

10 September 2022, Saturday



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

# **NEWS CLIPPINGS**

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## DENR probes whitening of river in Cebu

**By Joel  
dela Torre**

**IF proven that the discharged substance disposed into the Goyong River in Cebu province is hazardous or toxic, the one responsible will definitely be charged with an environmental offense, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources yesterday said.**

The Environmental Management Bureau of the DENR has already

started taking steps to reverse the damage brought by the improper waste disposal to the river located in Bgy. Don Gregorio Antiqua, Borbon town.

According to EMB Director William Cunado, the waters of Goyong River turned "milky white" on August 21, prompting him to order an investigation.

The river is mainly used for irrigation, where around 80 households are living nearby.

Based on the initial in-

vestigation, barangay officials identified a certain Elmer Pogado Degamo as the one who allegedly dumped contaminated water and oil being used to wash a flexible tank into the river.

The local officials also said that the trucking company, where Degamo is employed, is the owner of the flexible tank.

Degamo according to the EMB official, will be charged with violation of Republic Act or the Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004.

Violators may have to pay a penalty of P10,000 to not more than P200,000 for every day of violation upon the recommendation of the Pollution Adjudication Board, the DENR said.

"We are waiting for the results of the tests conducted by EMB-Region 7 to determine the contents of the discharge in the Goyong River. In the meantime, we will also be talking with local government authorities to make sure that this will not happen again," Cunado said



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**RIVER CLEANUP** Department of Environment and Natural Resources personnel, together with workers from the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority and Pasig City government, team up as they clear the Marikina River of water hyacinth in Barangay San Jose, Pasig City on Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2022. A skimmer was used to speed up the removal of the water hyacinth that chokes the waterways, eventually contributing to the flooding in Metro Manila. PHOTO BY MIKE DE JUAN



## PH calls for climate equity, justice at UN

THERE must be immediate action to achieve climate equity and justice en route to pragmatic solutions in addressing the impact of climate change.

This was the call made by the Philippine government at the conclusion of the Third Technical Expert Dialogue (TED3) on Climate Finance of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) last September 8.

According to Robert Borje, Climate Change Commission (CCC) vice chairman and executive director (VCED), vulnerable countries like the Philippines bear the brunt of the effects of climate change. It is high time for nations around the world to seize the "opportunity to advance inclusive climate finance" driven by a process that ensures "balanced geographical participation, particularly of developing states in the Asia-Pacific region."

Borje likewise assured that the Philippines, as directed by President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr., will continue to help mitigate the effects of climate change.

The Marcos administration, he noted, has increased the national budget allocation for climate change-related programs, projects and activities.

The Philippines will also pursue stronger collaboration with partners and stakeholders "to implement more climate actions with results."

"But we, the at-risk developing nations, cannot do it alone. And even if any of us can, we should not do it alone. We should work together for our One World, for One Humanity," Borje stressed.

The third TED, as a gathering of global climate finance experts, was described as an important venue to call on the NCQGCF to look beyond what specific countries can afford.

According to the Germanwatch Index, the Philippines ranked fourth most vulnerable country to climate change.

The country faces an average of

20 typhoons a year, with losses and damage in the past decade amounting to a 0.5 percent loss of Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

VCED Borje pointed out that the NCQGCF should focus on providing financial assistance to more vulnerable and less endowed countries, in fulfillment of the Paris Agreement.

Borje concluded by challenging participating climate finance experts to focus on a paradigm shift for climate finance and investment.

"This is what we mean by Build Right at First Sight: to build justly and efficiently at first sight, with a long-term horizon in mind. Our discussions will go beyond dollars and cents," he said.

"It will be recommendations for actions that will affect the lives and livelihood of nations. Today is an opportunity to get things right, to secure climate equity and justice for all," he added.

The Ad Hoc Work Programme on New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance (NCQGCF) created under the Paris Agreement is tasked to conduct four TEDs annually until 2024. The first and second TEDs were hosted by South Africa and Germany, respectively.

As the UNFCCC National Focal Point for the Philippines, the CCC is co-hosting the TED3, in partnership with the UNFCCC Secretariat and the Asian Development Bank.

In the lead-up to the 27th Session of the Conference of Parties (COP27) to the UNFCCC in Egypt this November, the four-day TED3 is expected to identify the needs and priorities of developing countries, including their scope, and quantitative and qualitative aspects of equitable and resilient climate action.

TED3 is also seen to advance discussion on the roles of public and private sectors toward efficient delivery and mobilization of climate finance, for low carbon and climate-resilient development.

**KRISTINA MARALIT**



## Heat waves, wildfires to worsen air quality

THE rise of extreme heat and forest fires will likely worsen air quality and put human health in danger over the course of this century, according to a report on Wednesday.

The link between air pollution and climate change will bring an additional "climate penalty" for hundreds of millions of people around the world, according to the annual Air Quality and Climate Bulletin report by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

"An anticipated rise in the frequency, intensity and duration of heat waves, and an associated increase in wildfires this century is likely to worsen air quality, harming human health and ecosystems," it said.

Evaluating the close links between climate change and air quality while focusing on increasing heat waves and wildfires, the report highlighted that climate change could exacerbate surface ozone pollution, leading to "detrimental health impacts" for millions.

"As the globe warms, wildfires and associated air pollution are expected to increase, even under a low emissions scenario. In addition to human health impacts, this will also affect ecosystems as air pollutants settle from the atmosphere to Earth's surface," said Petteri Taalas, the WMO secretary-general.

### Global efforts toward carbon neutrality

Explaining the "climate

penalty" as the climate change amplification effect on ground-level ozone production which negatively impacts the air people breathe, the report pointed out that the regions with the strongest projected climate penalty, mainly in Asia, are home to roughly one-quarter of the world's population.

The WMO warned that air pollution reached an unprecedented level in some regions last year.

"If greenhouse gas emissions remain high, such that global temperatures rise by 3 degrees Celsius from preindustrial levels by the second half of the 21st century, surface ozone levels are expected to increase across heavily polluted areas, particularly in Asia," underlined the report.

It also underlined that heat waves, which are becoming increasingly common due to climate change, are likely to continue leading to degradation in air quality.

To prevent further destruction that would be caused by air pollution, the report highlighted the global efforts on carbon neutrality and limiting emissions.

"This is because efforts to mitigate climate change by eliminating the burning of fossil fuels (carbon-based) will also eliminate most human-caused emissions of ozone precursor gases," it added.

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## PH rejoins global initiative to pursue transparency in mining

THE Marcos administration demonstrated its commitment to pursue transparency in natural resource governance by rejoining the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative and enabling the continued development of the mining sector, the Department of Finance said Friday.

Finance Secretary Benjamin Diokno sent a letter to EITI chair and former New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark to express support for good governance and anti-corruption measures in maximizing the extractive sector's contribution to resource mobilization and sustainable economic growth.

EITI will complement the administration's agenda on transparency and accountability.

"We welcome the opportunity to re-engage in EITI. We also commend the progress of the EITI board in reviewing the validation standard and making it more relevant to implementing countries. We believe that EITI is an important tool for resource-rich countries like the Philippines to improve transparency and increase accountability in the management and governance of the extractive industries," said Diokno.

Diokno said their government agencies, industry and civil society stakeholders who have been actively implementing EITI in the country, are supportive of the move to rejoin the global initiative.

The DOF, on June 20, 2022, withdrew its participation in the EITI over con-

cerns on metrics and procedures used for assessing country compliance with the international organization's transparency requirements.

Clark in an Aug. 23, 2022 letter invited Diokno to re-state the country's commitment to the EITI on behalf of the Marcos administration and build on the progress that the Philippines achieved in the past nine years.

The PH-EITI multi-stakeholder group is chaired by the DOF and is composed of representatives from the government, industry and civil society.

The government began implementing the EITI in 2013 pursuant to Section 14 of Executive Order No. 79, s. 2012 and Executive Order No. 147, s. 2013 that created the Philippine EITI.



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## Phl rejoins transparency initiative on mining

By LOUISE MAUREEN SIMEON

The Philippines has rejoined the global initiative on extractives transparency, just two months after the previous administration withdrew its commitment, as the new government moves to ramp up the mining sector.

The Marcos government has re-engaged with the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), which prescribes a standard for transparency and accountability in the mining, oil and gas industries.

In June this year, then finance chief Carlos Dominguez decided to withdraw from EITI amid questionable metrics and procedures for assessing the compliance of implementing countries.

In his letter to EITI chair Helen Clark, Finance Secretary Benjamin Diokno noted the value of good governance and anti-corruption measures in maximizing the extractive sector's contribution to resource mobilization and sustainable economic growth.

This comes after Clark invited Diokno to restate the country's commitment to the EITI and build on the progress that the Philippines has achieved in the past years.

The Philippines has been implementing the EITI since 2013. In 2016, the EITI recognized the country for its impactful implementation.

Diokno said the EITI would complement the administration's agenda on transparency and accountability.

The Department of Finance chairs the Philippine EITI, a multistakeholder body that governs the implementation of EITI in the country.

"We believe that EITI is an important tool for resource-rich countries like the Philippines to improve transparency and increase accountability in the management and governance of the extractive industries," Diokno said.

Extractive companies in implementing countries are engaged to publicly disclose data on taxes, royalties and other payments they make to the government and their host communities.

Annual disclosure of contracts, financial, economic, social and environmental data is also mandatory for extractive industries.

To date, the PH EITI has produced seven country reports, covering data from mining, oil, gas and

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**Phl From B1**

coal industries and reconciling over P362.5 billion in government revenues from extractive projects from 2012 to 2019.

In 2017, the Philippines was recognized by the EITI as the first among over 50 countries globally

to have fully complied with the 2016 EITI standard.

The Marcos administration is moving to ramp up the mining industry in the Philippines as part of its plan to grow the economy amid the pandemic.

Mining has been contributing less than one percent to the coun-

try's gross domestic product. The Duterte administration has been generally cold to the sector.

It was only toward the end-2021 when former president Rodrigo Duterte gave a much needed boost in revenue generation for the industry with the lifting of a four-year old ban on open pit mining.





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**EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVE**

# PH REJOINS MINING TRANSPARENCY CAMPAIGN

The Philippines is rejoining the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) after quitting in June because of the Norway-based policy institute's supposed bias in assessing the country's compliance to the group's standards.

Headquartered in Oslo, EITI advocates a global standard that is meant to ensure transparency of revenues—in the form of taxes, royalties, signature bonuses and other payments—from natural resources, particularly petroleum and minerals.

More than 50 countries have committed to strengthening transparency and accountability of their extractive sector management by implementing the EITI Standard.

Countries are assessed on their progress in meeting the requirements of the EITI Standard through "Validation," the EITI's quality assurance mechanism.

In a June 20, 2022 letter addressed to Helen Clark, chair of EITI and former New Zealand prime minister, then Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III explained why the Philippines wanted out.

In 2017, the EITI recognized the Philippines as the first among more than 50 countries in the world to have fully complied with the 2016 EITI Standard.

The EITI updates its standard every three years and subjects member countries to validation to ascertain their compliance.

"We find that the manner by which the EITI Board undertakes its Validation is unduly subjective, biased and unfair. The Philippines has no confidence in the ability of the EITI to undertake an impartial, transparent and evidence-based Validation process," Dominguez said.

But now, current Finance Secretary Benjamin Diokno said the Marcos administration was committed to pursue transparency in natural resource governance by rejoining the EITI and enabling the continued development of the mining sector.

This was in response to an Aug. 23 letter from Clark inviting Diokno to re-state the country's commitment to the EITI on behalf of the Marcos administration and build on the progress that the Philippines has achieved in the past nine years.

In his own letter to Clark, Diokno cited the value of good governance and anticorruption measures in maximizing the extractive sector's contribution to resource mobilization and sustainable economic growth.

"We welcome the opportunity to re-engage in EITI," he said. —**RONNEL W. DOMINGO** INQ



# Science and the arts synergize for climate action in E. Visayas

**B**AYBAY CITY, LEYTE—The Visayas State University (VSU), civil society and local governments championed climate change resilience in Eastern Visayas through science and the arts.

Students, teachers, school officials and representatives joined a two-day learning event held inside the university on August 25 and 26.

“Climate change is already happening in different regions around the world, and on multiple levels,” said climate scientist and Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities’ (ICSC) Climate Science Advisor Lourdes Tibig, a main speaker at the event. “We are all affected, whether we come from rich or...developing countries. Everyone has to participate and do [his or her] part.”

The knowledge-exchange session “*Klima Eskwela: Climate Science, Adaptation, and the Arts*,” was organized by ICSC, The Climate Reality Project Phils. (Climate Reality Phils.), and the VSU-Regional Climate Change Research and Development Center (RCCRDC).

“In the Philippines, there is still a disconnect in government systems in terms of adapting to and mitigating climate change. Local communities sometimes lack access to the needed resources,” Tibig added. “There is no going back regarding the changes hap-

pening in the climate system, which is why we have to do whatever we can to contribute to the efforts [addressing] climate change.”

For years the Eastern Visayas region has been at the forefront of climate impacts, both slow in onset: sea-level rise, increasing sea-surface temperatures and ocean acidification; as well as extreme weather events. The region was the first to be hit by Super typhoon Yolanda (international name Haiyan) back in 2013.

Dr. Eduardo Mangaoang, director of the VSU-RCCRDC and member of the National Panel of Technical Experts of the Climate Change Commission, presented their study that aims to bring Climate and Disaster Risk Finance and Insurance or CDRFI to “Yolanda”-affected communities.

Representatives of the local government, civil society, academia and youth from the region signed an agreement to put people first and at the center of climate financing, especially those at great risk. They stated: “We affirm the primacy of the humanitarian imperative: that action should be taken to prevent or



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**CLIMATE** Science Advisor Lourdes Tibig and Branch Manager Nazrin Castro of The Climate Reality Project Phils. (second from right, and right) guide young artists.

alleviate human suffering arising out of disaster or conflict, and that nothing should override this principle.”

Arts and humanities also play an important role in climate action. In this sphere, the youth have been stepping up, according to Climate Reality Phils.’ Branch Manager Nazrin Camille Castro.

On the second day of “Klima...,” Baybay City’s young artists and youth leaders brainstormed ideas for a mural as part of the “Poets for Climate” project of Climate Reality Phils., Africa, and Canada. They will create the mural in the coming weeks.

“We trust that the artists will incorporate what they have learned

in the first day of the learning session—including their insights on the latest climate science findings, and the experiences of the most vulnerable sectors in Baybay City—into the mural they will develop and its call to action,” Castro said.

“We could use the recent extreme weather events to put a spotlight on climate-change impacts plaguing vulnerable countries, like the Philippines, for many years now,” she added. “There is no better way to showcase the similarities, diversity, and connectedness of these lived experiences than through the arts. When we act collectively, we will definitely have a bigger impact.”



## Point of view

# Native trees are treasures

By MICHELE T. LOGARTA

Last Sunday, I laid eyes on a Mangkono tree for the first time. Or, rather, it is more likely that I had seen it before but didn't know exactly what I was looking at.

For all of 2022, it was just a picture on my planner heralding the month of August.

Except for its bright red flowers, I would have just passed it by.

My planner, which depicts Philippine forest blooms beautifully drawn by artist Cynthia Arre, tells me that this tree is known as Philippine Ironwood "for its very hard luxurious timber that can be burnished to look almost like metal."

That magical quality of the Mangkono is its curse. It is plundered in the wild; its wood harvested and used for anything that needs its Herculean strength.

The Mangkono is endemic to the Philippines, meaning it is found only here.

The Mangkono was one of the trees I saw during our nature walk with Leni Sutcliffe in the beautiful and sylvan parks of Ayala Westgrove Heights in Silang, Cavite, where she has lived with husband Peter since 2004.

Fellow Wild Bird Club of the Philippines (WBCP) members Helen Ong, nephew Caleb Ong and I had answered the call of Mike Lu, WBCP president, to join him for the walk with Sutcliffe. He had also brought Malabulak, Kalamansanay and Manggachapui seedlings to be planted there.

Sutcliffe is a birder too and has been a member of the WBCP since its early years. There are more than 80 bird species in Westgrove, she told us.

Sutcliffe heads the environmental committee of Ayala Westgrove Heights and runs its planting program, at one point single-handedly even. She's authored two guidebooks, with a third in the making, on the trees of Westgrove, which calls itself a Native Tree and Wildlife Haven.

Co-author of Volume II Ronald Achacoso is a renowned artist, landscaper and specialist on native trees and ornamental plants.

Says Achacoso in the book: "To plant a tree is a life affirming gesture, an act of hope and optimism for the future. It keeps one grounded while generating a broader perspective. The Philippine archipelago has one of the richest assemblages of plant species in the world but also one of the most rapid rates of destruction and degradation of its natural habitats. The irony is that the vast majority of its people do not even know what treasures they possess or stand to lose."

To date, Sutcliffe and her team have planted about 250 native species and 4,000 trees.

The native tree advocacy is well supported and funded by the community.

On Camachile street where we started our walk, Sutcliffe showed us a patch of flowers. This, she said, was one of the planned butterfly gardens in the village. She added that they were also starting to plant fern gardens.

That afternoon, the endemic Katmon, I learned, is not just one kind.

I encountered three – the broad leafed Katmon-Bayani, the Katmon-Sibuyan



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and the aptly named Katmon-Kalabau, which is the supersized version of its siblings. While we were puzzled about the one called Bayani, we learned that the Katmon-Sibuyan, whose scientific name is *Dillenia sibuyanensis*, takes its name from Sibuyan Island, in Romblon, where it was first found.

Sutcliffe said that if one got lost in the forest, one would not starve. There are so many fruits and, yes, flowers, that are edible. But, one has to know which ones are safe to eat, she emphasized.

For instance, one should not eat the fruit of the Baraibai that grows near the Katmon. It is, said Sutcliffe, also known as the Suicide Tree.

We wended our way around the lotus ponds of Central Park and trod the paths of Orchard Park in the village.

There we saw the endemic Malabayabas tree, which we learned is second to the Mangkono in hardness.

The Pitogo, also endemic, with palm-like leaves, we were told, is fast disappearing.

We stopped and crouched to look at a flowering Hoya vine strung around a tree. The flowers were velvety to the touch, with faces shyly downturned, facing the ground.

The trees have such interesting names like the small tree called Patalsik Pula. We all rubbed our fingers on the Balat Buwaya to see if it was scaly and rough to merit the name. It was not.

Then, there is the Balai Lamok. With that name, we didn't think we wanted to be anywhere near it. The Balai Lamok, according to Alay, the book on the native trees in the Victor O. Ramos Arboretum in Pangasinan, is comparable to Japan's sakura and its wood used to make drums.

We should plant native trees, Sutcliffe said, because they need protection.

"Many of them have been declared by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and by DENR as endangered, vulnerable or threatened in the wild. Having evolved and adapted to the Philippine situation over millions of years, they have developed a deep interconnectedness among themselves and with all living things. Destroy them and you destroy the very fabric that holds our ecology together and ultimately we destroy planet earth."

According to Sutcliffe, by the end of 2021, in Westgrove, there were 67 species of trees in various categories of vulnerability – almost 30 percent of the total number of native trees planted there. Among these are the endangered Mojave, the vulnerable Malabayabas and the near threatened Katmon.

"I have no favorite tree," said Sutcliffe. "But I marvel at different times over different trees, over how wonderful each species is and am impelled to try to discover the secrets they keep hidden from our eyes."

Go hug a tree today. Lay your ear on its trunk and listen to its whispers.

Best of all, choose native when you plant a tree.

\* \* \*

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## Editorial

### Food security aims must address food waste

**H**IGH prices and shortages of some basic food commodities have again drawn attention to the broad topic of food security, which the Philippines has been working to achieve for decades, with unfortunately largely disappointing results. A couple of news items this past week have highlighted one aspect of the food security issue that is generally overlooked: Any effort to achieve food security is necessarily incomplete, and will likely not fully accomplish its goals without addressing the issue of "agrifood waste."

A recent (September 1) article by Development Asia, a research component of the Asian Development Bank, detailed the scale of "agrifood waste" — a catch-all term to describe food wastage throughout the entire value chain from cultivation to consumption. Globally, agrifood waste costs about \$2.6 trillion annually, and while specific regional data is not provided, Southeast Asia is characterized as "a major contributor" to the problem.

Agrifood waste occurs at every step of the food chain — production, harvest, sorting, shipping, processing, packaging, wholesale and retail distribution, and consumption. In developed countries, such as Korea or Japan, a significant volume of food is wasted at consumption, but in developing economies, such as the Philippines, more waste occurs because of inadequate transportation and storage facilities.

Recent experience here in the Philippines confirms this observation. Earlier this week, it was revealed that there were some 25 metric tons of garlic

stranded and about to go to waste in Batanes province, all due to a lack of transport to markets. This is sadly a familiar situation; there have been many instances of farmers having to dump large amounts of harvested crops, mainly vegetables, because they are unable to move them to where they can be sold.



*If the Philippines truly wants to achieve food security, it should keep in mind the principle of "waste not, want not."*

*Dumping tons of vegetables and then importing supplies to make up the deficit is ludicrous and irresponsible.*





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The response of the Department of Agriculture (DA) to the news from Batanes, however, deserves some censure. DA Undersecretary Domingo Panganiban, who has twice served as Agriculture secretary and certainly should know better, blamed farmers for their unusable surpluses, saying, "The problem with the farmers is they keep on planting but without considering the situation just like the garlic in Batanes. They keep on planting garlic as a regular crop, but they do not have a market for their products."

This is a ridiculously insensitive assertion, given that it is the DA's mandate to match farm production to actual demand, and especially in light of the fact that the Philippines imports most of the garlic it uses — 23,141 metric tons in the first quarter of this year alone, according to DA data. Perhaps Panganiban should be reminded of the old adage, "When you point a finger, three are pointing back at you"; if agricultural supply chains were properly developed and supply bottlenecks promptly addressed — also responsibilities of the Agriculture department — much food waste on the production and distribution side of the value chain would be eliminated.

Dealing with agrifood waste, as Development Asia explains, requires a two-pronged strategy. First, inefficiencies such as those highlighted above need to be resolved, in order to reduce waste as much as possible. Second, for the waste that is inevitable — for example, the plant debris left over when crops are harvested — the country should take advantage of opportunities to turn it into a circular economy.

There are some examples of this already happening here in the Philippines and elsewhere in Southeast Asia. Dole Philippines, for instance, has partnered with a local fabric manufacturer to extract fiber from banana plant waste. In Negros, the bagasse left over from sugarcane processing is used to fuel electricity generation. In Indonesia, a similar use is made of the effluent left from palm oil production, which can be turned into biogas.

If the country truly wants to achieve food security, and we think that is a reasonable and necessary goal, it should keep in mind the principle of "waste not, want not." Dumping tons of vegetables and then importing supplies to make up the deficit is ludicrous and irresponsible. Plugging leaks in the supply chain to prevent waste and finding ways to make use of the waste that cannot be avoided is the only sustainable strategy.



## Transportation justice

**T**RANSPORTATION is a sector where there has been minimal recognition of the government's obligation to ensure that all Filipinos have adequate and dignified mobility. There is little acknowledgment in our policies, laws, budgets or practices that mobility is a basic human need and that the government has a duty to make travel accessible to all, regardless of one's economic standing or physical ability. Worse, our mobility environment works to exacerbate inequalities in Philippine society. It demands transportation justice.

Except for the small minority riding in private automobiles, most urban Filipinos suffer uncertain, difficult, unsafe or stressful travel to destinations. Many who rely on public transportation have a daily ordeal of long queues or unpleasant competition to get on limited public transport. It is not uncommon for a person to give up a dream job or school because the daily travel to these places will be unbearable or too costly. Those with private motor vehicles are privileged to have a much wider geographical reach and a large range of choice.

Filipinos who choose to walk or cycle encounter unsafe and often hostile road conditions. With the lack of protected bike lanes, those on bicycles travel along obstacle courses made of potholes, protruding objects and other hazards, facing the constant risk of collisions with motor vehicles. Pedestrians mix in roadways with cars and motorcycles because sidewalks in cities are too narrow, uneven, filled with cracks and holes or littered with obstructions. Persons using wheelchairs, strollers or crutches will not find many



### MOBILITY MATTERS

**ROBERT SIY**

pathways that satisfy accessibility standards. Despite Philippine laws that guarantee fully accessible buildings, public transport and roads, persons with disabilities face severely restricted mobility due to poor compliance with accessibility regulations.

Because public transportation services are inadequate, inconvenient or unreliable and because pedestrian and cycling infrastructure is missing or substandard, it is usually only the small minority with access to private automobiles who are able to experience safe and dignified travel. For this reason, commuters are motivated to shift to using a private motor vehicle — adding to already alarming road congestion — as soon as they can afford to.

The conventional wisdom is that roads for cars should continue to be prioritized in urban areas to accommodate the increasing number of vehicles, and therefore private cars have an entitlement to the road space. Wrong. This is a false and unjust assertion that needs to be challenged and discarded. Because car owners account for only about 6 percent of Philippine households and because roads are generally built with public funds, it is fundamentally unfair for urban roads to mainly serve the small car-owning minority.

We don't have to look far to find examples of costly car-centric transport infrastructure that offers little benefit for those without cars. The three new bridges across the





Pasig River — the BGC-Ortigas Bridge, Estrella-Pantaleon Bridge and the Binondo-Intramuros Bridge — were built to serve private cars. There are no accessible sidewalks for crossing these bridges even though there are densely populated communities on both sides of each bridge. The bike lanes on these bridges, with their widths narrower than a person's shoulders, are sad examples of how to place cyclists at high risk of collisions with vehicles. And despite large obvious travel demand, no public transport utilizes these bridges. The false promise was that these bridges would somehow alleviate traffic on EDSA by giving cars alternate routes. Today, MMDA statistics show that traffic on EDSA has worsened and that the new bridges have had no positive impact on road congestion; if anything, the three have attracted greater car use and made traffic worse. Fixing traffic congestion caused by cars with more infrastructure for cars is clearly not the solution.

Roads need to be placed in the service of all users, especially the vast majority who walk, cycle and use public transport. If this simple principle can be applied to road design, construction and use, it will alleviate many of the mobility constraints in our country. On major corridors, dedicated lanes for buses and jeepneys will enable public transport to travel faster and with more reliability, liberated from friction with private vehicles. Wider sidewalks and protected bike lanes will offer safe pathways for the most vulnerable road users. The added benefit of this type of road transformation is that our

road and bridge infrastructure will support the mobility of many more people compared with devoting the same space to private motor vehicles. And if this induces more car users to shift to walking, cycling or public transport, it will mean fewer motor vehicles and less congestion on urban roads. Inclusive and just transportation delivers better mobility for all, including those in private motor vehicles.

Transportation justice demands that the unequal and lopsided allocation of road space for private motor vehicles be corrected. It demands that the travel needs of mobility-deprived Filipinos who represent the vast majority be prioritized over investments that serve only the small and already privileged minority with cars. It demands that our legislators and economic managers review the 2023 proposed national budget in order to limit car-centric infrastructure investments and replace these with meaningful spending that benefit Filipinos who walk, cycle or use public transportation. It demands that the government develop and expand safe pathways for vulnerable road users (pedestrians, cyclists and persons with disabilities) and ensure that public transportation is adequate, affordable and reliable for Filipinos in all parts of the country. In the Philippines, transportation justice is long overdue.

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



## Red is a spectrum

### Red is a spectrum

THERE can not be any debate about



ON THE  
CONTRARY

**ANTONIO  
CONTRERAS**

it. The Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front (CPP-NPA-NDF) is an enemy of the Republic. After all, it is a rebel group whose members took up arms with the main intent of eventually taking over if not a major part of the Philippine territory, then its entirety.

► **ContrerasA5**

And this is where we have to take issue with how Sen. Loren Legarda has painted the CPP-NPA-NDF as otherwise.

The more fundamental offense committed by Legarda, to my mind, is that her cavalier treatment of the leftist ideology, where she collapsed a broad spectrum of different shades of red into one homogeneous entity, has done all leftist ideologues a total disservice. In her desire to defend progressive people espousing leftist platforms from being red-tagged, she, in fact, carelessly simplified and offered them up for further red-tagging.

We can only second-guess Legarda's real intent, but what she has done is practically summarize and homogenize the dynamism of what comprises the left, equating the ideas of those who adhere to left-wing politics and who espouse a more progressive political platform with the CPP-NPA-NDF. This is a highly irresponsible simplification.

To be left or right is determined by someone's view of the economy. Being on the left means believing that globalization should primarily serve humanity instead of the interests of global corporations, that corporate interests should be regulated to protect the environment because they wouldn't do so if they are left alone, and that corporations should have social responsibility and should not be fixated on profits only. A leftist believes in economic regulation and in protecting the marginalized, even if it means interfering with the operations of the free market.

Hence, leftists believe in minimum wages and price controls. They believe in taxing the rich more, and using taxes to finance social programs that would even include investing in the arts. While some leftists are socially authoritarian, most leftists are socially libertarian. They adhere to individual freedom, and would support divorce, same-sex marriages and abortion. They oppose the death penalty.

Being an activist for these causes, and questioning state authority, when done peacefully and under the ambit of laws, should not and cannot be considered as dangerous to the Republic. Under these rubrics, I am personally a leftist who is also a social libertarian. My score in the political compass test is a minus 6.88, with minus 10 being the score for being perfectly leftist, and a minus 7.23, with minus 10 being the score for being perfectly libertarian. I am not even a centrist by all accounts.

There has been too much confusion in the way popular and ordinary discourse has branded the left as essentially communist, and then further committing an egregious error of associating communism only with the armed left. Some even go to the extent of associating the left in general, and communism in particular, with authoritarian regimes. This is the ground from where red-tagging emerges as a pejorative, where liberal-progressives who espouse leftist and libertarian beliefs end up being lumped together with Marxist, Leninist and Maoist rebels, and worse, terrorists.



This corruption of political labels and categories has to end. Being leftist is different from being an armed rebel, in the same manner that being an activist does not necessarily mean that one has taken up arms to topple the government. Likewise, it is a fallacy to contrast communism with democracy, considering that there are communist and socialist parties that compete in democratic elections in countries like India.

The ideal response to red-tagging is to clarify that not all kinds of red should be tagged as enemies of the state. Environmental activists who propose green economies tend to be leftist in orientation, and so are feminists and gay activists. Organized labor unions tend to be leftist in orientation. The hatred being espoused by many diehard Duterte supporters and Marcos loyalists toward liberal activists, that even translate to their dislike of the US Democrats, is misplaced simply because they are premised on fallacious imaging and assumptions. There are many good people who are fighting for socially relevant causes that under these misinformed rubrics would fall in the category of enemies of the state. A cursorial look at history would reveal that practically all major social benefits that people now enjoy, from wage protection to social amelioration policies, are largely the result of leftist and progressive activism. These include giving *ayuda* (financial assistance) and educational assistance.

It is here that Senator Legarda's

statement may have done a lot of damage, when she irresponsibly and carelessly implied that good leftists and social progressives engaged in social activism and legitimate criticism are in the same basket as the armed cadres who impose revolutionary taxes, bomb cell site towers, conscript children and arm them, all with the intent of eventually toppling the government. What she did only further forced the misinformed hatred toward anything left to fester, and its adherents to double down in their prejudices and biases.

Having said this, it is important to point out that much as taking up arms can never be countenanced, there has to be an understanding of the backstories of people who rebel against government. While one cannot condone political violence, there should be an open mind to the reasons why people rebel. Certainly, being displaced by land grabbing capitalists, and being targeted for persecution by paramilitary groups on the mere suspicion of being a rebel, would push people to take justice in their own hands. It is hypocrisy to justify Chao Tiao Yumul's rampage as an act of desperation but condemn those who rebel. Much as we condemn the violence, it is a fact that the state failed them.

The solution to political violence is not red-tagging but to make sure that the interests of the marginalized are served by legitimate institutions of the state. And the better response to red-tagging is to show that some types of red are, in fact, essential in achieving that end.



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## California faces wildfires, heat, rain and flooding

**L**OS ANGELES—Forces were beginning to collide in California on Thursday as wildfires threatened communities, an epic heat wave stressed the electrical grid and as moisture from a hurricane was expected to bring thunderstorms and floods along with cooling.

Firefighters struggled to control major wildfires in Southern California and the Sierra Nevada that have grown explosively, forced extensive evacuations and produced smoke that could interfere with solar power production.

The Fairview Fire in Southern California covered about 78 square kilometers of Riverside County and was just 5 percent contained. Two people died while fleeing flames on Monday and at least seven structures have been destroyed.

In the Sierra, the Mosquito Fire burned out of control on Thursday, scorching at least 28 square kilometers and forcing evacuations for some 2,500 residents in Placer and El Dorado counties.

Flames jumped the American River, burning structures in the mountain hamlet of Volcanoville and moving closer to the town of Foresthill. Fire spokesperson Chris Vestal called the fast-moving blaze an "extreme and critical fire threat."

The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection warned the Reno area that air quality could be very unhealthy to hazardous due to smoke from the Mosquito Fire 160 kilometer away.

The fire's cause remained under investigation. Pacific Gas & Electric notified the state Public Utilities Commission that the US Forest Service placed caution tape around the base of a PG&E transmission pole but that no damage could be seen. PG&E said unspecified "electrical activity" occurred close in time to the report of the fire on September 6.

Another dangerous blaze burned in stands of timber near the Big Bear Lake resort region in the San Bernardino Mountains east of Los Angeles. It was just 2 percent contained after scorching nearly 5 square kilometers.

A surge of clouds and showers associated with Hurricane Kay off Mexico's Baja California peninsula knocked the edge off temperatures in Southern California at times but also were a potential problem for solar generation.

Despite the initial impacts of Kay, forecasters warned that the heat was not yet done.

"The seemingly endless heat wave



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that has been plaguing California will finally be coming to an end across at least Southern California, but not before two more very hot days and very warm nights," the Los Angeles-area weather office wrote.

Operators of California's power grid issued another "Flex Alert" call for voluntary cuts in use of electricity and expanded the period by two hours, 3 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Wildfire smoke and the cloud cover created uncertainty about solar power production in afternoon hours when temperatures rise toward their peaks, said Elliot Mainzer, president and CEO of the California Independent System Operator.

There was also uncertainty about wind power at the back end of the period.

Cal-ISO has issued Flex Alerts since last week and has avoided ordering rolling power outages, although a miscommunication with one Northern California provider led to blackouts.

With record demand on power supplies across the West, California snapped its record energy use around 5 p.m. Tuesday with 52,061 megawatts (MW), far above the previous high of 50,270 MW set July 24, 2006.

An emergency appeal for conservation that was sent to Californians'

cellphones was credited with an immediate drop in demand on the electrical grid that evening.

Electrical demand hit 50,184 MW on Wednesday but it ended up being "a relatively quiet operation on the system," Mainzer told a briefing.

The electrical load forecast for Thursday afternoon and evening was higher, however, and the uncertainty involving the renewable energy sources made the situation a bit more complex, he said.

"We certainly think we're close to turning the corner, but we still have challenges ahead of us this evening," Mainzer said.

Storm and wind conditions associated with the approaching hurricane were likely to create a new set of risks for power shortages in Southern California, he noted.

Hurricane Kay was expected to be downgraded to a tropical storm before it reaches northern Baja California on Friday, the National Weather Service said.

Despite losing hurricane strength, Kay was expected to send a surge of moisture into Southern California. Strong winds, heavy rain and flash floods were likely Friday evening through Saturday. Tropical storm warnings were posted for mariners. **AP**



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## SPPI SUPPORTS MARIKINA RIVER FOREST PARK



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, a protected area in the province of Rizal, 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.

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



## ANG SAFE PATHWAYS ACT

INIHAYAG ni Sen. Christopher "Bong" Go ang kanyang suporta sa Senate Bill No. 1290, mas kilala bilang "Safe Pathways Act", na ang may akda ay si Sen. Pia Cayetano para sa pagtatalaga ng mga ligtas na bicycle lanes, walkways at slow streets sa buong bansa.

Sinabi ni Go, hangad niyang maging co-author ng isinusulong na panukala ni Cayetano na sadyang napanahun na para maging ganap na batas.

Bilang tagapangulo ng Senate committee on health, layon ni Go na maitaguyod ang isang healthy at environment-friendly mode ng transportasyon.

Kung ang marami ay gagamit na lamang ng bisikleta sa kanilang paroroonan, hindi lamang mababawasan ang

trapiko kundi mababawasan pa ang polusyon na dulot ng usok ng mga sasakyan.

"Kailangan nating isipin kung paano makatutulong sa ating lifestyle at kalusugan ang paggamit ng bisikleta. Mabibigyan tayo ng pagkakaataong makapag-exercise at syempre, makatulong sa ating kapaligiran," paliwanag ni Go.

Kaya naman hindi tumitigil si Go sa paghimok sa mga Pilipino na magbisikleta kay sa gumamit ng kotse dahil na rin sa malaking kabutihang maidudulot nito sa kapaligiran lalo na sa kalusugan ng ating katawan.

Palaging may dala-dalang bisikleta ang senador saan man siya magpunta para ipinamimigay, kasabay ng iba pang ayuda sa mga residenteng apektado ng pandemya



at biktima ng sunog o iba pang natural na kalamidad.

Napalaking tipid aniya sa pamasaha ang pagbibisikleta at isang alternatibong transportasyon para sa mga may sasakyang buwisit na buwisit na sa patuloy na paglobo ng presyo ng langis sa bansa.

Kapag naisabat, magkakaroon na ng imprastraktura o maayos na sariling daanan ang bisikleta para matiyak na ang mga siklista ay ligtas papunta sa kanilang patutunguhan.

Hindi lang yan, magkakaroon na rin ng tamang laka-

ran ang mga tao sa kalsada.

'Iyon bang kapag naglalakad ay hindi na makikipagpatintero sa mga sasakyan sapagkat may tamang lugar para sa naglalakad.

Alam nyo naman, lalo na sa Metro Manila, ang mga walkway o lakaran ng tao ay sinakop na ng sidewalk vendors kaya ang siste, sa kalsada na tayo naglalakad na sadyang napakapeligroso.

Bukod sa mga vendor, karamihan ng walkway at mga bangketa ay ginagawa na ring parking lot ng mga may sasakyan.



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Our Best Kept Secret



BRO. CLIFFORD T. SORITA

**GROUNDING** on the scriptural passage **GENESIS 1:29**, this movement initiated by Caritas Manila highlights the spirituality that God provided for us humans (*made in His image*), and our offspring, to be fed by providing plants and trees that would reproduce themselves. In addition, humans would learn to access the seeds of those fruits and vegetables to grow more and more food for us, generation after generation. God has been providing for mankind from the very beginning; and it is incumbent for us to be responsible stewards of God's gift of creation.

To highlight the social significance of this movement, this venture envisions a combination of **URBAN and RURAL Farming Initiatives** (*in partnership with parishes, urban communities and agricultural cooperatives*) whose main thrusts include:

**ADDRESSING FOOD SECURITY** – when COVID-19 quarantine restrictions hampered the food supply in Metro Manila, we realized the need to sustain food security in various communities in the metropolis. In fact, *“one recent survey found that 51 countries do not have enough urban area to meet a recommended nutritional target of 300 grams per person per day of fresh vegetables. Moreover, it estimated, urban agriculture would require 30 percent of the total urban area of those countries to meet global demand for vegetables”* (Prof. Miguel Altieri, U.C. Berkeley). Thus, in providing vacant spaces within parishes and Caritas Manila partner communities for edible landscaping, green riprapping, hydroponics and container gardening (vertical gardening); we can be assured of ready source of food, especially vegetables when their supply and distribution get affected by unforeseen events and force majeure in the nearby production areas. *“The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it”* (Genesis 2:15). Through these directives, food and nature is given a whole new meaning to humanity; food is not only a source of health and sustenance but also an integral part of humanity's affiliation to

## GEN 1: 29 ADVOCACY

creation and God. It is simply not enough to be given food, God desired for us to know its source and be part of its production.

**CURBING URBAN & RURAL POVERTY** – with the increase in urban poverty, food uncertainty and malnutrition in urban areas, renewed interest arises in alternative strategies for improving urban livelihoods. Urban Farming is an essential source of revenue for a substantial number of urban households. In addition to the income from sales of surpluses, urban farming households save on household expenses by growing their own food, which can be considerable since poor people generally spend a sizeable part of their income (50–70%) on food. Urban Farming also augments the growth of microenterprises in the production of necessary agricultural inputs (e.g., fodder, compost, earthworms), the processing, packaging and marketing of products (based on a study by Homem de Carvalho) and the provision of services such as transportation (based on a study by Moustier and Danso). As for Rural Farmers, our capacity to create a new agrivalue chain without “middle-men” in the creation of available, affordable and accessible distribution channels for our farmers and agricultural cooperatives within various parishes and communities in urban areas shall significantly raise the income for poor farmers in rural areas.

*“Plant your seed in the morning and keep busy all afternoon, for you don't know if profit will come from one activity or another – or maybe both”* (Ecclesiastes 11:6).

**INTENSIFYING ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY** – *“You shall not pollute the land in which you live, for blood pollutes the land, and no atonement can be made for the land for the blood that is shed in it, except by the blood of the one who shed it. You shall not defile the land in which you live, in the midst of which I dwell, for I the Lord dwell in the midst of the people of Israel”* (Numbers 35:33-34). Urban farming may also encouragingly impact on the greening of our barangays and communities, the enhancement of the urban microclimate (e.g., wind breaks, dust reduction, shade) and the preservation of biodiversity. They may also diminish the city's ecological footprint by producing fresh foods close to the consumers, thereby decreasing energy use for transport, packaging and cooling, among others. Moreover, urban farming creates beauty and a sense of calm, which can be difficult to find in a busy

city. Urban greening helps our physical and mental health, as well as counterbalancing some of the carbon emissions creating in the local area that would otherwise contribute to climate change.

**ENSURING PHYSICAL WELLNESS** – urban farming promotes a plant-based diet; and as such improves one's physical wellness through good health and lifestyle. In a book entitled, *“THE CHINA STUDY”* (composed of 417 pages) T. Colin Campbell, PhD, and his son, Thomas M. Campbell II, MD, asserts through 367 variables, 65 counties in China, and 6,500 adults – that there are more than 8,000 statistically significant associations between lifestyle, diet, and disease variables. In fact, Caldwell B. Esselstyn, Jr., M.D., a physician and researcher at the best cardiac center in the US, The Cleveland Clinic, treated 18 patients with established coronary disease with whole foods, plant-based diet. Not only did the intervention stop the progression of the disease, but also 70 percent of the patients saw an opening of their clogged arteries. Dr. Dean Ornish, a graduate of Harvard Medical School, completed a similar study with consistent results. This is actually encouraging – heart disease can be reversed.

**AND CARING FOR GOD'S CREATION** – to engage in urban farming is planting with a purpose. Psalm 24 states that *“the Earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it.”* We are occupants here, called to care for the creation on behalf of future generations and all species. The Holy Scriptures calls us to *“till and keep the garden”* and names man as the guardians of creation. Because God fashioned all the Earth and all of us, creation is stunning and good and sacred. We are called by our piety to God and our love for God's works to safeguard it. Creation mirrors God's glory: *“Ever since the creation of the world, his invisible attributes of eternal power and divinity have been able to be understood and perceived in what he has made.”* (Romans 1:20) We honor God by preserving what he has created and being good stewards of the earth.

*For any personal comments or suggestions, you may call 0917-4805585 or email me at csorita@yahoo.com.*





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## APPLE GADGETS NA WALANG ADAPTER IREKLAMO

**ALAM** ba ninyong pinarurusahan sa ibang bansa ang kompanyang Apple sa pagbebenta nito ng mga produkto nito nang kulang-kulang?

Sa Brazil, multa ng Ministry of Justice and Public Security ang Apple ng halos P14 milyon dahil dito.

Idinemanda ang Apple ng consumer group na Senacon na nagsabing isang uri ng diskriminasyon sa mga konsumidor ang pagbebenta ng produktong kulang-kulang.

Naganap ang pagmumulta makaraang walang power adapter o charger ang mga benta ng Apple na iPhone 14, 14 Pro at Apple Watch Ultra.

At nang pagtatanungin naman natin ang mga nakabili na ng mga iPhone na mga kasamahan natin, anak ng tokwa, simula pa lang pala sa iPhone 12, wala nang kasamang charger.

At wala na rin ang mga earphone at isang charger cable na lang ang isinasama.

Kung gusto mong magkaroon ng charger, kailangan mong bumili sa tindahan ng Apple o sa iba.

At napakamamahal ang mga ito.

Reklamo pa ng mga Brazilian, kulang-kulang na nga ang laman ng set, mahal pa rin ang i-Phone at maging ang relong Apple.

Bukod dito, may sariling disenyo o itsura ang mga male o female plug ng i-Phone at hindi magagamitan ang mga Apple product na ito ng mga charger na dinisenyo ng iba.

**MALING-MALI!**

Ito ang reklamo ng mga Pinoy na nakausap nating may mga iPhone.

### KATWIRAN NG APPLE

Simple lang ang katwiran ng Apple.

Gusto raw nilang makatulong laban sa carbon footprint.

Yun bang — gusto nilang makatulong sa pagbabawas ng carbon dioxide na pinagmumulan ng pag-iinit ng mundo.

Ginagawa ang mga charger ng mga pabrika na gumagamit ng mga produktong langis na pinagmumulan umano ng carbon dioxide.

Pero kung iisipin, paano kung walang gagawa ng mga charger na tugma sa Apple?

Eh 'di nganga ka kapag nalobat ang iPhone mo.

### DAPAT IREKLAMO

Gaya ng ginawa sa Brazil, dapat ding magpasimula ang mga Pinoy ng reklamo laban sa apple.

Dahil kung ano ang ginagawa nila sa Brazil, ginagawa rin pala nila sa Pilipinas.

Saan ka naman nakakita ng produktong wala palang silbi makaraang malobat?

Eh, mabuti kung mura lang ang Apple gadgets.

Kabilang sila sa mga pinakamahal na produkto at titindig ang balahibo mo sa presyo ng mga ito.

Isang malaking hamon sa mga Pinoy ang pagtutlad sa mga Brazilian na nagsampa ng kaso laban sa higitang kompanyang Amerikano na may gawa ng Apple.

Anomang reklamo o puna, iparating lang sa [www.remate.ph](http://www.remate.ph) o i-text sa 0921-4303333.



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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

**FLORDELIZA M. BARAYUGA/  
MIRACEL WATER STORE,**

Applicant.

Case No. 22-3400

x-----x

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

Applicant, an authorized operator to sell water through bulk rate within Barangay Sucat, Muntinlupa City, Metro Manila applies for the renewal of Certificate of Public Convenience and petition for change of name from Miguel R. Miranda/Miracel Water Store to Flordeliza M. Barayuga/Miracel Water Store.

Notice is hereby given that this application will be initially heard by the Board on **3 October 2022**, hearing will start at **9:00 o' clock in the morning** at the NWRB-WUD Conference Room, 8<sup>th</sup> 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 send by personal delivery or registered mail a copy of (i) the 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 affected party to file its opposition on time and to appear at the hearing will be construed as a waiver of their right to be heard and 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 28<sup>th</sup> day of July 2022.

For the 22-3400  
Date of Hearing  
Affected Parties  
The Secretary  
Kangkongang Pangangang  
Muntinlupa City, Metro Manila  
The Barangay Chairman  
Barangay Sucat  
Muntinlupa City, Metro Manila  
The Administrator  
Metropolitan Waterworks & Sewerage System  
MWS-Corpuscul, Katipunan Road  
Ramon, Quezon City

By Authority of the Board:

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