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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR to business sector, government: Invest in wetlands conservation

[Elizabeth Marcelo](#)



“The Boracay Wetland Conservation Park illustrates the value of multi-sectoral convergence in conservation work. The wetlands of Boracay are now under different phases of rehabilitation,” Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said during the celebration of World Wetlands Day 2022 on Feb. 2.

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has urged the business sector and government leaders to invest in wetland conservation, citing the success of the Boracay Wetland Conservation Park rehabilitation project.

“The Boracay Wetland Conservation Park illustrates the value of multi-sectoral convergence in conservation work. The wetlands of Boracay are now under different phases of rehabilitation,” Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said during the celebration of World Wetlands Day 2022 on Feb. 2.

“Thanks to our wetland adopters, the Energy Development Corp. (EDC), Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc., Boracay Tubi System Inc., J.G. Summit, Olefins Corp. and San Miguel Corp.,” he said.

Adopter EDC has formally turned over to the DENR the newly rehabilitated Boracay Wetland Conservation Park.

Cimatu lauded the EDC for being the first private entity to respond to the DENR’s Adopt-A-Wetland Program, which aims to recover and restore Boracay Island’s nine wetlands.

Cimatu, who is also the chairman of the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF), said that he witnessed the transformation of the Boracay Wetland Conservation Park or Wetland No. 2 “from a degraded wetland to what it is now – an arboretum of native trees, an ecotourism site and an educational center for conservation.”

The DENR said that wetlands, dubbed as the “kidney of the Earth,” are vital in the ecosystem as they “filter water through vegetation and substrates, help mitigate the effects of climate change and provide healing through their recreational uses.”

World Wetlands Day is celebrated annually on Feb. 2 to raise global awareness of the wetlands’ vital role for people and the planet.

The date also marks the anniversary of the Convention on Wetlands, which was adopted as an international treaty in 1971.

Presidential Proclamation No. 74, Series of 1999, also declares Feb. 2 of every year as National Wetlands Day “in recognition of the immense importance of wetlands to the welfare of the Filipino people and the protection of global biodiversity.”

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2022/02/14/2160622/denr-business-sector-government-invest-wetlands-conservation>



Cimatu hopes Boracay rehab to inspire leaders to invest in wetlands conservation

FEB 14, 2022, 1:36 PM

Santiago Celario



Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said he personally witnessed the transformation of the Boracay Wetland Conservation Park or Wetland No. 2 "from a degraded wetland to...an ecotourism site and an educational center for conservation."

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu has expressed hope that the lessons gained from the Boracay Wetland Conservation Park rehabilitation will inspire business and government leaders to "invest financial and political capital to save wetlands" across the country.

"The Boracay Wetland Conservation Park illustrates the value of multi-sectoral convergence in conservation work. The wetlands of Boracay are now under different phases of rehabilitation. Thanks to our wetland adopters, the Energy Development Corp. (EDC), Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc., Boracay Tubi System Inc., J.G. Summit Olefins Corp., and San Miguel Corporation," Cimatu said in a video message during the celebration of the World Wetlands Day 2022 on February 2.

With the theme, "Wetlands Action for People and Nature," this year's World Wetlands Day celebration was highlighted by the turnover of the newly-rehabilitated Boracay Wetland Conservation Park from its adopter EDC to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

EDC was among the first to respond to the DENR's Adopt-A-Wetland Program to recover and restore the island's nine wetlands.

DENR said this year's theme focuses on the importance of concerted actions for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands for the benefit of humanity, the environment, and biodiversity.

In his speech, Cimatu said he personally witnessed the transformation of the Boracay Wetland Conservation Park or Wetland No. 2 "from a degraded wetland to what it is now — an arboretum of native trees, an ecotourism site and an educational center for conservation."

The environment chief is chair of the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force for the rehabilitation of the island per Executive Order No. 53 issued by President Rodrigo Duterte on May 18, 2018.

Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) OIC Director Natividad Bernardino, who served as the general manager of the Boracay Inter-Agency Rehabilitation Management Group from 2019-2021, said that "the rehabilitation of the iconic island was first met with resistance but we were able to accomplish what needs to be done."

Source: <https://opinyon.net/national/cimatu-hopes-boracay-rehab-to-inspire-leaders-to-invest-in-wetlands->



Tagumpay ng Boracay rehab nawa’y maging inspirasyon sa mamumuhunan – Cimatu



MANILA, Philippines – Matapos ang isinagawang rehabilitasyon sa Boracay, umaasa si Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy A. Cimatu na ang nakuhang aral mula sa rehabilitasyon ng Boracay Wetland Conservation Park ay maging inspirasyon sa mga negosyante at maging sa government leaders na mamuhunan ng financial at political capital upang maisalba ang wetlands sa buong bansa.

“The Boracay Wetland Conservation Park illustrates the value of multi-sectoral convergence in conservation work. The wetlands of Boracay are now under different phases of rehabilitation. Thanks to our wetland adopters, the Energy Development Corp. (EDC), Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc., Boracay Tubi System Inc., J.G. Summit Olefins Corp., and San Miguel Corporation,” saad ni Cimatu sa video message sa ginanap na selebrasyon ng World Wetlands Day 2022 noong Pebrero 2.

Ayon sa DENR sa pamamagitan ng tema ngayong taon na “Wetlands Action for People and Nature”, isa sa naging highlight ng World Wetlands Day celebration ay ang pag-turn-over ng Boracay Wetland Conservation Park mula sa adopter nito na EDC patungo sa DENR.

Ang EDC ang isa sa agad na tumugon sa panawagan na DENR’s Adopt-A-Wetland Program upang makarekober at mag-restore ang siyam na wetlands sa isla.

Nakatutok ang tema ngayong taon sa kahalagahan ng pinagsama-samang aksiyon para sa konserbasyon at pagpapanatili ng gamit ng wetlands para sa benipisyo nito sa humanity, environment at biodiversity.

Sa press release ayon kay Cimatu, personal niyang nasaksihan ang transpormasyon ng Boracay Wetland Conservation Park o ang Wetland No. 2 “from a degraded wetland to what it is now — an arboretum of native trees, an ecotourism site and an educational center for conservation.”

Samantala sa kanyang panig, sinabi naman ni BMB OIC Director Natividad Bernardino na nagsilbi ring general manager ng Boracay Inter-Agency Rehabilitation Management Group mula 2019 hanggang 2021, na “the rehabilitation of the iconic island was first met with resistance but we were able to accomplish what needs to be done.” **Santi Celario**



‘Convergence’ works wonders for Boracay wetlands—Cimatu

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

THE Boracay Wetland Conservation Park illustrates the value of multi-sectoral convergence in conservation work, Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said, expressing hope that the lessons gained from the Boracay wetland rehabilitation will inspire business and government leaders to invest financial and political capital to save wetlands in various parts of the country.

Cimatu said the wetlands of Boracay are now under different phases of rehabilitation and praised the private sector that adopted what was then considered a wasteland rather than wetland because of their degraded state.

The top official of the Department of Environment And Natural Resources (DENR) was referring to the Energy Development Corp. (EDC), Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc., Boracay Tubi System Inc., J.G. Summit Olefins Corp., and San Miguel Corp. who were among the first to respond to his call to help rehabilitate Boracay’s wetlands.

In a video message during the celebration of World Wetlands Day 2022 last February 2, the DENR chief underscored the importance of wetlands.

With the theme “Wetlands Action for People and Nature” the country’s celebration was highlighted by the turnover of the newly rehabilitated Boracay Wetland Conservation Park from its “adopter” the Energy Development Corp. to the DENR.

EDC, a pioneer in geothermal energy production, was among the first to respond to the DENR’s Adopt-A-Wetland Program to recover and restore the island’s nine wetlands.

This year’s theme focuses on the importance of concerted actions for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands for the benefit of humanity, the environment, and biodiversity.

Cimatu said he personally witnessed the transformation of the Boracay Wetland Conservation Park or Wetland No. 2 “from a degraded wetland to what it is now—an arboretum of native trees, an ecotourism site and an educational center for conservation.”

Cimatu is the chairman of the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force for the rehabilitation of the island per Executive Order 53 issued by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte on May 18, 2018.

BMB OIC Director Natividad Bernardino, who served as the general manager of the Boracay Inter-Agency Rehabilitation Management Group from 2019-2021, said that “the rehabilitation of the iconic island was first met with resistance but we were able to accomplish what needs to be done.”

“Rehabilitation is no easy feat. It requires a balance of toughness and compassion. Law enforcement is tough, especially when people and livelihoods are involved but when environmental laws are properly enforced, we appreciate its gains in the long run, in a more sustainable manner for the common good,” Bernardino said.



Wetlands are dubbed as “kidneys of the Earth” as they filter water through vegetation and substrates, help mitigate the effects of climate change, and provide healing through their recreational uses.

World Wetlands Day is celebrated annually on February 2 to raise global awareness on the vital role of wetlands for people and our planet.

The date also marks the anniversary of the Convention on Wetlands, which was adopted as an international treaty in 1971.

Presidential Proclamation 74, Series of 1999, also declares February 2 of every year as National Wetlands Day in recognition of the immense importance of wetlands to the welfare of the Filipino people and the protection of global biodiversity.



Phl-Japan Environmental week slated

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Ministry of the Environment Japan are set to launch the first-ever Philippines-Japan Environmental Week to discuss environmental issues and share opportunities for cooperation towards a decarbonized infrastructure and society.

DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu revealed that event will pave the way for new opportunities for strengthened partnerships, citing the Philippines-Japan partnership over the past years particularly on environmental innovation, development and waste management policy.

The virtual event is expected to convene around 1,000 participants from the public and private sector, research and academic institutions, international and regional organizations, and non-government organizations.

Without a doubt, our country continues to face environmental crises such as waste pollution and climate change amid the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. Strong global partnerships and cooperation anchored upon shared vision and goals are vital towards green recovery.

It will be held on 2 to 4 March 2022.

“Without a doubt, our country continues to face environmental crises such as waste pollution and climate change amid the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. Strong global partnerships and cooperation anchored upon shared vision and goals are vital towards green recovery,” Cimatu said.

“The Philippines-Japan Environmental Week will be an opportunity for the country to discuss such environmental issues and come up with innovative and potential environmental solutions with the Government of Japan through potential technical assistance and investment projects,” he added.

The DENR chief also stressed that participants will learn and benefit from the technical presentations and lectures on environmental solutions and sustainable development.

DENR, MOEJ to hold first Phl-Japan Environmental Week



The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Ministry of the Environment Japan (MOEJ) organized the first-ever Philippines-Japan Environmental Week to discuss environmental issues and share opportunities for cooperation towards a decarbonized infrastructure and society.

DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said the event will pave the way for new opportunities for strengthened partnerships as he cited the Philippines-Japan partnership over the past years, particularly on environmental innovation, development, and waste management policy.

The event, which will be held online, is expected to convene around 1,000 participants from the public and private sector, research and academic institutions, international and regional organizations, and non-government organizations from March 2 to 4, 2022.

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“Without a doubt, our country continues to face environmental crises such as waste pollution and climate change amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Strong global partnerships and cooperation anchored upon shared vision and goals are vital towards green recovery,” Cimatu said.

He added: “The Philippines-Japan Environmental Week will be an opportunity for the country to discuss such environmental issues and come up with innovative and potential environmental solutions with the Government of Japan through potential technical assistance and investment projects.”

Moreover, Cimatu said the participants will learn and benefit from the technical presentations and lectures on environmental solutions and sustainable development.

The Bilateral Environmental Policy Dialogue will be held on March 2 to discuss critical environmental issues, such as climate change and waste management, and strategies to enhance cooperation between both countries.

Plenary sessions will be conducted on March 3 on “Action toward Decarbonized and Resilient Society and City to City Collaboration” and online webinars on “Climate Change — Transparency Improvement and Climate — Adaptation.”



Participants can also learn about environment-friendly technologies and solutions through the Online Business Match/Exhibition on March 2 to 4 where several exhibitors' event webpage can be explored through online features and videos as well as connect with the exhibitors themselves.

Interested individuals can register through this link <https://client.eventhub.jp/form/d0447214-4f74-4e19-9244-b6a373119794?isTicketSelected=true>.

The event is also supported by the Embassy of Japan in the Philippines, Japan International Cooperation Agency, Business for Sustainable Development, and the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry.



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PTV is funded in whole or in part by the Philippine government. [Wikipedia](#)

Tree hugging campaign, inilunsad ng DENR para itaas ang kamalayan ng publiko sa climate change

949 views • Feb 13, 2022

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Rescued serpent eagle released in Aurora forest

IAN OCAMPO FLORA



RESCUED. The endemic Philippine serpent eagle that was released by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources into the forests of Aurora after it was rescued by environmental enforcers. (DENR)

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) released an endemic Philippine serpent eagle (scientific name *Spilornis holospilus*) into the forests of Aurora after it was rescued by environmental enforcers.

A concerned citizen from Aurora province recently turned the serpent eagle over to local DENR officers.

Dingalan DENR Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro) head Marivic Santos said that Ryan Casim of Barangay Florida in Maria Aurora town caught the serpent eagle in their backyard and immediately reported the incident to environment authorities.

“The bird was temporarily kept under our custody, since its health condition was not in good state to be immediately released to the wild,” the Cenro chief said.

As the bird fully recovered, Santos said they finally released the rescued and rehabilitated Philippine serpent eagle within the Dibalo Pingit Zabali Malayat Watershed Forest Reserved in Sitio Dipanamianan, Barangay Pingit, Baler, Aurora on February 2.

According to studies, the Philippine serpent eagle is a relatively small raptor that lives in Luzon and Mindanao islands. It is usually found in forest clearings, open woodlands, and sometimes in cultivated lands with scattered trees.

Based on the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the conservation status of this bird species is categorized as “Least Concern,” which means that it has a lower risk of extinction.

DENR Regional Executive Director Paquito Moreno Jr. noted that the presence of the Philippine serpent eagle was an indication of healthy forest areas in Central Luzon, particularly in Aurora.

“Our biodiversity conservation and forest protection efforts bring positive outcomes in preserving the habitat of this endemic bird species,” Moreno said.

He appealed to the public to immediately report to environment authorities any wildlife sighting



and encounter to avert potential danger and threat to their population.

“We also encourage the public to remain vigilant in reporting any illegal trading and online selling of wildlife to help us penalize perpetrators who pose threat to our biodiversity and our environment,” Moreno ended.

Sighting and turnover of wildlife, as well as other concerns on environmental violations, may be reported through the DENR hotline number: 0945-368-5303.



Rescued serpent eagle released

The Philippine serpent eagle is a relatively small raptor that lives in Luzon and Mindanao islands

BY JONAS REYES

BALER, Aurora – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) released a rescued serpent eagle in Barangay Pingit here, according to Dingalan’s Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) chief Marivic Santos.

Santos noted that the serpent eagle is an endemic species found in the province and the rescued eagle was found in the backyard of a certain Ryan Casim in Barangay Florida, Maria Aurora and reported the capture to authorities.

“The bird was temporarily kept under our custody, since its health condition was not in good state to be immediately released to the wild,” said Santos, adding that after the bird fully recovered, the agency released the animal at the Dibalo Pingit Zabali Malayat

Watershed Forest Reserve.

The Philippine serpent eagle is a relatively small raptor that lives in Luzon and Mindanao islands. It is usually found in forest clearings, open woodlands, and sometimes in cultivated lands with scattered trees.

DENR regional executive director Paquito Moreno Jr. lauded the efforts of the resident and the CENRO office for rescuing and rehabilitating the serpent eagle, citing that the presence of the animal is a clear indication of healthy forest areas in Central Luzon, particularly in Aurora.

“Our biodiversity conservation and forest protection efforts bring positive outcomes in preserving the habitat of this endemic bird species,” Moreno said.

He appealed to the public to immediately report to environment authorities any wildlife sighting and encounter to avert potential danger and threat to their population.



Rescued green sea turtle released off Zamboanga City



ZAMBOANGA. A rescued green sea turtle was released off Paseo del Mar Saturday, February 12, in Zone 4 village, Zamboanga City. A photo handout shows Office of the City Veterinarian personnel tagging the turtle prior to its release back to the natural habitat. (SunStar Zamboanga)

A GREEN sea turtle was released off Paseo del Mar Saturday, February 12, in Zone 4 village, Zamboanga City.

Dr. Mario Arriola, Office of the City Veterinarian (OCvet) chief, said the green sea turtle was recovered in Licombo village by a concerned citizen and turned over to Community Environment and Natural Resources Office.

Arriola said weighing five kilograms, the sea turtle was immediately placed at the Zamboanga State College of Marine Sciences and Technology (ZSCMST) laboratory for observation and health assessment by Vitali District Veterinarian, Dr. Reynald Miculob.

He said the turtle was released back to its natural habitat after thorough examination showed it is in "A1" condition as it had no buoyancy problem as well as physical injury.

Arriola said the turtle was tagged prior to its release off Paseo del Mar.

The recovery and release of the turtle is a special program of the OCvet, City Agriculturist Office, Office of the City Environment and Natural Office and Protected Wildlife Division of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. **(SunStar Zamboanga)**



Rescued hawk-eagle released back into habitat

By Alexander Lopez



BUTUAN CITY – A juvenile Pinsker’s hawk-eagle was released back to the wild on Monday following its rescue last week in Tandag City, Surigao del Sur.

The release was spearheaded by Bishop Raul Dael of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Tandag, together with Governor Alexander Pimentel, Tandag Mayor Roxanne Pimentel, and Cliff Abraham of the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) in the area.

The release of the eagle was conducted in Sitio Cag-inid, Barangay San Jose, Tandag City.

“The presence of the eagle in our place is a sign that we still have a very good ecosystem in the province,” Dael said during the press conference conducted prior to the release of the eagle.

He added that the Diocese of Tandag is committed to supporting the mandate of the government to nurture and protect the environment.

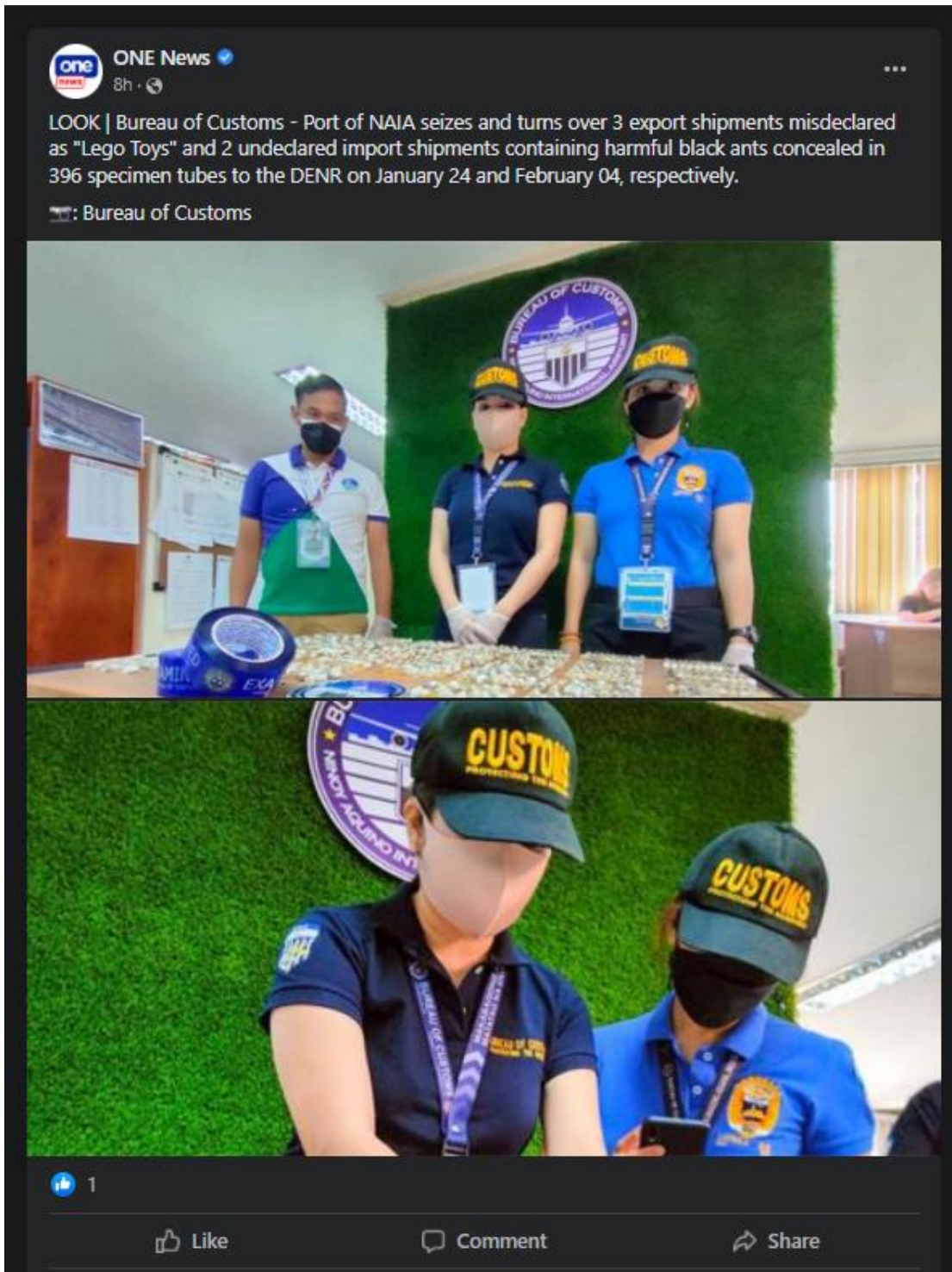
The bird was rescued last week when it was trapped in a net at the backyard of San Padre Pio Devotional Chapel in Cag-inid.

After the rescue, the eagle was fed and treated by the staff of the chapel to ensure its health prior to its release.

The hawk-eagle is considered an endangered species, Abraham pointed out during the press conference.

Abraham said that the protection of the hawk-eagle and other wildlife species in Surigao del Sur will also depend on the awareness of residents.

“We are conducting regular education campaigns in the different towns in the province to increase the awareness of the people on the existing wildlife species and their importance in our environment and ecosystem,” he said. **(PNA)**



Source:

https://web.facebook.com/385030801902812/posts/1329412934131256/?app=fbl&_rdc=1&_rd_r



Legazpi residents plant trees on V-Day

By Emmanuel Solis



LOVE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT. Legazpi Mayor Noel E. Rosal, together with some 800 residents of the city, plant trees under the “Lakad Tanim Para sa Puso” program on Monday (Feb. 14, 2022). The participants included city government employees, police personnel, and barangay officials. *(Photo by Emmanuel Solis)*

LEGAZPI CITY – At least 800 residents here coming from different sectors of the society joined the 15th “Lakad Tanim Para sa Puso” tree-planting program on Valentine’s Day.

The participants, who included city government employees, Philippine National Police personnel, and Sangguniang Kabataan and barangay officials, walked a one-kilometer stretch from the main road of Barangay San Francisco to the planting site in the same village.

They planted at least 3,500 assorted fruit-bearing tree seedlings as well as “kamagong” and “baligang” on a public land.

The seedlings were provided by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-Bicol.

Mayor Noel E. Rosal said the annual tree planting activity spearheaded by the city government is part of their reforestation and environmental protection program aimed at preserving the natural resources “for a better tomorrow.”

“The ‘Lakad Tanim Para sa Puso’ was started in 2007 after Legazpi City was hit by super Typhoon Reming and after 15 years of the yearly tree planting activities, we recorded already almost 100,000 different trees planted,” he said in an interview.

He said the planted trees during the previous years are now fully-grown and standing tall in different areas of the city -- at the foot of Mayon Volcano, the top of Lignon Hill view deck, at the sanitary landfill in Barangay Banquerohan, and the golf course in Barangay Padang.

Rosal commended the participants, most of whom were regularly joining the city’s tree-planting activities, even as he noted that these trees would serve as the residents’ protection from the impact of natural hazards like floods and landslides.

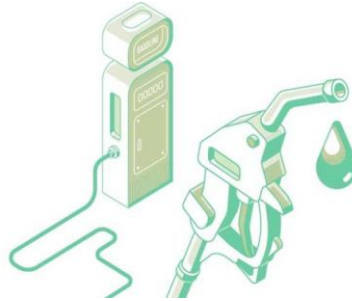
Some eight years ago, the City Legislative Council adopted a resolution declaring February 14 every year, the feast day of St. Valentine, as Legazpi’s Arbor Day. **(PNA)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1167722>



Biofuels industry seen to need tweaking for maximum potential

By **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**, *Reporter*



THE COUNTRY'S biofuels industry still needs fine-tuning to achieve its full potential amid issues on pricing and supply, experts and participants in the sector said.

Rex B. Demafelis, who chairs the University of the Philippines-Los Baños' (UPLB) Interdisciplinary Biofuels Research Study Center, said the change in the coconut methyl ester (CME) blend of diesel from 2% (B2) to 5% (B5) should have been done a long time ago since the country has enough capacity in terms of feedstocks.

However, Mr. Demafelis noted of the price increase seen with the increase in blend, which he said can be addressed if there are changes made in the value chain.

"If we could have a direct purchasing agreement between farmers' cooperatives and the mill or farmers' cooperatives and the biodiesel plant, it will 'cut' the traders. It will have a huge effect in terms of the buying price for the farmers and the price of biodiesel," Mr. Demafelis said.

Under Republic Act No. 9367 or the Biofuels Act of 2006, the Philippine biodiesel blend is directed to be at B2.

In a statement in February, the Department of Energy (DoE) said the country has 13 accredited biodiesel producers with a total rated production capacity of 707.9 million liters per year.

It added that the planned increase in CME blend to B5 in 2020 as part of the Biofuels Roadmap 2018-2040 was affected by the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic due to the lack of "assurances on the sufficiency of biodiesel supply, as well as the emergence of logistical limitations."

Mr. Demafelis said a fair pricing should be determined for the trade of dried coconut meat (copra) used in biodiesel as it does not proportionately increase if the prices of the latter increase.

He added that the biofuels industry should be improved since it will further reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase the income of farmers.

Erlene C. Manohar, deputy administrator for research and development of the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA), said the agency proposed to increase the CME blend from B2 to B5, but has yet to receive any decision.

"The last meeting of the National Biofuel Board was about two months ago. Until now, there is no decision," she said in a mobile phone interview.

Ms. Manohar said the supply of feedstocks to be used for biodiesel production are "more than enough" to sustain production.



“As far as PCA is concerned, we have already submitted our projected feedstocks and it is enough, more than enough,” she said.

The United States Department of Agriculture-Foreign Agricultural Service (USDA-FAS) reported that the Philippines produced 242 million liters of biodiesel in 2019.

Energy department Undersecretary Felix William B. Fuentebella said at a virtual roundtable with *BusinessWorld* that the increase in biodiesel blend from B2 to B5 “will happen soon,” but noted its price and affordability as the main issues.

“In the biofuels law, we have that provision that will really favor local manufacturing of biofuel. [But] we see that it is more expensive for local production rather than importation,” Mr. Fuentebella said.

“Energy Secretary Alfonso G. Cusi requires evidence from the Department of Agriculture family such as the Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) and PCA that it will really benefit local farmers if we increase the blend from B2 to B5, which will happen soon, so it will be cleaner. But those are the issues,” he added.

Rafael S. Diaz, Jr., former president of the Asian Institute of Petroleum Studies, Inc., said in an e-mail interview that government personnel need to have an increased “working knowledge” on the potential of the local biofuels industry.

“My recommendation for the biofuels industry is for the management people of DoE, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and Department of Health to understand and develop a technical appreciation and working knowledge of what biodiesel can do for our country to include the energy committees of Senate and the House of Representatives,” Mr. Diaz said in an e-mail interview.

Further, Mr. Diaz estimated that the plan to introduce B5 will not likely happen during the current DoE leadership.

“Just perhaps, the biodiesel industry may be headed for a B4 or B3 possibly by the fourth quarter as a compromise if there is an ongoing pressure for Mr. Cusi to effect a B5,” Mr. Diaz said.

Meanwhile, UPLB’s Mr. Demafelis said there is also a need to increase the supply of feedstocks to improve the country’s bioethanol production through the breeding of high-yielding sugar varieties.

“During breeding, we would be able to increase our raw materials and possibly reduce the price of ethanol since there would be more harvest, more profit on the per-hectare basis,” Mr. Demafelis said.

“The volume of molasses we produce is not enough to supply both fuel ethanol and ethanol for distilleries,” he added.

Rosemarie S. Gumera, department manager of SRA’s planning, policy and special projects, said in an e-mail interview that the 13 bioethanol distilleries accredited by the DoE have a total annual production capacity of 425.5 million liters.

“Only 3 of the 13 operating distilleries are using both sugarcane juice and molasses as feedstocks and the rest are using purely molasses as feedstock,” she said.

According to Ms. Gumera, the country’s bioethanol production fell 19.2% to 279.58 million liters in 2020 compared with the 346.14 million liters recorded the earlier year.

She added that the country was able to produce 100.88 million liters of bioethanol as of June.

Ms. Gumera said biofuel production in 2020 was lower as operations were affected by the restrictions brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.



In spite of this, she said the country's bioethanol output for 2021 is estimated to improve due to relaxed travel restrictions.

"However, production data from January to June 2021 seemed not promising as it is only 36% of last year's production," Ms. Gumera said.

"Assuming 100% utilization of sugarcane-based feedstocks available locally like molasses and sugarcane juice, the maximum bioethanol production would be about 400 million liters annually," she added.

Ms. Gumera shared the same concern raised by Mr. Demafelis and said there is a need to develop feedstocks aside from sugarcane and molasses in order to fully meet the 10% mandate as provided by the Biofuels Act.

Under the said law, a minimum of 10% of bioethanol should be present in all gasoline fuel.

"However, these should be coupled with a distillery designed to process such new feedstock. Existing technologies of operational distilleries are designed for sugarcane juice and molasses as feedstocks," Ms. Gumera said.

"So far, feasibility studies in the Philippines showed that the processing technology of sugarcane-based feedstocks into bioethanol is cheaper than starch-based technologies like cassava," she added.

She also said that corn and other cereals are not allowed to be used as feedstocks for bioethanol under a joint administrative order of the National Biofuel Board since these are some of the country's staple food.

Ms. Gumera also recommended that the country should allow the voluntary blending with higher bioethanol blends since greenhouse gas emissions will be further reduced with more bioethanol in gasoline.

"World Bank is now studying the carbon credit of producing sugar from sugarcane and Brazil is willing to assist the Philippines in terms of technical cooperation on carbon credit studies and policies of producing renewable energy from sugarcane like bioethanol and bagasse-based power," Ms. Gumera said.

The DoE previously issued guidelines to ensure better compliance with the country's biofuels law, such as the required blends for fuel ethanol and biodiesel.



BBM-SARA UNITEAM: TIYAKIN ANG MAAYOS NA PAGTATAPON SA MGA HAZARDOUS WASTE



MANILA — Nanawagan sina presidential candidate Ferdinand ‘Bongbong’ Marcos Jr. at running-mate na si Davao City Mayor Inday Sara Duterte sa lahat ng kinauukulang tanggapan at ahensiya na tiyakin ang tamang disposal sa lahat ng mga ‘hazardous waste’ upang matiyak ang kaligtasan ng mga mamamayan at mapigilan ang pagkalat ng Covid19.

Reaksiyon ito ng BBM-Sara UniTeam hinggil sa lumabas na ulat kamakailan na 23 bata ang nagkasakit matapos maglaro malapit sa basurahan ng medical waste na hindi agad nakuha ng mga basurero sa Virac, Catanduanes.

“If we don’t dispose of medical wastes properly, there is a risk that communities living near the dumpsites will be exposed to viruses and other pathogenic microorganisms, such as what happened in Virac. It could trigger another surge of infections,” anang UniTeam.

Mismong World Health Organization (WHO) ang nagbigay babala hinggil sa mga basurang mula sa ospital na malaki ang banta sa kalusugan hindi lang ng mga tao kundi pati na rin sa kapaligiran.

Tone-toneladang hazardous waste ang pinangangambahang napapabayaang ngayon sa maraming lugar sa bansa dahil na rin sa maling sistema ng medical waste management.

Ang ganitong uri ng problema ay matagal nang pinag-uuspan sa buong mundo kahit na wala pang pandemya.

Sa datos ng WHO noong 2019, isa sa tatlong healthcare facility sa buong mundo ang walang maayos na healthcare waste disposal system.

Sa mga mahihirap na bansa, dalawa sa tatlong ospital ang wala ring healthcare waste management service.

Dahil dito, tiniyak ng UniTeam na prayoridad nila ang pagpapalakas sa programang pangkalusugan, na ilalakip nila sa isyu ng climate change sakaling manalo sila sa darating na May 9 elections.

“Isa sa mga tututukan namin ay ang pagresolba sa climate change, which is a global problem. Towards this end, improving our waste management program is included in our plan of action because poor waste management contributes to climate change and pollution,” sabi nila.

“Ang problema sa basura ay isa sa mga suliraning matagal nang kinakaharap ng ating bansa. Our environment is begging to be rescued from the snares of imminent destruction,” anang BBM-Sara UniTeam.

Si Marcos ay matagal nang may adbokasiya tungkol sa pangkalusugan at kapaligiran.

Source: <https://maharlika.tv/2022/02/14/bbm-sara-uniteam-tiyakin-ang-maayos-na-pagtatapon-sa-mga-hazardous-waste/?fbclid=IwAR1s6y6P26Aj68PceQoKPqpUjGgmRu8G9PlbEcgvIzSqi1bFcSMrpNdvKHk>



Posibleng krisis sa tubig, pinaghahandaan na | SGM with NWRB Exec. Dir. Seville David, Jr.



#SevilleDavidJr #NWRBkrisissatubig #NationalWaterResourcesBoard

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Dam water levels



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DAM WATER LEVELS
(AS OF 6AM FEB 14, 2022)

ANGAT	195.91m	SAN ROQUE	253.02m
IPO	98.58m	PANTABANGAN	198.48m
LA MESA	78.81m	MAGAT	174.78m
AMBUKLAO	743.51m	CALIRAYA	287.40m
BINGA	571.96m		

SOURCE: PAGASA

SENTRO BALITA

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Dam water levels

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3 DISLIKE SHARE SAVE ...



Groups demand Congress to help resolve plastic waste problem



MANILA - Several members of EcoWaste Coalition and the Malate Catholic Church convened Monday at the Rajah Sulayman Park to call out the 18th Congress regarding bills that, according to them, are “false solutions” to the plastic problem.

These are the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Bill amending Republic Act 9003, otherwise known as the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, and the Waste-to-Energy (WTE) Bill.

Coleen Salamat, EcoWaste Coalition Plastic Solutions Campaigner, said if these proposed measures are passed, it will exacerbate not just the plastic problem, but the climate crisis. She said these bills are false solutions.

"The current version heavily focuses on the downstream approach, recovery and recycling, but not much on redesigning products and innovating business models to eliminate single-use plastics," said Salamat.

She also challenged the Solid Waste Management Commission to release the list of Non-Environmentally Acceptable Products (NEAP) which should include single-use plastic and other non-biodegradable products.

She said the commission should also release implementing rules on the ban of plastic straws.

"Kahit ipinagbawal na, kung wala pa ring implementing rules and guidelines, hindi pa rin ito mai-implement. This should also include the importation and manufacturing of said products," Salamat said.

(Even if it's prohibited, if there's no implementing rules and guidelines, it won't be enforced.)

The group, which includes the EcoWaste Coalition among its members, pointed out that “almost all plastics contain toxic chemicals that are not removed during recycling but are carried over to the new products, and the recycling process can even generate new toxic chemicals such as dioxins.”

EcoWaste argued that not all recycling activities are environmentally sound, especially the practices involving the incineration of plastics in thermal WTE facilities.

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/02/14/22/congress-asked-to-help-resolve-plastic-waste-problem>



Push 'green agenda', aspirants asked

Through such a declaration, the Philippines would achieve its goals under the Paris Agreement which commits world leaders to keep the planet's temperature below 1.5 degrees Celsius

BY MJ BLANCAFLOR
@tribunephil_MJB

At least 20 environmental and youth groups nationwide published on Valentine's Day a "love letter" challenging the 2022 election candidates to prove their love for the country by crafting comprehensive plans to address the climate crisis.

The groups criticized the candidates, particularly those vying for the presidency, for their lack of sense of urgency in prioritizing climate action.

"Honestly, we're not seeing much on their concrete plans," said Maverick Flores, Greenpeace Philippines

communications campaigner.

"We're not seeing their urgency to address the climate crisis or follow through with the declaration of Congress for a national climate emergency," he told a media conference on Monday.

The group demanded the candidates present a clear roadmap for climate action in the first 100 days of their term, saying the "green" agenda was not being discussed during their media appearances or interviews.

"We need platforms on comprehensive discussions about this," Flores said,

adding that the strong typhoons which recently struck the country showed the intensity of climate change-induced catastrophes. In late December last year, typhoon "Odette" (international name: Rai) killed nearly 400 people, displaced thousands of Filipinos, and left widespread devastation after hitting parts of Visayas and Mindanao.

Greenpeace Philippines has long been pushing for a climate emergency declaration, saying it would ensure the phaseout of coal and fossil fuel investments in the country.

Through such a declaration, the Philippines would achieve its goals under the Paris Agreement which commits world leaders to keep the planet's temperature below 1.5 degrees Celsius, according to the group.

Greenpeace Philippines

was joined by the National Society of Parliamentarians, Youth for Mental Health, Better Normal Youth Movement, TreeBuk Project, among other groups in the media launch of their "love letter."

The group demanded the candidates present a clear roadmap for climate action in the first 100 days of their term, saying the green agenda was not being discussed during their media appearances or interviews.

Dubbed "Love,52"—referencing the 52 percent youth composition of the current voting population, which includes Filipinos aged 18 to 40—the letter outlines the impact of the climate crisis on the youth, their loved ones, and respective communities.

It would be sent to the candidates for their signature and commitment to calls for

prioritizing environmental and social issues in electoral discourse, crafting coherent plans for the climate crisis, and supporting vibrant democracy that would enable climate and environmental justice.

Despite this, the group said they were not inclined to endorse candidates who would advance the "green" agenda in the 2022 elections.

"Environmental issues like climate justice are non-partisan," Flores said. "Everyone from across the political spectrum should be able to address the climate crisis and come up with coherent plans to do it."

Developing economies like the Philippines contribute the least to climate change but turn out to be the most vulnerable to its consequences.



Mayora Group teams up with plastic waste management firms in the Philippines

THE PT Mayora Indah Group (Mayora Group) has partnered with two plastic waste management companies, in an effort to improve garbage collection and plastic recycling projects in Metro Manila.

“With the help of Plastic Credit Exchange (PCX) and Green Antz, the Mayora Group equips communities with the right resources not only to promote sustainability, but also, create livelihood opportunities and upgrade local road safety protocols,” Mayora Group said in a statement.

Mayora Group said it tapped Green Antz for the upcycling of plastic waste to bollards to be used by the residents of Manila and Pasay cities. Around 800 shredded plastic laminated bollards were donated to Pasay City through the management of Light Rail Transit-1 (LRT-1). These bollards will guide commuters and bicycle riders while navigating the roads surrounding the LRT-1 train stations.

Also, Mayora Group teamed up with PCX to launch their own Aling Tindera beneficiary and sought the help of female *sari-sari* store owners in Manila in the collection of trash using refurbished container vans.

“Under this project, the Mayora Group joins PCX in providing micro-enterprises with opportunities to expand their network within the communities, and eventually acquire a new source of income through the exchange of collected waste with cash,” it said.



Tough time again for 'green' bills



FOR the nth time, environmentalists were left high and dry after lawmakers broke session on Feb. 4 to begin the campaign for the May 9 elections and seek to renew terms for themselves, their relatives or their protégés in the Senate or the House of Representatives.

A number of national bills of vital importance in strengthening the country to face the long-term challenges of climate change, natural and man-made environmental disasters, and preserving land and other natural resources for posterity are once more stuck in the familiar shelves of unacted-upon measures. Not one has made it to the desk of the President for enactment since their sponsorship and transformation into many versions through the years; most are languishing in the congressional committees – as in the old song, “they just lie there, and they die there...”

Among the bills are the proposed National Land Use Act, Sustainable Forest Management Act, Indigenous Communities Conserved Territories and Areas Bill, Alternative Minerals Management Bill, and People’s Mining Bill.

The Philippine Greenprint, an alliance of environmental nongovernment organizations (NGOs), has launched a campaign for the passage of the four bills, declaring that the measures are “critical to the conservation of natural resources and the protection of people who take care of these resources.”

“For the past decades, we have witnessed injustices concerning [the protectors of our resources]. It is high time we took action to enable them to continue nurturing our lands. After all, it is every Filipino who will also benefit from these worthy causes,” said the alliance composed of the NGOs Kaisahan, The Haribon Foundation, Non-Timber Forest Products Exchange Programme-Philippines, and SOS-Yamang Bayan Network.

The proposed National Land Use Act, for one, has been reworked into different versions since 1994, and 18 are currently filed in the House and four in the Senate, all of them pending in the committees.

The bills in the Senate, including that on forest protection and alternative minerals, are being handled by the committee on the environment, natural resources and climate change headed by Sen. Cynthia Villar. While it is traditional practice in the chamber for the committee chair to set the hearings on any agenda, suspicion is widespread that Villar has been sitting for years on the measures that may impact on the billion-peso property business of her husband, former senator Manny Villar.

So much time has passed since these bills were crafted for the purpose of conserving and protecting the endangered environment and natural resources. Even with the scheduled resumption of session in Congress on May 23 after the electoral exercise, it is unlikely that the lawmakers would automatically act on pending measures.

The Philippine Greenprint is calling on the public to stay focused on the urgent matter at hand. As the alliance puts it: “We encourage fellow Filipinos to invest in developments that will foster



a better future while attending to concerns pertaining to nature. This is the kind of investment the world needs after a major crisis.”

Committed environmentalists are in for yet another tough time. May they have even firmer resolve to mount the necessary legislative lobby, and may their efforts bear fruit.



EDITORIAL - Single-use plastics umaapaw na!



Noong Pebrero 12, 2020, inaprubahan ng National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) ang isang resolusyon na nagbabawal sa single-use plastics sa government offices sa buong bansa. Inatasan ng NSWMC ang Department of Environment ang Natural Resources (DENR) na ipatupad ang kautusan.

Dalawang taon na ang nakalilipas mula nang likhain ang resolusyon at wala nang balita ukol dito. Ipinatupad ba ito ng DENR?

Kung ipinatupad ang pagbabawal ng single-use plastics sa mga tanggapan ng pamahalaan, malaki ang maitutulong para maisalba ang bansa sa plastic pollution. Ang single-use plastics na kinabibilangan ng sachets ng 3 in 1 coffee, catsup, shampoo, hair conditioner, toothpaste, straw at mga sando bags na karaniwang ginagamit sa palengke ang nakatambak sa mga estero at kanal at nagiging dahilan nang pagbaha. Bumabara ang mga ito sa drainage system. Tatagal nang mahabang panahon sa mga imburnal sapagkat hindi nabubulok ang mga ito. Marami rin ang hahantong sa karagatan at dahil para masira ang corals na tirahan ng mga isda. Banta rin ang single-use plastics sa mga isda sapagkat kinakain nila ang mga ito. Ang mga patay na balyena na sumasadsad sa dalampasigan ay nakakain ng mga plastic na basura na kanilang ikinamatay.

Nagbabala ang coalition ng environmental groups na kung hindi gagawa ng paraan ang pamahalaan para mabawasan ang paggamit ng single-use plastic, aapaw ang may 59.7 bilyong sachets sa Metro Manila.

Sa kasalukuyan, hindi lang single-use plastic ang banta sa pagkasira ng kapaligiran kundi pati na rin ang mga upos ng sigarilyo. Ayon sa United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), 766 milyong kilos ng upos ang nakokolekta bawat taon at nakukuha ang mga ito sa baybaying dagat. Hindi lang basta basura ang mga upos na ito sapagkat toxic at banta sa buhay ng mga isda kapag nakain. Ang upos ay gawa sa microplastics na tinatawag na cellulose acetate. Hindi umano ito natutunaw. Ang microplastics ay ginagamit din sa foodchains at pinaniniwalaang nagdudulot ng epekto sa kalusugan ng tao at may epekto sa brain development.

Paigtingin ang pagbabawal sa single-use plastic upang maisalba ang kapaligiran sa pagkasira. Magkaroon ng solusyon. Higpitan ang pagtatapon ng upos ng sigarilyo. Buhayin ang mga ordinansa sa bawat lungsod na pinagmumulta ang mga nagtatapon ng upos. Huwag hayaang umapaw ang mga ito.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/opinyon/2022/02/14/2160672/editorial-single-use-plastics-umaapaw-na/amp/>

Against the odds: pursuing another chance for green recovery in ASEAN

Southeast Asia countries have spent little of their COVID-19 recovery funds on sustainable development. There is still time to turn the pandemic into an opportunity.

The COVID-19 pandemic has profoundly impacted the global economy, including countries in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Virtually all the authorities in ASEAN launched fiscal stimulus packages throughout the pandemic to mitigate the negative impact of COVID-19.

On average, ASEAN member states have allocated around 7.7 per cent of their GDP for [fiscal stimulus](#). This includes health and non-health spending (6.2 per cent when combined), and liquidity support (1.5 per cent).

COVID-19 fiscal stimulus is seen as an opportunity to shift the recovery trajectory towards a green and sustainable path. This is especially so as the size of economic packages launched by governments worldwide in just two months was already [three times larger](#) than the amount spent during the 2008 global financial crisis.

Hence, the UN Secretary-General regards this as a 'rare and short window of opportunity'. Other international organisations, such as the World Bank and IMF, have also called for green fiscal stimulus to ensure that the recovery trajectory from the COVID-19 pandemic aligns with climate targets.

In a similar vein, many leaders in the private sector also advocate for a 'green recovery'. The World Economic Forum, for instance, launched the Great Reset initiative, where one of the critical components is to ensure a greener world after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Nevertheless, current assessments suggest that the amount of COVID-19 stimulus directed for energy transition among the ASEAN member states is limited. The [Global Recovery Observatory database](#) shows that zero recovery spending is considered green in six countries — Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Singapore and Vietnam.

On the contrary, some of the spendings may potentially harm the environment. These include incentives for airlines and other forms of transport without green conditions.

ASEAN has recognised the importance of a sustainable and resilient future in overcoming the pandemic by outlining implementation plans under its [Comprehensive Recovery Framework](#). Several member states may have also launched unquantifiable programs for green recovery. However, the limited quantifiable stimulus for green recovery is alarming, suggesting that ASEAN might miss the one-time opportunity to build back better.

One crucial factor restraining ASEAN countries from allocating a substantial amount of fiscal stimulus for green recovery is structural problems, especially the limited budgetary capacity in developing countries. Countries with lower sovereign credit, higher sovereign bond spreads, and higher public debt found it more challenging to launch a [substantial COVID-19 related fiscal spending](#).

ASEAN countries also experienced a vast fiscal disruption due to the COVID-19 pandemic. On average, the ratio of national governments' revenues to GDP dropped by 1.09 percentage points. Countries faced more fiscal constraints and are forced to focus on pandemic control measures to help the most vulnerable households and firms in the hardest-hit sectors, such as tourism, transport, and small and medium-sized enterprises.

The situation would be more formidable in the medium term as ASEAN countries face widening fiscal deficits induced by the COVID-19 pandemic. Over the last year, member states' [budget deficit](#) as a percentage of GDP worsened from -1.3 per cent in 2019 to -5.4 per cent.

As a result, debt also surged from 51.9 per cent of GDP in 2019 to 60.9 per cent. Many member states have outlined plans for fiscal consolidation to ensure sustainability in the long run. Without a recovery in tax revenue, the government has no choice but to pursue expenditure consolidation that could further limit the fiscal space to fund green transition projects.

At the same time, the [ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation 2021-2025](#) specifies a 23 per cent share of renewables in the total primary energy supply by 2025. This is to be achieved by increasing the share of renewables in installed power capacity by 35 per cent from 2005 levels, and reducing energy intensity by 32 per cent in the same period.

It is estimated that the ASEAN countries need to invest [US\\$367 billion](#) in the power sector to reach the aspirational targets. The limited fiscal space faced by member states during the pandemic can put this target at risk. In this case, it requires extra effort from governments in the region to cope with a limited fiscal budget while working on meeting their energy transition targets.

To achieve the twin targets of improving the fiscal situation post COVID-19 while realising the energy transition targets, governments should integrate a green perspective into budgetary consolidation efforts.

The options include:

- Leveraging private participation through green and sustainability bonds;
- Exercising global and regional funding from multilateral development partners and banks;
- Implementing carbon pricing.

Some countries have seen green bonds as one alternative to utilising private participation to achieve green recovery. In 2020, [China's green bonds market](#) managed to achieve a new record of US\$44 billion, or a 12 per cent increase compared to the previous year, despite the impact of COVID-19.

Secondly, multilateral development banks may play a role in fostering green recovery after the pandemic. One example is the [ASEAN Catalytic Green Finance Facility \(ACGF\) Green Recovery Program](#), supported by the Asian Development Bank. It revolves around using the Green Climate Fund to help ASEAN countries rebound without environmental degradation while stimulating economic growth by creating green jobs.

Lastly, regulated carbon pricing will trigger more energy transition innovation in the private sector and lessen the burden on the fiscal space. Singapore, for example, has effectively adopted a Carbon Pricing Act since 2019 in its effort to transition to a low-carbon economy.

To mitigate possibly higher energy costs, Singapore utilises the tax revenue to provide incentives for lower-income households and investments for businesses that innovate in environmental, social, and governance initiatives.

ASEAN member states may consider focusing on improving the enabling environment for green recovery. These include establishing a clear and consistent policy framework, introducing incentives to increase clean energy investment, as well as enhancing institutional arrangements and effective coordination between relevant authorities. Adequate green fiscal policies will help ease the potential inflation from the transition away from fossil fuels and their volatile prices.

As the deadline for the climate targets is fast approaching, ASEAN countries cannot afford to miss another opportunity for green recovery from the pandemic. While fiscal disruption limits countries' capacities to fund green projects, there is hope to turn things around.



As governments prepare for fiscal consolidation, it is crucial to integrate a green perspective into the plan. If a green budgetary consolidation is implemented, we can turn the crisis into an opportunity.

‘Dangerously fast’ methane increase suggests feedback mechanism may have begun

Atmospheric methane levels are now nearly triple pre-industrial levels, found research published in scientific journal Nature.

Methane concentrations in the atmosphere have risen at a “dangerously fast” rate and now exceed 1,900 parts per billion, prompting some researchers to warn that climate change itself may be driving the increase.

Atmospheric methane levels are now nearly triple pre-industrial levels, a news article in the journal Nature [states](#), citing data released last month by the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

“Scientists says the grim milestone underscores the importance of a [pledge](#) made at last year’s COP 26 climate summit to curb emissions of methane,” a climate pollutant that Nature cites as at least 28 times more potent than CO₂, but is actually 80 to 85 times more damaging over the 20-year span when humanity will be scrambling to get the climate emergency under control.

While the research focused to some degree on methane released through microbial action, Nature says nearly two-thirds of the methane releases between 2007 and 2016 were caused by human activity.

When the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) [released](#) its latest, landmark climate science assessment in August, researchers pointed to rapid, deep methane cuts as the [single most important step](#) in stemming the rise of the greenhouse gases that cause climate change. In early November, scientists [warned](#) that the 30 per cent reduction pledge at COP 26 fell short of what was needed.

The new research shows the problem getting worse.

“The growth of methane emissions slowed around the turn of the millennium, but began a rapid and mysterious uptick around 2007,” Nature writes. “The spike has caused many researchers to worry that global warming is creating a feedback mechanism that will cause ever more methane to be released, making it even harder to rein in rising temperatures.”

The report explains the analysis scientists conduct to attribute to accurately attribute methane emissions to different sources, from microbial activity to fossil fuel production. Xin Lan, an atmospheric scientist at NOAA’s Global Monitoring Laboratory in Boulder, Colorado, said microbes account for 85 per cent of the emissions increase since 2007, with the rest due to fossil fuel production.

“Is warming feeding the warming? It’s an incredibly important question,” said Royal Holloway, University of London Earth scientist Euan Nisbet. “As yet, no answer, but it very much looks that way.”

But “regardless of how this mystery plays out, humans are not off the hook,” Nature adds. “Based on their latest analysis of the isotopic trends, Lan’s team estimates that anthropogenic sources such as livestock, agricultural waste, landfill, and fossil fuel extraction accounted for about 62 per cent of total methane emissions from 2007 to 2016.”



The Nature report last week landed just five days after new satellite imagery identified “ultra-emitters” in Turkmenistan, Russia, and the United States as the world’s biggest sources of methane leaks from oil and gas facilities, New Scientist [reports](#). The next three biggest emitters were Iran, Algeria, and Kazakhstan.

“While huge plumes of methane leaking from gas pipelines have been detected by satellites at individual sites, such as [a gas well in Ohio](#) and [several pipelines in central Turkmenistan](#), little has been known about their extent globally,” New Scientist explains. “Now, images captured by an [instrument aboard a satellite](#) have been run through an algorithm to automatically detect the biggest plumes of methane streaming from oil and gas facilities worldwide.”

The more than 25 tonnes of methane per hour coming from the ultra-emitters is “a heck of a lot”, US Environmental Defense Fund Chief Scientist Steve Hamburg told New Scientist climate specialist Adam Vaughan.

“Collectively, these contribute about eight million tonnes of methane a year, about a tenth of the oil and gas industry’s total annual emissions for 2019-20,” Vaughan writes.

15 FEBRUARY 2021, TUESDAY



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COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



PH now at 'low risk' for COVID-19 – DOH

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Feb 14, 2022 11:07:17 PM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, February 14) — The country's COVID-19 risk case classification has been downgraded from "moderate" to "low" amid the decline in new infections, Health Secretary Francisco Duque III reported on Monday.

During a televised Cabinet meeting, Duque said the country is now deemed at "low risk," along with 13 out of 17 regions nationwide, including Metro Manila.

He said the reclassification was made after the nation logged a -74% growth rate in cases from Feb. 1 to 14 compared to Jan. 18 to 31.

Duque added that the average daily attack rate, or the number of infected people per 100,000 population, fell to 5.26 in the last two weeks, from the 20.6 recorded during the Jan. 18 to 31 period.

According to the Department of Health, only four regions are at "moderate risk." These are the Davao region, the Cordillera Administrative Region, Western Visayas, and Soccsksargen.

In terms of healthcare utilization rates, which include bed occupancy, and use of mechanical ventilation and intensive care units, Duque said the country and most of its regions are also now at low risk. This means utilization rates are at less than 50%.

Only the Davao region's ICU occupancy remains at moderate risk at 63.9%.

"Ang sinasabi po nito [This shows] we are able to manage our cases, and our health systems capacity is very much prepared for any eventuality, na kung magkaroon na naman saka-sakali ng pagtaas, makikita po natin ang laki po ng ating excess [and that in case of another rise in infections, we have a lot of excess available facilities]," Duque said.

Official figures showed the country currently has 76,609 active cases, or 2.1% of the 3.63 million infections tallied since the start of the pandemic. The death toll has reached 55,094, while recoveries are at over 3.5 million.

Source: <https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2022/2/14/PH-low-risk-COVID-19.html>



558 NA BAGONG KASO NG COVID-19 SA NCR, NAITALA KAHAPON

written by **DWIZ 882** February 14, 2022



Nakapagtala ng 558 new cases ng COVID-19 ang Metro Manila, kahapon.

Ayon kay OCTA Research Fellow Dr. Guido David, medyo mataas ito kumpara sa kabuuang kaso na 3,050 na naitala sa Pilipinas.

Ang nasabing bilang ang pinakamababang tally ng new COVID-19 cases sa bansa kung saan pasok pa rin aniya ito sa kanilang pagtataya noong January 24.

Kaugnay nito, bumaba sa 8.5% positivity rate ang NCR.

Ayon sa benchmark ng World Health Organization (WHO) ang COVID-19 positivity rate ay dapat na nasa 5% kung saan ito ay indikasyon ng kotroladong hawaan ng COVID-19. - **sa panulat ni Airiam Sancho**



Alert Level 2 stays in NCR

The capital region has been classified as moderate risk, a far cry from its critical status in previous weeks

Published 6 hours ago on February 15, 2022 12:35 AM

By [MJ Blancaflor](#) [@tribunephil_MJB](#)



Metro Manila will remain under Alert Level 2 until the end of February despite the downward trend in Covid-19 cases, Malacañang said on Monday.

The Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF) had extended the imposition of existing restrictions in the capital region until 28 February, dismissing the call of business groups to de-escalate it to a more lenient Alert Level 1.

Manila Mayor Francisco “Isko Moreno” Domagoso, a presidential aspirant, however, said he favors the downgrading to an Alert Level 1 “but only if scientists could back the move.”

“I’m always positioning the city toward a full reopening,” Isko told the members of the media in a chance interview.

The Metro Manila Council that includes Isko, meanwhile, gave the Alert Level 2 extension a thumb up.

Joining Metro Manila under Alert Level 2 were Abra, Apayao, Baguio City, Benguet, Ifugao, Kalinga, Mountain Province, Dagupan City, Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, La Union, Pangasinan, Batanes, City of Santiago, Cagayan, Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino, Bulacan, Angeles City, Aurora, Bataan, Nueva Ecija, Olongapo City, Pampanga, Tarlac, Zambales, Cavite, Rizal, Batangas, Laguna, Lucena City, Quezon Province, Marinduque, Occidental Mindoro, Oriental Mindoro, Palawan, Puerto Princesa City, Romblon, Albay, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Catanduanes, Masbate, Naga City, and Sorsogon.

Aklan, Antique, Bacolod City, Capiz, Negros Occidental, Cebu City, Lapu-Lapu City, Mandaue City, Bohol, Cebu, Negros Oriental, Siquijor, Ormoc City, Tacloban City, Eastern Samar, Leyte, Northern Samar, Western Samar, Biliran, and Southern Leyte were also placed under the same scheme.

Also placed under Alert Level 2 were City of Isabela, Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga Sibugay, Bukidnon, Cagayan de Oro City, Camiguin, Iligan City, Lanao del Norte, Misamis Occidental, Misamis Oriental, Davao City, Davao del Sur, Davao del Norte, Davao Oriental, General Santos City, North Cotabato, Sarangani, Sultan Kudarat, Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur, Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Butuan City, Dinagat Islands, Basilan, Maguindanao, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, Cotabato City, and Lanao del Sur.

On the other hand, seven areas were placed under the stricter Alert Level 3. These were Iloilo



On the other hand, seven areas were placed under the stricter Alert Level 3. These were Iloilo City, Iloilo province, Guimaras, Zamboanga City, Davao de Oro, Davao Occidental, and South Cotabato.

Malacañang made the announcement after all of the 17 mayors in Metro Manila unanimously agreed that the National Capital Region should remain under Alert Level 2 for the remainder of February.

Metro Manila has been under Alert Level 2 since the start of February as Covid-19 cases continue to dwindle. The country has been reporting less than 10,000 additional cases per day for the past two weeks, a significant drop from record-breaking 30,000 daily cases in early January.

The capital region has been classified as “moderate risk,” a far cry from its “critical” status in previous weeks.

Under Alert Level 2, establishments and activities are allowed at 50 percent venue capacity if held indoors for fully vaccinated adults, as well as minors regardless of their vaccination status. It expands to 70 percent if held outdoors.

Indoor operations are limited to 30-percent venue capacity under Alert Level 3, while outdoor operations are up to 50 percent.

On Monday, the government tallied 2,730 more Covid-19 cases, raising the nationwide caseload to 3.639 million. The figure excluded data from two laboratories that failed to submit reports on time.

Of the total number of people who got infected, 76,609 were active cases.

Data from the case bulletin showed that the country’s positivity rate was at 10.7 percent.

WITH ALVIN MURCIA AND PAT C. SANTOS @tribunephil_alv



#OneDENR



**Covid-19
Situation and Response**



DOH COVID-19 CASE BULLETIN # 702

PEBRERO 14, 2022

Para sa kumpletong detalye at impormasyon,
bisitahin lamang ang aming pampublikong site:
<https://ncovtracker.doh.gov.ph/>

PORSYENTO NG AKTIBONG KASO

2.1%

TOTAL NG AKTIBONG KASO
76,609

PORSYENTO NG GUMALING

96.4%

TOTAL NG GUMALING
3,508,239

PORSYENTO NG NAMATAY

1.51%

TOTAL NG NAMATAY
55,094

MGA BAGONG KASO **2,730**

MGA BAGONG GUMALING **7,456**

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY **164**

KABUANG BILANG NG KASO **3,639,942**

MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING PEBRERO 12

DATOS NGAYONG PEBRERO 14
AYON SA REPORTS NOONG PEBRERO 12

10.7%

PORSYENTO NG MGA
NAGPOSITIBO

28,620

BILANG NG
TINIST

HALOS
93.8%
ANG MILD AT
ASYMPTOMATIC
NA KASO!

ALAMIN
ANG TAMANG
IMPORMASYON

KABUANG PILIPINAS

PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

KALAGAYAN NG MGA AKTIBONG KASO

ICU BEDS (3.9K TOTAL BEDS)
34% Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (20.6K TOTAL BEDS)
29% Utilized

WARD BEDS (14.9K TOTAL BEDS)
26% Utilized

VENTILATORS (3.1K TOTAL VENTILATORS)
18% Utilized

ICU BEDS (1.3K TOTAL BEDS)
31% Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (4.7K TOTAL BEDS)
25% Utilized

WARD BEDS (4.2K TOTAL BEDS)
26% Utilized

VENTILATORS (1.0K TOTAL VENTILATORS)
17% Utilized

2,310 Asymptomatic

69,574 Mild

2,970 Moderate

1,443 Severe

312 Critical

DOH HOSPITAL HOTLINES

For health concerns and emergencies, you may access
here the DOH hospital hotlines across the country:

bit.ly/DOHHospitalHotlines

DOH ONE HOSPITAL COMMAND CENTER (OHCC) HOTLINES

• 1555 • 0915-777-7777
• 02-886-505-00 • 0919-977-3333

bit.ly/OHCCHotline

DOH TELEMEDICINE CONTACT DETAILS

bit.ly/DOHTelemedicine

SeeYouDoc
seeyoudoc.com
SeeYouDoc

KonsultaMD
konsulta.md
KonsultaMD

CloudPx
cloudpx.ph/

Telimed and Medgate
medgate.ph/shop/telimedplan/purchase

MedCheck
medcheck.com.ph/find-a-doctor/SeeYouDoc

TelAventusMD
TelAventusMD@aventusmedical.com.ph
TelAventusMD

HealthNow
healthnow.ph/
help@healthnow.ph
HealthNow



Manatiling ligtas!

I-download ang StaySafe App
o gamitin ang WEBAPP
at pumunta sa Staysafe.ph



Walang internet or load?
Report via SMS

2158-5779 (for Globe users)
225-655-779 (for other users)



May tanong ukol sa COVID-19?
I-chat na si KIRA!

VIBER: Kira Kontra COVID by DOH
MESSENGER: Department of Health PH
KONTRACOVIDPH: kontracovid.ph

MAYROON PANG KATANUNGAN? SUMANGGUNI LAMANG SA SUMUSUNOD:

[OfficialDOHgov](https://www.facebook.com/OfficialDOHgov)

[@DOHgovph](https://twitter.com/DOHgovph)

[doh.gov.ph](https://www.doh.gov.ph)

[\(02\) 894-COVID / 1555](tel:(02)894-COVID)

15 FEBRUARY 2022, TUESDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

VLOGS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Please click this link:

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#manilabay #dolomitesand

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maraming salamat po, keep safe everyone

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maraming salamat po, keep safe everyone

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