

14 September 2022, Wednesday



**DENR**

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1  
PAGE

UPPER  
LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

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09-14-22

TITLE:

PAGE

DATE

# Care for life, nature – Marcos

PBBM marks 65th birthday by leading tree planting, freeing 371 PDLs, among others

By BETHEENA V. UNITE and JEFFREY G. DAMICOG

**P**resident Marcos started the first working hours of his birthday on Tuesday, Sept. 13, by leading the kick-off ceremony of the national bamboo and tree-planting activity in San Mateo, Rizal, where he enjoined the nation to pour all efforts to preserving the earth.

In his speech, he bared that holding the kick-off ceremony of the national simultaneous bamboo and tree planting on Tuesday was his way of celebrating his 65th birthday.

The President said he and ▶ 7



PBBM@65 – President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. starts the celebration of his 65th birthday on Tuesday, Sept. 13, 2022, by leading the kick-off ceremony of the national bamboo and tree planting at the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Landfill in San Mateo, Rizal. Assisting the President are Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) – Forest Management Bureau (FMB) director Tirso P. Parian Jr., DENR CALABARZON regional executive director Nilo Tamoria, DENR Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga, Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Secretary Benhur Abalos, Rizal Province Governor Nina Ricci Ynarez, and other local government officials. (Noel B. Pabalate)



CARE FOR LIFE... 2

## Care for life, nature – Marcos 1

Environment Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga came up with the idea to schedule the event on his birthday to magnify the importance of nature.

"Sabi ko: siguro ang pinakamaganada para yung kaarawan ko ay maging mas kabuluhan at talagang may dahilan para tayo mag-celebrate, sabi ko gawa tayo ng greening, tree planting (I said: To make my birthday meaningful and relevant, maybe the best way to celebrate is to hold a greening, tree-planting activity)," the President said.

### 'Preserving environment is preserving life'

Marcos also reiterated his message during his first State of the Nation Address (SONA) that "preserving the environment is nothing less than preserving life."

He said this is one of his administration's priorities that would eventually lead to economic gains.

"The challenges we hurdled in recent years highlighted the fact that we have one earth. We must spare no effort to ensure that it survives in the years to come," he said.

The President said the event, which took place at the old San Mateo sanitary landfill in Rizal, is only

among the steps Filipinos can do to preserve the environment as it will "greatly help in raising awareness on environmental and protection."

"We have to do this as a concrete step that we take so that nature is cared for because it desperately needs that care and it desperately needs that attention," Marcos said.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is targeting 11,631 hectares of enhanced national greening program sites in 2023.

"And so, the seedlings that we will plant today will be significant in realizing this goal. This program will generate jobs, will generate opportunities and will generate livelihood for our countrymen," Marcos said.

"More than the economic benefit of this activity, we are essentially and primarily investing in ensuring that our planet remains a safe space, never mind for us, but we are only custodians of this earth but more so that we can say to the children, the Filipinos that follow us, that we have taken good care of that which they will inherit," he added.

After leading the ceremonial tree planting on the site, where he planted Kawayang Tinik, Marcos was given a

cake by the organizers who rendered a birthday song for him.

### 371 PDLs freed

To underscore that he values life, Marcos ordered the release of 371 persons deprived of liberty (PDLs) from the prison facilities of the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) on Tuesday, Sept 13. The PDLs were freed either through the grant of parole or probation. Others had already served the prison term.

Justice Secretary Jesus Crispin C. Remulla witnessed the release of PDLs at the New Bilibid Prison (NBP) in Muntinlupa City.

"Ito ay simula pa lamang ng programang ito. Hindi po ito katapusan (This is just the beginning of the program. This is not the end)," Remulla said.

"Gusto ko po kung papalarin tayo sa October may batch ulit, sa November may batch ulit at sa Pasko ay may isang batch ulit (If we are fortunate, I want to see batches of PDLs released in October, November, and this Christmas)," he said.

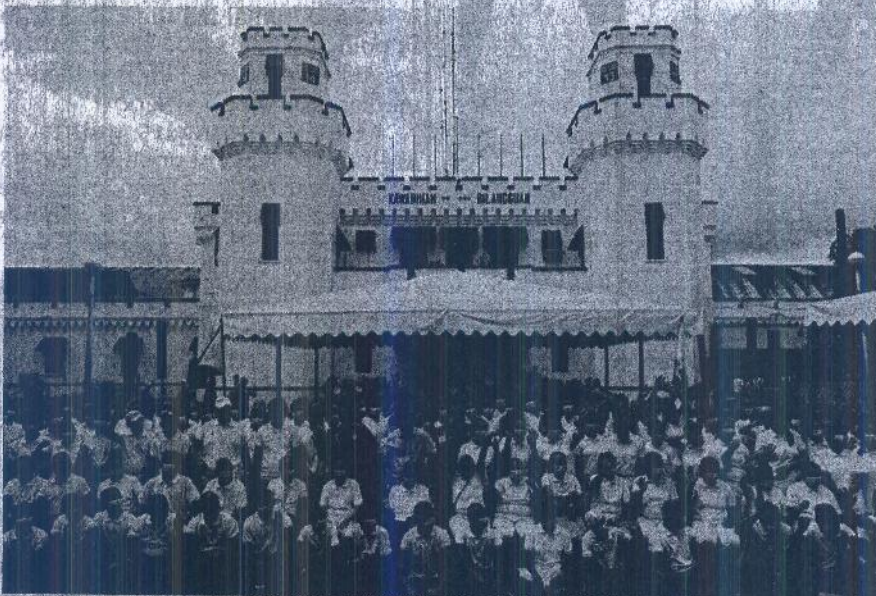
Those released included 31 PDLs who had been acquitted of their criminal charges, 98 who had been granted parole, two who were placed under probation, and 240 who had served their maximum jail terms.

BuCor said 191 of those freed were from the NBP, 37 from the Correctional Institution for Women (CIW) in Mandaluyong City, 45 from the Davao Prison and Penal Farm (DPPF) in Davao del Norte, 31 from the Iwahig Prison and Penal Farm (DPPF) in Palawan, 30 from the Leyte Regional Prison (LRP) in Abuyog, Leyte, 18 from the Sablayan Prison and Penal Farm (SPPF) in Occidental Mindoro, and 19 from the San Ramon Prison and Penal Farm (SRPPF) in Zamboanga City.

Forty-five of those released are senior citizens – 28 from NBP, four from CIW, and 13 from other BuCor's prison facilities.

"Wala ako maalaala ganitong kalaking numero kasi ito ang sabi nga na pinaka-una. Siguro kung meron man hindi ko siguro panahon noon (I don't remember a time such large number of inmates were released in a single day because it is said this is the first. If there was one it happened before my time)," BuCor director General Gerald Q. Bantag told journalists.

Aside from those released, Public



**FREE AT LAST** – Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) chief director General Gerald Q. Bantag finds himself in the middle of 371 persons deprived of liberty (PDLs), who were released on Tuesday, Sept. 13, 2022, from the National Bilibid Prison (NBP) in Muntinlupa City. The PDLs were either granted parole, or given commutation of sentence as part of the 65th birthday celebration of the President. (All Vicoy)



09-14-22

TITLE:

PAGE

DATE

## CAME FOR LIFE ... 3

Attorney's Office (PAO) chief Persida V. Rueda-Acosta said a list of PDLs recommended for pardon and commutation of sentence has been sent for the approval of President Marcos.

"Sa Malacañang ang dadalhin ay ang alam ko 350 plus. Ang papel pinirmahan ni Secretary kanina yung recommendations sa PAO (The names of more than 350 PDLs will be sent to Malacañang. The recommendation of PAO has been signed by Secretary Remulla)," Acosta said.

Earlier last week, Remulla said he tapped PAO to help decongest BuCor prisons by looking into who among the PDLs are qualified for release or should have been released already.

Remulla is aiming for the release of 2,000 more PDLs this year.

"Dadagdagan pa natin (We'll add to that). Over and above what was there before," said Remulla who pointed out that this will include PDLs from both the BuCor and the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) with the help of Interior Secretary Benhur Abalos.

### Well-wishers

Meanwhile, government officials, led by Vice President and Education Secretary Sara Duterte, greeted the President on his birthday.

VP Duterte has two wishes for President Marcos.

"I wish God's favor upon you as you celebrate your birthday and pray that you are given the strength and wisdom for the difficult road ahead," Duterte wrote on Facebook.

She wished nothing but "good health and happiness" for Marcos, her presidential running mate in the May 2022 elections.

"Even if I have the honor of knowing you as Mr President, I believe that it's an even bigger honor knowing you as Dad. Happy birthday pop!!!" Senior Deputy Majority Leader and Ilocos Norte 1st District Rep. Sandro Marcos wrote on Facebook.

"I'm extremely proud of how far you've come over the last few years and I can confidently say that our country is in good hands. We love you and we're with you all the way!" the neophyte congressman assured his dad.

Deputy Speaker and Batangas 6th District Rep. Ralph Recto said he wishes three things for Marcos.

"What I would wish the President

on his birthday are what every Filipino like him would want in life - health, hope, and happiness," Recto said.

"At an age when people retire, he is just getting started in the toughest job he has saved for last," Recto said of Marcos, a former Ilocos Norte congressman, vice governor, governor, and senator.

"The presidency is hard labor that requires great health, sharp mind, and a kind heart. May he have all of these so the greatness he dreams of for the country, which is what the people want for themselves, would come true. Magigayang kaarawan, Pangulong BBM! (Happy birthday, President BBM)" said Recto, himself a former senator.

Construction Workers Solidarity (CWS) Party-list Rep. Edwin Gardiola said construction workers around the country, while busy with their work, are also thinking about the President and his family as he celebrates his birthday.

"We have much work ahead. More roads, bridges, homes, and communities to build. Our contribution is our labor while your part is to make the government work well for us and all of the Filipino people," he said in a statement.

"While construction workers labor quietly, they hope your government and its agencies will serve them well, especially in our times of need," Gardiola added.

Ang Probinsyano Party-list Rep. Alfred Delos Santos reminded the President of the "immense trust" given by the 31 million Filipinos who voted for him.

"With the immense trust and mandate from the people come great responsibility and duty. To your efforts, I contribute my public service and support," he said in a statement, adding that constituents of the party-list placed their "hopes and dreams" on Marcos' hands when they supported his presidential bid.

Pangasinan 3rd Rep. Rachel Arenas took to Facebook to greet the President.

"May God continue to bless you with strength, wisdom, grace, and good health! Happy Birthday, mahal na Pangulo (our beloved President)! (red and green heart emojis and Philippine flag emoji)," she posted. (With reports from Ellison A. Quismorio and Raymund F. Antonio)



## CARP beneficiaries granted freeze on amortization, interest payments 1

Agrarian Reform Secretary Conrado Estrella III said the EO is in preparation for "another fulfillment" of the chief executive's commitment, which is for Congress to pass legislation that will condone ARB loans with unpaid amortization and interest.

"We always think about the farmers' welfare. The one-year moratorium and condonation of farmers' loan payment will lead to freedom of farmers from debts," he said in a statement.

He expressed his willingness to work with the House of Representatives to amend Section 26 of Republic Act 6657, the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law of 1988. Section 26 requires ARBs who have been awarded

lands to pay the Land Bank of the Philippines in 30 annual amortizations at a rate of six percent per year.

In his first State of the Nation Address (SONA), Marcos said: "The condonation of the existing agrarian reform loan will cover the amount of P58.125 billion benefiting around 654,000 ARBs and involving a total of 1.18 million hectares of awarded lands."

Marcos said the proposed law would condone ARB loans with unpaid amortization and interest and erase the outstanding debts of farmers who benefitted from agrarian reform.

"ARBs who are still to receive their awarded lands under the CARP shall receive it without obligation to pay any amortization," the President said.

## CARP beneficiaries granted freeze on amortization, interest payments

By JEL E. SANTOS

President Marcos signed an executive order (EO) imposing a year-long moratorium on the annual amortization and interest payments of agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) for agricultural lands distributed under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP), the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) said.

The order seeks to relieve ARBs of their debts, allowing them to use the money to develop their farms, maximizing their capacity to produce and propelling the economy's growth. ▶ 3



## BBM AT 65

# A look back at Marcos' first 2 months in office

By ARGYLL CYRUS B. GEDUCOS

**F**erdinand Marcos Jr., Bongbong as he is referred to by many, became the country's 17th president after getting over 31 million votes, which represented an overwhelming majority in the May 2022 polls.

His victory was history coming full circle as it also marked his family's return to Malacañang after his late father was ousted during the first EDSA People Power Revolution 36 years ago.

In celebration of his 65th birthday on Sept. 13, here's a quick look of Marcos' first two months as chief executive.

### Return to the Palace

In his first vlog since becoming president, Marcos described his first week in office as "funny" and "normal."

"Parang nakakatawa nga yung pagbalik ko sa palasyo, parang pangkaraniwan dahil ang tagal-tagal 'kong tumira doon (It felt funny returning to Malacañang. It felt normal because I lived there for a long time)," he said. "Ngunit, pagkai-sip ko nang mabuti, hindi pangkaraniwan talaga ito dahil pagkabalik sa palasyo, ako'y naging presidente na. Kahit pareho lang yung aking ginagawa, iba ang pakiramdam (But when I think about it, it's not normal since I have returned as the president. Even though I'm doing the same thing, it feels different)."

It was also during his first week in office that they celebrated the 93rd birthday of the former first lady Imelda Marcos.

After meeting Palace workers, holding a Cabinet meeting, and attending events during his first week in office, Marcos caught Covid-19 for the second time. Last month, the President got his second booster shot.

A day before his birthday, the President scrapped the mandatory use of face masks outdoors and kept the state of calamity in the Philippines due to Covid-19 until the end of the year.

### Restructuring

President Marcos reorganized the government during his first week in office. He reverted the Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) and its attached agencies to the Office of the Press Secretary (OPS). He likewise abolished the Office of the Presidential Spokesperson.

In his Executive Order No. 2, Marcos cited the need to "rationalize and consolidate the communications arm of the administration for a more efficient delivery of public policy to the general public."

To simplify the internal management of offices under the Office of the President (OP), Marcos abolished the Presidential Anti-Corruption Commission (PACC) and

the Office of the Cabinet Secretary.

In doing so, the President hoped to achieve a comprehensive and meaningful recovery from the current Covid-19 and fiscal crises through a "just allocation of resources."

### Vetoed bills and lapsed laws

On his first day in office, President Marcos vetoed House Bill (HB) No. 7575, which proposed to create the Bulacan Airport City Special Economic Zone and Freeport.

San Miguel Corporation, one of the country's biggest conglomerates, is investing ₱740 billion to turn a 2,500-hectare property in Bulacan into an aerotropolis featuring a world-class gateway capable of handling 100 million passengers annually, plus an adjacent urban and industrial hub.

According to press secretary Trixie Cruz-Angeles, Marcos vetoed the bill because it was the "fastest way" to cure the bill's defects before it lapsed into law on July 4.

In his veto message, Marcos said, "fiscal prudence must be exercised particularly at times when resources are scarce, and needs are abundant."

"I cannot support the bill considering the provisions that pose substantial fiscal risks to the country

*His victory was history coming full circle as it also marked his family's return to Malacañang after his late father was ousted during the first EDSA People Power Revolution 36 years ago.*

and its infringement on or conflict with other agencies' mandates and authorities," he wrote.

Marcos likewise vetoed the proposed bill seeking to strengthen the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel (OGCC), citing various reasons, including the excessive remunerations for OGCC lawyers.

Meanwhile, as of Aug. 3, at least 40 bills have lapsed into law since Marcos took office on June 30. Among the lapsed laws were the controversial Vape Act and the Permanent Validity of the Certificates of Live Birth, Death, and Marriage.

### First SONA

President Marcos delivered his first State of the Nation Address (SONA) on July 25, where he laid down his administration's economic plan to bring the country back to normalcy after being hit by the Covid-19 pandemic, including 19 priority bills. Marcos discussed his economic

plan and talked about agriculture and agrarian reform. He likewise mentioned the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps).

The President vowed there would no longer be lockdowns, make affordable medicines for ordinary people, and build easy-to-reach hospitals and health centers for those living in far-flung areas.

Marcos tackled the need to intensify the country's STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) education.

In addition, he talked about addressing the digital divide in the country, continuing the Build, Build, Build program, and considering building nuclear power plants.

He vowed to establish a command center to help Filipinos abroad in crisis, boost tourism, and did not surrender an inch of the coun-

In his message to Congress, Marcos said the objective of the most significant proposed budget in Philippine history is economic transformation. He enumerated the priority sectors: Education, Public Works, Health, Social Welfare, Agriculture, and Transportation.

### Inaugural trip

Marcos went on his first overseas trips as president this month. He first went to Indonesia on Sept. 4, where he bagged about \$8.5 billion worth of investment deals that could translate to at least 7,000 new jobs.

Angeles likewise announced that the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) had sought executive clemency for Mary Jane Veloso, an overseas Filipino worker (OFW) on death row in Indonesia after she was caught in Yogyakarta in 2010 with several packs of heroin.

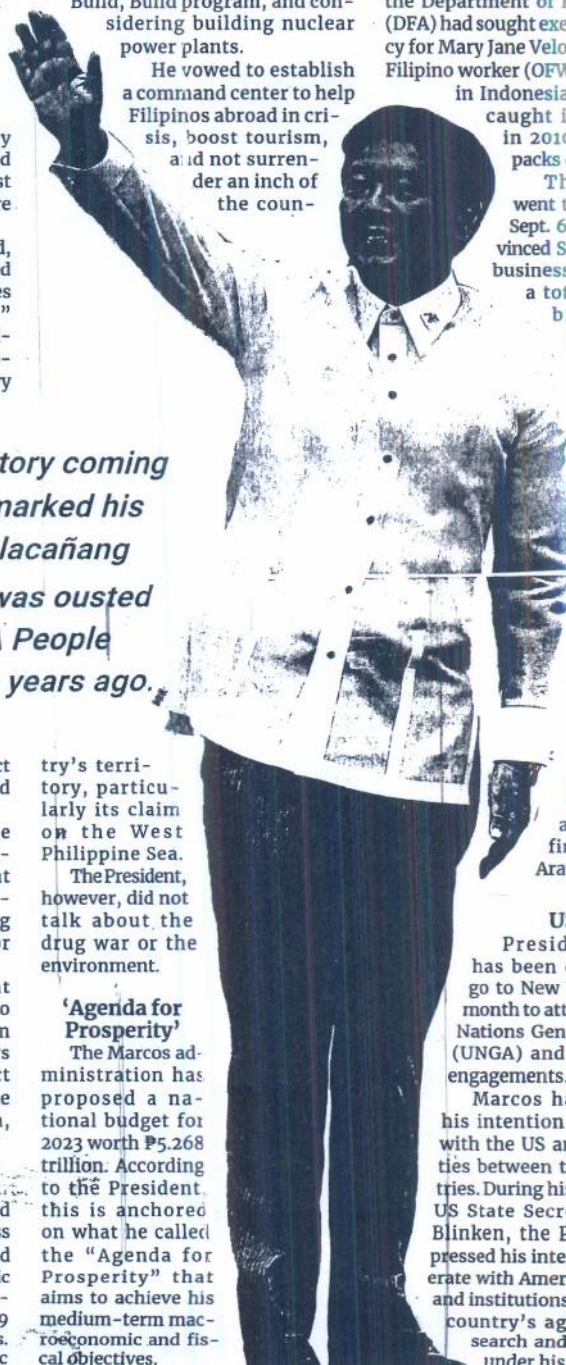
The President went to Singapore on Sept. 6 where he convinced Singapore-based businessmen to invest a total of US\$6.54 billion worth of foreign direct investments in the Philippines. This is equivalent to 15,000 jobs.

During his trip to Singapore, Marcos witnessed the signing of six agreements between the two countries. Singapore also named an orchid hybrid after the President and his wife, first lady Louise Araneta-Marcos.

### US Trip

President Marcos has been confirmed to go to New York City this month to attend the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and attend other engagements.

Marcos has expressed his intention to cooperate with the US and bolster the ties between the two countries. During his meeting with US State Secretary Antony Blinken, the President expressed his intention to cooperate with American scientists and institutions to further the country's agriculture research and development under his watch.





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**HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MR. PRESIDENT.** Employees of the Environment and Interior departments present a birthday cake to President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. during the Simultaneous Bamboo and Tree Planting Ceremony at the Old Sanitary Landfill in Barangay Pintong Bukawe, San Mateo, Rizal on Tuesday (story below). **Revoli Cortez**



TITLE:

PAGE

## President marks birthday with tree planting

By Vito Barcelo and  
Vince Lopez

PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Tuesday raised the need to protect the environment as a way to promote economic growth and stability, during a nationwide simultaneous tree planting activity on his 65th birthday.

"We have to do this as a concrete step

that we take so that nature is cared for because it desperately needs that care and it desperately needs that attention," Marcos said during the National Simultaneous Bamboo and Tree Planting and Kickoff Ceremony at the Old San Mateo Sanitary Landfill in Rizal.

The tree planting program aims to plant over 8,000 seedlings and bamboo planting stocks in some parts of Calabarzon.

*Next page*

### President...

From A1

After delivering his speech, Marcos planted a bamboo plant stock named "Bambusa Blumeana" or "Kawayang Tinik."

The President said he opted to spearhead the tree planting event on his birthday to raise awareness about protecting the environment, which he said was an important national and global issue.

"This initiative will greatly help in raising awareness on environmental welfare and protection," he said.

"At the same time, it will contribute to the DENR's (Department of the Environment and Natural Resources) National Greening Program, the country's most ambitious reforestation program, with the goal of reducing poverty, ensuring food security, [ensuring] environmental stability, conserving biodiversity, and mitigating climate change, and adapting to climate change," he added.

Through the program, more than 2 million hectares of reforestation sites have been established from 2011 to 2021.

An additional 46,265 hectares will be

developed this year, and the DENR is also targeting 11,631 hectares of enhanced National Greening Program sites in 2023.

The seedlings that were planted during Tuesday's event will be significant in realizing the government's reforestation goal, as the program generates jobs, opportunities, as well as livelihood for ordinary Filipinos, the President said.

More than the economic benefit of the activity, he said the country is essentially and primarily investing in ensuring that the planet remains a safe space, especially for the next generation that will inherit it.

The President also said he sees some symbolism in the tree planting activity as the government turns an old sanitary landfill into a reforestation area that benefits the environment and the local community.

Government officials joined scores of supporters across the country in greeting the President on his birthday.

Among them was Press Secretary Trixie Cruz-Angeles who took her greeting to Facebook, wishing the President good health.

Cruz-Angeles assured the President that she would stand by his efforts to improve the lives of every Filipino and the living condition of the nation.

Budget Secretary Amenah Pangandaman said that she and other officials are witnesses to the President's "unyielding resolve" for public service regardless of challenges he has encountered along the way.

"By embodying resilience and humility and espousing true nation-building and unity, you have truly gained the confidence and trust of the Filipino people," she said.

Pangandaman said she and members of her department would also pray for his continued success.

Social Welfare and Development Secretary Erwin Tulfo expressed support for the President's goal of helping the nation rise from the COVID-19 pandemic.

He also shared a short video clip of a birthday luncheon for the President in Malacañan Palace.

In the clip, some members of the Cabinet and political allies sang the birthday song for the President.

Vice President and Education Secretary Sara Duterte and Commission on Higher Education chairman Prospero de Vera also expressed greetings on the President's birthday. *(See full story online at manilastandard.net)*





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PAGE

09-14-22  
DATE

# Marcos: Preserve environment

BY CATHERINE S. VALENTE

**P**RESIDENT Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. on Tuesday called on the public to unite in protecting and preserving the environment to "make sure that our plans for the country's economy will succeed."

Marcos marked his 65th birthday by joining the national bamboo and tree-planting event in San Mateo, Rizal. The event in San Mateo was held simultaneously with those in other parts of the country.

In his speech, the President described the tree-planting activities as "simple yet impactful undertaking[s]" to protect the environment.

"The challenges we hurdled in recent years highlighted the fact that we have one Earth. We must spare no effort to ensure that it survives in the years to come," Marcos said.

"During my address [on the] State of the Nation, I made it clear: 'Preserving the environment is nothing less than preserving life.' And therefore, it can only be one of our important priorities if we wish to make sure that our plans for the country's economy will succeed," he added.

Marcos thanked the Department of the Interior and Local Government, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Department of Agriculture, for the collaboration that made the events in San Mateo and elsewhere possible.

"We have to do this as a concrete step that we take so that nature is cared for because it desperately needs that care and it desperately needs that attention," he said.

The President said this initiative "will greatly help in raising awareness on environmental welfare and protection."

He also thanked the nongovernment organizations present during the activity.

"Your presence in the selected areas across the country shows your commitment to prioritize Mother Earth and encourage everyone to unite for her benefit," he said. "Indeed, this initiative will contribute to the DENR's National Greening Program, the country's most ambitious reforestation program yet."

With the goal of reducing poverty, Marcos said, ensuring food security, environmental stability, conserving biodiversity, and mitigating climate change and adapting to climate change, more than two million hectares of reforestation sites were established from 2011 to 2021.

"An additional 46,265 hectares are expected to be developed in 2022. The DENR targets 11,631 hectares of enhanced National Greening Program sites in 2023," the President said. "And so, the seedlings that we will plant today will be significant in realizing this goal. This program will generate jobs, will generate opportunities and will generate livelihood for our countrymen."

The Chief Executive said more

than the economic benefit of this activity, "we are essentially and primarily investing in ensuring that our planet remains a safe space."

"Never mind for us, but we are only custodians of this earth. But more so that we can say to the children, the Filipinos that follow us, that we have taken good care of that, which they will inherit," Marcos added.

"Trees and plants in general are vital to human existence. I thus wish that as we appreciate the impact of this endeavor, we also see it for the symbolic gesture that it is. It is a reminder for us to see past our personal interest and have the future in sight," he said.

Tuesday's kick-off ceremony of the "Buhayin ang Pangangalaga ng Kalikasan" is a government program that aims to plant 8,000 seedlings and bamboo planting stocks in Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon).

The tree-planting sites are San Mateo in Rizal; Majayjay, Laguna; Trece Martires City, Cavite; Mataas na Kahoy, Batangas, and Dolores, Quezon.



President Ferdinand 'Bongbong' Marcos Jr. plants a bamboo in Barangay Pitong Bocaue, San Mateo, Rizal. PHOTO BY JOHN RYAN BALDEMOR



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PHOTOGRAPH BY YUMMIE DINGDING  
FOR THE DAILY TRIBUNE @tribunephd\_yummi  
**Leaving a legacy** To celebrate his 65th birthday, President  
Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos Jr. chose to lead the National  
Simultaneous Bamboo and Tree Planting lock-off ceremony  
at the Old San Mateo Sanitary Landfill on Tuesday, 13  
September 2022.



## BBM plants bamboo on b-day

“The challenges we hurdled in recent years highlighted the fact that we have one Earth. We must spare no effort to ensure that it survives in the years to come,” Marcos said

From page 1

Marcos on Tuesday morning led the kick-off ceremony for the tree planting project, dubbed “*Buhayin ang Pangangalaga ng Kalikasan*,” at the former sanitary landfill at Pintong Bukawe village in San Mateo, Rizal.

In his speech, Marcos said the tree planting activity was held to make his birthday celebration more meaningful.

“The challenges we hurdled in recent years highlighted the fact that we have one Earth. We must spare no effort to ensure that it survives in the years to come,” Marcos said.

“We have to do this as a concrete step that we take so that nature is cared for because it desperately needs that care and it desperately needs that attention. As such, I gladly welcome each of you as we kick start this simple yet impactful undertaking, a nationwide simultaneous tree planting activity,” he added.

The tree planting program aims to plant over 8,000 seedlings and bamboo planting stocks in some parts of Region 4A CALABARZON.

After delivering his speech, Marcos planted a bamboo plant stock called “*Kawayang Tinik*.”

“Trees and plants, in general, are vital to human existence. They take in the air we breathe out so they might give the air that we breathe in. I thus wish that as we appreciate the impact of this endeavor, we also see it for the symbolic gesture that it is,” Marcos said.

“It is a reminder for us to see past our personal interests and have the future in sight. It is a reminder for us to move behind the obstacles that we face and act always with love and compassion for our fellow Filipinos,” he added.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Department of the Interior and Local Government, and the Department of Agriculture organized the ceremonial event.

### Enhanced national greening program

For Marcos, the activity would be helpful in the implementation of the DENR’s Enhanced National Greening Program, the country’s most ambitious reforestation project.

“With the goal of reducing poverty, ensuring

food security, environmental stability, conserving biodiversity and mitigating climate change, and adapting to climate change, more than two million hectares of reforestation sites were established from 2011 to 2021, and additional 46,265 hectares are expected to be developed in 2022,” he said.

“The DENR targets 11,631 hectares of enhanced national greening program sites in 2023. And so, the seedlings that we will plant to do will be significant in realizing this goal,” he added.

### Sara greets BBM

Vice President Sara Z. Duterte wished the Chief Executive good health and happiness.

“I told PBBM, we need a selfie because the socmed team needs an obligatory birthday selfie, hence the smileys,” Duterte said.

“Thank you, PBBM, and your 250th PAW for ensuring that wherever I may be found in the country during the day, I am home in time to tuck my children to bed. Thank you for putting a premium on the desire of a working mother to be present in her children’s lives,” Duterte said. “I wish God’s favor upon you as you celebrate your birthday and pray that you are given the strength and wisdom for the difficult road ahead.”

### 371 PDLs released

Three hundred seventy-one persons deprived of liberty from the New Bilibid Prisons and other penal farms were released Tuesday as part of the government’s effort to decongest the country’s prison facilities.

Justice Secretary Jesus Crispin Remulla personally led the ceremonies held at the NBP in Muntinlupa City to welcome the PDLs reentry into society.

“It’s an act of grace. The origin is the sovereign because before the kings would do it on his birthday. Now, he (Marcos) is the head of state. The act of grace is something that the country likes to see from a very powerful man to one who is most desirous of liberty. It’s a very good gesture to society,” Remulla said.

The justice chief said around 360 more PDLs are in line for executive clemency through commutation of sentence, conditional pardon, or absolute pardon by Marcos. WITH ALVIN MURCIA, PAULA ANTOLIN AND NEIL ALCOBER



STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
AND  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE

THE PHILIPPINE  
**STAR**  
TRUTH SHALL PREVAIL

4  
PAGE

UPPER  
 LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

09-14-22

DATE

TITLE: *Marcos marks 65th birthday with tree-planting, gift-giving* PAGE *1/2*



President Marcos leads the simultaneous bamboo and tree-planting kick off ceremony in San Mateo, Rizal yesterday morning to mark his 65th birthday.

KJ ROSALES



## Marcos marks 65th birthday with tree-planting, gift-giving

By HELEN FLORES

President Marcos marked his 65th birthday yesterday with a tree-planting activity at an old sanitary landfill in Rizal and a gift-giving event at an orphanage in San Juan City.

In his message at the nationwide simultaneous tree-planting activity at the Old San Mateo Sanitary Landfill, Marcos urged Filipinos to take concrete measures to protect the environment amid the devastating effects of climate change worldwide.

The President said he opted to spearhead the government's greening program on his first birthday as Chief Executive to raise awareness about environmental protection, which he said "desperately needs" care and attention.

"We have to do this as a concrete step that we take so that nature is cared for because it desperately needs that care and it desperately needs that attention," Marcos said.

"The challenges we hurdled in recent years highlighted the fact that we have one Earth. We must spare no effort to ensure that it survives in the years to come," he said.

The Chief Executive planted an Indonesian bamboo or *kawayang tinik*, which environment officials said has the potential to absorb heavy metals.

Marcos, accompanied by Interior Secretary Benhur Abalos and Environment Secretary Ma. Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga at the event, described the nationwide simultaneous tree planting as a "simple" yet "impactful undertaking."

Marcos said the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) under its National Greening Program, established more than two million hectares of reforestation sites from 2011 to 2021.

The DENR is targeting to develop additional 46,265 hectares this year and 11,631 hectares more reforestation sites in 2023, he said.

"The seedlings that we will plant today will be significant in realizing this goal. This program will generate jobs, will generate opportunities and will generate livelihood for our countrymen," he said.

### Symbolism

Marcos also said he sees some symbolism in the tree-planting activity as an old sanitary landfill becomes a reforestation area beneficial to the environment and the local community.

"In a way the symbolism is extended, because what we are doing now is - with what happened in the pandemic, with the many problems that the Philippine economy is facing, it is as if it has now gone to sleep and can no longer be used," he said in mixed Filipino and English.

"Now, this is what we will do in the economy as well, we will revive different things that are dormant and unused. It's like growing the trees we're going to plant today," Marcos said.

As part of his birthday celebration, the President also hosted a lunch yesterday for some officials at the Rizal Hall in Malacañang.

In a video posted by Social Welfare Secretary Erwin Tulfo on Facebook, the guests, including Vice President Sara Duterte, Speaker Martin Romualdez and former president and Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, were seen singing the birthday song for Marcos.

Marcos was also seen making a single clap to extinguish the candles on his cake.

Marcos also led a gift-giving activity at the White Cross Orphanage in San Juan City in the afternoon. The birthday luncheon and the gift-giving events were not opened to the media.

### Grateful Sara

In her birthday greetings to President Marcos, Duterte also included

a message of gratitude.

Duterte posted on her social media accounts a photo with Marcos, as well as with a presidential chopper that she said the President allowed her to use to ensure that she is home in time to tuck her children in bed.

"Thank you for putting a premium on the desire of a working mother to be present in her children's lives," she told Marcos.

"I wish God's favor upon you as you celebrate your birthday and pray that you are given the strength and wisdom for the difficult road ahead," she added.

Duterte, who is also education secretary, attended the Cabinet meeting in Malacañang on Monday.

"Thank you, PBB (President Bongbong), and your 250th PAW for ensuring that wherever I may be found in the country during the day, I am home in time to tuck my children to bed," Duterte said, referring to the Presidential Airlift Wing of the Philippine Air Force.

The 250th PAW "Bluebirds" is a PAF unit mandated to provide air transport for the President, the immediate members of the Chief Executive's family, visiting heads of state and other local and foreign VIPs.

"Warmest greetings on the occasion of your 65th birthday! Upon your shoulders lay the hopes and dreams of 112 million Filipinos," Romualdez, for his part, said.

"We, the members of the House of Representatives of the 19th Congress, are behind you all the way as we work together to uplift the lives of our countrymen. Proceed in this noble endeavor with our fervent prayers and wholehearted support for your continued success," he said. Romualdez is a maternal cousin of the President.

House Deputy Speaker Ralph Recto of Batangas and Reps. Fidel Nograles of Rizal, Mikee Romero of Ilocos Norte party-list, Salvador Pleyto Sr. of Bulacan and Arnolfo Teves Jr. of Negros Oriental also wished Marcos well.

"What I would wish the President on his birthday are what every Filipino like him would want in life - health, hope and happiness. At an age when people retire, he is just getting started in the toughest job he has saved for last," Recto said.

"The presidency is hard labor that requires great health, sharp mind and a kind heart. May he have all of these so the greatness he dreams for the country, which is what the people want for themselves, would come true," Recto added.

Nograles, chairman of the House committee on labor and employment, vowed to help Marcos with his advocacy in improving the working conditions of underpaid and overworked nurses, both in private and public sector.

"We in the legislative will look at how we can intervene to establish a better working environment for our nurses. We have to find out what we can do to avoid the impasse and avoid crippling our health care system because our nurses do not wish to work here," he said.

"We will give him all the support that his administration needs by way of legislative agenda that he set out for his six-year term. We're also looking forward to reducing poverty level by 2028," Romero, chairman of the House committee on poverty alleviation, said.

Meanwhile, various militant groups protesting outside the Department of Agriculture (DA) office in Quezon City yesterday scored what they called the lavish celebration of Marcos' birthday.

"Marcos had the gall to party on his birthday while Filipinos suffer from hunger and poverty," the Kilusang Mayo Uno said in a statement in Filipino. - With Janvic Mateo, Edith Regalado, Delon Porcalla, Mayen Jaymalin



## Marcos leads tree-planting program

BY JOCELYN MONTEMAYOR

PRESIDENT Marcos Jr. kicked off his birthday activities yesterday at a tree-planting event in San Mateo, Rizal, during which he emphasized the importance of protecting the environment.

The President, together with Interior Secretary Benjamin "Benhur" Abalos Jr. led the simultaneous tree-planting program organized by the the Department of Environment and Natural

Resources (DENR), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the Department of Agriculture.

"Sabi ko, siguro ang pinakamaganda, para iyung kaarawan ko ay maging mas makabuluhan at talagang may dahilan na tayo mag-celebrate, sabi ko gawa tayo ng greening, tree planting at 'yan naman talaga ay ang pinakaimportanteng isyu hindi lamang sa Pili-

.....  
See NO FUNDS > Page B2

**Leading the way.** To mark his 65th birthday, President Marcos Jr. leads a tree-planting activity at an old sanitary landfill in San Mateo, Rizal.

PHOTO FROM PBBM FB PAGE



### MARCOS

pina's kung hindi sa buong mundo ngayon. (I said, probably the best way to celebrate and make my birthday meaningful is greening, tree planting and that's the most important issue not only in the Philippines but around the world)," Marcos said.

Marcos said what makes the event more symbolic is that the tree-planting activity is being done at the former San Mateo landfill which has been converted into a reforestation area that now benefits the environment and the local community.

The President also said that by engaging in the activity, he not only gets to contribute to the protection of the environment, but also

contributes to the growth of the economy.

"During my address in the State of the Nation I made it clear: 'Preserving the environment is nothing less than preserving life.' And therefore, it can only be one of our important priorities if we wish to make sure that our plans for the country's economy will succeed," he said.

He also emphasized the need to care for the environment as the world will be inherited by the children.

The President said the tree-planting activity will help raise awareness on environmental welfare and protection, and contribute immensely to the DENR's "most ambitious reforestation program" — the National Greening Program.

Marcos said the DENR targets 11,631 hectares of enhanced national greening program sites in 2023.

"And so, the seedlings that we will plant today will be significant in realizing this goal. This program will generate jobs, will generate opportunities, and will generate livelihood for our countrymen," he said.

"More than the economic benefit of this activity, we are essentially and primarily investing in ensuring that our planet remains a safe space," he added.

The simultaneous bamboo and tree planting program seeks to plant 8,000 seedling and bamboo planting stocks around Calabarzon (Region IV-A).

The other planting sites are



TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE \_\_\_\_\_

09-14-22

DATE

MARCOS LEADS . . . P. 2

Majayjay in Laguna, Trece Martirez City in Cavite, Matias na Kahoy in Batangas, and Dolores in Quezon.

**CASE REVIEW**

In a taped interview with TV host Toni Gonzaga, which was aired yesterday, Marcos said he wants the estimated P203-billion estate tax liabilities of his family reviewed as he reiterated they want the matter to be resolved soon.

"We are actually encouraging that this finally be resolved... now we are all here, open the case and let us argue it," the President said in an interview with actress-television host Toni Gonzaga that was aired in the All TV Channel.

The President said the case was filed against his family while they

were in exile in Hawaii in the 1980s and his family had not been able to answer the charges filed in the Philippines.

Asked what he would say if they are allowed by the court, he said his family wants to make it clear what properties are actually theirs as many of the properties that are included in their "estate" and taxed do not belong to them.

Marcos said the government had combined several properties and asked them to pay its equivalent taxes even if many of them were not theirs.

He said he has repeatedly signed quit claims allowing the government to seize properties that supposedly belong to them since they do not own it.

"Kung gusto ninyo, kunin ninyo

hindi amin iyan e (if you want it, get it, we don't own it)," he said.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) has said it would collect the taxes of the Marcos estate once they get the right amount.

The Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) in 1991, quoting BIR, said the Marcoses owed P23.29 billion in deficiency estate tax assessment against the Estate of Ferdinand Marcos; about P184 million in deficiency income tax assessments against Ferdinand Marcos and Imelda Marcos from 1985 to 1986; and P20 million in deficiency income tax assessment against Ferdinand Marcos Jr. for the aggregate years of 1982 to 1985;

During the campaign trail, the BIR said that it demanded the Marcos family to pay its estate tax.



## PBBM expands NGP land coverage to 46K hectares

By SAMUEL P. MEDENILLA

[@sam\\_medenilla](#)

**P**RESIDENT Ferdinand “Bongbong” R. Marcos Jr. on Tuesday announced that the nationwide greening program of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) would cover an additional 46,000 hectares of land this year.

He made the announcement during the kick-off ceremony of the nationwide simultaneous bamboo and tree planting initiative of DENR and Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), which he led on Tuesday at the Old San Mateo Landfill in Rizal.

“This initiative will contribute to the DENR’s National Greening Program [NGP], the country’s most ambitious reforestation program yet,” Marcos said in his speech in the event.

He decided to intentionally hold the event

during his birthday to raise public awareness on the importance of the said campaign.

“I told them it will make my birthday more meaningful...since it is an important issue not only in the Philippines but for the entire world,” Marcos said.

The NGP of DENR has already covered over 2 million hectares of land from 2011 to 2021.

Another 11,631 hectares of land will also undergo reforestation next year.

Marcos said the greening project is part of the priority agenda of his administration due to its economic benefits and to help address climate change.

“This program will generate jobs, will generate opportunities, and will generate livelihood for our countrymen,” Marcos said.

“More than the economic benefit of this activity, we are essentially and primarily investing in ensuring that our planet remains a safe space,” he added.





TITLE:

PAGE

DATE

## Marcos plants tree on natal day

TREE planting in San Mateo, Rizal was among the activities of President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. on his 65th birthday.

Marcos led the kick-off ceremony for the tree planting project in Region 4-A (Calabarzon) yesterday dubbed as "Buhayinang Pangangalagang Kalikasan" at the former sanitary landfill at Pintong Bukawe village in San Mateo, Rizal.

Acknowledging the importance of protecting the environment, Marcos said the tree planting activity was held to make his birthday celebration more meaningful.

"The challenges we hurdled in recent years highlighted the fact that we have one Earth. We must spare no effort to ensure that it survives in the years to come," Marcos said in his keynotes speech.

"We have to do this as a concrete step that we take so that nature is cared for because it desperately needs that care and it desperately needs that attention. As such, I gladly welcome each of you as we kick start this simple yet impactful undertaking, a nationwide simultaneous tree planting activity," he added.

The tree planting program aims to plant over 8,000 seedlings and bamboo planting stocks in some parts of Calabarzon.

After delivering his speech, Marcos planted a bamboo plant stock.

"Trees and plants in general are vital to human existence. They take in the air we breathe out so they might give air that we breathe in. I thus wish that

as we appreciate the impact of this endeavor, we also see it for the symbolic gesture that it is. It is a reminder for us to see past our personal interests and have the future in sight. It is a reminder for us to move behind the obstacles that we face and always act with love and compassion for our fellow Filipinos," Marcos said.

Marcos also thanked the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Department of the Interior and Local Government and the Department of Agriculture for organizing the event.

He likewise expressed gratitude to civil society and non-government organizations that participated in the simultaneous tree planting activity.

"This initiative will greatly help in raising awareness on environmental welfare and protection," he said. "Your presence in the selected areas across the country shows your commitment to prioritize mother earth and encourage everyone to unite for her benefit."

Apart from the old sanitary landfill in San Mateo, other tree planting sites include Taytay village in Majayjay, Laguna; Trece Martires City in Cavite; Kinalaglagan Mataas na Kahoy in Batangas; and Sta. Lucia village in Dolores, Quezon.

Marcos said the activity would be helpful in the implementation of the DENR's Enhanced National Greening Program (ENGP), the country's most ambitious reforestation project. PNA



TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE \_\_\_\_\_

**IPINAGDIWANG** ni Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos Jr. ang kanyang ika-65 kaarawan sa pamamagitan ng pagtatahim ng "kawayang tinik" sa Rizal, kahapon.

Nakiisa kasi si Pangulong Marcos sa national simultaneous bamboo at tree planting activity sa San Mateo, Rizal na pinangunahan naman ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources at Department of the Interior and Local Government.

"Sabi ko, siguro ang pinakamaganada, para 'yung kaarawan ko ay maging mas makabuluhan at talagang may dahilan na tayo magcelebrate, sabi ko gawa tayo ng greening, tree planting at 'yan naman talaga ay ang pinakaimportanteng isyu hindi lamang sa Pilipinas kung hindi sa buong mundo ngayon," ang naging mensahe ni Pangulong Marcos.

Inalala pa ni Pangulong Marcos na sa kanyang unang State of the Nation Address, binigyang-diin niya ang "preserving the environment was nothing less than preserving life." "Therefore it can only be

## PBBM, nag-bday sa pagtatanim ng kawayang-tinik

one of our important priorities if we wish to make sure that our plans for country's economy will succeed," aniya pa rin.

"Itong ating ginagawang itong araw na ito ay isa sa mga hakbang na maaari nating gawin upang tulungan at patibayain ang ating kalikasan, alagaan ang ating kalikasan, para ay tayo naman ay mayroon tayong imamana sa mga anak natin sa susunod sa atin na mga Pilipino," dagdag na pahayag nito.

Aniya, ang inisyatiba ay makatutulong ng malaki sa pagpapamulat sa "environmental welfare and protection."

Tinatayang nasa 46, 265 ektaryang lupain ang target ni Pangulong Fer na ma-develop for reforestation ngayong taong ito.

Ito ang inihayag ni Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos Jr.

sa isinagawang tree planting sa San Mateo, Rizal na kung saan ay nabigyang-diin ang kahalagahan ng pagtatanim sa pagsasalba sa inang kalikasan.

Sinabi ng Pangulo, bukod sa nasabing lawak ng lupaing maging bahagi ng reforestation efforts ng pamahalaan ngayong 2022, target din partikular ng DENR na maging enhanced national greening program sites ang may 11, 631 na ektarya sa 2023.

Aniya, higit kaysa sa mga oportunidad na maaaring maibigay ng ganitong mga hakbang para sa kalikasan, ay mas mahalagang makita ang ginagawang pamumuhunan para sa ating kapaligiran.

Sa pamamagitan aniya ng mga aksiyon na may kinalaman sa pangangalaga sa kalikasan gaya ng reforestation o pagtatanim ng puno ay matiti-

yak na may maiiwang ligtas na daigdig sa mga susunod pang henerasyon na maaaring tawaging pamana para sa mga kabataan.

**KRIS JOSE**



## **Marcos, nagtanim ng puno sa kanyang ika-65 kaarawan**

Pinangunahan ni Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos Jr. ang kick-off ceremony para sa tree planting project sa Region 4-A (Calabarzon) na tinaguriang "Buhayin ang Pangangalaga ng Kalikasan" na itinaon sa kanyang ika-65 kaarawan sa dating sanitary landfill sa Pintong Bukawe Village sa San Mateo, Rizal.

Sa kanyang talumpati sinabi ni Marcos na idinaos ang tree planting activity para maging mas makabuluhan ang pagdiriwang ng kanyang kaarawan.

"Kaya naman ay pinili namin sabi ko sigurong ang pinakamaganda ay para 'yung kaarawan ko ay maging mas makabuluhan at talagang may dahilan na tayo ay mag-celebrate ay sabi ko gawa tayo ng greening tree planting at 'yan naman talaga ay ang pinakaimportanteng isyu hindi lamang sa Pilipinas kung hindi sa buong mundo ngayon," ani Marcos.

Iisa lang aniya ang mundo at dapat matiyak na patuloy itong mabubuhay sa mga darating na panahon.

Idinagdag ng Pangulo na dapat gumawa ng mga konkretong hakbang para sa kalikasan.

"Kailangan nating gawin ito bilang isang konkretong hakbang na ating gagawin upang ang kalikasan ay mapangalagaan dahil ito ay lubhang nangangailangan ng pangangalagang iyon at ito ay lubhang nangangailangan ng atensyon. , isang nationwide simultaneous tree planting activity," dagdag niya.

Layunin ng tree planting program na makapagtanim ng mahigit 8,000 seedlings at bamboo planting stocks sa ilang bahagi ng Calabarzon.

Matapos magbigay ng kanyang talumpati, nagtanim si Marcos ng stock ng kawayan.

Pinasalamatan din ni Marcos ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), ang Department of the Interior and Local Government at ang Department of Agriculture sa pag-organisa ng event.

Nagpahayag din siya ng pasasalamat sa civil society at non-government organizations na lumahok sa sabay-sabay na tree planting activity.

Bukod sa lumang sanitary landfill sa San Mateo, kabilang sa iba pang tree planting sites ang Taytay village sa Majayjay, Laguna; Trece Martires City sa Cavite; Kinalaglagan Mataas na Kahoy sa Batangas; at Sta. Lucia village sa Dolores, Quezon. (Malou Escudero)



## BBM NAGTANIM NG KAWAYAN SA IKA-65 KAARAWAN

Ipinagdiwang kahapon ni Pangulong Ferdinand 'Bongbong' Marcos Jr. ang kanyang ika-65 kaarawan sa pamamagitan ng pagtanim ng kawayan sa San Mateo, Rizal.

Ito ay bahagi ng nationwide bamboo at tree planting activity na pinamunuan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG).

"Sabi ko, siguro ang pinakamaganda, para yung kaarawan ko ay

maging mas makabuluhan at talagang may dahilan na tayo magcelebrate, sabi ko gawa tayo ng greening, tree planting at 'yan naman talaga ay ang pinakaimportanteng isyu hindi lamang sa Pilipinas kung hindi sa buong mundo ngayon," wika ni Marcos.

Ang uri ng kawayan na itinanim ni Marcos ay siit o maraming tinik na karaniwang mabibili ng mura kumpara sa botong o patong.

Iisa lang aniya ang mundo at dapat matiyak na

patuloy itong mabubuhay sa mga darating na panahon.

Layunin ng tree planting program na makapagtanim ng mahigit 8,000 seedlings at bamboo planting stocks sa ilang bahagi ng Calabarzon.

Bukod sa lumang sanitary landfill sa San Mateo, kabilang sa iba pang tree planting sites ang Taytay village sa Majayjay, Laguna; Trece Martires City sa Cavite; Kinalaglagan Mataas na Kahoy sa Batangas; at Sta. Lucia village sa Dolores, Quezon.

-Malou Escudero-



STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
AND  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE



2  
PAGE

UPPER  
 LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

09-14-22

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_



*Pinangunahan ni Pangulong Marcos ang sa-  
bayang pagtanim ng mga kawayan at puho  
sa mismong Ika-65 kaarawan niya kahapon na  
ginawa sa San Mateo, Rizal. -KJ Rosales-*



STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
AND  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE

09-14-22

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_



*Pinangunahan ni Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos Jr. ang tree planting na isinagawa sa San Mateo, Rizal kahapon ng umaga kasabay sa pagdiriwang niya ng kanyang ika-65 kaarawan. (Kuha ni KJ Rosales)*



09-14-22

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## P1 milyong halaga ng narra nakumpiska

**BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya** - Halos nasa isang milyong halaga ng kontrabandong mga first class na narra ang nasabat ng mga awtoridad sa pagitan ng Pangasinan at lalawigang ito kamakalawa ng hapon.

Ayon sa ulat ng Nueva Vizcaya Police Provincial Office (NVPPPO), nasa 983.39 board feet ng nalagaring mga narra na tinatayang nasa P491,695 ang halaga ang nakumpiska sa Barangay Caloocan, San Nicolas, Pangasinan sakay sa isang Toyota Hi Ace Commuter Van (NF 11648) dakong ala-1:00

ng hapon. Nadakip ang driver ng van na nakilalang si Angerick Epic, 27, residente ng Kabugao, Apayao.

Agad namang tumakas ang driver ng isa pang puting van (BAA 1694) na naglalaman din ng 806 board feet na narra, na nagkakahalaga sa P403,000, matapos abandonahin ang sasakyan sa bahagi ng Barangay Villaflores, Santa Fe, Nueva Vizcaya.

Ayon sa report, unang nakatanggap ng impormasyon ang Sta. Fe Police mula Cagayan Valley Product Monitoring

(CAVAPROM) kaugnay sa tip na ipinaabot sa kanila tungkol sa transportasyon ng mga iligal na kahoy mula sa lalawigan ng Kalinga.

Agad namang naglatag ng operasyon ang pinagsanib na puwersa ng Nueva Vizcaya at Pangasinan Police na nagresulta sa pagkakabawi ng mga iligal na kahoy na may kabuuang 1,789.39 board feet at tinatayang nasa P894,695 ang halaga.

Ang nadakip na suspek ay mahaharap sa kasong paglabag sa P.D. 705 o ang Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines. (Victor Martin)



***Editorial***

**Dolomite Beach,  
sadsaran ng basura**

**A**NG Dolomite Beach ay kasama sa Manila Bay beautification project ng nakaraang Duterte administration. Ang project ay ginastusan ng P389 milyon. Ang puting buhangin na itinambak sa beach ay galing pa sa Cebu. Minina ang mga puting bato at saka giniling at dinala ng barge sa Manila Bay. Bawal ang pagmimina ng bato sapagkat nasisira ang kapaligiran pero walang nakapigil at hinakot ang puting buhangin para pagandahin umano ang Manila Bay.

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

Ngayon ay isinara na muli ang Dolomite Beach hindi dahil sa pagkakaipunpunan ito ng mga tao kundi dahil sa tambak ng mga inanod na basura. Hindi puwedeng pasyalan dahil sa rami ng basura. Nang manalasa ang Bagyong Florita at Henry, toneladang basurang plastic ang inanod sa dalampasigan. Ang maputing buhangin ng Dolomite Beach ay halos nangitim na dahil sa mga basura.

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

Pinagtutulungang linisin ng mga tauhan ng Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) at Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang baybayin ng Dolomite Beach. Tumutulong din sa paglilinis ang mga empleyado ng Manila Department of Public Service at volunteers.

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

Para hindi masayang ang ginastos sa beach, baka puwedeng taniman ng mga bakawan (mangrove) ang baybayin para harangin ang mga basura. Pag-aralan ito ng DENR at MMDA.





TITLE:

PAGE

DATE





## MAY MAGAGAWA PA TAYO LABAN SA CLIMATE CHANGE



PALAGI nating naririnig ang climate change pero maliwanag ba sa atin kung ano talaga ang climate change at kung may magagawa pa ba tayo bilang isang indibidwal para hindi lumala at tuluyang humantong sa pagkawasak ang ating daigdig.

Hindi naman lingid sa kaalaman ng marami na ang climate change ay ang pagbabago ng klima o panahon dahil sa pagtaas ng mga greenhouse gases na nagpapainit sa daigdig at isang karanasan na hindi nakasanayan ng mga tao.

Ang papainit na papainit na sitwasyon ay hindi dapat ipagwalang bahala dahil sa nagdudulot ito ng sakuna tulad ng heatwave, baha at tagtuyot na maaaring humantong sa pagkakasakit o pagkamatay ng mga tao.

Kung hindi natin magagawan ng paraan o mapipigilang ang pagtaas ng temperatura ng mundo ay darami ang mga sakit, tulad ng dengue, diarrhea, malnutrisyon at marami pang iba't ibang karamdaman.

Ayon sa pag-aaral ng mga eksperto, may dalawang sanhi ng climate change at ang una ay ang natural na pagbabago ng klima sa buong mundo nitong nagdaang mahabang panahon.

Sama-sama itong epekto ng enerhiya mula sa araw, sa pag-ikot ng mundo at sa init na nagmumula sa ilalim ng lupa na nagpapataas ng temperatura o init sa hangin na bumabalot sa buong mundo.

Ang ikalawa ay ang mga gawain ng tao na nagbubunga ng pagdami o pagtaas ng carbon dioxide at iba pang greenhouse gases (GHGs) dahil ang GHGs ang nagiging sanhi kaya nakukulong ang init sa buong daigdig.

Kabilang din ang pagbuga ng carbon dioxide ng mga sasakyang gumagamit ng gasolina, pagkabulok ng mga bagay na organic na nagbubunga ng methane (isa pang uri ng GHGs) at ang pagputol ng mga puno na siya sanang mag-aalis ng carbon dioxide sa hangin na dagdag dahilan din climate change.

Ang mga nararamdaman ng epekto ng climate change ay ang matinding init, tagtuyot at hindi inaasahang bagyo na nagdudulot ng pagkakasakit na dala ng tubig o pagkain, tulad ng cholera, allergy dahil sa polusyon at malnutrisyon.

Palagi nating tinatalakay ang climate change at kahit sa mga pangako ng mga kandidato sa kani-kanilang kampanya ay palagi itong kasama na pag-iibayuhin umano, ngunit tila habang umuusad ang panahon ay sumusulong

din ang kinakaharap nating problema.

Kaya sa puntong ito ng ating buhay ay kailangang maintindihan natin na mahalaga ang partisipasyon ng mga tao upang mabawasan ang GHGs sa kapaligiran upang masolusyunan ang paglala ng climate change at dapat alam ng bawat isa kung paano makatutulong.

Ilan sa mga puwedeng gawin ay ang pagtatanim ng puno o halaman para may magsilbing taga-sipsip ng GHGs at malaking tulong ang paggamit ng mga energy-efficient at environment-friendly na kagamitan tulad ng paggamit ng compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) kumpara sa ordinaryong bumbilya.

Sa halip na gumamit ng sariling sasakyan ay malaking buti kung maglakad, magbisikleta, mag-commute o kaya ay mag-car pooling dahil hindi lamang makatitipid sa gasolina ay makababawas pa ng polusyon. Malaking tulong din na panatilihin nating kondisyon ang ginagamit na sasakyan upang hindi malakas sa gasolina at tiyaking may sapat na hangin ang mga gulong at iwasan ang biglaang pag-arangkada.

Dapat ding magtipid sa kuryente, patayin ang mga ilaw, bunutin ang mga plug ng mga appliances hangga't maaari ay iwasan ang paggamit ng aircon at kung ligtas naman ang kapaligiran ay mas mabuting buksan ang bintana para makapasok ang sariwang hangin.

Hindi na biro ang abnormal o pagbabagu-bago ng ating klima dahil ikinukonsidera na itong pangunahing problema dahil sa ito na ang sanhi ng sobrang lalakas na bagyo, paglamig at pag-init ng temperature, pagtaas ng tubig dagat, pagkatunaw ng yelo at halinhinang pagsabog ng mga bulkan.

Kaya ang simpleng pagtatapon ng basura sa tamang tapunan ay malaking tulong sa ating kapaligiran, ang pagdampot ng kalat malaki man o maliit at hindi pagsusunog ng basura ay makalilikha ng malawakang pagbabago kung walang nakakalat na basura, walang bara sa mga kanal at walang bahang magaganap.

Maging ang pagtitipid sa kuryente ay malaking tulong upang mabawasan ang init na nailalabas patungo sa kalawakan na sanhi pagnipis ng ozone layer at pagkasira ng planeta.

Epektibo rin ang pagre-recycle, tulad ng mga plastic bottles na ilang libong taon bago ma-decompose na puwedeng gawing lalagyan ng halaman at iba pang puwedeng pakinabangan para makabawas sa pagdami ng basura.

Higit sa lahat ay ibahagi natin ang ating kaalaman na ang pagbabago ng ating kalikasan ay hindi magagawa ng isang tao lamang kaya dapat ay sama-sama tayong proteksyunan ang kalikasan upang mapakinabangan pa ng susunod na lahi ang napakaganda nating daigdig na sayang kung mapababayaan lang.

**Anak Ng Teteng!**



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## Duterte bats for dev't of PH natural gas

DAVAO City Rep. Paolo Duterte pushed for the development of the Philippines' downstream natural gas industry to help meet the country's fast-rising energy demand and cushion future spikes in fuel prices.

In filing House Bill 4097, Duterte is seeking to put in place a regulatory framework that will aid the transition of the country's emerging natural gas industry to a fully developed sector.

With production levels in the Malampaya gas field expected to fall substantially over the coming years, Duterte said Congress needs to act fast in passing HB 4097 and other similar measures in order to anticipate the elevated demand for electricity resulting from the country's rapid post-pandemic growth.

Considered as the biggest success story in the Philippine energy sector, the Malampaya deepwater gas-to-power project signaled the birth of the natural gas industry in the country. The Malampaya gas field has contributed over \$12 billion in revenues to the government and is responsible for delivering about 20 percent of the country's electricity requirements.

However, its dwindling gas reserves could lead to the country importing liquefied natural gas (LNG) if no alternatives are found, Duterte, the bill's author with Rep. Eric Yap of Benguet, Edvic Yap and Jeffrey Soriano of ACT-CIS party-list group as co-authors of the measure.

The legislative proposal will enable Malampaya gas field project operator, such as the Prime Infrastructure, to expand into more natural gas projects.

"Despite the establishment of the Philippine Energy Plan (PEP), threats of potential blackouts remain as the drilling activities in pursuit of exploring natural gas were halted. This is worsened by the skyrocketing prices of imported oil—signaling the urgent necessity to tap alternative sources of energy, particularly cleaner energy, from indigenous sources," Duterte and Yap said in filing HB 4097. **Maricel V. Cruz**



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## What to do with idle gov't lands

**P**RESIDENT Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr., just like his predecessor Rodrigo Duterte, is a believer in the policy of distributing idle government-owned lands (GOLs) to legal and qualified beneficiaries to give them livelihood and involve more Filipinos in food production.

This is the rationale behind the issuance of Duterte's Executive Order 75 series of 2019 which mandates the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) to make an inventory of idle public lands, including those owned by state colleges and universities (SCUs) for the purpose cited above.

Following this EO, Agrarian Reform Secretary Conrado Estrella III is now accelerating the inventory of GOLs, even as he clarified that the Department will not entertain any moratorium on the distribution of these lands.

**'... our farmers are generally old and getting older, and we should incentivize young farmers to take up agriculture -- specially science-based farming -- if we are to achieve food security for the nation.'**

Estrella reported that the DAR is processing the evaluation of over 56,000 hectares of GOLs nationwide. About 26,000 lands have yet to be validated and targeted for distribution for free to qualified beneficiaries of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.

The agrarian reform secretary, however, clarified that they will evaluate and list the "coverable SCUs and identify which areas are being used for agri-research. Only those areas not used for this purpose will be covered for distribution to qualified beneficiaries of the CARP."

The EO 75 directs all government agencies to identify, validate, segregate, transfer and distribute GOLs suitable for agriculture, no longer used for the purpose which they have been reserved and this will be intended for distribution to qualified beneficiaries. Estrella said that more than 200,000 hectares of government lands are expected to be covered under EO 75. "So far, at least 100,000 government lands are ready for distribution," he added.

The law (Republic Act 6657) says agricultural lands can be distributed to landless war veterans, landless surviving spouses and orphans of war veterans, and landless retirees of the military and the police. This list later include rebel returnees and surrenderers, and young Filipino graduates of agriculture courses who do not have their own land to till.

This last group of recipients is most important, as our farmers are generally old and getting older, and we should incentivize young farmers to take up agriculture -- specially science-based farming -- if we are to achieve food security for the nation.



## Pinoy archaeologists unearth discoveries from last ice age in Palawan

By CHARIE MAE F. ABARCA

Following their re-excavation of the Pilanduk Cave in Palawan, Filipino archaeologists, together with indigenous Pala'wan community, have unearthed new discoveries estimated to date back at the height of the last ice age.

University of the Philippines Diliman (UPD) archaeologist Janine Ochoa, in a research article called *Tropical Island Adaptations in Southeast Asia during the Last Glacial Maximum: Evidence from Palawan*, presented new discoveries stemming back to the last ice age.

Ochoa, together with Ame Garong of the National Museum and Pala'wan community members, re-excavated Pilanduk Cave in October 2016. Initially, the initiative was conducted to verify research information previously disclosed by Jonathan Kress and the National Museum in the 1970s.

Among the latest discoveries, according to UPD information office, include "evidence for specialized deer hunting and freshwater mollusc foraging, Last Glacial Maximum (LGM) fossils for the tiger and remains of other native mammal and reptile fauna of Palawan."

Apart from these, Ochoa revealed that their research likewise uncovered "new radiocarbon dates," securely placing the age of human occupation of Pilanduk Cave at the last ice age approximately 20,000 to 25,000 years ago.

Newly discovered findings corroborate the results of earlier excavations that identified Pleistocene occupation of the site. The results, according to the team of archaeologists, added to the evidence for the "shifting foraging behaviors of modern humans occupying variable tropical environments across Island Southeast Asia."

"[Pilanduk Cave] has the best preserved archaeological record from any site in the Philippine archipelago. There are not many LGM sites in the Philippines because many are likely submerged un-



## Bill supporting natural gas industry filed

DAVAO City First District Rep. Paolo Duterte and three other lawmakers filed a bill that seeks to provide a legal framework that will help the country's developing natural gas industry evolve into a fully grown enterprise.

Duterte, along with Benguet Rep. Eric Yap and Anti-Crime and Terrorism Community Involvement and Support (ACT-CIS) Party-list Representatives Edvic Yap and Jeffrey Soriano, introduced House Bill 4097 which outlines the duties of different government agencies and commercial organizations in advancing the development of and guaranteeing a level playing field in the Philippine Downstream Natural Gas Industry.

The downstream natural gas industry covers sectors involved in the transmission, distribution, supply and use of natural gas as well as the associated processes involved in its importation, storage, gas processing and distribution.

Duterte said that the bill seeks to ensure the delivery of secure, sustainable, sufficient, affordable and environment-friendly energy to all sectors.

The Malampaya gas-to-power plant, regarded as the country's largest energy success story, marked the beginning of the natural gas business. About 20 percent of the country's electrical needs are met by the Malampaya gas field, which has provided the government with about \$12 billion in revenue.

"Despite the establishment of the Philippine Energy Plan (PEP), threats of potential blackouts remain as the drilling activities in pursuit of exploring natural gas are halted," Duterte said.

"This is worsened by the skyrocketing prices of imported oil, signaling the urgent necessity to tap alternative sources of energy, particularly cleaner energy, from indigenous sources," he added.

**MOISES CRUZ**