

29 September 2022, Thursday



DENR

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



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THE REPORT OF SINCE 1859 PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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CONFIRMED – The Commission on Appointments confirmed on Tuesday, Sept. 27, 2022, the ad interim appointments of Secretary Conrado Estrella III of the Department of Agrarian Reform, Secretary Toni Loyzaga of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Secretary Christina Frasco of the Department of Tourism, and 63 military officers. (Avito Dalan)



UNWARRANTED TIMBER

Department of Environment and Natural Resources personnel inspect the narra flitches confiscated at the Cagayan Valley Product Monitoring Station checkpoint in Calitlitan, Aritao, Nueva Vizcaya on Monday, Sept. 26, 2022. PHOTO COURTESY OF DENR-PENRO NUEVA VIZCAYA



P1.26M worth of narra logs seized

TUGUEGARAO CITY: Environment agents and police seized narra flitches with an estimated value of P1.26 million on Monday at the Cagayan Valley Product Monitoring Station checkpoint in Calitlitan, Aritao, Nueva Vizcaya, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Region 2 said.

Regional Executive Director Gwendolyn Bambalan of the DENR-2 said in a news briefing that the forest protection team

flagged down on September 26 a Fuso Canter closed van (CAJ 6107) loaded with 104 pieces of narra flitches with approximate volume of 2,520.75 board feet.

Rommel Mercado, a 37-year-old driver from San Miguel, Bulacan, said the lumber came from Bulanao, Tabuk, Kalinga.

Mercado and his helper, Warwin Cruz, were held under police custody in Aritao while charges were being readied.

"After the consecutive apprehension, the Enforcement Division of the DENR Regional Office has been more vigilant and alerting the forest protection officers assigned at the 26 mobile and stationary checkpoints within the north and south exits of the Cagayan Valley region," Bambalan said.

Bambalan earlier ordered in a recent regional management conference for stringent forest protection and law enforcement convergence

initiatives along Ilocos, Cagayan Valley and Cordillera regions.

Multisectoral agents earlier seized an accumulated P5 million worth of illegal logs in Nueva Vizcaya on September 12 and 14.

The seizures are part of the implementation of Section 68 of Presidential Decree 705 known as the "Forestry Reform Code of the Philippines" as amended by Executive Order 277.

VINCE JACOB VISAYA



House reso seeks probe into 'degradation' of Sierra Madre

By JOVEE MARIE N. DELA CRUZ

[@joveemarie](#)

THE chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources filed House Resolution 430 seeking a congressional probe into the reported degradation of the Sierra Madre mountain range and to look for ways to protect it.

Cavite Rep. Elpidio Barzaga Jr. said there is a need to conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, on the alleged degradation of Sierra Madre Mountains "and how we shall protect our 'mother mountain range' to prevent the occurrence of floods in various places in the Philippines."

"There is an urgent need to determine whether human activity, such as illegal logging, gold mining, limestone mining, construction aggregate quarrying, deforestation and dam construction are being conducted at the Sierra Madre Mountains," Barzaga said in the resolution.

If such acts are being conducted, the administration lawmaker said, "There is a need to confirm if there were corresponding permits issued by the concerned government agencies."

"If indeed permits were issued, were there environmental impact assessments regarding their effect to the Sierra Madre mountains?" asked the lawmaker, who is a member of the National Unity Party (NUP).

The resolution cited Article 2, Section 16 of the Constitution, which provides that the state shall

"protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature."

The Sierra Madre mountains, called the "backbone of Luzon," is the longest mountain range in the Philippines which has a total land area of 2.8 million hectares that spans from Cagayan province in the north to Quezon province in the south and encompassing the 10 provinces of Cagayan, Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino, Aurora, Nueva Ecija, Bulacan, Rizal, Laguna and Quezon.

The resolution said the "Mother Mountain Range plays an important role by acting as a natural shield against typhoons and floods coming from the Pacific Ocean. Its watershed supports the water system of Central Luzon, Cagayan Valley and Metro Manila."

"It is home to flora and fauna, including the Philippine eagle and the golden-crowned flying fox. It is also home to 15 different indigenous peoples holding Certificate of Ancestral Domain Titles or ancestral domain claims groups," it said.

The resolution also cited role of Sierra Madre as the country's protector from the recent Typhoon "Karding," Typhoon "Ompong" in 2018, and Typhoons "Lawin" and "Karen."

"Unfortunately, it has not fully protected the town of San Miguel, Bulacan from the Typhoon Karding since this town has experienced its worst flooding that killed five provincial anti-disaster rescuers," Barzaga said.



House reso seeks probe into Sierra Madre degradation

A House resolution seeking to investigate the reported degradation of the Sierra Madre mountain range was filed in the House of Representatives.

House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources chair Cavite Rep. Elpidio Barzaga Jr. expressed alarm on the degradation of the Sierra Madre.

Barzaga's House Resolution No. 430 underscored the need to look for ways on how to protect it especially that the mountain range plays a vital role by acting as a natural shield against typhoons and floods coming from the Pacific Ocean. Its watershed supports the water system of Central Luzon, Cagayan Valley and Metro Manila.

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Jester Manalastas



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Renew the call to save Sierra Madre today

When Typhoon Karding was announced last weekend to have undergone "explosive intensification," all of us were also intensely worried, especially after PAGASA raised the alarm to signal number five in some areas of Luzon. Preparations were made. Events were canceled. Prayers resounded inside churches during Sunday worship, asking for Divine Intervention to stifle the strength of a superstorm.

As the typhoon barreled its way on the eastern part of Luzon, those who were monitoring PAGASA's online typhoon tracker noticed something peculiar. The eye of the storm was lingering a bit on Luzon's "backbone," which made it lose some strength in the process.

When the perilous strong winds and massive rain didn't arrive as expected, there were those who attributed it to luck or to an answered prayer. But in reality, that answered prayer is that backbone — the mountain range called Sierra Madre.

Soon, online posts were filled with hashtags highlighting Sierra Madre's role to avert disaster. The topic trended and eyes were now on the longest mountain range in the country, which spans almost 500 kilometers and straddles 10 provinces. Sierra Madre's role is perhaps best described by the origin of its name: "sierra" is Spanish for saw (the tool), while sierra in English means long jagged mountain chain; "madre" is mother. At the height of Karding's might, Sierra Madre became a "motherly shield," protecting the lowlands from further harm.

According to ecology group Haribon Foundation, "Karding's impact slowed down while traversing the Sierra Madre Mountain range since the area has a large surface of slopes, curves, and forested areas." It also added that Sierra Madre is "home to a large number of wildlife species and provides fresh wa-

ter to the people of Metro Manila, Cagayan, Nueva Vizcaya, Rizal, Laguna, among others."

On the part of the World Wide Fund for Nature-Philippines, it is renewing calls to "save Sierra Madre today and every day." "It plays a very important role by acting as a natural shield against typhoons and floods coming from the Pacific Ocean. With the rising sea levels, it is more than vital that we protect the Sierra Madre and all the forests in the country."

Haribon and WWF-Philippines are joined by environmental organizations calling on the government, the private sector, and the Filipino people to once and for all put resources to protect Sierra Madre. Words are not enough as action is needed. For example, Haribon is increasing reforestation coverage in Sierra Madre and training indigenous tribes of Quezon to help protect the area. "What we need to realize as a country is that there is a way to work with nature to achieve economic development while being responsible stewards of the environment. This will benefit humans in the long run, as our resources for air, water, and food are protected."

With Sierra Madre still a trending topic, Congress must hasten institutionalizing protection of this natural asset. Rizal 4th District Representative Fidel Nograles filed House Bill 1972, which seeks to establish a Sierra Madre Development Authority, tasked to oversee the area and rid it of illegal logging and destructive practices.

Considering the vital role of the Sierra Madre, it is quite ironic that we only give attention to it during a natural disaster. What happens when we're not talking about typhoons? Will saving and protecting Sierra Madre be placed at the backburner once again? We hope not as we don't know what we've got until it's gone.



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THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
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SALAMAT SIERRA MADRE

MUKHANG natututo na ang marami sa ating mga kababayan sa ginagawang paghahanda sa tuwing may paparating na malakas na bagyo.

Ilang araw bago ang pananalasa ng Super Typhoon "Karding" (International name: Noru), nagbabala na agad ang mga kinaaukulan sa inaasahang pananalasa nito.

Sinuspinde agad ng mga alkalde ang pasok sa mga opisina at paaralan. Gayundin, hindi na pina-pasok ng national government sa trabaho ang mga kawani ng pamahalaan para makasama ang kani-kanilang mahal sa buhay sa oras ng pananalasa ng bagyo.

Ang lahat ng sangay ng gobyerno na may kinalaman sa paghahanda sa kalamidad ay mabilis na nagsipag-alerto. Bagama't may mga lugar na pininsala ang bagyong Karding sa pag-landfall nito sa bahagi ng Luzon, marami ang sobrang namangha sa mabilis na paghupa ng super typhoon.

May mga lugar na inaasahang sasalantain ng bagyo ang hindi na nito halos nadaanan. Marami tayong mga kababayan na nakahinga nang maluwag sapagkat nakaligtas sa pagkawak ang kanilang mga bahay, pananim at buhay.

Sabi tuloy ng marami, sisiw naman pala si Karding na ikinukumpara sa lakas ng bagyong Ondoy at Yolanda.

"Yan ang kanilang akala. Lingid sa kanilang kaalaman, ang inaasahang lakas ng bagyong Karding na mananalasa sana sa ilang bahagi ng Luzon ay humina sa tulong ng Sierra Madre. Ang Sierra Madre na siyang pinakamahabang bundok sa bansa na nasa eastern corridor ng Luzon Island, ay matagal nang nagsisilbing tagaprotekta sa Metro Manila at ilang probinsiya laban sa mga kalamidad. Matagal nang nagiging epektibong "barrier" ang Sierra Madre laban sa malalakas na bagyong parating mula sa Pacific Ocean bago pa manalanta sa Luzon. "It was one of the factors that weakened the typhoon because a storm weakens after a land interaction. Sierra Madre is a rugged terrain so Karding naturally lost some strength," ayon nga sa isang weather specialist.

Maraming-maraming salamat Sierra Madre. Ngunit sadyang tampalasan at walang utang na loob sa Sierra Madre ang sangkatauhan sa kabila ng naitutulong at mabuting naidudulot nito sa buhay at kabuhayan ng marami. Patuloy na sinisira ng iba't ibang aktibidad ng mga tao ang forest habitat ng Sierra Madre.

Ang mayamang resources nito ay matagal nang panahong ginagahasa ng illegal logging operators, mining at development projects, kung kaya naaapektuhan na rin ang kanyang ecosystem at kakayahan nitong maprotektahan nang lubusan ang Luzon sa mga bagyo.

Sinasabing ang forest degradation ng tinatayang 1,400 ektarya kada taon sa pamamagitan ng ilegal na pagtotroso, pagkakaingin, fuel-wood collection, illegal hunting at residential expansion aypatuloy na sumisira sa kabundukan ng Sierra Madre.

Dapat nang kumilos ang lahat para protektahan din ang Sierra Madre. Imbes na patuloy na wasakin at pabayaan, kinakailangang kumilos ang gobyerno, ang lahat ng ahensya at ang mga tao sa pag-rehabilitate at conservation ng mga natural na "barriers" sa bansa kagaya ng Sierra Madre.



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MASUNGI PROTECTORS WIN UN AWARD

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WORTH THE SACRIFICE Masungi Georeserve Foundation (MGF) staff members celebrate the latest global recognition they have earned at the geopark's web-like observation post. The colors represent the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals that bind countries to work for peace and prosperity. —MGF PHOTO



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AFTER AN UNEASY WEEK, MASUNGI FOREST PROTECTORS BAG UN AWARD

By Dempsey Reyes
dempseyreys@INQ

Amid the many challenges it faces, including recent concerns caused by the presence of armed men in the area it is tasked to protect, the Masungi Georeserve Foundation (MGF) won an award from the United Nations for its efforts to restore and safeguard a swath of a rainforest in Rizal province and inspire the youth to "flip the script" for climate action.

Ann and Billie Dumaliang, trustees and cofounders of the foundation, received the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Action Award in ceremonies held in Bonn, Germany, on Tuesday (same day in Manila).

The SDGs, a total of 17 inter-linked global targets serving as a "shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future," were set up in 2015 by the UN General Assembly. Intended to be achieved by 2030, the SDGs are an urgent call for action by all countries to recognize that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth—all while tackling climate change

and working to preserve the oceans and forests.

The UN SDG Action Awards honors changemakers and initiatives that drive transformative action around the world. Its 2022 edition received more than 3,000 applications from over 150 countries in three categories—Mobilize, Inspire and Connect—and a separate award recognizing changemakers. The Masungi project won in the inspire category.

For the park rangers

In her acceptance speech, Billie dedicated the UN recognition to the park rangers of Masungi, the foundation's allies, partners and the people of the community who helped the project endure, but added that their work "continues to be undermined and undersupported in our home country."

She also dedicated the award to the "quarrying companies, land grabbers and their enablers in the government" that she pledged to challenge during her speech.

"To the people who have said we are dreaming too big, that this is the way things have always been, and that we are pushing too far, this is for you," Billie stressed, earning a round of applause from the audience.



'A REMINDER THAT WE WILL NOT STOP' Billie Dumaliang, a trustee and cofounder of Masungi Georeserve Foundation, receives the UN Sustainable Development Goals Action Award in Bonn, Germany, on Tuesday. —SCREENSHOT FROM THE UN YOUTUBE CHANNEL

"This is a reminder that we will not stop."

"We are not only representing Masungi. We are representing all Filipinos who suffer the most from the climate crisis and we are representing all environment defenders risking their lives for our shared future," she pointed out.

10th int'l award

The UN SDG Action Award was the 10th that Masungi Foundation had received from international organizations for its reforestation efforts.

It pointed out that only 3 percent of the primary forests remained in the Philippines due to rampant deforestation and poor environmental enforcement.

"The Masungi Georeserve east of Manila is a microcosm of these problems in a highly sensitive karst (a topography formed from the dissolution of soluble rocks) landscape which serves as a natural filter for vital waterways. The surrounding watershed is threatened by land trafficking and other illegal activities, exacerbated by corruption. This leads to the reduction of the clean water supply for about 40,000 people whilst increasing flood risks," it said.

Through an agreement signed with the government in 2017, through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources then under Environment Secretary Gina Lopez, "the Masungi Georeserve became one of the biggest collaborative reforestation efforts in the country using self-generated funds from geotourism," it recalled, adding:

Over 2,000 hectares of land has been rescued, 17 ranger stations and 18 kilometers of monitoring trails established, 100 rangers and 200 partners engaged and over 200 households have been supported.

Sixty-eight thousand native trees have been planted and nurtured."

Roadblocks

The latest award came nine days after the foundation alerted the public about the presence of more than 30 armed men in its area of jurisdiction. Posting pictures of the group on social media on Sept. 18, MGF alleged that they had set up camp along Kilometer 40 of the Marikina Infanta Highway and appeared poised to illegally occupy a part of the nature preserve.

The local police the following day seized about a dozen firearms from the men, who were identified as personnel of Sinagala Security Agency. But no arrests were made and the men were fined only P1,000 each for not bringing their gun licenses with them.

The men were gone by the time Interior Secretary Benhur Abalos, along with ranking police and environment officials, inspected Masungi on Sept. 23.

Also last week, in another troubling development for MGF, the DENR announced plans to review its 2017 agreement with the foundation, along with accords with other private organizations assigned to look after protected areas, no



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PROTECT MASUNGI, PASS NATIONAL LAND USE ACT NOW

ARTICLE II, Section 16 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution states that "The State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature." Reading this portion of our Constitution makes you feel all warm and fuzzy and hopeful for a world or at least a nation that respects and nurtures the bounty of Mother Nature—plants, trees, marine life, animals, water, air that we breathe. God-given natural resources of water, air, and land, plus animals that have been in existence long before human beings walked the earth. The stewardship of Mother Nature, of planet Earth, falls on our fal-

lible human shoulders, more so on those people holding powerful key government positions, whose advocacy and mere signature on a certain bill to be passed greatly impacts the fate of our nation and its future generations.

Since its declaration as a protected area in 2011, Masungi Georeserve has been embattled by illegal constructions of private resorts and commercial establishments, allegedly owned by retired and active Philippine National Police officials and government officials. As an ordinary thinking Juan dela Cruz, it baffles me how such man-made structures were allowed to gain ground on a GOVERNMENT-PROTECTED SITE. Do the owners have per-

mits from the local government to erect such structures in the first place? Or maybe the local government unit (LGU) was not aware that such construction was taking place under their noses? I don't know. Pondering on this chest-pain-inducing topic make me consider conspiracy theories. *Sanga-sanga, kawing-kawing na*, so to speak.

The news of armed security men "guarding" a certain area in the 2,700 hectares of forest land in the embattled georeserve, with claims that their employer is the rightful owner of that land, along with the unexpected reaction from the local Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) representative

in Tanay, Rizal, plus the seeming silence of the LGU in that area, makes you think if Section 16 is just good on paper and if it translates at all. "The State shall PROTECT and advance the RIGHT of the People..." It is good that the Department of the Interior and Local Government and the PNP have stepped up in the recent Masungi issue. What the people hope to be more VOCAL and AGGRESSIVE in protecting the environment for the future generation is, well, the department that has ENVIRONMENT in its name. This is a LITMUS TEST for the newly appointed DENR secretary. Please be more assertive and spineful (as opposed to spineless) in issues like this. The

courageous voice of the late Ms. Gina Lopez, with a short-lived stint as DENR secretary, is very much missed in times like this.

In relation to the Masungi standoff, NOW IS THE TIME for the national land use act to be ENACTED ASAP. This bill has been collecting cobwebs in Congress for 25 years now. The Philippines has 30 million hectares of land and inland waters (source: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 2020). As of 2020, around 108 million people utilized these land areas. The passage of House Bill No. 5240, aka national land use act, ensures us that the 30 million hectares of land and inland waters will not all

be converted into subdivisions, parking lots, and more commercial establishments. Passing the bill into law ensures us food security as well. Farm lands will remain as farm lands, not as expansion areas for subdivisions. Protected areas for the rehabilitation and preservation of our ecosystem ensure a future still teeming with verdant land and healthy wildlife, marine life, and domestic animals. We cannot eat cement from subdivisions if the time comes.

Nature can exist without man. Man cannot exist without nature.

PAMELA I. CLAVERIA, MD,
dokceemitch@gmail.com



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Shrines in a barren landscape

SEVEN churches sit like yawning crocodiles, spread about the sprawl of Sierra Madre foothills where weekends were spent with my three imps, sweating out and sun-baking our backs while planting trees.

Each church, every belief and persuasion currently infecting the Pinoy landscape was plied out with a preacher or priest to stoke the fires of people's faith in that hinterland community. We saw instead many a summer brush fire cackling like a coop of chickens or cracking like splintered skeletons, devouring the landscape from dusk to dawn. Thus went two or three years reforestation work, each struggling patch of young trees we tended turned up as ashes.

People need trees. Trees to turn out food and churn out oxygen to break down nutrients in food, the same air-bonded to blood—shuttle these nutrients throughout the body to keep it fully nourished and alive; same air swishing like a tender caress on human brain cells to nudge some sparks of sanity and intuition. Beautiful biochemistry, isn't it? All told, we can use trees for some two-bit intuitive, critical and creative thinking.

We call ourselves Homo sapiens or "thinking human". A mathematician sums up functioning humanity: "Cogito, ergo sum" or "I think, therefore, I am." Lo: co! The "co" portion in the operative Latin word "cogito" suggests a co-existing, co-operating or co-working partner in the thinking action. The partner that affirms the humane, puts to work our less-than-valid claim to humanity? What's that partner? Make a wild guess, mwa-ha-ha-haw!

People need trees. Trees don't need people.

Sure, the teeming forest that we wanted to rear from that roaring empty sea of cogon and talahib can grow without us working our asses off each weekend. Left to itself, even a hideously ripped out forest can knit back its shawl of green in its own time. It can mend itself—just leave it alone. Isa pa: Chopped dead or burned down forests don't need human hands to sprout back to life.

Say, a smallpox or anthrax epi-

MANGKOKOLUM

Kulamnista.blogspot.com



Dong
delos
Reyes

demically wiping out the populace about the Sierra Madre foothills would be the first step in rousing to life the dead-and-gone wilderness. They took out the trees, sold the rough-hewn timbers for small sums, just sold out co-operating partners that worked out their claim to that title, Homo sapiens... They're pathetically inhuman.

Sure, it was tough on my pockets at P1,500 for each working visit to the reforestation site. The assigned chores on the site were tougher on the growing children's tender bodies, but that's what experts call kinesthetic imprinting. They weren't just getting a grip on such repetitive tasks as turning hard-packed soil or bruising their arms hacking away at man-high grass to clear the ground for planting.

A task contains a set of body movements that can trickle out like sweat into another set of movements of another task. Shut out the idea of tasks: the movements fluidly flow like a dance done in metal grace. The lessons in movement are meant to be done, not yakked about—no discussion, please. Do as I do: actions are infinitely better than cheap talk and articles like this. Without knowing it, the kids were learning a quaint know-how called "the art of the explosive pliancy of growing trees." It's a down-to-earth form of jujutsu. Its moves are to be done with effortless simplicity—shibumi.

Ah, the late Moshe Feldenkrais summed it up: "The quality of your life is the quality of your movement."

Aikido progenitor Morihei Ueshiba: "Everyone has a spirit that can be refined, a body that can be trained, a suitable path to follow. You are here

for no other purpose than to realize your inner divinity and manifest your innate enlightenment."

So, I led my imps Bilog, Podying, Kukudyu and Puwiton talahib-choked paths on those Sierra Madre weekends. I guess it was, to borrow from Ueshiba, a suitable path to follow. The path had dollops of shao lin kung fu—literally translates as "physical skills gleaned from a small forest"—plus tidbits of kyokushinkai karate ("empty hand of god").

Empty hand of God, eh? A refined spirit has that. It's the human spirit that's made in the likeness of God, so my Sunday school marm told me ages ago. And I guess it's the trained human body with in-dwelling refined spirit that can be God's shrine. I caught one Assunta de Rossi spouting in an itsy-bitsy voice on TV: "The human body is the temple of the Holy Spirit." Sure, a well-stacked bod like hers would be a welcome abode for any spirit.... In any case, I'm still a sucker for the hard-edged process of tempering the body with a package of skills. The skills can translate to an individual's enthusiasm at handling multiple tasks.

And maybe, honing those skills to a keen edge can touch off realization of inner divinity. I understand "enthusiasm" derives from the Latin "enthous" (gods within).

So, we usually pass by seven churches yawning like crocodiles around the Sierra Madre foothills; those churches can't be shrine to the divine. Their preachers and priests didn't effect a better quality of life nor manifested innate enlightenment for their flocks of Homo erectus. I guess the same state of inner darkness reigns in chaps about my children's age—over seven of every 10 of 'em Pinoy toymers don't have an inkling of either the human or the spiritual, so a survey said.

Anthropologist Loren Eiseley once wrote: "Man is an expression of his landscape." I guess most folks turned mountains and themselves barren. I shared brutal labor bringing a whit of green to those mountains with my offspring. I could be wrong but we're still pregnant with forests.



SENTINEL

RAMON T. TULFO

Of terrorism and red-tagging

The huge piles of garbage in Manila Bay, especially the ones that washed ashore on the "dolomite beach" on Roxas Boulevard after Typhoon Karding, shows the Filipino's complete lack of concern for his neighbors and the environment.

Filipinos don't care whether their neighbors or the generations after them will suffer because of their folly.

(If you're not one of them, then don't react!)

A Filipino throws his garbage in the sea, canals, esteros, rivers, creeks and brooks. Filipinos indiscriminately cut down trees in the forests because it's their neighbors' problem if a flood takes place due to the act.

"Basta hindi ako o kamaag-anak ko ang apektado, OK lang (As long as I or my relatives are not affected, it's OK)," a Pinoy will say. In this sense, Pinoys are selfish.

The Filipino doesn't care about the future. What he cares about is how much he benefits in the present because of his irresponsible acts. In this sense, Filipinos are idiots.

Problems outside his family or extended family are not a part of his concerns. Filipinos just pay lip service to the vaunted *bayanihan* or community spirit. In this sense, the Filipino is a darn hypocrite.

The very bad habit common among Pinoys is their mishandling of things that are entrusted to them. "*Di naman sa akin ito* (It's not mine anyway)," a typical Pinoy would reason out when he's asked why he seems oblivious to the care he should give to an item loaned to him.

Because of this, one should be careful in lending or entrusting an expensive item to a Pinoy.

An essay about the Filipino having a "damaged culture," which was written by an American journalist, is on target.



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Dolomite Beach nasasalaula LAGOT KA dahil sa mga pasaway



NI EDD REYES

MUKHANG wala na yatang pag-asang magkaroon ng wastong disiplina ang maraming mamamayan pagdating sa wastong pagtatapon ng basura kahit batid na nilang nagiging sanhi ito ng pagbaha at panganib sa kalusugan.

Tingnan na lang natin ang Manila Baywalk Dolomite Beach sa Roxas Boulevard na ginastusan ng national government ng milyong halaga ng salapi para maging tourist spot pero sa tuwing may darating na bagyo, naipon pa rin dito ang isang tambak na basura na itinatapon ng mamamayan kung saan-saan.

Dinadagsa na nga ng mga lokal at banyagang turista ang Dolomite Beach

dahil maganda ang naging resulta sa pagsasa-ayos nito na pinangasiwaan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) pero ang nangyayari, natatabunan ng basura ang malaking bahagi ng beach kapag may bagyo.

Para sa pangkalinawan, hindi naman lahat ng nakokolektang basura sa Dolomite Beach ay kagagawan ng mga Manilenyo dahil kahit paano, mas marami na ngayong mga residente ng Maynila ang natuto na ng wastong pamamaraan sa pagtatapon ng basura.

Tingnan na lang natin ang mga malalaking estero na dati'y puwedeng lakaran ng tao dahil sa dami ng basura tulad ng Bambang at Tayuman creek, ang Estero de Magdalena, Binondo Creek at marami pang iba na ngayon ay maayos na ang daloy ng tubig dahil wala na ang tambak na basura at palagian ding nililinis ng mga "Estero Rangers" ng Department of Public Service (DPS) ng Pamahalaang Lungsod ng Maynila.

Baka naman panahon na para amiyendahan ang

R.A. 9003 o ang Ecological Solid Waste Management Act para dagdagan ng mas malalas na ngipin tulad ng malaking multa at kaparusahan sa mga pasaway ng sa gayon ay magkaroon na ng disiplina ang mamamayan sa wastong pagtatapon ng basura.

Col. Ferdinand del Rosario minalas sa puwesto MARAMI ang nalungkot nang malasin at masibak bilang hepe ng Calocan Police si P/Col. Ferdinand Del Rosario, kabilang na rito ang mga miyembro ng media.

Mahigit isang linggo pa lang kasi sa puwesto si Col. Del Rosario na "darling of the press" nang maupo bilang hepe noong Setyembre 16 pero kaagad sinibak ni PNP Chief Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Azurin nito lang Setyembre 25 dahil hindi raw naging maayos ang pag-iimbesta ng kanyang mga tauhan sa kaso ng 19-anyos na dalaga na nag-viral sa social media habang pilit na pinasasakay ng isang lalaking nagpakilalang pulis na kanyang motorsiklo.

Sinampahan pa nga ng pulisya ng kasong libelo at paglabag sa Article 154 ng Revised Penal Code o ang

"Unlawful Use of Means of Publication and Unlawful Utterances" pero pumalag ang babae at humingi ng tulong sa batikang radio anchorman na si Anthony Taberna at dito niya ipinaliwanag ang kanyang penig.

Ang problema kasi sa pag-iimbestiga ng mga tauhan ni Col. Del Rosario, hindi pa man nila nahuhuli ang lalaking nasa video na pilit na pinasasakay ang dalaga, kaagad silang nanawala na magkakilala talaga ang dalawa, batay sa nakita sa isa pang CCTV footage kung saan magka-angkas ang dalawa.

Kung tituusin, noon pa kuwainpikado si Del Rosario na maupo bilang COP sa panahon pa ni Mayor Oca pero dahil naantala ang kanyang promotion, hindi kaagad siya naitalaga. Sayang ang marami pa sanang plano ni Col. Del Rosario sa kanyang simulang lungsod na malabo na niyang maipatupad dahil magreretiro na siya sa susunod na taon.

Sa puna, komento at suhestiyon, mag-text lang sa 0923-347-8363 o mag-email sa eddreyes2006@yahoo.com.



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Workers of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and Metropolitan Manila Development Authority collect trash washed up by Typhoon Karding on the Manila Bay dolomite beach along Roxas Boulevard on Monday.

EDD GURBAN



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Bahasa Pilipinas

I usually don't bother with jokes – especially long ones – passed on in chat groups like Viber. But the other day this one caught my attention.

Bahasa Malaysia is the national language of Malaysia.

Bahasa Melayu is the national language of Brunei.

Bahasa Indonesia is the national language of Indonesia.

On the other hand, Bahasa Pilipinas is the national problem of the Philippines. Every time we have typhoon or heavy rains, Bahasa Pilipinas talaga.

It is typical Pinoy humor – clever, and so right on the money I can't help but cringe...ouch *talaga!*

This made me think of two things. First, floods. We can't control the rain, how much of it will fall where and how often. But we surely can control what happens when it's on the ground.

Rainwater will flow where gravity dictates. It should go into the drains, then the sewers and out into the rivers or the sea or, in the case of Metro Manila, ultimately to Manila Bay.

But it cannot flow out if the drains are clogged – with all sorts of garbage like plastic bags, disposable cups and food wrappers and now face masks. And for sure, this is something that we – you and me, each one of us – can control.

My area in the City of Manila used to flood all the time, even when the

rain isn't that strong or prolonged. But thanks to the Public Works Department of several past administrations, pumps and large sewage pipes were put in so that even though the roads (especially Ramon Magsaysay Blvd.) do flood during strong rains, the water flows out and the floods subside, rather quickly I might add.

But there are some areas where the floodwaters remain...because the drains there are clogged; with what, your guess is as good as mine.

Second is climate change. Typhoons are stronger and more destructive. Torrential rains, gale force winds, storm surges are, unfortunately, the new climate normal. The scenes of devastation following Super Typhoon Karding are, sadly, not new; we've seen them far too often and, tragically, we'll be seeing them again and again.

It's getting to sound like a broken record; we've heard all of the above again and again, but it keeps happening. It seems like we don't listen or, if some of us do listen, we don't act. Different agencies of government must get their act together, but so must we, in whatever way – big or small – we can.

Start by disposing of your trash properly, and re-use and recycle as much as possible. – **IGNACIO SAN JOSE**, Sta. Mesa, Manila



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NOTES FROM THE EU DELEGATION

LUC VÉRON



Accelerating green energy and a circular economy

The world is warming faster than at any point in recorded history. With it, typhoons and droughts are becoming stronger and more frequent. Glaciers and ice caps are melting, rainfall patterns, oceans and winds are changing and sea levels are increasing. World leaders – including European Council President Charles Michel and Philippine President Marcos – pointed at this dismal state of affairs at last week's UN General Assembly. From the halls of the UN in New York, an almost unanimous and alarming call to urgent and radical action emerged.

The European Union has adopted ambitious measures across multiple policy areas to implement its international commitments on climate change. EU countries have set binding emission targets for key sectors of the economy to substantially reduce greenhouse gas emissions to achieve a climate-neutral EU by 2050.

President Michel said before the UNGA: *“Energy and climate change are two sides of the same coin. Overcoming the energy crisis means navigating the climate threat. Protecting our biodiversity and oceans is about safeguarding our future. Climate neutrality is the compass of the European Union. At COP27 in Sharm el Sheikh we will push unreservedly to implement the Paris pledges and go beyond. We want a just and fair transition. No one country can protect our planet on its own.”*

At my first meeting with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. after his election, we concurred that addressing climate change and working on green economic recovery from the pandemic should be at the forefront of the EU-Philippines bilateral agenda. A few weeks ago, in agreement with the President's assessment, the Philippines' Department of Budget and Management announced a budget allocation of a record P453.11 billion for climate change adaptation and mitigation in 2023, 56.4 percent higher than under the current General Appropriations Act.

The European Union is pleased with these developments and remains committed to supporting all the efforts of the Philippine Government in the area of climate change action.

As the EU marks its Climate Diplomacy Weeks until the end of next month, I want to underline the importance of energy savings, energy efficiency and the acceleration of renewables. Saving energy is the easiest way to address the current global energy crisis, aggravated by the ongoing Russian aggression against Ukraine. Scaling-up renewable energy and energy efficiency will boost the green transition and contribute reducing greenhouse emissions while improving energy security.

As part of these efforts, the flagship initiative of the EU and the Philip-

pine's Department of Energy, Access to Sustainable Energy Programme (ASEP), aims to generate more electricity from renewable energy, increase the efficiency of energy use and improve access by poor and remote communities to affordable disaster resilient energy systems. The EU has allocated P3.752 billion to this program in the Philippines.

One project under this program is the construction of the first hybrid power plant in Mindanao, launched yesterday with the Mindanao Development Authority, the Honorable Secretary Maria Belen Acosta and the Director-General of the United Nations Development Industrial Development Organization H.E. Gerd Müller.

The Sitangkai and Sibutu renewable energy hybrid power plant will be functional by the end of 2022. It will increase the availability of electricity for 5,000 households in Tawi-Tawi while boosting the livelihood of communities relying on seaweed production, which the hybrid power plant will also power. I am proud of this project as it will provide tangible results, especially in off-grid small remote and vulnerable communities such as Tawi-Tawi.

ASEP has brought electricity through solar panels to 16 off-grid public schools and around 50,000 remote households (most of them in Mindanao). Leveraging private sector funds and giving due consideration to gender aspects, this program provides renewable energy for livelihood activities in remote villages, significantly improving the quality of life of disadvantaged communities regarding economic benefits, gender equality and women empowerment.

One important lesson we have learned in this process is that it is essential to work in close partnership with all the key stakeholders: national, regional and local authorities, electric cooperatives and private sector, NGOs/civil society organizations and international organizations and vulnerable communities.

Moving forward for the period 2024 to 2027, the EU is bent on supporting the Philippines' efforts toward a green resilient economy through projects for altogether P3.408-billion grants, ultimately resulting in a measurable reduction of plastic waste and marine litter and in the creation of green jobs, an issue high on the agenda of the Philippine Government.

The EU is committed to continue to working with the Philippines on this transition to a green economy, and on fighting climate change. As acknowledged by the President, the transition to green is important for the Philippines; it is also crucial for all of us.

Luc Véron is the Ambassador of the European Union





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Climate change awareness needed: Exec

BY LADE KARAGANT
@tribunephil_Lade

EXCLUSIVE

The Climate Change Commission is highlighting the need to raise the level of awareness and understanding of the Filipinos about environmental crises.

Turn to page A2

Climate change awareness needed: Exec

From page 1

CCC vice chairperson and executive director, Sen. Robert Borje, said the commission is also eyeing to strengthen partnerships with other stakeholders including government line agencies, local government units, youth groups, experts and the private sector to reach its goal of increasing environmental consciousness among individuals.

Borje added there is a need to further capacitate the LGUs in terms of climate change adaptation.

"So the CCC is working on the local climate change adaptation plan and we're working with the Department of the Interior and Local Government especially now because we just got off from the election cycle," Borje said in an interview over the *Daily Tribune's Straight Talk* show aired on Tuesday.

Climate change adaptation is a series of actions that reduce the negative impact of climate change while taking advantage of potential new opportunities, which involves adjusting

policies and actions amid the observed or expected changes in climate.

Borje said the commission wants to increase the level of cooperation and submission from the stakeholders so that the required climate change adaptation will be more efficient and manageable.

"In the same manner, we have to also strengthen our partnership with government agencies because there are different mandates, but again, as I said earlier, climate change as a whole-of-government approach, it's a cross-cutting governance issue," he added.

Borje bared that the funds of the national government institutions for climate change under the national expenditure program have been increased to P420 billion budget — which is seen to be a huge help for every agency to effectively implement their respective climate change policies.

He said it is a more than 40 percent budget increase from the usual funds.

"We want to use this to increase the resiliency not just of the agencies, but of their programs as well. It is also

important to push partnerships with strengthening the national panel of technical experts so that they can be available, especially for local government units that do not have the capacity to undertake projects," Borje said, mentioning the essence of the People's Survival Fund to each LGUs.

The People's Survival Fund was established by the virtue of Republic Act 10174 of 2012, which seeks to provide longstream finance for adaptation projects of LGUs and local organizations to promote community and ecosystem resilience to climate change.

At least P1 billion is annually allocated for the fund which can be augmented through donations, endowments, grants and contributions.

"It's a P1 billion fund that is available LGUs to bolster their funding for climate change adaptation programs right now the utility rate is about 35 to 36 percent. And we want to increase it and we want the funds to be used very quickly for their adaptation projects and it all boils down really to energy use," Borje said.

The CCC is also focusing

on the promotion of climate change justice agenda, he added.

"We're strengthening our mechanisms right now, our coordination with government agencies, particularly with those that are preventive, in nature," Borje said. "So we're working very closely with the Department of Energy, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Department of Agriculture and DILG and Department of Education for information and education campaign."

Borje noted that the CCC is currently expanding its international engagements to further improve the country's climate change policies.

"We're involved in a series of discussions with international stakeholders on how to further bolster the climate justice agenda through unlocking climate finance in the multilateral arena and to make it responsive to the needs of people, especially when it comes to loss and damages," he said.

CCC wants to push a "fully-enabled Philippines" to respond to and mitigate climate change.



ADB to 'mitigate' climate impact

BY TIZIANA CELINE PIATOS

THE Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Wednesday said it would continue its support in mitigating the climate change-related crisis in the Asia-Pacific region.

The regional development bank made the commitment after it released its inaugural climate-related financial disclosures report outlining the progress in implementing the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosure (TCFD) recommendations.

ADB also expressed its commitment to achieving a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty.

"The release of this [Climate-related Financial Disclosures 2021] report is a milestone for ADB and underscores the importance of climate change to the development agenda," said ADB President Masatsugu Asakawa.

"ADB is Asia and the Pacific's climate bank, and the TCFD report is one more step in our commitment in the battle against climate change," he added.

Asakawa said the report underscored ADB's commitment

to strengthening climate action and business operations while increasing transparency on ADB's exposure to climate-related opportunities and risks through enhanced disclosures.

The new report discloses ADB's internal greenhouse gas emissions and includes a first heatmap of ADB's portfolio of projects against a preliminary assessment of physical and carbon-transition risks.

The report also details future activities, some of which are already underway, including developing a climate change action plan.

ADB declared its support for the TCFD framework last year. The Financial Stability Board also launched the TCFD in 2015 to enhance and expand reporting of financial data connected to climate

change for organizations' consistent use in informing stakeholders.

The TCFD released a series of recommendations in 2017 that are based on four pillars — governance, strategy, risk management, and measurements and targets — and are regarded as an international standard for financial disclosure related to climate change.

Fulfilling the disclosure requirements under the TCFD framework allows ADB to communicate to stakeholders that it is firmly committed to integrating climate risk management and opportunity assessments into its operations.

It also illustrates ADB's support of climate risk disclosure among multilateral development banks and across the world's corporate and financial sectors.



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Act now on crucial measure



**GROUND ZERO
MANNY ANGELES**

It always happens. Just when authorities have suspended classes and called off government work in anticipation of a forthcoming typhoon, we see the sun shining brightly on the horizon the following day as if to spite the eager beavers in our midst.

But let's not blame our officials,

“The onslaught of ‘Karding’ and the other typhoons that have seemingly grown stronger because of climate change has highlighted the urgent need for a disaster agency.”

though. As they say, it is better to err on the side of caution. You see, typhoons can be fierce, too, looking like a fierce coming down, but actually turning into a whimper when it hits land. That is usually the case. And we probably have the Sierra Madre to thank for that.

The build-up of “Karding” as it approached Luzon was so scarily hyped, we thought it would be another “Ondoy” or “Yolanda” in the making, with typhoon signals reaching as high as 5 in some areas, particularly Quezon and Aurora.

The forecasted strong winds and massive rainfall, it turns out, were hardly felt in Metro Manila. That's something to be grateful for as it meant manageable damage for our typhoon-battered populace. Just the same, “Karding” still left a swath of destruction in the places it passed

through, and we have our government agencies who stood prepared for any eventuality to thank for. “Karding,” unlike “Yolanda” or “Ondoy,” couldn't actually pull the trigger.

This brings us to another point we'd like to raise. In this era of super typhoons, like “Karding,” calls for a separate agency dedicated to disasters seem to be getting louder. Our favorite senator, Bong Go, has been harping on this ever since we can recall.

Under the existing system, disaster response is handled largely by regional branches of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council or NDRRMC. (Whew, think of an acronym that is much longer.)

Unable to get enough backing from the previous 18th Congress due to time constraints, Go has renewed his push for a Department of Disaster Resilience, a separate department that would have a clear unity of command and primary responsibility in responding to disasters and natural calamities in the Philippines.

Go is eyeing to have an empowered, highly specialized department that would be responsible for ensuring safe, adaptive and disaster-resilient communities. Under his version of the measure, the department shall concentrate on three key result areas, namely disaster risk reduction, disaster preparedness and response, and recovery and building forward better.

The onslaught of “Karding” and the other typhoons that have seemingly grown stronger because of climate change has highlighted the urgent need for a disaster agency.

It has been reported that no less than President Marcos Jr. has expressed support for the crafting of an agency dedicated to addressing disasters. There are, however, discussions about whether the new agency should be an entire

department or an attached agency to be able to save funds.

Albay 2nd District Rep. Joey Salceda is among several lawmakers sold to the idea.

Salceda emphasized that local government agencies and rescuers themselves could be impacted by disasters on occasion, underlining the need for an organization like the DDR.

“So, you need a reserve of exogenous resources for response, as well as continuing capacity development. You need an implementing agency for that. The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council is not an implementing agency,” he added.

The country's eastern seaboard, which tends to get hit by extreme weather events, also tends to have poorer provinces, according to Salceda. Relying on local resources or mere coordination by the national government will not be enough.

“The local resources are simply not enough. And in extreme events such as super typhoons, the local responders,” he said, “are also victims, and their institutions also disrupted.”

Go and Salceda are right. We don't have to wait for another super typhoon to shake us out of our senses. Considering that the country is inside the Pacific Ring of Fire and is a frequent landing area for strong typhoons, we cannot dilly dally on this crucial measure.

The time to act is now.

Email: mannyangeles27@gmail.com

“Go is eyeing to have an empowered, highly specialized department that would be responsible for ensuring safe, adaptive and disaster-resilient communities.”



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BusinessMirror

A reader look at today's business



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'FALSE SOLUTIONS' Climate activists hold a rally at the Embassy of Japan in Manila on Wednesday, September 28, 2022, to protest against the "false solutions" being promoted by Japan at the ongoing Tokyo GX Week. Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry said the event aims at realizing "GX (Green Transformation), which will shift the economic, social and industrial structure that have depended on fossil fuels since the Industrial Revolution, to structures driven by clean energy, and drive economic growth and development through emissions mitigation." (BY DOMINGO)



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A fisherman from volunteer group Bantay Lawa removes water lilies stuck to solar panels floating in Laguna de Bay in Kasarinlan Park in Baras, Rizal yesterday. The 10 kilowatt-peak floating solar farm supplies the town with clean, free energy. During the recent 77th United Nations General Assembly, President Marcos called on industrialized countries to 'cut greenhouse gas emissions' and provide 'climate finance' and 'technology transfer' for the most vulnerable and developing nations, including the Philippines.

MCNAMI, VERZOS

philstar.com philstarsubscribe.com
VOL. XXXVII NO. 63 • THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2022



'Nilad planting' umarangkada sa Maynila

PINANGUNAHAN ni Manila Mayor Honey Lacuna ang sabayang 'Nilad planting activity' sa lungsod.

Nabatid na ang naturang planting activity na ginawa sa New Manila Zoo at Intramuros, ay may layunin na makapag-anim at paramihin pa ang halamang 'Nilad', na siyang pinagmulan ng pangalan ng Lungsod ng Maynila.

Nalaman na ang mga itinanim na halamang Nilad ay nagmula pa sa Barangay Alitas sa Infanta, Quezon.

May kabuuang 140 Nilad ang itinanim sa bisitad ng Manila Zoo habang may 70 naman ang itinanim sa paligid ng Intramuros, sa pangunguna naman ni Vice Mayor Yul Servo-Nieto.

Kasama ni Lacuna sa sahayang pagtatanim sina

Department of Tourism (DOT) chief Charlie Dungo, Parks and Recreation Bureau chief Pio Morabe, Barangay Captain Evelyn de Guzman, City Engineer Armand

Andres, Department of Public Services (DPS) chief Kaye Nicole Amurao at Manila Traffic and Parking Bureau (MTPB) head Zenaida Viaje.



(Manila PIO)

Samantala, pinasalamatan naman ni Lacuna ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na siyang karuwang ng lungsod sa pagtatanim, gayundin ang mga kandidato sa nalalapit na 'Manhunt International Pageant' na nagmula pa sa iba't ibang panig ng mundo upang makilahok sa isang makabuluhang gawain. (Juliet de Loza-Cudia)



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Swiss glaciers melting away at record rate

SWITZERLAND'S glaciers lost six percent of their total volume this year due to a dry winter and repeated summer heatwaves, shattering previous ice melt records, a report revealed Wednesday.

The study by the Cryospheric Commission (CC) of the Swiss Academy of Sciences laid bare the drastic scale of glacial retreat -- which is only set to get worse.

"2022 was a disastrous year for Swiss glaciers: all ice melt records were smashed," the CC said, adding that a two percent loss in 12 months had previously been considered "extreme."

Three cubic kilometers of ice -- three trillion liters of water -- have melted away, the report said.

"It's not possible to slow down the melting in the short term," said glaciology professor Matthias Huss, head of Glacier Monitoring in Switzerland, which documents long-term glacier changes in the Alps and is coordinated by the CC.

If carbon dioxide emissions are reduced and the climate protected, "this might save about one third of the total volumes in Switzerland in the best case", he told AFP.

Otherwise, the country "will be losing almost everything by the end of the century."

At the start of the year, the snow cover in the Alps was exceptionally light, then a large volume of sand dust blew in from the Sahara Desert between March and May, settling on the surface.

The contaminated snow absorbed more heat and melted faster, depriving the glaciers of their protective snow coating by early in the European summer. **AFP**



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Department of Environment and Natural Resources
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU
DENR Compound, Uxapang Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City 1118
Tel Nos. (03) 8338-4478
Website: www.emb.gov.ph Email: records@emb.gov.ph



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On the **ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE REPORT AND MANAGEMENT PLAN (EPRMP)** of the proposed **ANGAT WATER TRANSMISSION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (AWTIP) – CONSTRUCTION OF TUNNEL 5** located in **BARANGAYS BIGTE, SAN MATEO AND SAN LORENZO, NORZAGARAY, BULACAN**

Notice is hereby given to all parties who wish to give their opinion regarding the implementation of the **ANGAT WATER TRANSMISSION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (AWTIP) – CONSTRUCTION OF TUNNEL 5** to attend the Public Hearing on:

| Date | Time | Venue |
|-------------------------------|---|--|
| 13 October 2022 (Thursday) | 9:00 AM (Registration starts at 8:00 AM) | Barangay San Mateo Covered Court, Norzagaray, Bulacan |

The Public Hearing is being conducted in connection with the review of the EPRMP 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 | Angat Water Transmission Improvement Project (AWTIP) – Construction of Tunnel 5 |
| Project Location | Barangays Bigte, San Mateo and San Lorenzo, Norzagaray, Bulacan |
| Project Capacity | 19 m ³ /s design flow rate, 6.4 km length |
| Component | Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System |

All interested parties who wish to attend or participate in these Public Hearings 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 mail or through email at ei@emb.gov.ph, at least 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 at the following link: https://eia.emb.gov.ph/?page_id=72 while hard copies will be available in the following offices:

- EMB Regional Office (EMB Region III)**
Molinao Corner Matalino St.
Diosdado Macapagal Government Center
Makings, San Fernando City, Pampanga
Telephone Nos. (045) 455-3080 / (045) 420-5070
- Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office**
Municipality of Norzagaray, Province of Bulacan

For more details, please contact the EIAMD Division of this Office through telephone number (02) 8539-4378 local 116 and look for project case handlers Engr. Carlo Vic Arida, EnP and Ms. Leonil Marie Gargar.

Protect the environment... Protect life...

mgp

system within Stonecrest Village, Barangay Rosario, City of San Pedro, province of Laguna, with the following proposed rates:

PROPOSED TARIFF

Residential and Institutional

| Pipe Size | 0-5 m3 (min) | 6-10 m3 | 11-20 m3 | 21-30 m3 | 31-40 m3 | Over 40m3 |
|-----------|--------------|---------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| ½" | P 150.50 | 33.00 | 35.60 | 46.50 | 52.00 | 57.40 |

Commercial and Industrial

| Pipe Size | 0-15 m3 (min) | 16-30 m3 | 31-500 m3 | 501-1000 m3 | Over 1000 m3 |
|-----------|---------------|----------|-----------|-------------|--------------|
| ½" | P 861.00 | 71.80 | 86.10 | 86.10 | 86.10 |
| ¾" | P 1,378.50 | 114.80 | 137.80 | 137.80 | 137.80 |
| 1" | P 2,755.50 | 229.70 | 275.60 | 275.60 | 275.60 |

This application will be initially heard by the Board on **17 October 2022**. The hearing will start at **9:00 o' clock in the morning** at the NWRB-WUD Conference Room, 8th Floor, NIA Building, EDSA, Quezon City, at which time applicant shall present its evidence.

At least fifteen (15) days prior to the scheduled hearing, applicant shall publish this notice once in a newspaper of general circulation in the province of **Laguna** and serve by personal delivery or registered mail a copy of the (i) application and its attachments, and (ii) this notice to all affected parties appearing on page 2 hereof.

Parties opposed to the granting of the application must file their written opposition supported by documentary evidence on or before the above scheduled date of hearing, furnishing a copy of the same to the applicant.

Failure on the part of any person affected to file its opposition on time and to appear at the hearing will be construed as a waiver of their right to be heard. The Board will proceed to hear and decide the application based on the evidence submitted.

Likewise, failure by the applicant to appear at the hearing shall amount to lack of interest on its part and the instant application shall be dismissed accordingly.

Witness the Honorable Executive Director of the National Water Resources Board this 2nd day of September 2022.

By Authority of the Board:

(Sgd.)

Dr. SEVILLO D. DAVID, CESO III
Executive Director

Affected Parties:

The Secretary Sangguniang Pantungod
City of San Pedro, Laguna

The Barangay Chairmen Barangay
Rosario City of San Pedro, Laguna

The Homeowners Assn. President
Stonecrest Village, Barangay Rosario
City of San Pedro, Laguna

The General Manager
San Pedro Water District 110 J. P. Rizal St., Poblacion
City of San Pedro, Laguna 4023