

08 September 2022, Thursday



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

# **NEWS CLIPPINGS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**



**EDITORIAL**

## High-maintenance 'beach' should go

**T**wo years after the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) stirred unnecessary controversy by dumping crushed dolomite on a 500-meter stretch of land along Manila Bay, the agency will finally study the environmental and social impact of the P389-million "beach nourishment" project that critics have slammed as a massive waste of public funds.

Environment Secretary Ma. Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga made this assurance during the recent House deliberations on the DENR's 2023 budget when ACT Teachers Rep. France Castro demanded updates on the five-year Manila Bay rehabilitation program.

Yulo-Loyzaga, a known environmentalist and chair of the International Advisory Board of the Manila Observatory before joining the Marcos Jr. administration, said the DENR was "looking very closely" at the impact of filling part of Manila Bay's naturally gray shoreline with crushed dolomite to mimic the famous white sand beaches of Boracay.

The DENR, she said, would "continue to evaluate it ... using our scientific evaluation, as well as the social vulnerability evaluation that we intend to implement."

This is a welcome—albeit long delayed—departure from the stance taken by former DENR chief Roy Cimatu, who had consistently brushed aside pointed criticisms against the project, as well as warnings of its potential risks to public health and the environment.

Under Cimatu's watch, the DENR also stubbornly refused to conduct a thorough and scientific study to justify the continued dumping of dolomite at a cost of P28 million to taxpayers for the mineral and for "geo interventions" intended to prevent the dolomite from being washed out to sea. Instead, the former official merely justified it as a "beautification project beneficial to the environment."

The dolomite beach project was described as an "enhancer" of the Manila Bay rehabilitation project launched in 2019 in accordance with the Supreme Court directive for government agencies to clean up, rehabilitate, and preserve the bay.

The DENR, however, admitted that the artificial beach—which then presidential spokesperson Harry Roque claimed was needed for the mental health of a pandemic-weary people—was not part of the original Manila Bay Sustainable Development Master Plan adopted by the National Economic and Development Authority to "restore the water quality of Manila Bay."

More tellingly, DENR Undersecretary Jonas Leones admitted during the House hearing in 2020 that "the process for environmental impact assessment was not followed"—with consequences now keenly being felt.

Oceana, an international nongovernment organization dedicated to protecting the world's oceans, revealed that the dolomite dumped in the area from September to December 2020 had already been reclaimed by the sea. With the "beach" eroded by at least 300 square meters between December 2020 and February 2021, there was a need to continuously replenish the area near the Baywalk strip on Roxas Boulevard with dolomite shipped all the way from Cebu.

Oceana vice president Gloria Estenzo-Ramos also emphasized that the project is just a "band-aid" solution and will not significantly contribute to the improvement of Manila Bay as mandated by the Supreme Court. Concerns are more deep-rooted and would need more extensive solutions, such as reducing chemical, organic, and plastic pollution, installing water treatment facilities, and banning the cutting of mangroves.

As early as 2020, the University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute (UP-MSI) similarly urged the government to rethink its ill-advised beautification project, saying that the sand "will only erode, given the hydrodynamic conditions of the bay."

Even with the breakwater, rising sea levels and larger waves during typhoons, especially with climate change, can penetrate and pound the baywalk area. "Continuously replacing the sand will be even more expensive," the UP-MSI pointed out.

Last month, the heavy flooding in the streets of Manila that stranded thousands of commuters was initially blamed on the erosion of the dolomite beach, although the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority has since backtracked and shifted the blame on the ongoing construction of three pumping stations in the area.

Despite that turnaround, the repeated and expensive "nourishment" of the dolomite beach after every typhoon points to the inescapable conclusion that the erosion of the artificial beach is inevitable—and unacceptable, given our limited resources and an economy still struggling to recover from the effects of the pandemic.

All eyes are now on the new DENR leadership to once and for all evaluate the dolomite beach in Manila and get scientific studies on its environment impact done as quickly as possible.

Should it be determined that the beach project is doing more harm than good, it shouldn't be a difficult decision to immediately and permanently shut it down and use the millions of pesos devoted to its maintenance for the country's more pressing needs.

Even with the breakwater, rising sea levels and larger



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## TWG eyed to help manage Boracay Island, post-BIATF

By MA. STELLA F. ARNALDO

[@akosistellaBM](#)

Special to the BUSINESSMIRROR

**A** TECHNICAL working group (TWG) is expected to be formed to continue to manage Boracay Island, one of the country's most popular tourism destinations.

The proposal to create the TWG was discussed in a meeting called by Aklan Gov. Jose Enrique "Joel" Miraflores on Tuesday and attended by representatives of the local government units of Aklan and Malay; the Departments of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Interior and Local Government (DILG), Public Works and Highways (DPWH), and Tourism (DOT); and the island stakeholders' groups.

In an interview with the BUSINESSMIRROR, DOT-Region 6 (Western Visayas) Director Christina Mansinares said Miraflores wanted to find out from the key government agencies what developments have ensued following the end of term of the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF) on June 30. They "discussed updates on the Boracay Action Plan, and the creation of a TWG for Boracay to continue to harmonize/align sustainable development efforts," she said.

As per the discussion, the TWG will be chaired by Miraflores and co-chaired by Malay Mayor Floribar Bautista, and will include Region 6 directors of the regular line government agencies, along with representatives of the indigenous peoples community, and other stakeholder groups. The governor is expected to issue an executive order creating the TWG, as soon as the "focal persons" for each agency and stakeholders groups are identified, she added.

requested anonymity, was the creation of a "Workers Village" in mainland Caticlan. This was among the plans of the BIATF, which have been left pending. "We can haggle for additional carrying capacity if we can decongest [the island] and have a site for the Workers Village. This was a project discussed a long time ago by the BIATF," said a stakeholder.

For her part, Mansinares said the plan includes the relocation of informal settlers in critical areas such as wetlands to said village in the mainland. "They just have to identify the site for the village," she noted.

The DOT official said during the meeting, Mayor Bautista also promised to "revisit" their masking mandate, as tourists go to the island to breathe in its fresh air. Tourists who forget to put on their masks while walking on the beach have complained of being harassed by the Philippine National Police. While they are not being arrested, the tourists are detained on the beach for unusually long periods, while the police personnel take down their personal details.

### BIATF projects still not completed

THE BIATF was created under President Rodrigo Duterte, and oversaw the rehabilitation of the island, which included fixing of easement issues and cleaning up portions of its environment. Prior to the termination of the task force, it "turned over" the island to the local government supposedly due to the completion of their rehabilitation work.

In actuality, the drainage project on the island still remains to be completed by the DPWH, as well as the completion of the main road, in the portion going to Mount Luho. The DPWH continues to have right-of-way problems with regard to the main road project, as informal settlers continue to reside there.



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# BusinessMirror

A broader look at today's business

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## Projects for 2023

THE participating government agencies also discussed their proposed projects for Boracay for 2023. For the DOT, said Mansinares, it will be "basically capacity-building projects, since the Tieza [Tourism Infrastructure and Economic Zone Authority] project has already been absorbed by the DPWH. So the DOT projects will revolve mainly on marketing and promotions, and product development."

Among other points raised, according to stakeholders, who

The DPWH picked up the slack from the local government units, which were supposed to have solved the right-of-way problem. Mansinares and other stakeholders interviewed by the BUSINESSMIRROR said DPWH did not say when these main projects will be completed.

DENR, for its part, continues to deal with court cases arising from the "[removal] of illegal structures in protected zones," she said.



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## PBBM, First Lady awed by orchid named after them

SINGAPORE — President Marcos and First Lady Louise Araneta-Marcos were mesmerized as they admired the beauty of the new orchid hybrid named after them.

The First Couple arrived at the Singapore Botanic Gardens

Wednesday morning, Sept. 7, the first event of their packed schedule before leaving for the Philippines in the evening.

Looking closely at the orchid hybrid, the President and the First Lady were visibly awed by the beauty of the *Dendrobium Ferdinand Louise Marcos* as officials of the National Orchid Garden explained the details of the new hybrid orchid. ▶6



The *Dendrobium Ferdinand Louise Marcos*, a robust and free-flowering orchid hybrid that produces semi-arching inflorescences of 50 to 70 centimeters in length that bear 20 to 30 well-arranged flowers, each measuring approximately four centimeters in width. The elegantly curled sepals have a white background adorned with lavender striations, while the petals are white with bluish mauve. They are complemented by a violet lip. (Argyll Geducos)



'ORCHID DIPLOMACY' — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and First Lady Louise Araneta take a closer look at the *Dendrobium Ferdinand Louise Marcos*, a new orchid hybrid that Singapore named after them, at the National Orchid Garden, Singapore on Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2022. As part of its 'Orchid Diplomacy' it has been Singapore's tradition to name new orchids after visiting heads of states, heads of governments, and



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THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS  
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THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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## PBBM, First Lady awed by orchid named after them 1◀

President Marcos then planted orchid with their name on it into the pot before he and his wife signed the guest book.

The Dendrobium Ferdinand Louise Marcos is a robust and free-flowering orchid hybrid. It produces semi-arching inflorescences 50 to 70 centimeters long that bear 20 to 30

well-arranged flowers, each measuring approximately four centimeters wide.

The elegantly curled sepals have a white background adorned with lavender striations, while the distinguished petals are white with bluish mauve. They are complemented by a violet lip. (Argyll Cyrus B. Geducos)

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## Singapore names orchid after Marcos, FL

**PRESIDENT** Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. and first lady Liza Araneta-Marcos had a new orchid hybrid named in their honor on Wednesday.

The flower, named *Dendrobium Ferdinand Louise Marcos*, was presented to the first couple during an unveiling ceremony at Singapore's National Orchid Gardens.

The event was one of the President's activities during his two-day visit to the city-state.

According to the National Parks Board, the free-flowering orchid hybrid produces flower sprays of 50 cm to 70 cm in length with sepals "adorned with lavender striations against a white background, and petals of white flushed with bluish mauve, with a violet lip."

As part of its "orchid diplomacy," Singapore names orchids after visiting foreign heads of states as a gesture of its government's goodwill. **KRISTINA MARALIT**



■ *Dendrobium Ferdinand Louise Marcos*.  
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



## Orchid named after First Couple

SINGAPORE has named a purple orchid hybrid after President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and First Lady Liza Araneta-Marcos during the last day of their state visit to the Lion City on Wednesday.

The Marcoses got a first-hand look at the Dendrobium orchid when they visited Singapore's National Botanical Garden on the last day of their state visit, according to Malacañang.

"Dendrobium Ferdinand Louise Marcos" was described as "a robust and free-flowering orchid hybrid."

It produces semi-arching inflores-

cences of 50 to 70 centimeters in length that bear 20 to 30 well-arranged flowers, with each flower measuring approximately 4 centimeters in width.

The orchid's curled sepals have a white background adorned with lavender striations, while its petals are white and flushed with bluish mauve.

Mr. Marcos is the latest leader to be honored under the so-called "orchid diplomacy," a tradition of naming a new orchid species grown in Singapore after a foreign leader or celebrity.

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## Orchid...

From A1

Singapore Botanical Garden curator Whang Lay Keng said the orchid naming shows the close diplomatic ties between the two countries which will "grow and propagate" just like the orchid.

"We are very honored to have an orchid named after the President and [his] spouse," Whang said.

Orchid varieties have been named after Filipino leaders and celebrities in the past, among them former first lady Imelda Romualdez Marcos, the President's mother.

Former President Gloria-Macapagal Arroyo also had an orchid named after her.

The late Presidents Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III and his mother, Corazon "Cory" Aquino, were also given similar recognition. **Vince Lopez**





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## SPPI supports Marikina River Forest Park



*In photo are representatives from SPPI's Light Industry & Science Park (LISP) with DENR IV-A CALABARZON Regional Executive Director Nilo Tamoria (center).*

The ICCP Group's Science Park of the Philippines, Inc. (SPPI) participated in the ceremonial launch of the Regional Development Council (RDC) Forest Park at the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape (UMRBPL) in Antipolo City, Rizal. The UMRBPL is a protected area in the Province of Rizal that forms the upper area of the drainage basin of the Marikina River.

The launch, which also marked the celebration of Philippine Arbor Day, was highlighted with a tree planting activity through adoption of the selected site of UMBPL at Sitio San Ysiro. The reforestation activity is a collaborative effort of DENR IV A-CALABARZON and RDC that aims to intensify protection and sustainable management of forest, watershed and prevention of disasters on the Marikina River Watershed area.



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# The Manila Times



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**BIG JOB** Personnel of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority and Pasig City remove water hyacinths that have started to choke the waterway, on Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2022. PHOTO BY MIKE DE JUAN



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# Manila Standard

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## PASIG RIVER CLEANUP.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority jointly undertake removal of water hyacinths that usually choke the metropolis' main waterway during the rainy season.

**Manny Palmero**



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## Linis Kalikasan: A coastal, underwater cleanup drive by PREPR

IN this era of rapid globalization, the oceans have never been more in danger. Waste has been dumped into oceans for decades, threatening and endangering marine ecosystems. This is more urgent for a country like the Philippines, whose marine ecosystems are one of the richest and most diverse in the world, and the Philippine Rotary wants to do its part in protecting it.

The Philippine Rotary Emergency Preparedness and Rescue Foundation (PREPR) is organizing "Linis Kalikasan," a coastal and underwater cleanup in Mabini, Batangas on 17 September 2022, with the venue at Pier Uno Dive Resort. This is done in solidarity with Rotarians from all over the world in celebration of International Coastal Cleanup Day established on the same date by the Ocean Conservancy, an organization that works to protect our oceans from man-made dangers and challenges.

The event will consist of two simultaneous cleanups—a coastal cleanup of the beaches of Mabini, and an underwater cleanup of select dive spots in partnership with Planet Dive. In addition to the cleanup, participants are also encouraged to do underwater photography, of which a winner will be chosen in a photo contest.

Interested participants of Linis Kalikasan can register by messaging the PREPR Facebook page. Call time at the venue is at 7:00AM, with the cleanup drive (both coastal and underwater) beginning at 8:30AM. Lunch

will be provided, and a Fellowship Night will be held after the cleanup. The complete itinerary for the day of the cleanup is as follows: 7 a.m., call time/check in; 8 a.m. opening ceremony; 8:30 a.m. start of coastal and underwater cleanup drives, and the photo contest; 12:30 p.m., lunch;

1:30 p.m. one-hour environmental protection seminar at Piero Uno conference room; and 3 p.m. end of the cleanup/ photo contest awarding.

Gladwin So, lead person for the project, sees this event as an opportunity to preserve the beauty of our marine ecosystems for future generations. "What PREPR wants to achieve [with this cleanup] is to let the next generation experience the beauty of underwater nature. Kung wala tayong gagawin, baka puro buhangin nalang makita natin underwater. [If we don't do anything to clean our oceans, there will be a time when all we'll see is dust and sand underwater.]"

The project is organized by the PREPR Foundation, created as a disaster management and response unit for the Rotary District 3780, Rotary International and boasts rescue trucks, ambulances, and fire trucks for its operations. The foundation provides assistance and humanitarian aid to areas affected by disasters such as typhoons, and provides seminars on disaster management and pre-hospital care management. Linis Kalikasan is the foundation's first underwater activity, and its first event being organized as a proactive response to prevent future disasters.



## 'Million Trees' lauds scientific study on medicinal values of Narra tree

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

[@jonlmayuga](#)

**T**HE Million Trees Foundation Inc. (MTFI) has lauded a report by De la Salle Dasmariñas College of Pharmacy, which revealed the antioxidant properties of the bark and branch wood of the critically-endangered Narra has the highest Oxygen Radical Absorbance Capacity or ORAC scores in the country and among the Top 10 in the world.

A method developed by scientists at the National Institute of Health and Aging to measure the antioxidant capacity of different foods, ORAC is also the unit of measure of antioxidants which is the body's natural defense versus harmful compounds that are linked to multiple illnesses, including weakened immunity, diabetes, heart disease and cancer.

The DSLU study revealed that the ORAC scores of all methods tested displayed similarly high levels of antioxidant potency.

Reacting to the report, Retired Police General Reynaldo V. Velasco, chairman emeritus of MTFI said the findings only proves that native trees are precious and they have medicinal value waiting to be tapped.

"It is a matter of time that cure to various illnesses could be discovered and developed

into life-saving drugs that can help save millions of lives," he said.

The former chairman and administrator of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) is the prime mover of the successful Annual Million Trees Challenge (AMTC) that saw the planting of 5.2 million trees in five years from 2017 to 2021.

The MTFI, which was established to sustain the gains of the AMTC, targets to plant 10 million more trees in critical watersheds in various parts of the country by 2030.

"These landmark findings about the medicinal value of the Narra tree give us more reasons to pursue our ambitious goal of planting 10 more million trees by 2030," said MTFI President and Executive Director Melandrew Velasco.

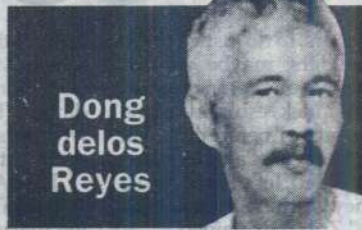
It was learned that over the years, native trees planted in Ipo-Angat watersheds, through AMTC and MTFI stakeholders, include Narra, Batino, Malaruhat, Rambutan, Cacao, Guyabano, Bayog, Kawayan Tinik, Malaruhat, White Lauan, Mala-igot, Malapapapaya, Makaasim, Lipote, Ipil, among others. Various native trees species have also been planted by the group in La Mesa and areas around Laguna de Bay, Kaliwa-Umiray and Upper Marikina watersheds.



## Lastiko

### MANGKOKOLUM

Kulamnista.blogspot.com



Dong  
delos  
Reyes

LUMULUWAG din sa tagal ng pitas, pitik, kadlit o kalabit ang mga bagting ng gitara... hihigpitan para makuha ang wastong tunog... matagalang tugtugan muli... luluwag, mawawala sa tono... hihigpitan... sa katagalan o nasobrahan sa banat, tuluyang bibigay ang kuwerdas... paigkas na lalagitik. Lagot.

Nalagot man, nakatugtog naman. Talagang tunog ng tugtog ang lalabas kapag sinisikil pahigpitan nang pahigpitan ang kuwerdas hanggang taginting ng pahimakas.

Natigok man ang buriko, tone-tonelada naman ang inihatid na kargo. Kahit kutyain pa—pero ginawang halimbawa sa salawikain sa pamatay na tangkay ng damo, inabuso-sa-trabahong buriko, saka manhid at walang pakundangang amo.

Buri kong sabyan: natikman din ng kawal na naging gobernador ng isang lalawigan sa Cagayan Valley na dagsain sa araw-araw ng mahigit 30 taong pinamumunuan... bawat isa'y kalabit-penge... kailangan ng salapi para tugunan ang kani-kanilang hinagpis, dusa at penitensiya na maisasahog na pampaasim sa alinmang isisigang na telenobela... lagas pati na kita mula taxpayer, pero kulang pa... natuliro ang pinuno.

Kanginong satanas maisasangla ang kaluluwa para sa walang

katapusang daloy ng pera?

Dinikitan na ang windang na punong lalawigan ng mga illegal logging lords and jueteng lords pero hindi naman sila talaga kampon, ampon o panginoon ng impiyerno. Hangad nilang maibsan ang mabigat na pasanin ng pinuno—sinupalalan ng tongpats. All told, the soldier-turned-public official was corrupted to driven by his constituents he had worn to swerve, pwe-he-he-he!

Kawawang buriko... talagang nilinta't nilimatik ng mga "kayo ang boss ko..." and a boss is the handle of a sword, wielded any which way but loose.

Buriko man na dinaganan ng 'kikiangkang na angaw na hangad manalo't dakilain sa mundo, hinay-hinay lang ang hataw at hagupit ng pansanay na patpat kay Congressman Pacquiao... pampatibay lang sa pag-inda sa sakit na tatama

sa katawan kapag sumagupa sa laban.

Kung sa bigwas ng bigat na mapapasan, onsa-onsang lang... paunti-unti pero suson-suson sa dami... umaabot din sa tone-tonelada sa kalaunan.

Kahit sa masiba, kutsa-kutsara man ang nilalantakan, sa singkad ng paglamon... balyenang napadpad sa pampang ang nagiging hugis ng katawan sa kalaunan.

Parang mahabang lakaran, paisa-isa lang na hakbang... tuloy-tuloy lang...kahit na mahirapan... kamukat-mukat, ni hindi na maabot ng tanaw patimalayo nang pinagmulan.

Parang gano'ng lang. Napakadali naman ang hinay-hinay.

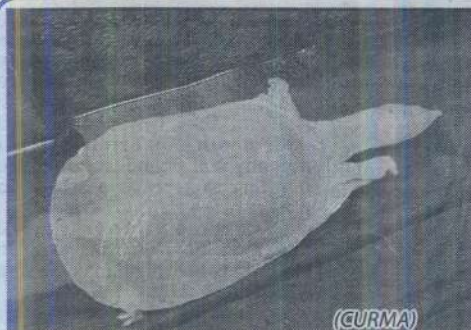
Aba'y nagsimula nga sa pagkutinting sa bagting ng gitara ang sinulat na 'to... napadpad sa lirip ng isip ni Esopo... umilandang pati na sa pinamunuang lupalop ng isang dating sundalo.

Pero parang wala namang patutunguhan.

Pero marami na palang nalampasang hangganan.

At hindi na talagang manunumbalik sa dating katangian kahit na himaymay ng malay at laman... kapag unti-unting hinutok, hinatak sa kung saan-saan... malayo ang kahihinatnan.

Mga batugan lang talaga ang napapag-iwanan, mwa-ha-ha-haw!



## Alamin: Mapanirang pagong natagpuan sa La Union

ng mga kalat bunsod ng nagdaang bagyo subalit bumungad sa kanila ang isang 'di pangkaraniwang pagong.

Agad naman nila itong tinugis at dinala sa Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management ng kanilang LGU.

Ang pagong na ito ay hindi native o normal na makikita sa katubigan ng bansa kaya naman itinuturing ito bilang invasive alien species (IAS) o mga mapanirang uri ng hayop. Bukod dito, kilala rin ang mga ito bilang threat sa ecosystem at biodiversity ng isang lugar.

Dagdag pa rito, ipinagbabawal na noong 1990s pa ang Chinese softshell turtle sa 'Pinas dahil nga umano sa hatid nitong banta sa mga palaisdaan at aquatic animal sa ating mga katubigan.

Ayon sa polisiyang ito, ang sinumang mahuhuling nag-aalaga o nagpapakawala nito sa wetlands ay may karampatang parusa gaya ng halos walong taong pagkakabilanggo at multa na humigit-kumulang P5 milyon.

Madalas namang ginagawang alaga o pet ito sa China na lumalaki sa maximum size nito na 10 inches. Sa ibang mga bansa naman ay ginagamit nila ito bilang pangunahing sangkap sa kanilang mga lutuin tulad ng soups.

Sa kasalukuyan, nasa pangangalaga ng DENR ang mapanirang pagong na binansagan nilang 'Florita'.

Isa rin sa palaisipan sa mga opisyal ang malaking tanong kung paano ba napunta at napadpad ito sa kanilang lugar kahit hindi naman ito native roon.

KAGAYA ng tao, mayroon ding mga hayop na hindi dapat at angkop na magsama sa isang lugar.

Gaya na lang ng tinuturing na mapanirang pagong na kamakailan lang ay nahuli sa isang ilog sa La Union.

Ito ay ang Chinese softshell turtle (Pelidiscus sinensis). Nakita umano ito ng Coastal Underwater Resource Management Actions (CURMA), isang conversation group sa lugar na naglilinis



## Clean and safe water to benefit Filipinos



**President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. is reviewing a proposal to establish an Integrated Water Resources Management Program CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

**A**CCORDING to the Water.org, "more than 3 million people in the Philippines rely on unsafe and unsustainable water sources, and 7 million lack access to improved sanitation."

In response to this problem, President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. is reviewing a proposal to establish an Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) Program that seeks to balance the country's economic, social and environmental sustainability.

"This program is an approach to promote the coordinated development and management of water, land, and related resources to maximize economic and social welfare without compromising our ecosystem," a statement released by the Office of the President said.

The Chief Executive mentioned in his State of the Nation Address (SONA) last July that it is high time for the Department of Water Resources to be institutionalized and adopt the IWRM. This, in turn, can be used to craft and implement the "strategic framework for national water management, policymaking and planning."

Passing a bill that would establish the said agency was listed among his Priority Legislative Measures, and he has called on both houses of Congress for its approval.

Meanwhile, the United States-funded Safe Water Project (SWP), to be implemented by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), is giving access to safe drinking water and sanitation services to some 350,000 individuals in Palawan, Negros Occidental and Sarangani.

The DENR reported that the project costs P922 million, equivalent to a grant of \$18 million from the United States Agency for International Development (USAid). The Philippine government shoulders a fund equivalent to not less than one-third (P307 million) of the USAid grant.

The SWP will provide the technical assistance (TA) on water chlorination for local government units and water districts and TA to Local Water Utilities Administration on separate management, which covers the Supreme Court Mandamus for Manila Bay area.

Other components exploration on diversifying surface bulk water supply in Negros Occidental and assistance in water security plans for Negros Occidental and Sarangani.

On the other hand, Sen. Grace Poe has refiled her bill seeking to guarantee clean and safe water for all Filipinos through effective and streamlined management that will protect the public's highest interest.

"Water shortage should not be a way of life. We expect reforms in water governance and infrastructure the way the Filipinos deserve this basic utility as an essential human right," Poe said.

Poe's Senate Bill 102 titled, "National Water Resource Management Act," seeks to establish a national framework for better water resources management.

It mandates the creation of the Department of Water Resources to lead and consolidate whole-of-society efforts for the comprehensive and integrated development and management of water resources in the country.





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## OPINION

# Role of process mining in digital transformation

The importance of digital transformation has been acknowledged as being of immense importance in safeguarding an organization's competitiveness and growth. Indeed, organizations have increasingly recognized the potential for streamlining their operations and enhancing efficiency.

Digital transformation involves the use of technology in creating new, and modifying current, business processes, customer experiences and cultures to meet the requirements of a dynamic market. Transformation goes beyond conventional roles such as customer service, sales, and marketing, but revolves around how entities perceive and engage with their customers. Businesses that are not prepared for or incapable of undertaking digital transformation are likely to become less competitive.

As with any form of change, digital transformation requires careful management to ensure the successful implementation of the change. The main challenge is determining where the new technologies can be deployed, what processes are ready for transformation, what needs to be automated, and which projects promise the highest ROI for the business.

Key among the resources that may be tapped for such endeavors is process mining, an analytical approach to discovering and enhancing business processes via the use of readily available event logs extracted from information systems, which results in a visual representation of the actual process. This comes in handy in helping organizations adapt quickly through persistent data analysis and the development of insights that can drive value. Processes are increasingly becoming a major differentiator in an environment where efficiency and speed of workflow will determine whether an entity survives, or secures new business. Process mining can assist an organization in discovering, improving, and monitoring processes. It enhances competitiveness through a better understanding of internal processes and applying the insights to identify process enhancement opportunities.

Process mining makes use of event data to gain insight into operations, check for conformance pertaining to predefined process models, and enhance models using information pertaining to resource usage, bottlenecks, and decisions. Process mining does not concentrate strictly on process management and instead provides a transparent, holistic perspective of all the organization's activities, ultimately creating a dynamic system that could reflect modifications in real time. This ensures that businesses have the opportunity to incorporate data from other sources, proactively mitigating the risks from components in transit. When provided with the data, process mining could evolve into a laboratory to explore areas in which hypotheses are tested and forecasts are sharpened.

Process mining also assists in enhancing automation, especially via the Internet of Things (IoT), and intelligent automation (IA). Process analytics capabilities allow business users to prioritize IoT and IA solutions alongside their

economic impacts through blending operational system data to offer full visibility of the actions that a user takes at every stage of the business process. Advanced process mining capabilities can capture real-time information from every other system within an entity and use the information in defining the activity. This ensures that the most repeatable patterns within a manual activity are detected and automated, decreasing dependency on labor-intensive

processes and allowing robots to function in an efficient and effective manner.

Process maps could increase operational excellence by imbuing new techniques and approaches that maximize the current processes. Process maps

effectively allow for process discovery, assisting organizations in visualizing the reality of their business processes. They can achieve this through an examination of the electronic footprint incorporated in various IT systems, with the process mining software using the structured data to generate process models that allow for more in-depth comprehension. This means that the data logged during the normal process execution would allow for the creation of process maps that incorporate the nuances pertaining to the process, its variants and statistical information. This ensures speedy and cost-effective process delivery that eliminates the need to use interviews to piece together the process. Process maps eliminate the potential for human error and assist in unearthing unusual transactions, as well as the identification of new opportunities that could enhance the operations of an enterprise.

Process maps could ensure full transparency, giving managers the ability to visualize actual process flows in real time. They support each of the workflow's systems such as Salesforce, Oracle and SAP to deliver snapshots of variations in performance, capture digital footprints, and visualize processes. The digital workflow traces may then be examined and reconstructed, with source systems being connected, and data being transformed into event logs to allow for real-time connections. This ensures conformance, tracking of metrics, automation of tasks, and continuous benchmarking, allowing proactive process interventions.

In conclusion, process mining will be an effective way of allowing organizations to implement digital transformation. It would streamline processes, reduce errors, and allow for enhanced transparency of the processes through visualization, all for the organization's benefit.

*The views or opinions expressed in this article are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of Isla Lipana & Co. The content is for general information purposes only, and should not be used as a substitute for specific advice.*

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## TAXWISE OR OTHERWISE JAN BRIAN DESPI



## Fernando nag-inspeksyon vs illegal quarry at mining ops sa Bulacan

**STA. MARIA, Bulacan** - Seryoso at mahigpit ang kampanya ni Bulacan Governor Daniel Fernando sa pagpapatigil ng quarrying at mining activities sa kanyang nasasakupan kung kaya nagsagawa siya ng biglaang inspeksyon laban sa mga nagsasagawa ng illegal quarrying operation sa Sitio Alimasag, Brgy. Camangyanan ng bayang ito, kamakalawa ng umaga.

Kasama ni Fernando sa surprise inspection ang mga opisyal ng Bulacan Environment and Natural Resources Office (BENRO) sa pamumuno ni Atty. Julius Victor Degala at P/Major June Tabigo-on PNP-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group-Bulacan.

Nauna rito, naaresto sa ikinasang operasyon BENRO at CIDG nitong Biyernes ng hapon ang lima umanong illegal miners na residente rin ng Sitio Alimasag at kasalukuyang humaharap sa tatlong kaso kabilang na ang mineral theft sa ilalim ng Republic Act 7942, Section 103; Section 71-A ng Provincial Ordinance C-005 o

ang Environmental Code ng Bulacan at sa paglabag sa bagong inilabas na Executive Order No. 21 Series of 2022 ni Fernando na pansamantalang nagsususpende ng lahat ng quarrying activities sa buong lalawigan.

Ipinaliwanag din Fernando na ang nasabing lugar ng quarry, na ilan taon nang nagsasagawa ng operasyon ay dating sakanhan kung saan nadiskubre ng mga residente na ang ilalim nito ay volcanic tuff na kilala bilang escombros o "bulik" na isang magandang uri ng mineral na kadalasang ginagamit sa landscape gardening na nagkakahalaga ng P150-P600 bawat bloke.

Bukod pa rito, nadiskubre rin ng roving team ang isang exhausted quarry area na puno nang tubig-ulan na may lalim na higit pa sa sampung talampakan na maaaring magdulot ng panganib sa mga residenteng nakatira malapit doon.

Sinabi rin ni Fernando na makikipag-ugnayan sila sa lokal na pamahalaan tungkol sa naturang quarrying activity.

"Ito pong inspeksyon ay bunga ng patuloy nating laban kontra illegal quarrying. Ayon po sa ating BENRO, mayroon nang tatlo o apat na ilegal na nahukay sa lugar na ito at 'yung isang butas ay iniwan na lang nila at may tubig na. So hindi po tama ang nangyayari; sisiguraduhin po natin kung ito ay alam ng local government and I think, kinakailangan mag-usap kami tungkol dito," ani

Fernando.

Nakiusap din siya sa mga Bulakenyo lalo na ang mga nasa industriya ng pagmimina na sumunod sa mga regulasyon at magsagawa ng operasyong ligal na may permit.

Nabatid pa ng gobernador na ang mga ilegal na nagmimina ay gumagamit ng manual tools sa pagkuha ng mga mineral upang mabawasan ang ingay sa kanilang operasyon. (Omar Padilla)



## P453.1-B for climate change

The Department of Budget and Management has proposed P453.1-billion climate change allocation for next year's expenditure plan.

DBM said programs addressing climate change include avoidance of deforestation, monitoring of national and local climate change mitigation actions, conservation and protection of existing watershed and protected areas, support to research on climate change adaptation, and conduct of training on community-based climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, among others.

"Climate change, as they say, is already here with us to stay. The Philippines in fact is the third most vulnerable country to the impact of climate change, according to the 2017 World Risk Report," DBM Secretary Amenah Pangandaman said.

"We must therefore act decisively to avert the adverse effects of climate change. Government has in fact increased climate change expenditures from P289.7 billion in 2022 to P453.1 billion in 2023," she added.

There are eight strategic priorities of the 2023 national expenditures for climate change, she said.

These are food security, water security, ecosystem, and environmental stability, human security, climate-smart industries and services, sustainable energy, knowledge and capacity development, and crosscutting.

President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. earlier vowed to increase the funds for climate change programs and activities by an average of at least 15 percent yearly.

MICHELLE GUILLANG



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# Climate deniers' claims: Separating reality from idiocy

THE so-called World Climate Declaration that is supposed to be such a "savage blow" against the "political orthodoxy" of anthropogenic climate change is more like a wet noodle than a whip when it comes to the actual arguments it presents. It bases its assertion that "there is no climate emergency" on five claims, all of which have been repeatedly debunked for years as they are either misrepresentations of scientific findings, outright lies, and in one case, lunacy of a depth that would make Velikovsky look sane.

As I said in my previous column, there is no debate about climate change; the basic premise has already been accepted and made part of the governing policy of the entire world because there is a vast amount of evidence to support it. There may be debate, and there probably should be, about the best ways to respond to the climate crisis, but the question of whether or not there is a crisis has long since been answered. That raises another question, however: Why should anyone continue to try to convince a tiny, malcontented minority that refuses to even read the scientific data lest it threaten their ideology with uncertainty?

It is a fair question, and one that I mentally review every time I take up this subject, especially after reading, and in a few cases responding to the flood of offended comments from climate deniers that inevitably follows. Honestly, I do not expect to "convert" anyone, because I do not believe that it is within the power of human argument to actually do that, at least when it comes to the topic of climate change — it is a bit like trying to convince a deeply religious person that his God doesn't exist.

Fortunately, Earth itself will — in that Darwinian way nature works — sort out the climate deniers without help from me or anyone else. There will inevitably come a time when every climate denier will experience the effects of what Man has wrought on the environment firsthand, and that experience will either compel them to get with the program, or remove them from the



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human equation entirely. In the meantime, the real point of taking them to task for creating and spreading disinformation is to prevent them from encouraging people to harm themselves and their communities. Practices and policies that lead to a cleaner, healthier environment are good and improve our quality of life, whether there's a specific reason for them or not; exhorting people to resist those practices and policies is simply malicious, sociopathic demagoguery.

So, not for the first time and almost certainly not the last, let us take a closer look at the spurious arguments made in defense of the assertion that "there is no climate emergency":

*Natural as well as anthropogenic factors cause warming*

This is certainly true, and no climate scientist has ever suggested otherwise; in fact, a large part of what makes climate research so complex is the challenge of accurately identifying natural cycles so that the human impact on them can be likewise accurately determined. Over Earth's long history, there have been periods of global warming and cooling, many of which were characterized by significant increases or decreases in greenhouse gases. What the climate deniers leave out, however, is that those historic increases in CO<sub>2</sub> and methane led to serious environmental disruptions, including mass extinctions. Far from being evidence that human emissions are inconsequential, the environmental record is even more proof that massive increases in greenhouse gases are lethal to life on Earth.

*Warming is far slower than predicted*

This assertion is simply a lie. Several research studies already published over the past couple of years, along with ongoing research — which is being continuously



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■ Trees cut and burned to open land for agriculture and livestock in 2021 in the Jamanxim National Forest, part of the Amazon rainforest in Brazil. ISTOCK PHOTO

conducted for the very purpose of determining whether climate models are accurate or not — show that the warming of the planet has tightly tracked model predictions, dating all the way back to even the comparatively crude models of the 1970s.

*Climate policy relies on inadequate models*

As the previous assertion is false, so is this one. Climate policy may differ from place to place, and thus be more or less effective, but it is all based on the same set of accurate data.

*More CO2 is favorable for nature, greening our planet*

This is the most ridiculous of the claims made in the so-called World Climate Declaration. Plants do indeed need CO2, but more CO2 in the atmosphere does not create more plants. As the world's forest cover disappears at an accelerating rate, the amount of CO2 that plant life can absorb from the atmosphere is constantly decreasing, while the amount of CO2 being pumped into the atmosphere by human activity increases — to the point that there is now more CO2 in the atmosphere than at any time in the past 800,000 years, with far less plant life to absorb it.

*Global warming has not increased natural disasters*

The best answer to this assertion is “yes and no” because this is the aspect of cli-

mate science that is the most complicated and bears the largest degree of uncertainty. While scientists have nailed down broad climate trends — increasing CO2 levels, increasing sea and atmospheric temperatures — and certain broad effects, such as overall increase in the global average temperature and sea level, the models are not as accurate for predicting short-term, regional effects. It is a matter of scale; a model built on a dataset that encompasses the entire globe over a timescale of millennia has limitations if applied to a specific country or region for a period of decades or years.

Nonetheless, some specific, real-time effects have been accurately connected to the warming of the planet over the past 250 to 300 years since the beginning of the Industrial Age. Global warming has established a hotter baseline for summer temperatures, which dramatically increases the odds of more frequent, more extreme, and longer-lasting heat waves, which in turn increase the likelihood of more frequent and extreme weather events — including more extreme winter weather, due to the poleward shift of warmer sea and atmospheric temperatures altering weather patterns.

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## 'Million Trees' lauds scientific study on medicinal values of Narra tree

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

[@jonlmayuga](#)

**T**HE Million Trees Foundation Inc. (MTFI) has lauded a report by De la Salle Dasmariñas College of Pharmacy, which revealed the antioxidant properties of the bark and branch wood of the critically-endangered Narra has the highest Oxygen Radical Absorbance Capacity or ORAC scores in the country and among the Top 10 in the world.

A method developed by scientists at the National Institute of Health and Aging to measure the antioxidant capacity of different foods, ORAC is also the unit of measure of antioxidants which is the body's natural defense versus harmful compounds that are linked to multiple illnesses, including weakened immunity, diabetes, heart disease and cancer.

The DSLU study revealed that the ORAC scores of all methods tested displayed similarly high levels of antioxidant potency.

Reacting to the report, Retired Police General Reynaldo V. Velasco, chairman emeritus of MTFI said the findings only proves that native trees are precious and they have medicinal value waiting to be tapped.

"It is a matter of time that cure to various illnesses could be discovered and developed

into life-saving drugs that can help save millions of lives," he said.

The former chairman and administrator of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) is the prime mover of the successful Annual Million Trees Challenge (AMTC) that saw the planting of 5.2 million trees in five years from 2017 to 2021.

The MTFI, which was established to sustain the gains of the AMTC, targets to plant 10 million more trees in critical watersheds in various parts of the country by 2030.

"These landmark findings about the medicinal value of the Narra tree give us more reasons to pursue our ambitious goal of planting 10 more million trees by 2030," said MTFI President and Executive Director Melandrew Velasco.

It was learned that over the years, native trees planted in Ipo-Angat watersheds, through AMTC and MTFI stakeholders, include Narra, Batino, Malaruhat, Rambutan, Cacao, Guyabano, Bayog, Kawayan Tinik, Malaruhat, White Lauan, Mala-igot, Malapapapaya, Makaasim, Lipote, Ipil, among others. Various native trees species have also been planted by the group in La Mesa and areas around Laguna de Bay, Kaliwa-Umiray and Upper Marikina watersheds.



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## HEAT WAVES, WILDFIRES TO WORSEN AIR POLLUTION – UN

**GENEVA:** More frequent and intense heat waves and wildfires driven by climate change are expected to worsen the quality of the air we breathe, harming human health and ecosystems, the UN warned Wednesday.

A new report from the UN's World Meteorological Organization (WMO) cautioned that the interaction between pollution and climate change would impact hundreds of millions of people over the coming century, and urged action to rein in the harm.

The WMO's annual Air Quality and Climate Bulletin examined the impacts of large wildfires across Siberia and western North America in 2021, finding

that they produced widespread increases in health hazards, with concentrations in eastern Siberia reaching "levels not observed before." Tiny particles with a diameter of less than 2.5 micrometers are considered particularly harmful since they can penetrate deep into the lungs or cardiovascular system.

"As the globe warms, wildfires and associated air pollution are expected to increase, even under a low emissions scenario," WMO chief Petteri Taalas said in a statement.

"In addition to human health impacts, this will also affect ecosystems as air pollutants settle from the atmosphere to Earth's surface."

### 'Foretaste of the future'

At the global scale, there has been a reduction over the past two decades in the total burned area, as a result of decreasing numbers of fires in savannas and grasslands.

But WMO said that some regions like western North America, the Amazon and Australia were seeing far more fires.

Even beyond wildfires, a hotter climate can drive up pollution and worsen air quality.

Taalas pointed out that severe heatwaves in Europe and China this year, coupled with stable high atmospheric conditions, sunlight and low wind speeds, had been

"conducive to high pollution levels," warning that "this is a foretaste of the future." "We expect a further increase in the frequency, intensity and duration of heatwaves, which could lead to even worse air quality," he said.

This phenomenon is known as the "climate penalty," which refers to how climate change amplifies ground-level ozone production, which negatively impacts air quality.

In the stratosphere, ozone provides important protection from cancer-causing ultraviolet rays, but closer to the ground it is very hazardous for human health.

If emission levels remain high, this climate penalty is expected to account for

"a fifth of all surface ozone concentration increase," WMO scientific officer Lorenzo Labrador told reporters.

He warned that most of that increase will happen over Asia, "and there you have about one quarter of the entire world population." The WMO called for action, stressing that "a worldwide carbon neutrality emissions scenario would limit the future occurrence of extreme ozone air pollution episodes." The report points out that air quality and climate are interconnected, since chemicals that worsen air quality are normally co-emitted with greenhouse gases.

"Changes in one inevitably cause changes in the other," it said. **AFP**



## Carlos P. Garcia and the civil service

THE Philippines has three independent constitutional commissions: the Commission on Audit, the Commission on Elections, and the Civil Service Commission or the CSC. The CSC was formally established on Sept. 19, 1900 through Public Law 5, "An Act for the Establishment and Maintenance of an Efficient and Honest Civil Service in the Philippine Islands." The 1935 Constitution "firmly established the merit system as the basis for employment in government," and on June 19, 1959, a new era for the civil service was ushered in with the approval of the amendments and revision of the laws relative to the Philippine Civil Service which converted the Bureau of Civil Service into the Civil Service Commission with department status by President Carlos P. Garcia.

Carlos P. Garcia became president of the Philippines in March 1957, upon the death of President Ramon Magsaysay, and was elected to a full four-year term the same year. President Garcia's administration was praised for his Filipino First Policy and the assistance of Filipino entrepreneurs to make ventures in industries dominated by non-Filipinos. Well received, calls to "expand the scope of the policy to include other spheres of society such as education" were made. It was also during this time that the CSC was strengthened, establishing a system that is characterized by strict observance of the merit, fitness and equality principles in the selection of employees for appointment to positions in government.

The new Civil Service Law was "one of the most progressive merit systems in the world" at that time, with its mandate to promote morale, efficiency, integrity,



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responsiveness, progressiveness and courtesy in the Civil Service; to adopt measures to strengthen the merit and reward system; to integrate all human resources development programs for all level and ranks; and to institutionalize a management climate conducive to public accountability.

Section 2 reads: "The general purpose of this Act is to insure and promote the constitutional mandate regarding appointments only according to merit and fitness, and to provide within the public service a progressive system of personnel administration to insure the maintenance of an honest, efficient, progressive and courteous civil service in the Philippines."

The origin of the modern meritocratic civil service in the Philippines, as well as for other countries, can be traced back to imperial China. It was then the practice to conduct imperial examinations which were designed to select the best administrative officials for the state's bureaucracy. This system was directly responsible for the creation of a class of scholar-bureaucrats irrespective of their family pedigree. Originally, appointments to the bureaucracy were "based on the patronage of aristocrats."

Through generations, our civil service has progressively evolved amid the challenges of the changing political landscapes of the country, but always staying true to its mandate that entry to the Career Executive Service is based on

merit and fitness as determined by competitive examination, or based on highly technical qualifications.

Presidential Decree 1 dated Sept. 24, 1972 created the Career Executive Service Board (CESB) to serve as the governing body of the Career Executive Service (CES); to "promulgate rules, standards and procedures on the selection, classification, compensation and career development of members," to "form a continuing pool of well-selected and development-oriented career administrators who shall provide competent and faithful service," and to operate as a public personnel system separate from that of the first two levels of positions in the Philippine civil service.

The CES operates on the "rank concept." Career Executive Service Officers (CESOs) are "appointed" to ranks and "assigned" to CES positions. As such, they can be re-assigned or transferred from one CES position to another and from one office to another but no oftener than once every two years. It is a system that is similar to that of the Armed Forces and the Foreign Service, where officers are appointed to ranks and assigned to positions. For CES, these are the positions of undersecretary, assistant secretary, bureau director, assistant bureau director, regional director, assistant regional director, chief of department service and such other positions of equivalent rank, as may be identified by the board.

Previous efforts have been made by the CESB and the National Defense College of the Philippines (NDCP) to integrate

the CES eligibility process into the Master of National Security Administration (MNSA) program of the NDCP. The National Defense College of the Philippines is the center of excellence in educational and policy development for strategic and dynamic leaders in national defense and security, with its MNSA program, uniquely integrating the political, economic, socio-cultural, techno-scientific, environmental and military dimensions of national security administration. And just last year, Executive Order (EO) 145, an executive order granting CESO rank to graduates of the MNSA program of the NDCP was signed. Its purpose is "to deepen the pool of leader-managers in government, and further strengthen the quality of policy formulation and governance in the public sector."

There is a saying that goes, take the civil service out of the government and the country will collapse, take the politics out of the government and the country will flourish. Truly, it is not the pompous politicians who run our country but our civil servants, day in, day out, unsung, unacknowledged and uncelebrated.

*The author has a degree in psychology from the University of the Philippines and completed two executive programs at Harvard University, first in 2005 at the Harvard Kennedy School in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and the second in 2015 at the Kadir Has Üniversitesi in Istanbul, Turkey. He has a master's degree in national security administration and has the rank of commander in the Philippine Navy and is the recipient of two Bronze Cross medals.*





## House scrutinizing budget proposals of 34 agencies

By DELON PORCALLA

Sixteen of 34 government agencies have undergone scrutiny by the House committee on appropriations for their proposed budgets for 2023.

"Every member of Congress is working double time, attending and participating in the budget hearings. Committee vice chair Stella Luz Quimbo is helping me move the hearings forward," Rep. Zaldy Co, committee chairman, said.

The committee expects to finish the budget hearings by Sept. 15 and start plenary debates on Sept. 21.

"With two more weeks of budget briefings, the appropriations committee is on track with our target date to pass the General Appropriations Bill by Oct. 1," Quimbo said.

The committee yesterday terminated the deliberations for the proposed budget of the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples.

"With the proposed budget of P28.2 billion for 2023, we look forward to all DOJ plans and programs to ensure that justice is served efficiently and appropriately," Co said.

He commended Justice Secretary Jesus Crispin Remulla for creating the Prosecution Integrity Board through Department Circular 027.

The board will look into misconducts of government prosecutors and recommend sanctions against them if necessary.

### Ayuda to continue

Owing to the country's recovering economy, the government will no longer extend any financial assistance due to the pandemic, but cash dole-outs will still be given in line with the policies of the 4Ps or Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program.

"Social welfare programs promote investment in human capital, like the case of 4Ps, which is the ultimate solution to poverty. We have to continue with our 4Ps," Quimbo

said during a hearing on the budget of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

"We also have to institutionalize the Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situations (AICS), provide more funding to our social pension, strengthen the Sustainable Livelihood Program and many others," Quimbo said.

Quimbo, an economist, clarified that Finance Secretary Benjamin Diokno made a statement that government dole-outs have reached their end, but only in relation to the pandemic.

"Even without the pandemic, DSWD provides social protection or *ayuda*. The agency is mandated to provide social protection and poverty-reduction solutions for the poor, the vulnerable and the disadvantaged," she said.

While the proposed budget for 2023 is pegged on lower inflation rate, there are provisions for adjustments depending on the prevailing economic situation, Quimbo said Tuesday night.

She said the 2023 National Expenditure Program (NEP) of the government contains "macro economic assumptions."

She said the assumptions for 2023 are pegged on the foreign exchange rate of around P51 to P55 per \$1, which is lower than the P57 exchange rate yesterday.

In an interview with "The Chiefs," Quimbo said the NEP contains the so-called "sensitivity of the budget to macro economic parameters."

Asked about the rise in interest rate, Quimbo said this was done by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) to protect Philippine currency following the rise in inflation rates in the United States.

"It is in defense of our own currency and at the same time, to manage the inflation expectation ... We have good economic managers and the BSP has enough tools, particularly for policy rates," she said.

- With Sheila Crisostomo



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## Cash for trash launched in Bacolod

**BACOLOD CITY:** The Bacolod City government and its garbage collection contractor, IPM-Construction and Development Corp. (IPM-CDC), launched on Monday the "Trash to Cashback" program that provides incentives for recyclable items brought to the community drop-off centers.

Mayor Alfredo Abelardo "Al-bee" Benitez said the program is one way to achieve effective zero waste management, which is one of his administration's priority programs.

"If your trash can be exchanged for cash, would you still throw it away? We are thinking that if the trash has value and we can get something out of it, you would not want

to throw it away anymore," Benitez said during the flag-raising ceremony at the Bacolod Government Center grounds on Monday.

The mayor acknowledged that waste segregation has been difficult to do despite years of campaigns by the government and environmental groups.

"I've been hearing about segregation for several years now. All the local government units, the national government, and the nongovernment organizations say we need to segregate, but it's difficult to do. It's hard to discipline people to segregate at source," he added.

"One of my priority projects is to rid the city of waste, but admittedly, it is hard to discipline

people and make them follow proper waste segregation. So they thought of the said idea to encourage people to recycle their waste."

Through the program, residents of Bacolod are encouraged to properly segregate recyclables at the source and exchange these at My Basurero Eco-community (MBE-C) Centers.

Benitez also said that one of the plans of his administration is to build a centralized recovery recycling complex in the city.

Lester Mateo, IPM-CDC representative, said the program aims to educate every Bacolodnon in the villages, communities and private establishments on the proper segregation of waste at source.

"All recyclable items will be incentivized. We will provide you with environmental points (EP) for every kilogram. The MBE-C Centers accept plastics, paper and metals," he said.

To earn a cashback, an individual must create an account at [bextra.com.ph](http://bextra.com.ph) of bXTRA Philippines, the official cashback partner of the Trash to Cashback program, using one valid email address, or scan the quick response code at the IPM-CDC booth, where the registered user can claim his or her cashback card.

Through this account, the user will receive an EP, which is equivalent to cashback that can be used to redeem grocery items, food, drinks and other items.

**EUGENE ADIONG**



**DROP-OFF CENTER** The 'Trash to Cashback' community booth at the Bacolod City Government Center grounds opened on Monday, Sept. 5, 2022. The program encourages residents to properly segregate recyclable items in exchange for cash at a My Basurero Eco-community Center. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



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AVIDA TOWERS MAKATI WEST  
CONDOMINIUM CORPORATION,

Case No. 22-3390

Applicant.

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**NOTICE OF HEARING**

This is an application for Certificate of Public Convenience to operate and maintain a waterworks system within Avida Towers Makati West Condominium, Barangay San Antonio, Makati City, Metro Manila, with the following proposed rates:

**PROPOSED TARIFF**

Residential and Commercial

Pipe Size	0-5 m <sup>3</sup> (min)	6-10 m <sup>3</sup>	11-20 m <sup>3</sup>	21-30 m <sup>3</sup>	31-40 m <sup>3</sup>	Over 40 m <sup>3</sup>
1/2"	P150.50	37.70	45.20	52.70	60.30	90.40

This application will be initially heard by the Board on **26 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 **Metro Manila** 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 21st day of July 2022.

By Authority of the Board:

  
**Dr. SEVILLO D. DAVID, JR., CESO III**  
Executive Director

**Affected Parties:**

The Secretary  
Sangguniang Panlungsod  
Makati City, Metro Manila

The Barangay Chairman  
Barangay San Antonio  
Makati City, Metro Manila

The Homeowners Assn. President  
Avida Towers Makati West Condo,  
Barangay Pio del Pilar  
Makati City, Metro Manila

The Administrator  
Metropolitan Waterworks & Sewerage System  
MWSS Compound, Katipunan Road  
Balara, Quezon City

(PDI-September 08, 2022)



AVIDA TOWERS CEBU CONDOMINIUM  
CORPORATION,

Case No. 22-3391

Applicant.

X-----X

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

This is an application for Certificate of Public Convenience to operate and maintain a waterworks system within Avida Towers Cebu Condominium, Barangay Apas, Cebu City, province of Cebu, with the following proposed rates:

**PROPOSED TARIFF**

Residential and Commercial

Pipe Size	0-5 m <sup>3</sup> (min)	6-10 m <sup>3</sup>	11-20 m <sup>3</sup>	21-30 m <sup>3</sup>	31-40 m <sup>3</sup>	Over 40 m <sup>3</sup>
1/2"	P364.00	90.90	109.10	127.30	145.50	218.13

This application will be initially heard by the Board on **26 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 21st day of July 2022.

By Authority of the Board:

  
**Dr. SEVILLO D. DAVID, JR., CESO III**  
Executive Director

**Affected Parties:**

The Secretary  
Sangguniang Panlungsod  
Cebu City, Cebu

The Barangay Chairman  
Barangay Apas,  
Cebu City, Cebu

The Homeowners Assn. President  
Avida Towers Cebu Condominium,  
Barangay Apas, Cebu City, Cebu

The General Manager  
Metro Cebu Water District  
Magallanes - Lapu-Lapu Sts.,  
Cebu City 6000

(PDI-September 08, 2022)



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DATE \_\_\_\_\_



Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
**NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES BOARD**  
8<sup>th</sup> Floor NIA Bldg., EDSA, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines 1100

AVIDA TOWERS SAN LORENZO  
CONDOMINIUM CORPORATION,

Case No. 22-3399

Applicant

x-----x

### NOTICE OF HEARING

This is an application for Certificate of Public Convenience to operate and maintain a waterworks system within Avida Towers San Lorenzo Condominium, Barangay Pio del Pilar, Makati City, Metro Manila, with the following proposed rates:

#### PROPOSED TARIFF

Residential and Institutional

Pipe Size	0-5 m <sup>3</sup> (min)	6-10 m <sup>3</sup>	11-20 m <sup>3</sup>	21-30 m <sup>3</sup>	31-40 m <sup>3</sup>	Over 40 m <sup>3</sup>
3/4"	P136.00	34.00	40.80	47.60	54.40	81.70

This application will be initially heard by the Board on **26 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 **Metro Manila** 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 21st day of July 2022.

By Authority of the Board:

**Dr. SEVILLO D. DAVID, JR., CESO III**  
Executive Director

#### Affected Parties:

The Secretary  
Sangguniang Panlungsod  
Makati City, Metro Manila

The Barangay Chairman  
Barangay Pio del Pilar,  
Makati City, Metro Manila

The Homeowners Assn. President  
Avida Towers San Lorenzo Condominium,  
Barangay Pio del Pilar  
Makati City, Metro Manila

The Administrator  
Metropolitan Waterworks & Sewerage System  
MWSS Compound, Katipunan Road  
Balara, Quezon City

(PDI-September 08, 2022)