it with the agency's overall development programs.

Wawa Dam is a man-made dam at the foothills of the Sierra Madre mountain range in Montalban.

The dam, which was created in 1909, is recognized by the National Museum as an "Important Cultural Property" due to its design and structure, as well as its historical significance during World War II.

The site is frequented by hikers, bikers, and adventurers as it lies between Mt. Pamitinan and Mt. Binacayan, and has a gorge and numerous caves for bouldering and spelunking.

Local tourists also visit for swimming, picnics, sightseeing, boating, and photography.

Nograles said that Wawa Dam's declaration as a tourist destination would highlight the need to protect and sustainably develop natural tourist attractions.

"The continued patronage of tourists of sites like Wawa Dam indicates that our people value the environment and its bounty. Kinakailangan nating protektahan ang mga ito para sa mga susunod na henerasyon," the Harvard-trained lawyer said.

The lawmaker said he is looking forward to the bill's enactment.

He also said that pending its enactment, his office will continue to partner with other groups to protect Wawa Dam.

Over the years, the solon has led volunteers in tree-planting activities around Wawa Dam to counter flooding in Montalban and neighboring towns.

Ryan Ponce Pacpaco



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE



PAGE



UPPER



LOWER



PAGE 1
STORY



BANNER
STORY



EDITORIAL



CARTOON

09-03-22

TITLE:

PAGE

DATE

Seaweed, bamboo industries seek greater gov't budget

By **Jordeene B. Lagare**
@jordeenelagare

Groups are asking the government to increase its annual budget for both seaweed and bamboo industries to spur the development of both sectors.

Seaweeds Industry Association of the Philippines chair Alfredo Pedrosa III said that restoring the original budget to P250 million "will go a long way" in scaling up the seaweed industry and improving the livelihood of its producers.

For his part, Philippine Bamboo Foundation Inc. president Edgardo Manda said set-

ting aside at least P2 billion will enable the bamboo industry to construct flooding materials, develop commercial bamboo plantations and enhance the livelihood of local farmers.

Pedrosa told reporters the budget allocation for the industry in the past years has declined to P47 million in 2022 from P138 million in 2018.

"We are facing the prospect of a lower budget," he said.

Despite the absence of government support, the seaweed industry managed to raise \$209.6 million in revenues from exporting the commodity to various international

markets including Europe, the United States and China.

Pedrosa said the seaweed industry can earn \$250 million—and eventually hit the \$500-million mark—with greater budgetary support.

"In terms of production, we can double that. We're earning \$200 million to \$250 million a year. Easily, we could achieve that production," said Pedrosa.

Diminishing outputs

In 2021, seaweed output decreased by 8.5 percent to 1.3 million metric tons from 1.5 million MT a year ago, data from the Philippine Statistics

Authority showed. Total seaweed harvests account for 31.6 percent of the total fisheries production.

Aside from meeting the increasing global demand, Pedrosa also said seaweed can help address fertilizer and feeds issues because the commodity is rich in nutrients that contribute to soil fertility such as potassium, nitrogen and calcium.

"We can increase the industry's income. Our conservative estimate is that we can make the seaweed industry a half-a-billion-dollar industry," he said mostly in Filipino.

The current global seaweed industry churns out 12 million MT annually, equivalent to \$6 billion, based on The Global Status of Seaweed Production, Trade and Utilization report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

Similar to seaweed, Manda said investments in the bamboo industry are driven by the private sector.

To help realize its full potential, P88.40 million in investments were poured into the bamboo industry last year, according to the Department of Trade and Industry,

Philippine Chamber of

Agriculture and Food Inc. president Danilo Fausto said since bamboo was declared a high-value crop, this particular commodity is entitled to receive a higher allocation from the government.

To recall, in 2020, the Department of Agriculture made this policy pronouncement to further promote the bamboo industry.

The Philippines is the fifth largest bamboo and rattan product exporter worldwide. It has 62 bamboo species available, of which 21 are endemic and 41 were introduced from overseas. **INQ**



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

PHILIPPINE DAILY
BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS
INQUIRER



PAGE



UPPER

LOWER



PAGE 1
STORY



BANNER
STORY



EDITORIAL



CARTOON

09-03-22

TITLE:

PAGE

DATE

No Time To Waste: A collaboration

The Philippines, named as the fourth top waste generator in Southeast Asia and one of the top ocean polluters in the world, is undeniably facing a problem on solid waste management (SWM). This is a result of a combination of various factors, including our rising waste generation rate, and the gaps in collection, segregation, and recycling of waste in many local government units (LGU).

This was even exacerbated by the pandemic due to the increased health care waste from the use of face masks and other personal protective equipment, as well as single-use plastics from food deliveries and online shopping. Around 1,400 metric tons of health care waste was generated every day from June 2020 to April 2022, according to the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB). It also projected that from 2022 to 2025, the country's generated waste will reach 92 million tons in total.

A 2020 report by the World Wildlife Fund also found that 35 percent of the total plastic waste produced in the Philippines is leaked to the environment, while only 33 percent is collected and disposed to sanitary landfills and a measly 9 percent is recycled. These are not just simple numbers and data. Improper waste disposal directly contributes to global warming and climate change through methane emission from the decomposition and/or burning of waste.

While all these may be daunting, it's good to know that part of the solution is within our hands. The government, through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC), and

COMMENTARY

ANALIZA REBUelta-TEH

LGUs, together with partners in the private sector—we all have a role to play in order for us to achieve a waste-free future.

What we are doing. As required by the law, the DENR has already closed down 1,174 open dumpsites and is looking to establish more sanitary landfills across the country to provide a safer and more eco-friendly way of waste disposal. We are also supporting the construction of materials recovery facilities (MRF) in LGUs, specifically in barangays, in order to help them collect, segregate, and recycle their waste more efficiently, and reduce the amount of waste that ends up in landfills. Just recently, we have turned over newly built MRFs in Lipa City and Caloocan City with the help of our partners in Nestlé Philippines.

We believe that one way to address the gaps in our SWM system is through education and awareness. Aligned with this, the DENR and NSWMC have partnered with Nestlé Philippines for the No Time To Waste campaign, an information-education campaign that aims to drive new behaviors and understanding among LGUs and communities about proper SWM and its importance through webinars and capacity-building activities.

Being the first multinational fast-moving consumer goods company in the country to declare plastic neutrality, Nestlé Philippines is an example of how private sector participation can help in SWM. Plastic neutrality, or recovering the equivalent amount of plastic a

company/organization has put in the market, is also a voluntary form of extended producer responsibility, which makes Nestlé Philippines an advocate for EPR as well.

Using its experience in tackling waste, Nestlé Philippines helped in the development of five modules to be utilized for the campaign, which are specifically targeted toward barangay officials, SWM officers, and community leaders. The modules tackle the following topics: (1) what waste has to do with climate change and the environment, (2) climate change and Republic Act No. 9003, (3) action planning for solid waste management, (4) designing an MRF and addressing limitations with alternative steps, and (5) citizens' guide to proper waste management.

Through the No Time To Waste campaign, the DENR, NSWMC, and Nestlé Philippines hope to impart the best practices and tools on SWM to LGUs that they can apply and put into practice in their own respective communities, and in turn, help improve how they collect, segregate, and recycle their solid waste.

Like our partnership with Nestlé Philippines, DENR welcomes collaborative projects with the private sector and other groups. By working together and with urgency, we can succeed in tackling the plastic waste crisis.

Analiza Rebuelta-Teh is currently the DENR undersecretary for finance, information systems, and climate change. She finished her Bachelor of Laws at the University of the Philippines and became a member of the bar in 1998. She was recognized as one of the UP College of Law Alumni for Public Service.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

PHILIPPINE DAILY
BALANCED NEWS · FEARLESS VIEWS
INQUIRER

A4
PAGE

UPPER
LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

09-03-22

TITLE: _____

PAGE _____

DATE _____

'DENR LOOKING VERY CLOSELY'

GOV'T TO ASSESS ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL IMPACTS OF 'DOLOMITE BEACH'

By Dempsey Reyes
@dempseyreyesINQ

Environmental and social impacts of the controversial dolomite placement for the Manila Bay Rehabilitation Program will be explored amid concerns by several sectors surrounding the project that were raised since the previous administration, Environment Secretary Ma. Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga said on Friday.

This developed as the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) announced the completion of the placement of dolomite over Manila Bay ranging 500 meters

from the US Embassy toward Remedios Street in Manila.

Yulo-Loyzaga made the assurance to ACT Teachers Rep. France Castro who asked for updates on the five-year rehabilitation program of Manila Bay during the deliberations for the DENR's budget for 2023 at the House of Representatives.

Castro pointed out that the rehabilitation program for Manila Bay was divided into three phases, although no one from the DENR mentioned what phase the project was already under the Marcos administration.

The progressive lawmaker also stressed the impacts

caused by the dolomite placement, which was initially blamed for the flooding in some streets of Manila last month. The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority later clarified that the ongoing constructions of three pumping stations were the cause of the flooding.

In response to Castro's interpellation, Yulo-Loyzaga assured her that the DENR was "looking very closely" at the environmental and social impacts brought by the Manila Bay's rehabilitation involving the placing of dolomite sand.

"We will continue to evaluate it ... using our scientific

evaluation, as well as the social vulnerability evaluation that we intend to implement," Yulo-Loyzaga said.

Jonas Leones, the DENR undersecretary for policy, planning and international affairs, said the agency had already completed the placement for the dolomite beach, with its width ranging from 30 m to 140 m "from seawall to seawards."

Leones said at the budget hearing that the DENR would also move for the rehabilitation of water interceptors, so that the wastewater to be discharged into Manila Bay would be clean and be "treated" first. INQ



DENR told to stop Bay works



STOP THE DAM The STOP Kaliwa Dam Network calls on the Metropolitan Waterworks Sewerage System to halt all construction related to the Kaliwa Dam Project, and secure the necessary environmental and social acceptability permits during a press conference at a restaurant in Quezon City on Friday, Sept. 2, 2022. PHOTO BY JOHN ORVEN VERDOTE

AN environmental group has called on new Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Antonia "Toni" Yulo-Loyzaga to halt the implementation of 46 reclamation projects at Manila Bay, saying the undertakings will not only destroy the ecosystem but also affect the livelihood of the fisherfolk.

Jon Bonifacio, Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment national coordinator, added that Yulo-Loyzaga should review all the reclamation projects approved during the administration of former president Rodrigo Duterte.

"We held a dialogue with the officials of the DENR last week and urged them to issue a strong statement, and our new Secretary Toni Yulo-Loyzaga should commit to first conduct a study before these reclamation projects will proceed," Bonifacio said.

He added his group is still awaiting a response from Yulo-Loyzaga.

Bonifacio said that during the term of Duterte, the Philippine Reclamation Authority was transferred under the Office of the President.

"There was a haste approval of the reclamation projects, so hopefully, with the new administration, these projects will be reviewed. We are challenging the new DENR secretary to listen to the voice of the people and oppose these projects," he said.

Furthermore, affected communities were not consulted before the approval of the multimillion deals.

"The reclamation projects will start from Cavite to Bulacan.

If this happens, the Manila Bay will shrink and the coastline will be altered," said Bonifacio.

This will not only destroy the mangroves but also result in the displacement of fisherfolk.

Bonifacio cited the construction of the airport in Bulacan, saying thousands of mangroves were destroyed because of the reclamation project.

"At least 2,500 hectares of mangroves were destroyed in the construction, but the proponent only replaced the damaged mangroves with hundreds of hectares. The damaged ecosystem should be restored in the reclaimed area," he noted.

"We are not against development, but it should benefit all and not only the businesses. Fishermen in the affected communities are not even consulted and they will not gain from the projects," Bonifacio said.

BELLA CARIASO



APEC eyes deeper cooperation against deforestation

MINISTERS responsible for forestry from Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) members are pressing for deeper cooperation to curb deforestation and further biodiversity loss as the region steps up its fight against climate change and advances action for a sustainable future.

APEC economies account for more than 50 percent of the global forest areas, 60 percent of global wood products and 80 percent of global trade in forest products, said a release issued by the 5th APEC Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Forestry and received here on Thursday.

APEC member economies have been working on their ambitious goal of increasing forest cover by at least 20 million hectares by 2020

across the region.

Such a goal has been achieved and exceeded, as the forest cover in APEC increased by 27.9 million hectares between 2007 and 2020.

"Although we have been able to complete our mission in 2020, still, these wake-up calls — which include global environmental threats, particularly climate change and biodiversity loss, as well as economic and social consequences from the Covid-19 (coronavirus disease 2019) pandemic, and other global challenges — all remain key concerns of the forest policy," Thailand's Minister of Natural Resources and Environment Varawut Silpa-archa said.

Varawut, during his opening remarks at the APEC Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Forestry in

Chiang Mai, Thailand, highlighted Thailand's long-term strategy, the bio-circular-green (BCG) economy model, to overcome the current global threats.

The model integrates three economic approaches wherein technology and innovations are used to create value and promote sustainable business models in every sector, including forestry, without undermining the need for forest products.

He acknowledged the contribution of the APEC Experts Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade and urged member economies to strengthen cooperation and continue sharing information and best practices on combating illegal logging and associated trade among APEC economies.

"As APEC is the top destination for global forest product trade, and it gives the region an additional responsibility in ensuring that forests are sustainably managed," Varawut said.

"The world is currently jeopardized by the adverse impacts of climate change, and no matter where we are or who we are, we cannot escape from these impacts," he added.

APEC ministers recognized that forests play an essential role in tackling climate change, both in terms of mitigation and adaptation, especially to the process of moving toward carbon neutrality and net-zero greenhouse gas emissions.

Hence, action is needed to maintain the forest cover and

reverse forest loss, prevent forest degradation and sustainably manage forests.

"We are increasingly made aware of the impact of extreme weather, brought about by climate change, being experienced in many parts of the world, including in our region ... drought, floods, heat waves ...

These are surely mother nature's warning to us of the cost of inaction or slow action," Rebecca Sta. Maria, executive director of the APEC Secretariat, said.

"It is in this context that our meeting here is of significance. Forestry, with its unique role and contribution to sustainable development, has the potential to be a leading sector in achieving green growth," she said.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY



MORE FOREST RANGERS IN NEGROS ORIENTAL



■ The famed Lake Balinsasayao in Sibulan town, Negros Oriental province has now reopened for tourism activities. Gov. Pryde Henry Teves has hired several forest rangers to enforce laws on environmental protection and biodiversity conservation in the province. PNA PHOTO

NEGROS Oriental Gov. Pryde Henry Teves has increased the number of forest rangers or "Bantay Lasang" to support his administration's efforts in stepping up biodiversity conservation and protection of the environment.

Teves on Wednesday hired 51 additional forest rangers and absorbed and re-hired five other existing ones from the previous administration to enforce laws related to the environment, Capitol public information officer-designate Oliver Lemence told the Philippine News Agency on Friday.

"The governor saw the need to provide more forest rangers in the province as he identified areas for possible biofinancing by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP),"

Lemence said in mixed English and Cebuano.

The 56 forest rangers have been deputized by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to enforce environment-related laws and arrest violators engaged in illegal activities, he said.

He added that Teves has ordered the deployment of these Bantay Lasang teams to areas that have been identified for possible biofinancing, such as the province's marine protected areas and the south-central corridor from Buenavista-Talalak in Sta. Catalina, that connects to the other towns of Siaton, Valencia, and to the Twin Lakes Balinsasayao-Natural Reserve, the Banban Natural Forest in Ayungon, and the Apo Island Land and Seascape Protected Area.

Early this week, he said officials from the Philippine Biodiversity Conservation Foundation Inc. and the Biodiversity Finance Initiative of the UNDP called on the governor and explained the biofinancing program which intends to provide financial resources for biodiversity damage until full recovery.

Throwing his support to the biofinancing program, Teves cited undertakings in Bayawan City during his time as the mayor, including the Bayawan Watershed and Bio-Conservation Program covering 300 hectares, where endangered species of spotted deer, wild boars and endemic birds, such as red-heart pigeon and Mallard, among others, have returned to the wilds.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY



TITLE: _____

PAGE _____

DATE _____



■ A man with a child wades through flooded water in northwest Pakistan's Charsadda on Aug. 31, 2022. XINHUA PHOTO

ACCORDING TO AN UNU REPORT

Global interconnected disaster risks on the rise

A NEW report launched by the United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS) on Wednesday warns of an increase in interconnected disaster risks around the world.

According to the "Interconnected Disaster Risks 2021/2022" report, the world has witnessed another record-setting year of catastrophic disasters, during which over 10,000 human lives were lost and an estimated \$280 billion in damages were incurred globally.

Dr. Zita Sebesvari, a lead author and deputy director of the UNU-EHS based in Bonn, Germany, spoke to Xinhua ahead of the report's publication via video call.

"Recognizing the importance of prevention is probably one of the most important messages that the report conveys," she said.

"One of the most urgent tasks is to change from reactive toward preventive action. This is an area where China has a long tradition of recognizing the role of prevention and recognizing the need to step in before a disaster is actually happening."

The report stresses that none of these catastrophic disasters needed to be as deadly or costly as they were, arguing that by "applying the right solutions in the right

combination with each other, lives can be saved, damages averted and, in some cases, disaster can be prevented altogether."

Sebesvari, an environmental scientist who is also a lead author of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, a United Nations body responsible for advancing knowledge on human-induced climate change, said the two main underlying reasons were climate change and global demand pressures.

Others included insufficient risk governance, undervaluing environmental costs, inequality of development and livelihood opportunities, as well as the legacy of colonialism.

The report also identifies eight solutions to help prevent or better manage risks, including innovation, international cooperation, sustainable consumption and strengthened institutional governance.

The United Nations University is the academic arm of the United Nations and acts as a global think tank.

According to its website, the mission of UNU-EHS is to carry out cutting edge research on risks and adaptation related to environmental hazards and global change.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY



TITLE:

PAGE



PRIMEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE CORP.
Applicant.

Case No. 22-3395

NOTICE OF HEARING

This is an application for Certificate of Public Convenience to operate and maintain a waterworks system within Barangays Binabag, Buhingtubig, Bulong, Guimbawian, Lut-od, Mangoto, Cabiangan, Pandacan, Poblacion, Rizal, Sacsac, Sambagon, Tajao, Tanibag and Tutay, municipality of Pinamungajan, province of Cebu, with the following proposed rates:

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"	P122.00	24.60	28.00	32.40	37.20	42.80
¾"	P195.50	39.30	44.80	51.80	59.50	68.50
1"	P390.50	78.70	89.60	103.60	119.10	137.00
1 ½"	P978.50	196.60	223.90	259.00	297.70	342.60

Residential and Commercial

Pipe Size	0-5 m3 (min)	6-10 m3	11-20 m3	21-30 m3	31-40 m3	Over 40m3
½"	P122.00	24.60	28.00	32.40	37.20	42.80
¾"	P195.50	39.30	44.80	51.80	59.50	68.50
1"	P390.50	78.70	89.60	103.60	119.10	137.00

Commercial and Industrial

Pipe Size	0-15 m3 (min.)	16-30 m3	31-500 m3	501-1000 m3	Over 1000 m3
½"	P 838.50	64.80	85.50	110.60	110.60
¾"	P1,342.50	103.60	136.80	177.00	177.00
1"	P2,685.00	207.30	273.60	353.90	353.90
1 ½"	P6,711.00	518.10	683.90	884.80	884.80
2"	P16,779.00	1,295.30	1,709.80	2,212.00	2,212.00
3"	P30,202.50	2,331.60	3,077.60	3,981.50	3,981.50
4"	P60,405.00	4,663.10	6,155.20	7,963.00	7,963.00

Bulk

Pipe Size	Per cu.m.
1"	P156.30

Others

Pipe Size	Per cu.m.
¾"	P78.10

This application will be initially heard by the Board on **19 September 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 Cebu 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 18th day of July 2022.

By Authority of the Board:

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

Affected Parties:

The Secretary
Sangguniang Bayan
Pinamungajan, Cebu

The Barangay Chairman
Barangays Binabag, Buhingtubig, Bulong,
Guimbawian, Lut-od, Mangoto, Cabiangan,
Pandacan, Poblacion, Rizal, Sacsac, Sambagon,
Tajao, Tanibag & Tutay
Pinamungajan, Cebu

The General Manager
Pinamungajan Water District
Poblacion, Pinamungajan, Cebu 6039

MT - Sept. 3, 2022