

20 September 2022, Tuesday



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

# **NEWS CLIPPINGS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**



## PNP, DENR PROBE 'ARMED MEN' NEAR MASUNGI

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

@jonmayuga

**P**ARALLEL investigations are being conducted by the Philippine National Police and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on the presence of armed men encamped near the Masungi Georeserve.

At a hastily-called press briefing, DENR Undersecretary for Policy, Planning, and International Affairs Jonas R. Leones said the DENR Calabarzon, Baras, and Tanay PNP along with the Regional Mobile Group of the PNP in Rizal swooped down on Km 48 of the Marikina-Infanta Highway to verify claims by Masungi Georeserve Foundation of the alleged "invasion" and "plan to take over huge tracts of land in the protected area."

"The PNP is already conducting its investigation and we at the DENR are also conducting a parallel investigation," said Leones.

He said all maps, land surveys and other documents being presented by interest groups will be reviewed and if verified, will be honored. However, he said all documents that are invalid will be set aside eventually, with the DENR thoroughly looking into the various claims over the vast tracts of land in the region.

Based on the DENR's own initial investigation, however, Leones said the 30-plus alleged armed men are indeed "armed" but they are in fact security guards hired by another claim-

ant near the area. However, he quickly said that the group was camped out along the road, which is outside any "protected area" or even the "Lot 10" titled under the Republic of Philippines.

The PNP, he said, is now looking into the licenses of the firearms, as well as their permits to carry.

He said the security guards were there to do their jobs, and as far as the DENR's initial investigation is concerned, have every right to protect the area sought to be protected by their clients, like all other claimants with security guards of their own in that area.

Leones said the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape (UMRBPL) has been the subject of various overlapping and conflicting claims, including Presidential Proclamations and Memorandum of Agreements (MOAs) which the DENR is reviewing for validation.

The Masungi Georeserve Foundation, which runs the award-winning Masungi Georeserve, a low-impact ecotourism destination in Baras, Rizal, holds a MOA signed by the late and former DENR Secretary Regina Paz L. Lopez, who assigned 3,000 hectares of government-owned land in the area for rehabilitation, protection and conservation.

The MOA, he said, is also being reviewed by the DENR like all other documents being offered by claimants and occupants of the government-owned land in the area.

Sub "PNP," A2

## PNP...

CONTINUED FROM A16

However, "claimants" to the area within the Protected Area, including Masungi Georeserve, have so far ignored the DENR's call for them to apply for a Special Use Agreements in Protected Areas (SAPA) as mandated by law.

SAPA is issued by the DENR to enable the productive use of protected areas as defined under the National Integrated Protected Areas Act of 1992 while maintaining their status as protected areas.

Leones said many violations have indeed been committed by occupants of the UMRBPL and even areas outside the protected areas which are land of public domain and subject to another claim by several groups of Indigenous Peoples (IPs) in the area.

Over the years, Leones said the DENR had issued notices of violations for encroachment, and construction of illegal structures, including resorts, which may or may not have permits from concerned local government units (LGUs). None of them were issued by the DENR.

"We are on top of the situation and we are monitoring the activities. We are reviewing carefully the situations and regulations and we will be coordinating with various agencies. Under the leadership of the Secretary and the President, we will solve the problem," said Leones.



TITLE:

PAGE:

09-20-22  
DATE

# PNP chief urged to visit Masungi encampment

Soldiers and policemen failed Sunday in finding the supposed armed men from a security agency

BY PAULA ANTOLIN  
@tribunephil\_phau

Philippine National Police chief P/Gen. Rodolfo Azurin Jr. yesterday told reporters that they are investigating reports that about 30 armed men have occupied areas within the Masungi conservation area.

Azurin said the PNP is coordinating with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Department of the Interior and Local Government to verify reports that personnel of

a security agency have encamped on the roadside of the Marikina-Infanta Highway in Tanay, Rizal.

"Our police forces have responded and they are checking on the contested property. That's a protected area actually so we are coordinating with the DENR," Azurin said.

The Masungi Georeserve Foundation on Monday called on the PNP chief to visit the area after it was reported that policemen and soldiers on Sunday morning failed to locate the alleged armed men.

"The PNP chief must be

misinformed or misled, so we humbly invite him to come visit the project and talk with us anytime. We need his unyielding support and cooperation," the group said.

PNP CALABARZON spokesperson P/Lt. Col. Eurice de Guzman said deployed troopers did not see any armed men during their patrols.

Masungi Georeserve Foundation project manager Ann Dumaliang said the armed men were still in their area late afternoon of Sunday.

Dumaliang said the armed men could be used to land grab areas protected by the government under the National

Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 1992.

A late-breaking report said guns were seized by the police from the security firm at Masungi.

She said the armed men were straddling the road between the Kaliwa and Marikina watersheds being reforested by the foundation under an agreement with the government.

Sinagtala personnel reportedly presented a survey plan issued by the DENR in 2003 to justify their encampment in the area titled to the government since the 1950s.

The security men refused to be identified when asked to do so by members of media who went to the georeserve area.



TITLE \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_



**BINARIKADAHAN** ng mga sasakyan ang gilid ng kalsada ng km. 48 sa Marikina-Infanta highway, Tanay, Rizal na lupain parte ng Masungi's conservation site at Kaliwa watershed protected area nang pasukin ito ng mga professional squatters. (AS)



STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
AND  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE

# Manila Standard

C1  
PAGE

UPPER  
LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

09-20-22

TITLE:

PAGE

1/4

DATE

# Sowing the seeds of tomorrow

## Manila Standard holds 11th tree planting program

Text by Patricia Taculao and photos by Peter Paul Duran

**A**S members of society, individuals and institutions have a part to play to ensure the sustainability of communities and the environment for future generations.

In recent years, people have focused on giving back to the environment for its preservation and conservation especially with the present and real threat of climate change.

For its part, Manila Standard, through its corporate social responsibility, continues to set an example in advocating environmental sustainability.

Last Saturday, September 17, some employees of the media organization trooped to Barangay Sto. Niño, Tanay, Rizal to conduct its 11th tree planting initiative, Adopt-A-Tree Program, under its Integritree program, led by its Circulation Department Chief Edgar Valmorida.

Despite the inclement weather, they went to the site to plant 400 bamboo seedlings in answer to Mother Earth's call to protect the environment and the ecosystem of the area, and to promote biodiversity.

The planting site is along the bank of Lamitan River within the Kaliwa Watershed Forest Reserve, recommended by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office in Rizal as an ideal location for bamboo.

Manila Standard's Adopt-A-Tree Program began in 2009 at the Ipo Dam Watershed in Norzagaray, Bulacan. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the program was temporarily put on hold in the past two years.

With pandemic restrictions slowly easing, Manila Standard, aware of its commitment to the environment and its responsibility to the community, has resumed the program. The company also sees it as a means to instill a sense of camaraderie among the organization's employees and the

members of other organizations.

Partnering with the government and private sector

Manila Standard recognizes the relevance of encouraging other members

of society to participate in sustainability projects, which is why the company partnered with two institutions for its Adopt-A-Tree program.

One of them is the DENR through the

Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service (SCIS).

"DENR-SCIS's partnership with Manila Standard started way back in 2014 or earlier. It was a yearly activity until

2020 when the pandemic struck. That year, the SCIS already had a project with Manila Standard and an ocular of the mangrove planting site was already

Turn to C2



### Caring for the Environment at Nickel Asia Corporation



This is why we are ASEAN's best: a reforestation project at Rio Tuba Nickel Mining Corporation

RTMCM is a subsidiary of Nickel Asia Corporation and is a member of the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines

RIO TUBA NICKEL MINING CORPORATION

Reforested Area

LAGANITO MINING CORPORATION

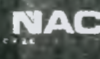
Ongoing Rehabilitation of a Mined Out Area

CALANAN MINE MINING CORPORATION

Rehabilitation Area 1

HINATUAN MINING CORPORATION

Mangrove Reforestation





STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
AND  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE

# Manila Standard

u  
PAGE

UPPER  
 LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

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

PAGE

2/4

09-20-22

DATE





## Sowing...

From C1

conducted. When the lockdown was implemented, the activity was put on hold. This year's bamboo planting is a continuation of that partnership," said DENR Undersecretary for Policy, Planning, and International Affairs Jonas R. Leones.

Leones added that the Manila Standard's decision to plant bamboo, along the bank of Lamitan River would benefit the nearby community because bamboo will help prevent erosion and thus protect structures, houses, and other existing improvements in the area.

Manila Standard has also partnered with the people's organization Samahang Maggugulay Ng Sto. Niño for the site preparation.

Leones also said that Manila Standard is among the stakeholders that supports the country's National Greening Program (NGP), led by the DENR.

"In 2015, Manila Standard, in support of this reforestation program for environmental protection, adopted an NGP graduated site in Norzagaray, Bulacan for three years," he said.

Leones hopes other companies and organizations also consider environmental CSR just like Manila Standard.

Aside from the DENR, Manila Standard also collaborated with the United

Riders Charity Philippines (URCP) for their 11th tree planting activity.

The group, headed by its president, Cesar Vergara, was eager to contribute to protecting Mother Nature by riding through the streets and walking along the riverbank to plant the bamboo seedlings in their respective sites.

URCP, according to Vergara, is more than just being a riders' group. They also engage in charity work, such as tree planting, donation drives, and more.

Other attendees at Manila Standard's 11th sowing activity included Forester Nestor P. Arriola, Jr., the National Greening Program coordinator for Rizal province, and Forester Felomen Antonio, Protected Area Superintendent for Kaliwa River Forest Reserve. Riders from Batangas also participated in the activity.



The number of attendees helped Manila Standard meet its goal of planting all the prepared seedlings in select areas along the riverbank.

As an added step to intensify its environmental preservation initiative, Manila Standard also took the responsibility of looking after themselves and leaving no traces of waste at the site.

#### Benefits of planting bamboo

Every September, the Philippines celebrates "Philippine Bamboo Month" based on Proclamation No. 1401 signed by former President Rodrigo Duterte. The proclamation directs the Philippine Bamboo Industry Development Council (PBIDC) to lead and promote the observance of Philippine Bamboo Month and identify the programs, projects, and activities for its yearly celebration.

Bamboo is known for its sturdiness and versatility as a construction material for buildings and furniture. It also plays several significant roles in preserving the environment.

For starters, bamboo is a non-invasive plant, making them ideal species to have in an ecosystem. Another relevant benefit of bamboo to the environment, which both Manila Standard and DENR recognized, is its protection against soil erosion due to its rapid growth, permanent canopy, and immense network of roots and rhizomes.

Rhizomes can survive more than a century allowing the bamboo to regenerate from stems. It is beneficial for binding topsoil, preventing soil erosion, and controlling areas frequented by landslides.

Its leaves also prevent damage from rainfall by dispersing large raindrops into smaller particles, contributing to the smooth distribution of groundwater throughout the forested area and reducing the risk of runoff and erosion on slopes or hillsides.

Bamboo, like all plants, produces oxygen for clean and fresh air.

Although it'll still take years before the bamboo seedlings planted by Manila Standard and its partner organizations mature, a bamboo forest on the banks of Lamitan River will help preserve the water quality by forming a wall that serves as sediment control.

With climate change threatening water availability and quality in the Philippines, the timely and well-planned decision to plant bamboo seedlings along a riverbank connected to a significant dam in the Philippines will provide several benefits in the long run.

The extensive root system and forest cover prevent streams from evaporating and cause an increase in groundwater levels within several years.

Manila Standard's Adopt-A-Tree program demonstrates the company's dedication to its CSR and role in becoming a social leader that fosters positive developments in the community. It hopes to encourage public and private institutions to take a step and preserve relevant values and resources for a better future.





## Ipagtanggol ang Masungi Protected Area

**MATAGAL** na ang kontrobersyal na isyu ng Masungi Georeserve Foundation sa Baras Rizal.

Subalit tila hindi matigil-tigil ang isyu ng pagpasok ng mga taong may interes sa pag-okupa sa mga lugar ng kabundukang ito upang gawing komersyal na gamit sa negosyo.

Protektado ang kabundukang ito at pag-aari ng estado kung kaya't walang sinumang business interest ang maaaring magmay-ari ng kabundukang ito.

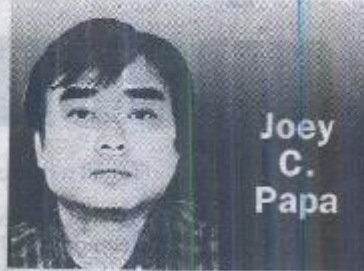
Sabi nga ng isang dating opisyal ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources, "it is beyond the commerce of men," paalala niya noon.

Ngunit tila hindi naiintidihan ng ilang mga kababayan natin ang pangangalaga at pagtatanggol sa Inang Kalikasan at piliit na inaasinta ang tulad ng Masungi upang tayuan ng negosyo.

Kailan lamang ay napaulat na may 30 armadong kalalakihan ang sumalakay sa at nagkampo sa paligid ng Masungi Georeserve sa Baras Rizal.

Hindi maintindihan ng mga volunteers ng Masungi kung bakit may mga armadong lalaki at bakit kailangang paikiutan nila ang Masungi Georeserve gayong hindi namansila pulis at

### BANGON KALIKASAN



Joey  
C.  
Papa

wala naming kaguluhang nagaganap sa nasabing lugar.

Ang mga armadong kalalakihan umano ay ipinadala ng isang security agency sa utos umano ng isang retiradong opisyal ng militar na nagsasabing kanya umano ang kabundukang 'yon.

Alam naman ng DENR na titulado ang Georeserve sa estado o pamahalaang Pilipinas at hindi naman ito ipinagbibili at hindi rin puwedeng ipagbili sa pagkatitoy bahaging pananggol natin sa mga kalamidad tulad ng baha na apektado ang buong Kamaynilaan.

Kailangang kumilos agad ang pambansang pamahalaan at maging ang lokal na pamahalaan bago pa lumala ang nangyayaring ito sa Ma-

sungi Georeserve.

Hindi biro na magpadala ng sardamakmak na armadong tao sa isang lugar na napakalapit lamang sa Kamaynilaan na hindinalalaman ng ating kapulisan.

Bago pa mahuli ang lahat, kailangang paalisin ang mga armadong lalaki at alamin kung sino ang tunay na nasa likod ng kanilang "pagsalakay" sa palibot ng Masungi Georeserve."

Kailangan ding marahil linawin ng DENR kung ano ang kalagayan ng ating mga protected area.

Bakit tila ang mga lugar na ito ang tinatambakan ng mga negosyong hindi naman kailangan ng mga tagaroon sa komunidad.

Katulad ito ng Tanay Rizal na ayon sa isang residente ay ginawa na raw umano ang bayan na ito ng isang "tourism area? Totoo po ba ito?"

Ang Tanay Rizal ay isang protected mountain area tulad din ng iba pang lugar sa Rizal dahil ang mga lugar na ito ay nasa bulubunduking lugar.

Tila ba "cash register" ang nakikita ng ilang mga negosyanteng Pilipino sa ating Inang Kalikasan kahit na magka-delubyo na sa ating kapaligiran. Kilos DENR.

Joey C. Papa



## PCG enforces single-use plastic ban

Starting next week, employees of the Philippine Coast Guard will be required to comply with a ban on single-use plastic as part of the PCG's efforts to promote marine environmental protection.

The ban on single-use plastic is in response to the directive of PCG chief Admiral Artemio Abu to reduce plastic waste.

"We will impose sanctions on PCG personnel who will disobey the order. We are implementing the policy to be part of conversations of sea passengers, crew of shipping companies and other stakeholders," PCG spokesman Commodore Armand Balilo said at a press briefing yesterday.

The PCG prohibits the use of single-use plastic cups, drinking straws, coffee stirrers, utensils and wrappers, among others.

Balilo said the directive would be formalized through a "pledge of commitment" that will be signed by Abu, Maritime Industry Authority administrator Hernan Fabia and Philippine Ports Authority office-in-charge Francisquel Moncile on Sept. 25.

A World Bank study in March 2021 showed that the Philippines was the third largest contributor of plastic waste, with an estimated 0.75 million metric tons of mismanaged plastic going to the ocean every year.

- Robertzon Ramirez



09-20-22

TITLE:

PAGE

DATE

## PPA: Single-use plastics ban stays

**T**HE Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) has reiterated its ban on all single-use plastics at all ports under its jurisdiction as it moves forward to sustainable port operations.

PPA Officer in Charge-General Manager Francisquiel O. Mancile said all port managers across its 25 Port Management Offices must strictly impose the directive embedded under PPA Memorandum Circular No. 11-2021.

He added that this will also go hand in hand with the theme of the 2022 National Maritime Week Celebration: "New Technologies for Greener Shipping."

"PPA already has an existing ban on single-use plastics. Since last year, we are not only banning the use and entry of such plastics in the ports but also in all facilities and offices under the agency," Mancile said in a statement.

"While we do not impose any fine or penalty to erring passengers, stakeholders, and employees, we are confiscating these kinds of materials for proper disposal."

PPA Memorandum Circular No. 11-2021, meanwhile, follows the National Solid Waste Management Commission Resolution No. 1363 dated February 12, 2020 directing a ban on the unnecessary use of single-

use plastic products in government agencies and is seen as a major leap to reduce the use of single-plastic items from polluting waterways, kill marine life and further increase the country's solid waste.

The ban includes plastic cups thinner than 0.2 millimeters, plastic drinking straws, plastic spoons, plastic forks, plastic knives, plastic coffee stirrers, and plastic labo and thinned-filmed sando bags thinner/lighter than 15 microns.

Aside from this, PPA has also earlier partnered with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)-Philippines on the same initiatives involving three PPA ports—the North Port,

Port of Batangas, and Port of Cagayan de Oro—in a bid to reduce plastic leakage at the said ports by 50 percent by 2023.

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) and the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), which are also part of the three-pronged maritime sector of the Department of Transportation, also expressed readiness to impose similar initiatives in their areas of jurisdiction. The PCG said they will levy heavy fines and penalties to their erring personnel who will be found violating the ban. At the same time, the MARINA will look into further strengthening the regulation imposed on local ships.



TITLE:

PAGE:

DATE:

## PPA reiterates ban on single-use plastics

STATE-RUN Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) yesterday reiterated its directive to ban all single-use plastics in all ports under its jurisdiction as it moves forward to sustainable port operations.

Francisquiel Mancile, PPA officer-in-charge, stressed that all port managers across its 25 Port Management Offices must strictly impose the directive embedded under PPA Memorandum Circular No. 11-2021.

"PPA already has an existing ban on single-use plastics. Since last year, we are not only banning the use and entry of such plastics in the ports but also in all facilities and offices under the agency," Mancile said.

The memorandum follows the National Solid Waste Management Commission Resolution No. 1363 dated February 12, 2020, directing a ban on unnecessary use of single-use plastic products in government agencies and is seen as a major leap to reduce the use of single-plastic items from polluting waterways, killing marine life and further increasing the country's solid waste.

The ban includes plastic cups thinner than 0.2 millimeters as well as plastic drinking straws, spoons, forks, knives and coffee stirrers, and plastic labo and thinned-filmed sando bags thinner/lighter than 15 microns. —Myla Iglesias



## Point of view

# About a farm and a river

By MICHELE T. LOGARTA

It was mid August when we set off for Alfonso, Cavite to bird at the Luntiang Republika Eco Farms where we soon discovered the enchanting river that flowed at the edge of the property.

After sightings of a Guaiabero and Rough Crested Malkohas, we made our descent down a steep and muddy slope to the river that is named Catmon. There, we saw the Blue Headed Fantails, Elegant Tits and Philippine Bulbuls, among other birds.

Hilda Cleofe, our host and owner of the farm, quickly jumped in the cold, refreshing waist high waters and headed for a small cascade that marked where the land dipped.

Hilda said that they – the owners of the farms bordered by the river – had agreed not to develop the river bank. We want to keep it the way it is, she said.

Hilda and her husband Ed bought the Alfonso farmland in 2011. They called themselves weekend farmers for some time until Ed decided to leave his job in the city for good. During the pandemic, the couple, with their two children, moved to the farm permanently. Hilda worked her office job from the farm.

Luntiang Republika describes itself as a certified organic farm. "We practice farming that provides for our needs, farming that is sensitive to the environment and farming that transforms communities," the farm website said.

The farm is recognized by the Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Training Institute as a Learning Site for Agriculture. The DA also supports the farm by providing equipment and technical assistance.

In the community, the farm serves as the official address of the Alfonso Cavite Organic Farmers Agriculture Cooperative. Agriculture students from UP Los Baños, Cavite State University, Central Bicol State Agricultural University and the Visayas State University come to the farm to do their internship as well.

Accredited by the Alfonso Local Government Unit as an agri-tourism site, the farm is open to visitors wanting to experience life in the farm, with accommodations for guests wishing to spend a night or two.

The farm, according to Hilda, helps sustain other farmers by buying their produce at a fair price. A store can be found at the entrance to the farm where visitors can purchase health, food and beauty products, all made with natural ingredients. How-to pamphlets on various agricultural topics are freely given out.

At the time we were there, some 50 farmers had come to listen to Ed speak on best practices on organic farming. Ed and Hilda are advocates of value-adding and teach farmers how to convert a basic commodity into a new product, using various methods of processing.

A fine and delicious example of the value-adding approach in agriculture is the farm's own brand of ice cream which we enjoyed for the afternoon merienda. Hilda proudly tells us it is a creation of her teenage son, using coconut milk, flavored with tablea and fruit – whatever is produced in excess in the farm.

Hilda's river reminded me of the creek of my childhood in Quezon City. It was pristine then, filled with tadpoles

that we would try and catch. We would wade in its shallow waters, stepping on stones to get to the golfing greens on the other side. We would clamber up a hill to climb the bayabas and duhat trees that grew there. Our *yaya* would joyfully get on the back of a cow that would occasionally be found grazing there. This was, then, a remote corner of Quezon City.

Every child, I think, should have the experience of a crystal clear creek, a babbling brook, a clean river to play and swim in – and trees to climb. In Metro Manila, this would be just a dream.

In the uplands of Alfonso, Cavite, Hilda and her family are living the dream of many.

According to DENR, there are 18 major river basins and 421 principal rivers in the country. Few can be considered healthy and sustainable.

Under RA 9275 or the Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004, DENR categorizes water bodies based on their quality, purpose and vulnerability to pollution. The classification determines how the water bodies will be managed and protected.

I read an article in a DENR newsletter about an awards program for the "best rivers" in the country. Rivers for Life, as the award is called, stands for Recognizing Individuals/Institutions towards Vibrant and Enhanced Rivers (R.I.V.E.R.S.) for Life. It was launched in 2018 to increase awareness of the need to protect and conserve the rivers in the country as well as to recognize the best practices in river management undertaken by DENR workers.

In 2021, Bukidnon's Panlibutahan River in Valencia topped the awards, with the Apayao-Abulug River in the Cordillera Administrative Region and the Taguibo River in Butuan City, in second and third place. The rivers were lauded as models and proof that rivers can be restored to health and vitality.

According to a report by the Water Environment Partnership in Asia, a third of the country's rivers serve as public water supply. Furthermore, access to clean and adequate supply of water is an acute problem, hampered greatly by the pollution.

Water governance, researchers point out, is the crux of the problem.

In the paper "Challenges of Water Governance in the Philippines," published in the Philippine Journal of Science in 2015, authors Agnes C. Rola, Juan M. Pulhin, Guillermo Q. Tabios III, Joy C. Lizada and Maria Helen F. Dayo wrote that "the involvement of local communities in water governance can spell the difference between the success and failure of governance efforts."

The month of September is National Clean-up Month with the third weekend pegged as International Clean-up Weekend. Sept. 17 was International Coastal Clean Up Day and Sept. 18 was World Water Monitoring Day.

All these "Special Days" are well and good. Do they make a dent? We all know that the environmental problems are not solved in a day by ceremonial clean-ups. But any little effort one makes is always a good thing.

Email: [thegreentailedwalkerph@gmail.com](mailto:thegreentailedwalkerph@gmail.com). Follow her on Instagram @ [thegreentailedwalkerph](https://www.instagram.com/thegreentailedwalkerph)



09-20-22  
DATE

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

PAGE \_\_\_\_\_

# Maritime Week gives environment protection focus

We want to teach in the public's mind the importance of banning single-use plastic

This year's celebration of National Maritime Week is focused on environmental protection, particularly the push to ban the use of single-use plastics in domestic shipping and all ports.

According to Philippine Coast Guard spokesperson Commodore Armand Balilo, even though single-use plastic is currently banned for their personnel, they cannot impose it on passengers, as a law is needed for its full implementation.

"The PCG, Philippine Ports

Authority, and the Maritime Industry Authority are set to sign a Pledge of Commitment to implement the ban on single-use plastic among their personnel. During the International Coastal Cleanup Day last Week, most of the trash picked up were single-use plastics," Balilo said.

According to CG Commodore Balilo, PCG commandant, CG Admiral Artemio Abu shall direct fellow Coast Guardians to comply with the said order to lessen the negative impact of single-use plastic on the country's seas.

"We will impose penalties on our personnel who will disobey the directive. We propose this to be part of conversations with passengers, shipping companies, and all maritime

stakeholders. We want to teach in the public's mind the importance of banning single-use plastic," the Coast Guard spokesperson said.

The PCG, Marina, and PPA shall come together to encourage cooperation and interagency-based regulation among waste contributors and generators through various waste reductions and management techniques, starting from banning single-use plastic within their respective offices.

The single-use plastic items that will be banned include, but are not limited to, plastic cups, drinking straws, plastic coffee stirrers, plastic utensils, sando bags, and plastic wrappers.

RAFFY AYENG



TITLE:

PAGE

DATE

## INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP DAY STARTS IN NAVOTAS

IN celebration of the International Coastal Cleanup Day 2022, Navotas held simultaneous cleanup drives in Barangays Bagumbayan North, Tangos North and Tangos South and Tanza Marine Tree Park.

More than 150 individuals participated in the event with no less than the Tiangco brothers - Mayor John Rey Tiangco and Rep. Toby Tiangco- who spearheaded the event encouraged the participants to make coastal cleanup a habit.

"It is our duty to keep our coastal areas clean to maintain the ecosystem in these waters and sustain a healthy aquatic environment," the mayor said.

Rep. Tiangco, a former mayor, said that keeping the coastal areas must be part of the residents' lifestyle.

### Valenzuela's planned crematorium has 'NavoHimlayan' as its model

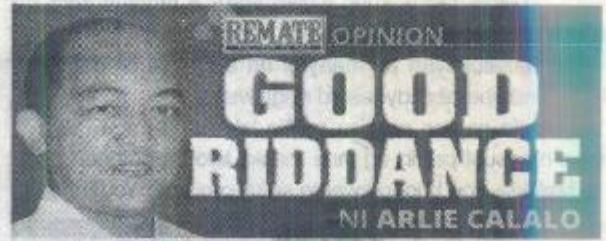
Valenzuela Mayor Wes Gatchalian has visited the NavoHimlayan Columbarium in Navotas before his plans to put up their own facility using it as its model.

Gatchalian has expressed high regard for Navotas' crematorium and funeral chapel and his desire to build the same for Valenzuela.

The Tiangco brothers had partnered to establish the three-year-old Navo-Himlayan designed to address the issues of congestion and lack of space in the city's public cemetery.

It also offers free funeral services to indigent Navoteños, according to the Tiangco brothers.

The Navotas mayor said the NavoHimlayan was the realization of the promise of the city government that it will take care of



Navoteños from womb to tomb.

Since 2008, the city government has been offering free burial services to poor constituents. Included in the program are free casket, burial set-up, cremation, urn with nameplate, and use of columbarium vaults.

### Navotas builds more classrooms, opens vaccine cold room

Mayor JRT led the groundbreaking of additional public school buildings in the city and the blessing of the Navotas Vaccine Cold Room.

Navotas National High School and Daanghari Elem. School (DES) will soon have new four-story school buildings with eight

classrooms while Tangos Elem. School 1 will also have a four-story building with 12 classrooms.

"Nine more school buildings are up for construction this year. We hope for the timely completion of these projects so we could accommodate more students and avoid shifting classes."

Meanwhile, the cold room at the Vocational Training Center in Barangay NBBS will store COVID-19 vaccines and routine vaccines for pediatric immunization.

Its bio-refrigerators can safely keep vaccine diluents while its freezers can store around 35,000 vials of sensitive and extremely cold temperature-dependent vaccines.



Editorial

## Air pollution: nalilimutang problema ng bansa

**B**INANGGIT minsan ni President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. sa kanyang talumpati ang tungkol sa problema sa plastic pollution, kung saan isa ang Pilipinas sa malaking nag-aambag ng mga basurang plastic sa karagatan. Sabi ni Marcos, tutulong ang Pilipinas sa paglilinis sa mga basurang plastic. Hindi aniya tatalikuran ang responsibilidad sa problema ng plastic pollution. Noong Linggo, nagkaroon ng clean up drive sa Dolomite Beach sa Maynila at toneladang basura ang nakuha.

Maganda namang marinig na may pagmamalasakit ang pamahalaan sa pagkasira ng kapaligiran dulot ng plastic pollution. Pero may isa pang problema na nalimutan si Marcos na singbigat din ng plastic pollution—ang air pollution.

Matindi na ang problema sa air pollution lalo sa Metro Manila. Kapag walang ginawang hakbang ang pamahalaan ukol dito, maraming magkakasakit at ang



pamahalaan din ang mahihirapan.

Noong 2020 na kasagsagan ng pandemya, bahagyang bumaba ang lebel ng air pollution dahil napilay ang transportasyon. Walang biyahe ang mga jeepney, bus at maski taxi na nagbubuga ng may lasong usok. Tigil din ang mga pabrika.

Subalit ngayon na nagluwag na sa restrictions at nagbalikan na sa kalye ang mga sasakyan at balik-operasyon ang mga pabrika, balik din ang air pollution. Araw-araw nang nakalalanghap ng may lasong usok ang milyong residente sa Metro Manila.

Sa pag-aaral ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), ang mga sasakyan ang numero unong nagdudulot ng air pollution sa Metro Manila. Umano'y 70-80 percent ng emissions ay galing sa mga tambutso ng sasakyan. Ang maraming usok na ito ang nalalanghap ng commuters.

Ayon sa Department of Health (DOH), ang mga sakit na nakukuha sa paglanghap ng hangin na may lasong ay allergies, acute respiratory infections, chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases, cancer at cardiovascular diseases. Ayon sa report, 120,000 Pilipino bawat taon ang namamatay dahil sa pagkalanghap ng hangin na may lasong.

Para masolusyunan ang air pollution, lahat ng mga lumang sasakyan ay ipaghawal na sa kalye. Ipagpatuloy ang smoke belching campaign para masiguro na ang mga sasakyang yumayaot ay hindi nagbubuga ng may lasong usok. Ipatupad ang Clean Air Act of 1999. Kapag nagawa ang mga ito, maari pang maisalpa ang mga Pilipino sa pagkalason sa hangin.





09-20-22

TITLE

PAGE

DATE



DR. HILDA C. ONG

## NABABAHALA ANG NWRB SA PAGKATUYOT NG MGA GROUND WATER

BASE sa karanasan ng ating mga kababayan, mas kakayanin pa na walang kuryente sa isang maghapon kaysa walang lulo ng tubig sa mga gripo o walang magigib na tubig. Kaya naman ang pagseseguro sa suplay ng malinis na tubig ang isa sa mga priority environment agenda ni President Ferdinand "BBM" Marcos, Jr. sa kanyang pakisuyo sa Kongreso para sa pagbuo ng isang Department of Water Resources and Management.

Marami sa mga kababayan natin ang nagtataka, isa nga namang arkepelagong bansa ang Pilipinas na naligiran ng tubig, bakit nga naman tayo kukulangin sa suplay nito.

Alam naman natin na ang

tubig buhat sa mga karagatan at dagat na nakapalibot sa ating bansa ay hindi maaaring direktang inumin at wala pa tayong teknolohiya sa kasalukuyan para gawin ito.

Pangunahing pinagkukunan parin natin ng potable water ay ang ground water na ayon sa datus ng National Water Resources Board (NWRB) ay 49% ay nagagamit sa mga domestikong pangangailangan, 32% sa agrikultura, 15% sa mga industriya, at 4% na iba pang pinagagamitan.

Pero nababehala ang NWRB sa pangunguna ni executive director Dr. Sevello David, Jr. sa pagkatuyot ng mga ground water sa malaking bahagi ng bansa.

Ang region 10 o ang North-

ern Mindanao na siyang may pinaka-konting ground water sa buong bansa ay halos wala na talagang makuha, habang pakonti na nang pakonti ang nakukuhang tubig mula sa Ilocandia at sa Central Visayas na siyang mas maraming imbak na ground water.

Sanhi ito ng mas dumaraming bilang ng tao, hindi maaayos na pagtatapon ng mga wastewater, malawakang polusyon, ang saline water intrusion, atapekto ng mas lumalalang climate change and global warming.

Ang NWRB ay isang ahensya ng pamahalaan na namamahala sa lahat ng katubigan sa buong bansa at nagmomonitor sa paggamit ng tubig.

Ang pagkontrol ng paggamit ng lahat ng uri ng katubigan tulad ng alokasyon, konserbasyon at pag-iingat na kakibat ang pagsustena sa pagpapauliad nito sa pamamagitan ng sistema ng water rights.



### Nat'l Climate Change Summit suportado ng Pitmaster Foundation

Suportado ng Pitmaster Foundation ang National Climate and Disaster Emergency Forum na gaganapin sa Huwebes sa Discovery Primea Hotel sa Makati na si Albay Rep. at climate police expert Joey Salceda ang magsisilbing guest speaker.

Inaasahang dadalo sa forum ang ilan sa mga miyembro ng gabinete ni Pangulong Ferdinand 'Bongbong' Marcos, Jr. na kinabibilangan nina Finance Sec. Benjamin Diokno, National Econom-

ic and Development Authority Director-General Arsenio Balisacan, Energy Sec. Raphael Perpetuo Lotilla, Climate Change Commission Sec. Robert Borje, at DENR Sec. Ma. Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga.

Dadalo rin sa summit sina University of the Philippines President Danilo Concepcion at Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Felipe Medalla.

Bago ito ay nagbigay ng suporta ang Pitmaster Foundation na pinamumunuan ng negosyanteng si Charlie

'Atong' Ang sa ilang environmental rehabilitation efforts ng local government unit ng Siniloan, Laguna at Real, Quezon sa pamamagitan ng financial, logistical at staff support para sa naturang forum.

Ang Pitmaster Foundation ay kausa sa mga ganitong adhikain at makaaasa ng buong suporta para maisulong ang mga climate policies para sa bansa, lalo na pagdating sa community adaptation and renewable energy. *-Mer Layson-*



09-20-22

DATE

TITLE

PAGE

### **Pitmaster Foundation kaisa sa Nat'l Climate Change Summit**

Kasado na ang National Climate and Disaster Emergency Forum sa Huwebes, Setyembre 22, sa Discovery Primea Hotel sa Makati.

Itinataguyod ng Pitmaster Foundation na pinamumunuan ng negosyanteng si Charlie 'Atong' Ang, ang Forum ay inaasahang dadaluhan ng ilan sa mga miyembro ng gabinete ni Pangulong Ferdinand 'Bongbong' Marcos, Jr. na kinabibilangan nina Finance Sec. Benjamin Diokno, NEDA Director-General Arsenio Ballacan, Energy Sec. Raphael Perpetuo Lotilla, Climate Change Commission Sec. Robert Borje, at DENR Sec. Ma. Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga.

Dadalo rin sa summit sina UP President Danilo Concepcion at Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Felipe Medalla.

Si Albay Rep. at climate police expert Joey Salceda ang magsisilbing guest speaker sa okasyon.

Bago ito ay nagbigay ng suporta ang Pitmaster Foundation sa ilang environmental rehabilitation efforts ng local government units ng Siniloan, Laguna at Real, Quezon sa pamamagitan ng financial, logistical at staff support para sa naturang forum.

Ang Pitmaster Foundation ay kaisa sa mga ganitong adhikain at makaaasa ng buong suporta para maisulong ang mga climate policies para sa bansa, lalo na pagdating sa community adaptation and renewable energy. *(Mer Layson)*



## Climate panic behind energy crisis; call for review of climate science

First  
word

THE  
United Na-  
tions



OBSERVER

**YEN  
MAKABENTA**

General Assembly will open today, September 20, its annual forum for the discussion of global issues and concerns among heads of states and governments throughout the world. Our own President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. is among the speakers.

► MakabentaA5



MAKABENTA FROM A1

# Climate panic behind energy crisis; call for review of climate science

At a time when all humanity has witnessed and experienced a period of war and devastation in Ukraine and Europe, a two-year coronavirus pandemic that has taken the lives of millions, and now confront the specter of inflation and a devastating shortage in food and energy, it is opportune for nations and governments to meet and discuss problems together.

There is perhaps no better venue for this than the United Nations General Assembly.

"Think of the United Nations as a bridge," Eleanor Roosevelt said at the UN's founding, "a bridge whereby the nations can cross over and talk about the problems and challenges that they face in common, and about how they can work and heal together."

In this year's assembly, one such problem and concern is the alarm over an alleged climate emergency and the loud agitation for sweeping and radical changes in the world's economies and the making and supply of energy.

Who will lead the way in this discussion? Who will speak the words that can help define our course forward?

## 'The right path forward'

On September 15, Michael Shellenberger, the noted author and environmental policy advocate, testified before the US Congress for the seventh time in two years.

In his testimony, Shellenberger stunned everyone when he traced the global energy crisis to the climate movement, which is chiefly being promoted and led by the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, no less. I reproduce some key parts of his testimony:

"I share this committee's concern with climate change and misinformation. It is for that reason that I have, for more than 20 years, conducted energy analysis, worked as a journalist, and advocated for renewables, coal-to-natural gas switching and nuclear power to reduce carbon emissions.

"At the same time, I am deeply troubled by the way concern over climate change is being used to repress domestic energy production. The US is failing to produce sufficient quantities of natural gas and oil for ourselves and our allies. The result is the worst energy crisis in 50 years, continuing inflation and harm to workers and consumers in the US and the Western world. Energy shortages are already resulting in rising social disorder and the toppling of governments, and they are about to get much worse.

"We should do more to address climate

change but in a framework that prioritizes energy abundance, reliability and security. Climate change is real, and we should seek to reduce carbon emissions. But it's also the case that US carbon emissions declined 22 percent between 2005 and 2020, global emissions were flat over the last decade, and weather-related disasters have declined since the beginning of this century. There is no scientific scenario for mass death from climate change. A far more immediate and dangerous threat is insufficient energy supplies due to US government policies and actions aimed at reducing oil and gas production.

"The Biden administration claims to be doing all it can to increase oil and natural gas production, but it's not. It has issued fewer leases for oil and gas production on federal lands than any other administration since World War 2. It blocked the expansion of oil refining. It is using environmental regulations to reduce liquefied natural gas production and exports. It has encouraged greater production by Venezuela, Saudi Arabia and other OPEC nations, rather than in the US. And its representatives continue to emphasize that their goal is to end the use of fossil fuels, including the cleanest one, natural gas, thereby undermining private sector investment...

"The right path forward would increase oil and natural gas production in the short and medium terms, and increase nuclear production in the medium to long terms. The US government is, by extending and expanding heavy subsidies for renewables, expanding control over energy markets, but without a clear vision for the role of oil, gas and nuclear.

"We should seek a significant expansion of natural gas and oil production, pipelines and refineries to provide greater energy security for ourselves, and to produce in sufficient quantities for our allies. We should seek a significant expansion of nuclear power to increase energy abundance and security, produce hydrogen, and one day phase out the use of all fossil fuels. While the latter shouldn't be our main focus, particularly now, radical decarbonization can and should be a medium- to long-term objective within the context of creating abundant, secure, and low-cost energy supplies to power our remarkable nation and civilization."

## Red team, blue team review

Meanwhile there is a parallel push for a sweeping review of climate science so the world can fully understand and cope

with the alleged climate crisis. Climate researcher Richard Rood filed the following report on the review proposal:

"Scott Pruitt, the former administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, has called for a 'red team blue team' review to challenge the science behind climate change. ...

"Most commonly, red team-blue team reviews are used as a mechanism to improve security of information systems or military defenses. The blue team is associated with an institution, the owner of an asset or a plan. The red team is charged with attacking the blue team, with the goal of revealing vulnerabilities. ...

"As a climate researcher, I have participated in reviews where weather and climate projects were investigated for budget reductions. Others examined the role of high-risk research and technology along the critical path of a project. I have also participated in forums of scientific debate. This is where scientists provided evidence supporting competing arguments to explain unresolved observed behaviors. The arguments were testable, hence, scientific hypotheses.

"From my experience in both types of review, I can say confidently that red team-blue team exercises are not a mechanism for scientific debate. They are not designed to take a testable hypothesis and then look at whether observations and theory support or refute it. They are more like Heath Ledger's Joker in 'The Dark Knight', causing disruption, distortion and chaos.

"And so, Pruitt's call for a red team-blue team review is not designed to test the scientific robustness of our knowledge of climate change.

"Administrator Pruitt's call for a red team-blue team review has been discussed by a number of other scientists. In a *Washington Post* commentary, Ben Santer, Kerry Emanuel and Naomi Oreskes discuss peer review and its checks and balances. Former director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy John Holdren, in the *Boston Globe*, takes on the political nature of Pruitt's position and documents the extensive reviews of climate change science by many organizations.

"These many reviews of climate change science are motivated by the consequences of climate change. The disruptions to the world are enormous and costly. To intervene and limit those disruptions requires changes in how we use energy, and essentially, the elimination of fossil fuel emissions. For decades it has been in the best interest of our prosperity and environmental security to get the answer on

climate science right. Hence, reviews have been carried on from many perspectives.

"Indeed, law professor Daniel Farber has reviewed the practice of climate science and concluded, 'Climate scientists have created a unique institutional system for assessing and improving models, going well beyond the usual system of peer review. Consequently, their conclusions should be entitled to considerable credence by courts and agencies.'

"In addition, climate change science has been the target of political and public debate for decades. In 1995 the US House of Representatives committee on science held hearings on the integrity of climate models. The results of those hearings persist today in the political and societal discourse, and there have been many subsequent political hearings.

"Pruitt's call for the red team-blue team review seems inspired by a *Wall Street Journal* commentary by physicist and New York University professor Steven Koonin, who called for an adversarial, public red team-blue team review of climate science. Koonin maintained that such a review would be a step toward 'evidence-based policymaking and against the politicization of science.' A goal would be to 'Put the 'consensus' to a test, and improve public understanding, through an open and adversarial process.'

"In my view, however, the 'consensus' argument to support the correctness and the reliability of climate change is poorly posed. It is an argument based on polls that maintain that an overwhelming majority of climate scientists have accepted the basic conclusions of a warming climate. The consensus argument likely emerged as a tactic for communication, but it is not a prudent tactic. It sets up a choice: Whose side are you on? Who or what do you believe?

"More fundamentally, the consensus argument is not an argument of climate science; it's one of communication or political science. Hence, putting 'consensus' to the test is not accomplished by an adversarial review of climate science. An adversarial review of climate science, especially one motivated by a hostile political appointee, serves only to escalate the politicization of climate science and undermine evidence-based policymaking.

"As I see it, a red team blue team review of climate science, if promoted on a global level, will go a long way in clearing up the confusion, fears and anxieties engendered by a decade of climate fear-mongering."

yenobserver@gmail.com



## Sardine shortage projected as migration patterns disrupted by changing climate

THE fishing industry is projecting sardine shortages, with catches currently a fraction of their previous levels due to the changing climate.

"There is an anticipated shortage. We're not saying there's a shortage now but it's going to that direction," Francisco J. Buencamino, executive director of the Tuna Cannery Association of the Philippines, said in an online forum.

"The fishing boats only catch from 20-40% now compared to previous years. What we're saying is that migratory movements of epipelagic fish are (changing) with climate change... they're finding safer areas to survive," he added.

Association of Fresh Fish Traders of the Philippines President Roderic C. Santos said that the current *habagat* (southwest monsoon) is also affecting the movement of fish.

Epipelagic fish are "not highly migratory like tuna" and live in shallow coastal waters, he said.

"Now that it's *habagat*, the plankton will be brought (away) by the wind, so all small

epipelagic fish will go there because the food is there," he added.

Roberto Ballon, representing a Zamboanga fisherfolk association, said that municipal fishermen can supply canneries if they are provided upgraded boats and post-harvest facilities.

"We would need logistics support and facilities both in the production and harvest stages," he said.

Mr. Buencamino recommended allowing commercial fishing operations a harvest area of 10.1 kilometers from shore and outward, which are classified as municipal waters.

"LGUs should allow us to fish near the shore where there are more fish. We will make sure that it will not affect municipal fishermen. We need to fish closer to build up our inventory before Dec. 1. There will be a shortage if the issue is not addressed," he said.

There is a scheduled ban on commercial fishing between Dec. 1 and Feb. 28. Commercial fishing boats are also confined to fishing 15 kilometers from shore and beyond.

Food advocacy group Tugon Kabuhayan convenor Asis G. Perez said that the Philippines is one of the biggest producers of canned sardines.

"The canned sardine industry yielded an average volume of 355,000 MT a year, generating an average annual value of P10.45 billion over the last five years. Sardine production is largely situated in the Zamboanga Peninsula, which accounts for up to 60% of total production. Other sardine-producing areas are Palawan, Bicol, the Visayan Sea, Samar, Iloilo, Cebu, and Masbate," he said.

"The Philippines is rich in sardines. We have six major species of sardines in our territorial waters. Sardines are vital sources of healthy and affordable protein. Over 70% of Filipinos eat seafood, especially sardines, at least five times per month. It is not only part of our everyday meal, but is also integral to our culture. Any claims of shortage should be resolved with tangible plans and action, because the effects are massive," he added.

— Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson



## Climate emergency health implications

Scientists had predicted the tipping point for climate change to be in the next 20-30 years, but it seems it has already arrived. This is a time of great environmental changes. Arctic ice and glaciers melting, rising temperatures and sea levels, unprecedented floods in Pakistan, drought in China and Africa, extreme heat waves and wildfires in Europe and North America, stronger typhoons and hurricanes in the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans, bringing death and destruction to many countries. All point to an undeniable truth: That we are in the midst of a climate emergency brought about by massive increase in carbon dioxide levels. Greenhouse gases production is primarily driven by highly industrialized countries, but the ill effects of climate change disproportionately affect less developed nations, which contribute little to the causes of climate change.

Though we may be less responsible for the catastrophic effects of climate change, it behooves us to be conscious of how we individually contribute to it and strive to lessen our carbon footprint as much as possible. Personal choices in consumption impact how much we contribute to global warming. We should favor locally produced food and goods over imported ones, which have to be flown in or delivered by sea cargo. Our transport choices are rather limited at this point, with a decrepit and overloaded public transportation system that relies heavily on fossil fuel. Yet, we can drive more fuel-efficient cars, and hopefully, electric cars will be more affordable in the near future. Solar panels are now more affordable, we should take the initiative to install solar systems on our rooftops to decrease reliance on our energy grid and at the same time reduce our energy bills, which are the highest in Asia.

Ideally, we should have fully electric vehicles that we can charge at home from rooftop solar systems, thereby eliminating the need for gasoline or diesel, the main drivers of carbon dioxide production. We should reduce the use of plastics in our daily lives that add to environmental pollution and endanger the planet

further with their ill-effects on sea life.

The production of microplastics, which we ingest with our seafood, ultimately endangers our health, too.

Health will definitely be impacted by climate change. Even now, respiratory and cardiac diseases are steadily increasing due to air pollution. Extreme weather events like storms and flooding lead directly to injuries and deaths but are also instrumental in the rise of food- and water-borne diseases, like cholera and salmonellosis. Water stagnation breeds mosquitoes that spread dengue and malaria, and contamination by rat urine causes leptospirosis when people wade through waters.

*Our health system may be in danger of collapse due to the added stress of climate-impacted diseases, as it is already under strain by current challenges in public health care delivery and response to major local disasters.*

Evacuations bring about severe crowding, which promotes respiratory diseases like Covid-19, influenza, and bacterial pneumonias. Extreme heat brings about heat strokes and increases hospital admissions due to cardiovascular, respiratory and kidney disorders. Stressful situations increase the incidence of premature births, low birth weight, and maternal complications.

Social disruptions caused by climate-change events will bring about more health problems due to public health disruptions in vaccination activity and disease-targeted programs like TB

treatment. We can expect a rise in vaccine-preventable deaths and morbidity.

Poverty levels will increase due to wholesale displacement of populations in affected areas and loss of livelihood. With more poverty, malnutrition will increase, again leading to more deaths from pneumonia, diarrhea, and other infectious diseases associated with poor nutrition.

Catastrophic events bring about additional mental stress and cause an increase in mental illnesses even in those who have no prior history of mental disorders. There may be post-traumatic stress disorders among people impacted by disasters. Suicides rise during disasters.

The WHO estimates 250,000 additional deaths per year between 2030 and 2050, mainly from malnutrition, malaria, diarrhea, and heat stress. Majority of these will be in less-developed nations like ours, since their health systems will be less able to cope with the added burdens of climate-related health issues,

Our health system may be in danger of collapse due to the added stress of climate-impacted diseases, as it is already under strain by current challenges in public health care delivery and response to major local disasters. While a disaster emergency response plan is in place, we saw gaps in implementation during the Taal volcanic eruption, which resulted in a shortage of face masks. Other emergencies also showed similar shortcomings. The DOH will need to change and be bolstered to face the challenges of the climate emergency. The question is: Will the Department of Health be more responsive to effect the changes needed to cope with climate change? Will the national government address the additional requirements in terms of financing and planning to cope with these climate emergencies?

When another Yolanda-type disaster occurs, let us hope we will be prepared health-wise, both nationally and individually.



### UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

RAYMUND W. LO, MD, FPSP



09-20-22

TITLE

PAGE

DATE



*Nakisa ang mga miyembro ng Nueva Vizcaya Press Club, DTI at DENR sa pagtatanim ng mga bamboo seedlings sa may Bayombong Seminary Eco Park sa Brgy. Busilac, Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya, sa simultaneous bamboo planting activity kahapon, bilang bahagi ng selebrasyon ng Philippine Bamboo Month at World Bamboo Day. (Kuha ni Victor Martin)*





## By Farhad Manjoo

WHENEVER I write about the plummeting costs and growing capabilities of wind power, solar power, and batteries, I'm usually met with a barrage of radioactive responses from the internet's overheated nuclear reactors — social-media-savvy environmental activists who insist that nuclear power should play a leading role in the world's transition away from fossil fuels.

The sun doesn't always shine and the wind doesn't always blow, they point out, but nuclear power plants produce carbon-free energy day and night, rain or shine. Their argument that nuclear power is unfairly maligned has been bolstered by Russia's invasion of Ukraine; Germany, which shut down many of its nuclear plants in the past decade while building natural gas pipelines to Russia, now faces a deep energy crunch. It has had to burn more coal to keep the lights on.

I'm not a never-nuke, but I've had my doubts about atomic power. Still, I wanted to keep an open mind. So last week I flew to London to attend the World Nuclear Symposium, an annual conference put on by the nuclear industry's global trade group, the World Nuclear Association. I heard an earful from industry executives, analysts, lobbyists and government officials who are giddy about nuclear power's prospects for powering the world of tomorrow.

I'll give the pro-nuclear folks this: They do make a good case that nuclear has gotten a too-bad rap. Nuclear power is relatively safe, reliable, and clean; compared to the planetary destruction wrought by fossil fuels, nuclear power looks like a panacea. Patrick Fragman, the CEO of the large American nuclear manufacturer Westinghouse, said his industry had to "unwind decades of brainwashing of public opinion in many countries" about the dangers of nuclear power.

But the argument for significantly ramping up the production of nuclear power — especially in places where overall energy consumption isn't growing, like in the United States and Europe — falls short. That's because the nuclear industry has long been hobbled by two problems that its boosters can't really wish away: Nuclear is far slower to build than most other forms of power, and it's far more expensive, too. And now there is a third problem on the horizon. As battery technology improves and the price of electricity storage plummets, nuclear may be way too late, too — with much of its value eclipsed by cheaper, faster, and more flexible renewable power technologies.

In order to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above preindustrial levels — the goal set in the Paris Agreement to avert the worst effects of global warming — experts say that we need to reduce global carbon dioxide emissions to a net of zero by 2050. Responding to such a climate emergency with nuclear power is like calling on a sloth to put out a house fire. The 63 nuclear reactors that went into service around the world between 2011 and 2020 took an average of around 10 years to build. By comparison, solar and wind farms can be built in months; in 2020 and 2021 alone, the world added 464 gigawatts of wind and solar power-generation capacity, which is more power than can be generated by all the nuclear plants operating in the world today.

The nuclear industry has been notorious for cost overruns and delays. The only nuclear reactors under construction in the United States — a Westinghouse project at the Plant Vogtle power station in Georgia — were started in 2013 and projected to be finished in 2017. They are still not done — and an initial budget of \$14 billion has more than doubled to more than \$28 billion. In 2017, utilities in South Carolina canceled two reactors midway through con-



## Nuclear power still doesn't make much sense

struction after cost projections ballooned from \$11.5 billion to more than \$25 billion.

And after all this build time, you get a very expensive source of energy. In a common energy-industry measure known as "levelized cost," nuclear's minimum price is about \$131 per megawatt-hour, which is at least twice the price of natural gas and coal, and four times the cost of utility-scale solar and onshore wind power installations. And the high price of nuclear power doesn't include its extraneous costs, such as the staggering price of disasters. Cleanup and other costs for the 2011 Fukushima disaster, caused by an earthquake and a tsunami off the Japanese coast, may approach \$1 trillion.

Nuclear boosters say that these problems can be solved. There was much talk at the conference

about streamlining regulations and reducing costs and build times by constructing smaller, more advanced and less disaster-prone reactors. Once we start building more, the industry will start seeing the benefits of scale and efficiency, several industry insiders told me.

"The best way to become good at building nuclear power plants is to build nuclear power plants," said Sama Bilbao y León, the director general of the World Nuclear Association. John Kotek, an executive at the Nuclear Energy Institute, the industry's American trade group, pointed out that the US Navy builds nuclear-powered submarines and aircraft carriers in a matter of years — suggesting that quick build times for small reactors could be doable.

Perhaps. But the much-vaunted small reactors are still novel,



TITLE: NUCLEAR POWER SAID DOESN'T MAKE SENSE PAGE 2/2

DATE

MARK TRUVER/INVESTASI

mainly untested technology. In another era, it may have been worth taking a gamble on these systems in order to avert climate disaster.

But Mark Jacobson, a professor of civil and environmental engineering at Stanford University and a longtime proponent of renewable energy, told me that such a bet makes less sense today, when wind and solar power keep getting better — because any new money put in nuclear is money you aren't spending on renewable projects that could lower emissions immediately.

There's an opportunity cost "of waiting around for a nuclear reactor to be built when you could have spent that money on wind or solar and got rid of emissions much faster," Jacobson said. This cost may be particularly onerous when you consider the rapid advancement in battery technology, which can help address the main shortcoming of renewable power: its intermittency. The price of lithium-ion batteries has dropped by about 97% since they were introduced in 1991, and prices are projected to keep falling.

Jacobson is one of several researchers who have argued that such advances will render nuclear power essentially obsolete. As we build more renewable energy systems — onshore and offshore wind, solar power everywhere — and improve technologies to store energy (through batteries and other ideas), wind and solar can meet most of our energy needs, Jacobson said. In a 2015 paper, he argued that the world can be powered through renewable energy alone. His findings have been hotly disputed, but other researchers have come to similar conclusions.

On the other hand, the International Energy Agency's projections for reaching net-zero energy still rely on nuclear. The agency says that nuclear capacity will need to double by 2050, with two-thirds of that growth occurring in developing economies. Still, even with nuclear's

doubling, the IEA says nuclear power will contribute less than 10% of global electricity in 2050; over the same period, the agency says renewable generation will grow eightfold, contributing 90% of electric power in 2050.

Clearly, then, nuclear's problems don't mean we should shut down all nuclear plants; existing plants are quite valuable in our energy mix as we ramp up solar and wind. And in places like China, India, and other regions where demand for energy is growing, new nuclear plants may have a big role to play — and if the small, advanced reactors become viable, perhaps we'll see some of those, too.

But it's unlikely that nuclear can play anything close to a dominant role; its share of electricity production is quite likely to fall over time.

Which isn't really a surprise. A quick glance at daily headlines suggests nuclear power is plagued by too many problems for comfort. I landed in London at around the same time that international energy regulators were making emergency plans for maintaining the safety of Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant, which had come under shelling from Russian troops. In South Korea, operators of the Kori nuclear power plant were cutting production in anticipation of a massive typhoon. And this summer in France, which gets about 70% of its electricity from nuclear power, plant operators had to cut production because hot weather had raised the temperature of river water used to cool the reactors — kind of a big problem on a planet that keeps heating up.

Tyson Slocum, the director of the energy program at the advocacy group Public Citizen, summed up these problems neatly: "Nuclear power has simply been eclipsed," he said. "It was an incredible zero-emission resource for its day. But for much of the energy system today, that day has long passed."



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
**ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU**  
DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City 1116  
Telephone Number (02) 8539-4378  
Website: [www.emb.gov.ph](http://www.emb.gov.ph) Email: [recordsco@emb.gov.ph](mailto:recordsco@emb.gov.ph)



Management  
System  
ISO 9001:2015  
ISO 14001:2015



### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On the ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE REPORT AND MANAGEMENT PLAN (EPRMP) of the proposed REHABILITATION OF AGUS I, II, IV, V, VI AND VII PROJECT of the NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION (NPC) located in Marawi City, Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur.

Notice is hereby given to all parties who wish to give their opinion regarding the implementation of the proposed REHABILITATION OF AGUS I, II, IV, V, VI AND VII PROJECT to attend the Public Hearing scheduled on:

Date	Time	Venue
04 October 2022 for Agus I & II	10:00 AM Registration starts at 9:00AM	Provincial Capitol Gymnasium, Provincial Capitol Complex, Marawi City
06 October 2022 for Agus IV, V, VI & VII	9:00 AM Registration starts at 7:30AM	Mindanao Generation Head Quarters Multi- Purpose Hall, Brgy. Maria Cristina, Iligan City

The Public Hearing is being conducted in connection with the review of the EIS of the aforementioned project by the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The following is the project information:

Project Name	REHABILITATION OF AGUS I, II, IV, V, VI AND VII PROJECT
Project Location	Marawi City, Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur.
Project Capacity/Area	746.1 MW existing capacity
Project Type	Hydro Power
Project Rationale	With the forecasted power load growth in the Mindanao grid, the National Power Corporation intends to rehabilitate the Agus Hydroelectric Power Plants (Agus HPPs) to increase reliance on renewable and affordable energy, and to provide ancillary services to enhance system reliability in Mindanao.  The proposed rehabilitation project is in support of the Government's Build, Build, Build Program which lists the APHC rehabilitation as part of the priority Infrastructure Flagship Projects of the government. The rehabilitation and modernization of APHC is essential principally to address equipment issues that currently constrain production and reliability, including obsolescence issues to extend the service life and increase the facility's reliability and availability to support the growing power demand in the island of Mindanao.
Project Components	Major Components of Agus I, II, IV to VII: Reservoir, Dam, Powerhouse, Tailrace Channel, Surge Chamber and Power Channel
Proponent	National Power Corporation (NPC)

All interested parties who wish to attend or participate in this Public Hearing should preferably confirm their attendance/participation and may give their opinion(s) in a concise position paper to the ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION (EIAMD) of this Office through email at [eia@emb.gov.ph](mailto:eia@emb.gov.ph), three (3) days before the Public Hearing schedule. Those who will not be able to register or submit written positions may be given the opportunity to share their issues on the day of the hearing itself.

The project's EPRMP and Executive Summary for the Public are downloadable on our website: (*kindly access the Notice of Public Hearing/ Consultation link found in our website*) while copies will be available in the following office:

- EMB Region X  
DENR 10 Compound, Macabalan Cagayan de Oro City
- Bangsamoro, Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM)  
Bangsamoro Government Center, Governor Gutierrez Avenue, Rosary Heights VII, Cotabato City
- Municipal Environmental & Natural Resources Office (MENRO)  
Lanao del Sur and del Norte

For more details, please contact the EIAMD Division at this Office at telephone number 8539-4378 local 116 and look for the project case handlers For. Mark Anthony C. Tuling and Engr. Carlo Vic Arida.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
**ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU**  
DENR Compound, Widespread Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City 1114  
Tel No. 8636-4872  
Website: [www.denr.gov.ph](http://www.denr.gov.ph) Email: [eservices@denr.gov.ph](mailto:eservices@denr.gov.ph)



**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

On the ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS) of the INFANTA NICKEL PROJECT of MACROASIA CORPORATION located in BARANGAYS IPILAN, MAMBALOT, AND MAASIN, MUNICIPALITY OF BROOKE'S POINT, PROVINCE OF PALAWAN

Notice is hereby given to all parties who wish to give their opinion regarding the implementation of the INFANTA NICKEL PROJECT to attend the Public Hearing scheduled on:

Date	Time	Venue
05 October 2022 (Wednesday)	9:30 AM (Registration starts at 08:30 AM)	Covered Court, Barangay Mambalot, Brooke's Point, Palawan

The Public Hearing is being conducted in connection with the review of the EIS of the aforementioned project by the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The following is the project information:

<b>Project Name</b>	Infanta Nickel Project
<b>Project Location</b>	Barangays Ipilan, Mambalot, and Maasin, Municipality of Brooke's Point, Province of Palawan
<b>Project Capacity</b>	Extraction Rate: 1,000,000 metric tons per year
<b>Project Type</b>	Resource Extractive Industry: Extraction of Metallic ores/ minerals
<b>Project Rationale</b>	In the face of a changing global economy, the nickel market is on upward trajectory. MAC believes that nickel market will rebound and stabilize and that will push this Project forward and bring the INP mineral property into full commercial production. At an average moisture of 34%, the expected initial mine production is about 860,000 DMT of ore per year or equivalent to 1,000,000 WMT of ore. With this, the project is expected to generate PhP2,839 million per year. The projected annual share of the government, inclusive of the excise tax, income tax and local government taxes and fees, is estimated at PhP544.65 million. In addition to financial contributions of the Project, the locality of Brooke's Point is expected to benefit directly in terms of local employment and community development through the Social Development and Management Program (SDMP).
<b>Project components</b>	<b>Major Components:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mine Area</li> <li>• Access Roads</li> <li>• Stockyards and drying areas</li> <li>• Camp site/ Mine office and Nursery</li> <li>• Waste repository areas</li> <li>• Mining contractor's equipment/ motor pool</li> <li>• Sediment control structure</li> <li>• Dry Ore Stockpile area</li> <li>• Pier Facilities or causeway</li> <li>• Water and Power Supply System</li> </ul>
<b>Proponent</b>	MacroAsia Corporation

All interested parties who wish to attend or participate in this Public Hearing should preferably confirm their attendance/participation and may give their opinion(s) in a concise position paper to the ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION (EIAMD) of this Office through email at [ela@emb.gov.ph](mailto:ela@emb.gov.ph), three (3) days before the Public Hearing schedule. Those who will not be able to register or submit written positions may be given the opportunity to share their issues on the day of the hearing itself.

The project's EIS and Executive Summary for the Public are downloadable on our website. (Kindly access the Notice of Public Hearing/ Consultation link found in our website) while copies will be available in the following offices:

- **EMB Region IV-B**  
PENRO Compound, Brgy. Suqui, Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro Satellite Office, 6th Floor DENR By the Bay bldg. L&S Bldg. Roxas Blvd. Ermita, Manila
- **LGU- Municipality of Brooke's Point**  
Municipal Hall, Brooke's Point, Palawan

For more details, please contact the EIAMD Division at this Office at telephone number (02) 8539 4378 loc. 116 and look for the project case handlers Engr. Jason Paolo Esguerra and Engr. Dexter Tabada.