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NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Iloilo celebrates Arbor Day with bike, hike, plant activity at Maasin Watershed

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by [Tara Yap](#)



VOLUNTEERS for the Arbor Day bike, hike, and plant activity cross a river on the Maasin Watershed in Iloilo. (DENR-Region 6)

ILOILO CITY – Iloilo marked Arbor Day Saturday, June 25, by hosting the bike, hike, and plant activity of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Maasin, Iloilo.

DENR-Region 6 (Western Visayas) Director Livino Duran said the bike, hike, plant activity kicked off the regional celebration of the 159th anniversary of the Philippine Forestry Service.

Around 1,000 bikers and other volunteers gathered at the Maasin Watershed for the triple activity that coincided with the launching of "Tanum Iloilo sa Hunyo 2022," a reforestation program of Gov. Arthur Defensor Jr. backed by national government agencies (NGAs), local government units (LGUs), non-government organizations (NGOs), people's organizations, socio-civic organizations, the private sector, and the academe.

The planting site at the Maasin Watershed signifies the need to continue the efforts of rehabilitating the once degraded watershed that is vital in Iloilo.

Duran had earlier said that with the province's growing population, the Maasin Watershed may not be able to sustain its capacity to provide sufficient water for the people and efforts must be sustained.



Penro-Zamboanga del Norte holds tree planting



ZAMBOANGA. Personnel of the Zamboanga del Norte Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (Penro) and other stakeholders plant 275 seedlings of narra and red nato Friday, June 15, in Dipolog City, the province's capital. A photo handout shows Penro personnel planting tree seedlings at the designated area. (SunStar Zamboanga)

June 25, 2022

PERSONNEL of the Zamboanga del Norte Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (Penro) have planted 275 seedlings of Narra and Red Nato in Dipolog City, the province's capital.

Cidur Julsadjiri, Zamboanga del Norte Penro chief, said the tree-planting activity was in line with the celebration of the Philippine Arbor Day and 159th Anniversary of Philippine Forestry Service.

Julsadjiri said the tree seedling were planted Friday, June 24, in Sinaman village, Dipolog City.

"This initiative aims to help repair ecosystem and widen the network of forestry champions through promotions of proactive reforestation and responsible tourism," Julsadjiri said.

He said the tree planting activity was participated by 30 personnel from Zamboanga del Norte PENRO, Philippine National Police, Philippine Ports Authority, and other stakeholders. (SunStar Zamboanga)



Basurang nahakot sa Navotas coastal cleanup umabot sa 21+ kubiko

[June 26, 2022](#) 1 min read

UMABOT sa 21.72 cubic meters ang nahakot na basura sa Coastal Clean Up na isinagawa kaugnay ng pagdiriwang ng Environment Month kung saan ay nasa 311 ang lumahok na mga kawani ng pamahalaan at barangay maliban pa sa volunteers, scholars ng Navotas at mga Boy at Girl Scouts.





Basurang nahakot sa Navotas coastal cleanup umabot sa 21+ kubiko

Pinaalalahanan din ng pamahalaang lungsod ng Navotas ang lahat ng mga residente na panatilihin malinis ang paligid dahil nagdudulot ito ng pagbara sa mga daluyan ng tubig na nagreresulta ng pagbaha sa ibat-ibang lugar.

Aj Rabulan/BENJAMIN CUARESMA

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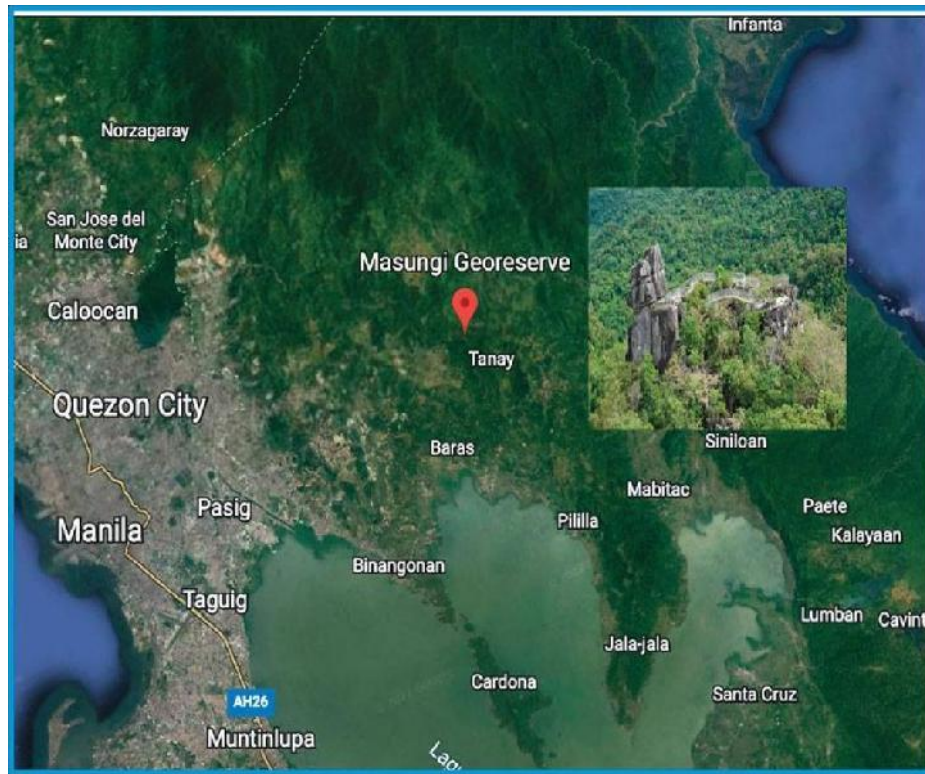


Regulatory capture vs Masungi Geopark project



By [Rigoberto Tiglao](#)

June 27, 2022



Location of the Masungi Georeserve. (Inset: Masungi Rock) PHOTOS FROM GOOGLE EARTH

"REGULATORY capture" is a political-science term, which its critics say, however, is merely a polite term for a specific instance of what we commonly refer to as "graft and corruption."

It refers to the oh-so-common phenomenon of capitalists co-opting regulators — whether bribes are involved or not — to the extent of bending the rules and making the state agencies in charge of implementing regulations inutile and servile to the will of capitalists.

Officials — crooked or just sharing the capitalists' ideology — mislead their superiors, divert the issue and delay action to protect the interests of their patrons.

There are strong indications that such regulatory capture is at work in the case of the Masungi Georeserve in Tanay, Rizal, in the southern Sierra Madre range, with the [Department of Environment and Natural Resources](#) (DENR) as the target of the "capture."

The conservation project is named as such because it involves conserving 3,000 hectares of forest that centers on the limestone formation called Masungi Rock.

President [Rodrigo Duterte](#) demonstrated his political will early in his term when he backed in 2017 the Masungi Georeserve managed by the [Masungi Geopark Foundation](#), which his then environment secretary, the well-known environmentalist, the late [Gina Lopez](#), had been championing.



Regulatory capture vs Masungi Geopark project

In five years, the project rescued from illegal activities around 2,000 hectares of land and thousands of mature Benguet pine trees planted by the first Marcos government in the 1970s. Safe from poachers and now under strict protection, young pine tree saplings are growing and thriving near their towering mother trees.

In danger

However, these rescued forests and pine trees are once again in danger. Three quarrying companies are claiming that their [mineral](#) production sharing agreements (MPSAs) awarded 24 years ago over 1,300 hectares of the protected and conserved areas are still valid. The Masungi Geopark Foundations claim these MPSAs are de facto license to quarry, which would damage the Masungi Georeserve. Two of them, Rapid City and Quarry Rock, allegedly insist on quarrying the watershed and wildlife sanctuary.

It is shameful, and totally beyond his competence for DENR bureaucrat [Dondi Sarmiento](#), director of the Mines and [Geosciences Bureau's](#) Calabarzon office, to dismiss the Masungi Geopark Foundation's opposition to the quarrying on the grounds, he says, that the Constitution stipulates that "private property shall not be taken for public use without just compensation." He claims the MPSAs were issued long before the Masungi conservation project.

This bureaucrat doesn't know what he is talking about. His expertise involves rocks not laws: He is not a lawyer but a geologist. Unless he was asked to immediately issue a decision in favor of the quarrying firms, he should have referred the matter to the DENR's huge legal department, or even to the solicitor general, especially since the Masungi Geopark was a project of Duterte himself, and the past two DENR secretaries, Lopez and her successor, [Roy Cimatu](#). Or perhaps he is thinking that Duterte is on his way out anyway.

Reading Sarmiento's letter to the Masungi Foundation, I am starting to doubt if he is competent in his own field, geology, since he declared that quarrying in Masungi will only bring "temporary disturbance to the landscape since the quarries will have rehabilitation plans anyway." In a letter to another columnist, Sarmiento even said, rather atrociously, I think: "With or without quarrying in Rizal, flooding within the low-lying areas of the Marikina River Basin will remain as such a natural hazard."

De facto PR

Sarmiento even appears to have become the de facto PR for the quarrying firms by claiming in his letter: "The mining and quarrying operations in the province of Rizal are the key producers in the country of primary components of construction materials for the development of buildings, bridges, houses and schools, health centers, etc., that are essential for the Build, Build, Build program of this administration." Huh? Ban quarrying, and you sabotage the BBB program? Why doesn't Sarmiento stick to his job description, and forget what would be the problems of the DPWH and other departments.

Sarmiento should read the report, written by five geologists commissioned by the [National Museum](#) of the Philippines chairperson Luli Arroyo-Bernas (former President Gloria Macapagal



Regulatory capture vs Masungi Geopark project

Arroyo's daughter), that warned of the consequences of quarrying to Masungi and to the [Marikina Valley](#):

The report warned: "Activities such as forestry, agricultural activities, land clearance, quarrying, waste disposal, or other landfill and other developmental activities, if there are any, in the vicinity of the geopark may not cause direct destruction in the geopark itself, but may still disrupt the geological systems around and can have expensive consequences."

A 2017 World Bank report also debunks Sarmiento's preposterous claims. In a study made in the Upper Marikina Watershed, it concluded that "higher forest cover can help reduce the volume of floodwater generated in a watershed by 27 percent to 47percent during the three wettest months of the year... Forests can help reduce the potential flooding impacts of heavy rainstorms and typhoons by increasing the time difference between peak rainfall and peak discharge by two to seven hours, and reducing the peak discharge by 20 percent to 32 percent."

Cancelation

Actually, former Environment secretary Roy Cimatu had announced the cancellation of these MPSAs as early as March 2020 for being inside protected areas and a watershed. Section 18 of RA ([Republic Act](#)) 11038, which amended Section 20 of RA 7586 reinforced mining as a prohibited act in protected areas: "... the following acts are prohibited within protected areas:...p) Undertaking mineral exploration or extraction within the protected area; q) Engaging in commercial or large-scale quarrying within the protected area."

The [Philippine Mining Act](#) of 1995 itself bans mining inside national parks and proclaimed watershed reserves: "Mineral agreement or financial or technical assistance agreement applications shall not be allowed in... (f) Old growth or virgin forests, proclaimed watershed forest reserves, wilderness areas, mangrove forests, mossy forests, national parks provincial/municipal forests, parks, greenbelts, game refuge and bird sanctuaries as defined by law."

If quarrying in Masungi is contrary to the law, then why is the DENR still taking the MPSAs in Masungi as still valid, years after Cimatu's announcement?

The law is clear that protected areas and proclaimed watershed reserves are off-limits to quarries. Agreements that are against the law cannot be condoned, especially if they endanger people's lives. Even private rights, if any, cannot supersede the prohibitions set by law.

Show cause

Actually, a "show cause order" had been issued to the three quarrying companies in April 2021, informing them that they had committed "gross violations constituting breach of their contracts." These breaches, including not being able to commence extraction for some 24 years, are grounds for cancellation of their MPSAs. More than one year after these show cause orders were issued, the MGB Central Office has yet to file a formal recommendation to the DENR head. Hence, no DENR decision to cancel the MPSAs has been made.

In April 2022, acting Environment Secretary [Jim Sampilna](#) held a press conference and issued a "suspension" order of the "activities" of the quarrying companies. Why doesn't the DENR just implement the regulations and the law, that the MPSAs should be canceled?



Regulatory capture vs Masungi Geopark project

Mayors of the municipalities near Rizal who want to be sure no quarrying-created floods inundate their areas have joined the call for the immediate cancellation of the MPSAs, since deforestation in the Upper Marikina Watershed, a portion of which is included in the [Masungi Geopark Project](#), is one of the many factors that had generated disastrous floods in these downstream cities.

Environment officials should be the first and staunchest defenders of our natural environment. Sadly, as the experience in Masungi shows, they behave at worst, more like defenders of those who threaten the environment, or at best bureaucrats shaking in their boots when they are sued by powerful companies for implementing environmental regulations.

For all the DENR's blah-blah in its attempt to wiggle out of the obvious need to cancel these quarrying firms' permits, what its officials forget is the following: In case of doubt, it should side with those seeking to protect the environment, since once damaged, it will take generations to repair. For rich companies, foregone revenues from quarrying will just be a loss they can easily recover.

There is a fundamental reason why it is called the "[Department of the Environment and Natural Resources](#)," and not the "Department for Mining and Other [Extractive Industries](#)." That is also the reason why an environmentalist was appointed to head it and then a military man programmed to enforce the rules, and not an executive of a mining firm.

These DENR bureaucrats should realize that.



Baguio holding environment summits



Published 2 hours ago
on June 27, 2022 03:48 AM
By [Aldwin Quitasol](#)



BAGUIO CITY — The local government here is set to hold a series of environmental summits for city residents and other stakeholders aimed at preventing the city from plunging into urban decay.

A 2019 study of the National Economic and Development Authority found the city had already breached its carrying capacity or “the number of people, other living organisms, or crops that a region can support without environmental degradation.”

The first in the series will be held on 8 July, 1 to 5 p.m. at the Baguio Convention Center with the Office of the City Planning and Development Coordinator (OCPDC) and the City Environment and Parks Management Office planning to accommodate a large audience of at least 500 to ensure the success of the activity.

The activity will be open to the public who may attend physically or virtually via Zoom or livestreaming at the Public Information Office Facebook page where they can put forward their questions, concerns or suggestions.

The OCPDC said they plan to hold two more sessions, the schedule of which will be announced upon finalization.



Baguio holding environment summits

Baguio City Mayor Benjamin Magalong last 17 May directed the summit to gather inputs on to address the critical issues affecting the city's environment to further guide the city government in its mission to save the city from degradation. He asked that participants come from the cross section of the Baguio City community to make for a fruitful summit.

The mayor said he intends to focus on implementing the strategic solutions planned during his first term to address problems besetting the city including the deterioration of the environment resulting in ecological imbalance. The mayor said it is crucial that the city implement reforms to slow down if not reverse urban decay.



NEXT NOW

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Asia's coral gardener on a quest to save the world's imperilled reefs

The world has lost half of its coral reefs in 30 years. Malaysian oceanographer Anuar Abdullah has developed a simple, yet effective way to restore coral. He tells Eco-Business that no reef is the same, and successful reef rehabilitation depends on cooperation with local communities.



A coral nursery. "We work in hectares, acres and square kilometers. Our approach is industrial. We rehabilitate entire reefs," says Anuar Abdullah, founder of marine conservation group, Ocean Quest. Image: Anuar Abdullah

By [Tom Vater](#)

5 minute read June 26, 2022

Over the past 30 years, more than 50 per cent of reefs have disappeared and more than 75 per cent are damaged. Another 40 per cent of the remaining coral may disappear in the next 30 years, unless there is a global conservation rethink.

With every reef lost, essential food, protection and spawning grounds for marine life disappears and biodiversity decreases. With coral on the wane across the globe, the marine food chain is under strain and commercial fishing stocks are threatened.

Anuar Abdullah studied oceanography in Florida and began looking at ways to regrow coral in the Perhentian Islands in Malaysia in 1981. At first the 61-year-old Malaysian's efforts proved futile.

"Locals used to come and watch me on the beach, tying bits of coral to rocks and they laughed. For twenty years, I observed the behaviour and life cycles of coral. And at first, I failed to grow coral. But looking back, I needed to fail many times to get it right in the end. On land we have

Asia's coral gardener on a quest to save the world's imperilled reefs

been planting, growing and cultivating trees for thousands of years. With coral, we have only recently become aware, in the last 35 years, of the need to take action."

Abdullah persevered and eventually came up with a new way to regrow coral.

We worked on reefs destroyed by typhoon Hayan in the Philippines in late 2013, which suffered 99.8 per cent damage. But we still managed to bring the coral back.

Anuar Abdullah, founder, Ocean Quest



Anuar Abdullah, 61 year-old coral conservationist. Image: Anuar Abdullah

"I realised that artificial reefs are a mistake. Adding anything man-made to the reef environment such as metal grids, PVC piping or leather, doesn't make sense as these structures eventually fall apart and are potentially poisonous. They also cost money – fabricating structures and transporting them to the sea and then placing them in the water is not cheap."

Abdullah developed new techniques and methodologies that required no frames to be added to the marine environment. Instead, he used lumps of dead coral to grow new coral.

"Back in the 1980s, many reefs were suffering, but the decline really picked up in the 1990s when Southeast Asian economies developed rapidly and when mass tourism started to make inroads. Businesses back then didn't think about sustainability and often built on top of reefs, to extend available land. Now there's a growing awareness that the coral needs to be saved."

By 2010, Abdullah had refined his technique and founded coral conservation group [Ocean Quest](#). Initially active in Malaysia, the organisation soon began to work in Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines, and began taking on projects outside Asia in 2017.

Asia's coral gardener on a quest to save the world's imperilled reefs

“As we are registered as a social enterprise, we are primarily engaged in training. We work with local stakeholders and we engage the local community on every coral reef rehabilitation project. In fact, we only work with governments if they come to us and ask us for help. It is much easier working with resorts or associations. Of course, our strategy depends on many factors. Not every reef is the same. Local climate and the amount of damage done, play a role in how we work. The measure of our success becomes apparent through how much a project is able to give back to the community and the environment.”

Ocean Quest enters four-year agreements with stakeholders. The organisation then typically builds a coral nursery and trains local people to look after it and how to help the coral grow.

“We take direct action without delay and work in hectares, acres and square kilometers. Our approach is industrial. We rehabilitate entire reefs. We have developed a simple education system that allows the public to take part in coral reef rehabilitation and we apply this method everywhere we go. We worked on reefs destroyed by Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines in late 2013, which suffered 99.8 per cent damage. But we still managed to bring the coral back.”



Ocean Quest working on a reef devastated by Typhoon Haiyan. Image: [Ocean Quest on Facebook](#)

Asia's coral gardener on a quest to save the world's imperilled reefs

Ocean Quest currently runs 13 projects around Borneo. Off the island's west coast on Sepanggar Island, the local communities cut all the sea grass three years ago that grew along the coast line. It had made the beaches look dirty. As a consequence, run-off from monsoon rains washed straight into off shore coral reefs, the filtering function of the sea grass gone. The reefs silted up and died.

"There's no point regrowing coral here unless we also regrow the sea grass. We need to look at the bigger picture, so we can develop a particular strategy for every situation we encounter. So, we're now engaged in two projects – first regrow the sea grass, then regrow the coral."

Reefs die for a variety of reasons, all of them man-made. On the opposite side of Borneo at Mabul Island, Ocean Quest was faced with an entirely different challenge. The reef here has been overharvested by fishing with dynamite and poison.



Work to coral restore reefs at Maya Bay. Image: [Ocean Quest Thailand](#)

In Thailand, Abdullah initiated the rehabilitation of Maya Bay, famous for having served as a location in Leonardo DiCaprio's *The Beach* movie (2000). The Thai government closed Maya Bay in 2018 after decades of mass tourism had destroyed the coral and alienated the resident reef sharks. Abdullah created a tourism sustainability strategy for the 300-metre-long bay. Working with the national park and private stakeholders, Ocean Quest developed a sustainable tourism strategy and initiated coral growth. The bay reopened in spring 2022, with restrictions – visitors



Asia's coral gardener on a quest to save the world's imperilled reefs

are no longer aloud to swim and long tail boats are not allowed into the bay. But visitor numbers were still too high and Maya Bay is closing again over the summer.

"The national park largely followed our recommendations. But they need to stay the course, if Maya Bay is really to recover," Abdullah told Eco-Business.

With large projects running near the Red Sea resort town Hurghada in Egypt and in French Polynesia, Abdullah spends most of his time on the road. He's particularly excited to travel to the Mergui Archipelago in the Andaman Sea, off the coast of Myanmar. Here, coral grounds have been devastated by dynamite fishing and a resort island has asked Ocean Quest to take a look at what can be done to restore coral in the area.

In November, Ocean Quest will be presenting its work at the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) in Egypt, to convey the urgency of coral conservation to a global audience.

After 40 years of research, failure and success, Abdullah remains an optimist at heart. "Although a fair amount of the ocean's paradise is broken, Ocean Quest made it its purpose to tend to it and heal it through conservation."

Healthy planet needs 'ocean action' from Asian and Pacific countries

June 26, 2022 | 5:54 pm

By Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana



FREEPIK

AS THE Second Global Ocean Conference opens today in Lisbon, governments in Asia and the Pacific must seize the opportunity to enhance cooperation and solidarity to address a host of challenges that endanger what is a lifeline for millions of people in the region.

If done right, ocean action will also be climate action but this will require working in concert on a few fronts.

First, we must invest in and support science and technology to produce key solutions. Strengthening science-policy interfaces to bridge practitioners and policymakers contributes to a sound understanding of ocean-climate synergies, thereby enabling better policy design, an important priority of the Indonesian Presidency of the G20 process. Additionally, policy support tools can assist governments in identifying and prioritizing actions through policy and SDG (Sustainable Development Goals) tracking and scenario development.

We must also make the invisible visible through ocean data: just three of 10 targets for the goal on life below water are measurable in Asia and the Pacific. Better data is the foundation of better policies and collective action. The Global Ocean Accounts Partnership (GOAP) is an innovative multi-stakeholder collective established to enable countries and other stakeholders to go beyond GDP and to measure and manage progress towards ocean sustainable development.

Solutions for low-carbon maritime transport are also a key part of the transition to decarbonization by the middle of the century. Countries in Asia and the Pacific recognized this when adopting a new Regional Action Program last December, putting more emphasis on such concrete steps as innovative shipping technologies, cooperation on green shipping corridors, and more efficient use of existing port infrastructure and facilities to make this ambition a reality. Finally, aligning finance with our ocean, climate and broader SDG aspirations provides a crucial foundation for all of our action. Blue bonds are an attractive instrument both for governments



Healthy planet needs 'ocean action' from Asian and Pacific countries

interested in raising funds for ocean conservation and for investors interested in contributing to sustainable development in addition to obtaining a return for their investment.

These actions and others are steps towards ensuring the viability of several of the region's key ocean-based economic sectors, such as seaborne trade, tourism and fisheries. An estimated 50% to 80% of all life on Earth is found under the ocean surface. Seven of every 10 fish caught around the globe come from Pacific waters. And we know that the oceans and coasts are also vital allies in the fight against climate change, with coastal systems such as mangroves, salt marshes, and seagrass meadows at the frontline of climate change, absorbing carbon at rates of up to 50 times those of the same area of tropical forest. But the health of the oceans in Asia and the Pacific is in serious decline: rampant pollution, destructive and illegal fishing practices, inadequate marine governance and continued urbanization along coastlines have destroyed 40% of the coral reefs and approximately 60% of the coastal mangroves, while fish stocks continue to decline and consumption patterns remain unsustainable. These and other pressures exacerbate climate-induced ocean acidification and warming and weaken the capacity of oceans to mitigate the impacts of climate change. Global climate change is also contributing to sea-level rise, which affects coastal and island communities severely, resulting in greater disaster risk, internal displacement, and international migration.

To promote concerted action, ESCAP (the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific), in collaboration with partner UN agencies, provides a regional platform in support of SDG14, aligned within the framework of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030). Through four editions so far of the Asia-Pacific Day for the Ocean, we also support countries in identifying and putting in place solutions and accelerated actions through regional dialogue and cooperation.

It is abundantly clear there can be no healthy planet without a healthy ocean. Our leaders meeting in Lisbon must step up efforts to protect the ocean and its precious resources and to build sustainable blue economies.

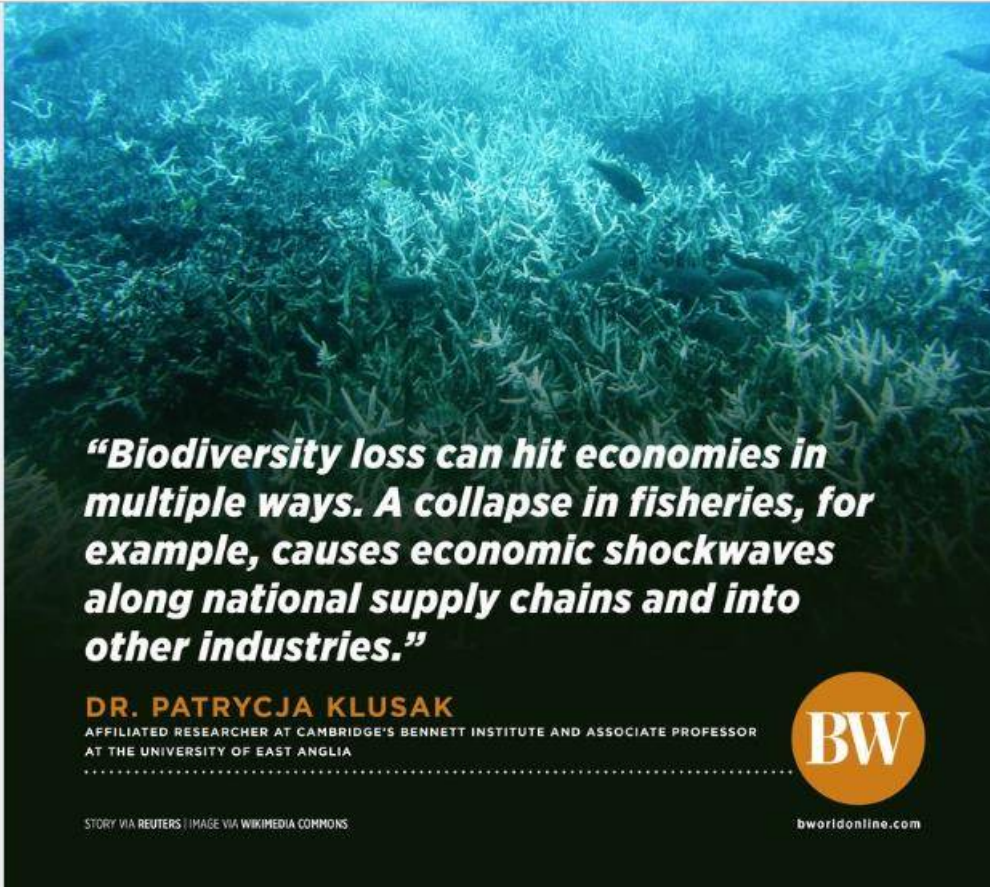
Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana is an under-secretary-general of the United Nations and executive secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).



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19 hrs · 🌐

Major global biodiversity loss could cause enough economic damage by the end of the decade to severely cut more than half of the world's sovereign credit ratings — including China's, the first major study on the issue has warned. <https://zcu.io/okQG>



“Biodiversity loss can hit economies in multiple ways. A collapse in fisheries, for example, causes economic shockwaves along national supply chains and into other industries.”

DR. PATRYCJA KLUSAK
AFFILIATED RESEARCHER AT CAMBRIDGE'S BENNETT INSTITUTE AND ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF EAST ANGLIA

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Renewable energy dev't boosts China's pursuit for carbon goals

June 26, 2022, 7:16 pm



Photo taken on April 13, 2022 shows a wind farm in Binhai New Area, north China's Tianjin. *(Xinhua/Sun Fanyue)*

BEIJING -- China has seen rapid development of renewable energy in 2021, laying a solid foundation for the country's pursuit of its carbon peaking and carbon neutrality goals, according to a report.

Last year, the country's renewable energy utilization amounted to the equivalent of saving 750 million tonnes of standard coal, helping reduce carbon dioxide emissions by about 1.95 billion tonnes, the report released by the China Renewable Energy Engineering Institute showed.

China's installed capacity of renewable energy reached one billion kilowatts in 2021, accounting for 44.8 percent of the country's total installed power capacity, the report said.

In terms of power generation, the country's renewable energy generated 2.48 trillion kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity in 2021, accounting for 29.7 percent of the total power generation, it said.

By the end of May this year, the country's installed capacity of renewable energy hit a new record high by exceeding 1.1 billion kilowatts, the report said.



Renewable energy dev't boosts China's pursuit for carbon goals

The rapid development of renewable energy has made a positive contribution to building a clean, low-carbon, safe and efficient energy system, it added.

China has announced that it will strive for peaking carbon dioxide emissions by 2030 and achieving carbon neutrality by 2060.

The country is forging ahead in renewable energy development to improve its energy structure.

According to a five-year plan issued earlier this month, by 2025, the country's annual power generation from renewable energy sources will reach 3.3 trillion kWh, and renewable energy consumption will amount to the equivalent of saving 1 billion tonnes of standard coal.

China will accelerate the construction of storage facilities and upgrade its power grids to feature intelligent functions in an effort to accommodate the development of clean energy, according to the plan. (*Xinhua*)

G7 discusses energy cuts, climate



By [Agence France-Presse](#)

June 27, 2022



POTUS President Joe Biden (right) is greeted by children wearing traditional Bavarian clothes upon his arrival at the Franz Josef Strauss Airport in Munich, southern Germany on June 25, 2022 (June 26 in Manila), on the eve of the G7 summit. AFP PHOTO

ELMAU CASTLE, Germany: Leaders of the Group of Seven (G7) rich nations will be under pressure to stick to climate pledges in Bavaria from Sunday (Monday in Manila), as Russia's energy cuts trigger a dash back to planet-heating fossil fuels.

Germany finds itself in an awkward position as G7 summit host, having recently announced that Europe's biggest economy will burn more coal to offset a drop in Russian gas supplies amid deteriorating ties over the war in Ukraine.

Chancellor Olaf Scholz nevertheless insists the G7 remains committed to the Paris Agreement of limiting global temperature increases to 1.5 degrees Celsius, and achieving carbon neutrality by 2050.

But concerns are growing that Scholz will use the gathering to push G7 partners to water down a previous promise to stop financing gas and oil projects abroad by the end of the year.

"That would be a real setback," said Alden Meyer, a senior associate at climate policy think tank E3G.

"Scholz could go down in history as the climate backtracking chancellor."



G7 discusses energy cuts, climate

US President Joe Biden, French President Emmanuel Macron and their counterparts from Britain, Italy, Canada and Japan will all be joining Scholz at the luxurious Elmau Castle from Sunday to Tuesday.

Thousands of people marched in the city of Munich on the eve of the summit to urge G7 leaders to do more to fight climate change.

'Bitter' coal comeback

With the impact of the climate crisis already being felt across the globe through devastating floods, rising seas and crop-wilting droughts, the summit will be closely watched for fresh funding pledges to help poor nations cope.

But hopes of a breakthrough are low, as the conflict in Ukraine dominates the agenda and Western attention shifts to the vast sums that will be needed to rebuild the country.

"Before the war there was a clear intent, also from Germany, to really deliver on climate finance and this seems off the table now," said Susanne Droege, a climate policy analyst at Germany's Institute for International and Security Affairs.

Soaring energy prices and fears that Moscow could abruptly cut off supplies have left European nations scrambling to wean themselves off Russian oil, coal and gas.

With renewables like solar and wind power not yet a widely available alternative, countries including Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Austria are reverting to fossil fuels to plug the gap.

German Energy Minister Robert Habeck, a Green party politician, called the decision to reactivate mothballed coal-fired plants "bitter" but necessary for energy security.

He stressed that Germany was still on track to close its coal plants by 2030 and remained committed to a massive shift toward renewable energy.

Droege said Russia's aggression in Ukraine had exposed the risks of fossil fuel dependency.

"The only benefit of this war is that... understanding has increased that renewable sources of energy will pay off," said Droege.

'Empty promises'

Environmentalists say a key focus of the G7 climate talks should be on helping the most vulnerable nations that are already bearing the brunt of the climate emergency.

"In the Horn of Africa, a terrible drought is leaving over 18 million people suffering from food insecurity," Ugandan youth activist Vanessa Nakate told reporters ahead of the summit.

"We are tired of empty promises. We need the G7 countries to put money on the table for loss and damage."

Scholz himself aims to launch a "climate club" that would see willing nations agree to play by the same rules to avoid competitive disadvantages.



G7 discusses energy cuts, climate

This could include setting carbon pricing standards or uniform regulations on what constitutes green hydrogen. Japan and the United States, however, have no plans to introduce a national carbon price.

Observers say strong signals are needed from the G7 ahead of the United Nations COP27 climate talks in Egypt in November.

The final G7 statement will be scoured for any walking back of previous pledges, including a promise to largely decarbonize their countries' electricity sectors by 2035.

A long-standing promise by wealthy nations to spend \$100 billion a year from 2020 to help developing countries adapt to climate change remains unmet.

27 JUNE 2022, Monday



DENR

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PH, FRANCE RELATIONS — Senator Cynthia Villar (seventh from left) and officials from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Embassy of France and the Together-Ensemble Foundation (TEF) unveil a sculpture entitled "Intertwined" and created by artist Raphael Daniel David (eighth from left) during the inauguration of the France-Philippines Friendship Park at the Las Piñas-Parañaque Wetland Park on Sunday, June 26, 2022. The others in the photo are (from left) TEF Vice President Commissioner Ramon Moreno Jr., TEF Founder and President Hubert d' Aboville, France Senator Samantha Cazebonne, France representative for Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) economic relations Francois Corbin, French Ambassador Michèle Boccoz, TEF Board member Neric Acosta, DENR Assistant Secretary Gilbert D. Gonzales, DENR-National Capital Region Director Jacqueline Caanca, DENR Assistant Secretary Hero Masuda, DENR Assistant Director Jun Almira, DENR Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) Director Natividad Benardino, and (seated) DENR Director Khalil Bayam. Story on Page 5. (Noel B. Pabalate)



DENR-CSU project aims to conserve PHL bamboo species

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has partnered with the Cagayan State University (CSU) to implement a research and development project that aims to conserve and propagate economically-important bamboo species in the Philippines.

The Bamboo Characterization Project costs P1.6 million, consisting of P1.261 million from DENR and P340,000 from CSU. Aside from involving DENR's local offices in Cagayan, implementor includes Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Offices of Cagayan, and the Central Analytical Laboratory of CSU.

Project Leader Jeff M. Opeña said they will implement phytochemical screening and DNA barcoding of se-

lected bamboo species, while exploring the pharmaceutical-industrial prospects of bamboos.

Alvin Jose L. Reyes and Eddie B. Abugan Jr of the Project Management Division (PMD), a unit of the DENR's Foreign Assisted and Special Projects said bamboo has numerous industrial, pharmaceutical, phytochemical, medical, nutritional, and food advantages.

Reyes and Abugan said the characterization of bamboo germplasm is an important connection between conservation of diversity and utilization of germplasms such as seeds or living tissues that carry genetic resources useful in plant breeding and conservation.

Proponents of the bamboo project recently made a presentation

before members of the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) of the Palau Island Protected Landscape and Seascape (PIPLS) in Sta. Ana, Cagayan, in relation to its petition for a gratuitous permit to conduct the bamboo characterization and sample collection activities on the island.

The project, which also aims to refurbish a research laboratory in CSU-Gonzaga, will collect and characterize different species in different ecosystems in Cagayan Province.

Proponents said DNA barcoding will be a modern and innovative way to characterize bamboo species. It will accelerate experts' identification of the species that they desire to use based on traits—such as fast propagation or medicinal proper-

ties, they said.

Bamboo has been traditionally characterized based on its flowering frequency or abundance—annual flowering, sporadic or regular flowering, and gregarious flowering.

"However, characterization using floral morphology posed a limitation and difficulty due to the requirement of long period of time which can occur in years or even decades," Reyes and Abugan said in a statement.

Moreover, biochemical characterization through phytochemical (plant chemistry) screening enables experts in pharmaceuticals and medicine to detect plant secondary metabolites in bamboo which have utilization potentials in the industry.

While primary metabolites include small molecules like amino

acids and sugars, secondary plant metabolites such as alkaloids, anthocyanin, flavonoids, phenols, saponins, steroids, tannins, and terpenoids are studied for medicinal plant herbal purposes, among other possible commercial uses.

Former DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu ordered in November 2020 the extensive propagation of bamboo in Cagayan Valley to prevent massive flooding that plagued the province arising from Typhoon Ulysses.

Executive Order (EO) 879 also mandated that 25 percent of the annual school desks of the Department of Education should be made of bamboo. EO 879 creates the Philippine Bamboo Industry Development Council (PBIDC).

The DENR's own reforestation ar-

reas should be planted with bamboo, in its directive to DENR-attached Forest Management Bureau, Laguna Lake Development Authority, and Mines and Geosciences Bureau.

Aside from involving DENR's local offices in Cagayan, the implementor of the project includes Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Offices of Cagayan, and the Central Analytical Laboratory of CSU.

Aside from preventing flooding effects of typhoons, DENR also aims to use bamboo as tool to climate change mitigation. Bamboo is known to sequester five metric tons of carbon dioxide per hectare of plantation.

Bamboo is also being planted in the rivers of Marikina and Bicol—areas usually flooded during typhoons.


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Regulatory capture vs Masungi Geopark project

"REGULATORY capture" is a political-science term, which its critics say, however, is merely a polite term for a specific instance of what we commonly



**RIGOBERTO
D. TIGLAO**

refer to as "graft and corruption." It refers to the oh-so-common phenomenon of capitalists co-opting regulators — whether bribes are involved or not — to the extent of bending the rules and making the state agencies in charge of implementing regulations inutile and servile to the will of capitalists.

► TiglaoA5



■ TIGLAO FROM A1

Regulatory capture vs Masungi Geopark project

Officials — crooked or just sharing the capitalists' ideology — mislead their superiors, divert the issue and delay action to protect the interests of their patrons.

There are strong indications that such regulatory capture is at work in the case of the Masungi Georeserve in Tanay, Rizal, in the southern Sierra Madre range, with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) as the target of the "capture."

The conservation project is named as such because it involves conserving 3,000 hectares of forest that centers on the limestone formation called Masungi Rock.

President Rodrigo Duterte demonstrated his political will early in his term when he backed in 2017 the Masungi Georeserve managed by the Masungi Geopark Foundation, which his then environment secretary, the well-known environmentalist, the late Gina Lopez, had been championing.

In five years, the project rescued from illegal activities around 2,000 hectares of land and thousands of mature Benguet pine trees planted by the first Marcos government in the 1970s. Safe from poachers and now under strict protection, young pine tree saplings are growing and thriving near their towering mother trees.

In danger

However, these rescued forests and pine trees are once again in danger. Three quarrying companies are claiming that their mineral production sharing agreements (MPSAs) awarded 24 years ago over 1,300 hectares of the protected and conserved areas are still valid. The Masungi Geopark Foundations claim these MPSAs are de facto license to quarry, which would damage the Masungi Georeserve. Two of them, Rapid City and Quarry Rock, allegedly insist on quarrying the watershed and wildlife sanctuary.

It is shameful, and totally beyond his competence for DENR bureaucrat Dondi Sarmiento, director of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau's Calabarzon office, to dismiss the Masungi Geopark Foundation's opposition to the quarrying on the grounds, he says, that the Constitution stipulates that "private property shall not be taken for public use without just compensation." He claims the MPSAs were issued long before the Masungi conservation project.

This bureaucrat doesn't know what he is talking about. His expertise involves rocks not laws: He is not a lawyer but a geologist. Unless he was asked to immediately issue a decision in favor of the quarrying firms, he should have referred the matter to the DENR's huge legal department, or even to the solicitor general, especially since the Masungi Geopark was a project of Duterte himself, and the

past two DENR secretaries, Lopez and her successor, Roy Cimatu. Or perhaps he is thinking that Duterte is on his way out anyway.

Reading Sarmiento's letter to the Masungi Foundation, I am starting to doubt if he is competent in his own field, geology, since he declared that quarrying in Masungi will only bring "temporary disturbance to the landscape since the quarries will have rehabilitation plans anyway." In a letter to another columnist, Sarmiento even said, rather atrociously, I think: "With or without quarrying in Rizal, flooding within the low-lying areas of the Marikina River Basin will remain as such a natural hazard."

De facto PR

Sarmiento even appears to have become the de facto PR for the quarrying firms by claiming in his letter: "The mining and quarrying operations in the province of Rizal are the key producers in the country of primary components of construction materials for the development of buildings, bridges, houses and schools, health centers, etc., that are essential for the Build, Build, Build program of this administration." Huh? Ban quarrying, and you sabotage the BBB program? Why doesn't Sarmiento stick to his job description, and forget what would be the problems of the DPWH and other departments.

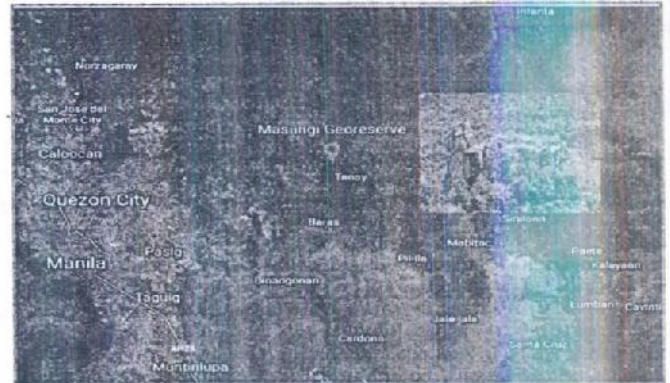
Sarmiento should read the report, written by five geologists commissioned by the National Museum of the Philippines chairperson Luli Arroyo-Bernas (former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's daughter), that warned of the consequences of quarrying to Masungi and to the Marikina Valley:

The report warned: "Activities such as forestry, agricultural activities, land clearance, quarrying, waste disposal, or other landfill and other developmental activities, if there are any, in the vicinity of the geopark may not cause direct destruction in the geopark itself, but may still disrupt the geological systems around and can have expensive consequences."

A 2017 World Bank report also debunks Sarmiento's preposterous claims. In a study made in the Upper Marikina Watershed, it concluded that "higher forest cover can help reduce the volume of floodwater generated in a watershed by 27 percent to 47 percent during the three wettest months of the year. . . Forests can help reduce the potential flooding impacts of heavy rainstorms and typhoons by increasing the time difference between peak rainfall and peak discharge by two to seven hours, and reducing the peak discharge by 20 percent to 32 percent."

Cancelation

Actually, former Environment



■ Location of the Masungi Georeserve. (Inset: Masungi Rock) PHOTOS FROM GOOGLE EARTH

secretary Roy Cimatu had announced the cancellation of these MPSAs as early as March 2020 for being inside protected areas and a watershed. Section 18 of RA (Republic Act) 11038, which amended Section 20 of RA 7586 reinforced mining as a prohibited act in protected areas: ". . . the following acts are prohibited within protected areas: . . . p) Undertaking mineral exploration or extraction within the protected area; q) Engaging in commercial or large-scale quarrying within the protected area."

The Philippine Mining Act of 1995 itself bans mining inside national parks and proclaimed watershed reserves: "Mineral agreement or financial or technical assistance agreement applications shall not be allowed in . . . (f) Old growth or virgin forests, proclaimed watershed forest reserves, wilderness areas, mangrove forests, mossy forests, national parks provincial/municipal forests, parks, greenbelts, game refuge and bird sanctuaries as defined by law."

If quarrying in Masungi is contrary to the law, then why is the DENR still taking the MPSAs in Masungi as still valid, years after Cimatu's announcement?

The law is clear that protected areas and proclaimed watershed reserves are off-limits to quarries. Agreements that are against the law cannot be condoned, especially if they endanger people's lives. Even private rights, if any, cannot supersede the prohibitions set by law.

Show cause

Actually, a "show cause order" had been issued to the three quarrying companies in April 2021, informing them that they had committed "gross violations constituting breach of their contracts." These breaches, including not being able to commence extraction for some 24 years, are grounds for cancellation of their MPSAs. More than one year after these show cause orders were issued, the MGB Central Office has yet to file a formal recommendation to the DENR head. Hence, no DENR decision to cancel the MPSAs has been made.

In April 2022, acting Environment Secretary Jim Sampulna held a press conference and issued a "suspension" order of the "activities" of the quarrying companies. Why doesn't the DENR just implement the regulations and the law, that the MPSAs should be canceled?

Mayors of the municipalities near Rizal who want to be sure no quarrying-created floods inundate their areas have joined the call for the immediate cancellation of the MPSAs, since deforestation in the Upper Marikina Watershed, a portion of which is included in the Masungi Geopark Project, is one of the many factors that had generated disastrous floods in these downstream cities.

Environment officials should be the first and staunchest defenders of our natural environment. Sadly, as the experience in Masungi shows, they behave at worst, more like defenders of those who threaten the environment, or at best bureaucrats shaking in their boots when they are sued by powerful companies for implementing environmental regulations.

For all the DENR's blah-blah in its attempt to wiggle out of the obvious need to cancel these quarrying firms' permits, what its officials forget is the following: In case of doubt, it should side with those seeking to protect the environment, since once damaged, it will take generations to repair. For rich companies, foregone revenues from quarrying will just be a loss they can easily recover.

There is a fundamental reason why it is called the "Department of the Environment and Natural Resources," and not the "Department for Mining and Other Extractive Industries." That is also the reason why an environmentalist was appointed to head it and then a military man programmed to enforce the rules, and not an executive of a mining firm.

These DENR bureaucrats should realize that.

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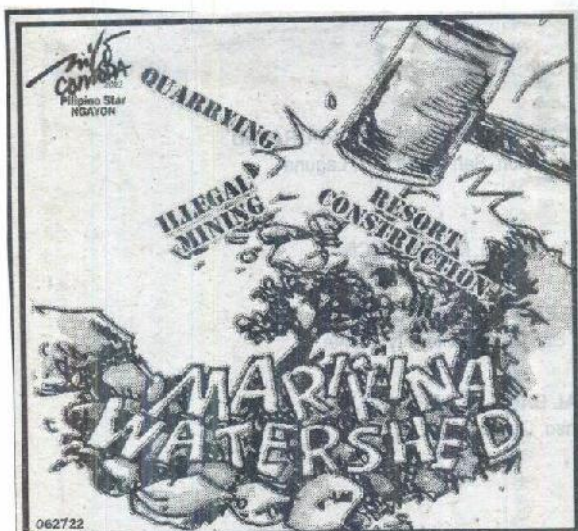
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Editorial

Itigil, quarrying sa Marikina Watershed

WALA pang pinapangalanan si president-elect Ferdinand Marcos Jr. na uupong Environment secretary. Maselan ang posisyon na ito sapagkat nakaatang sa balikat ng pinuno ang bigat nang dinaranas na pagkasira ng mga bundok, watershed at iba pa dahil sa ilegal na pagmimina, quarrying, at iba pang salot sa kapaligiran. Ang pagkasira ng mga bundok ang dahilan ng grabeng baha na nararanasan ngayon. Maraming panot na bundok ang nabibiyak at umaagos mula rito ang putik at mga bato at inilibing nang buhay ang mga residenteng nasa paanan.

Ganito ang problemang kinakaharap kapag hindi napigilan ang pagmimina, quarrying at resort construction sa Masungi Upper Marikina Watershed sa Baras, Rizal. Kapag hindi ipinatigil ang mga ginagawang ilegal na aktibidad sa nasabing protected area, babaha sa Metro Manila. Nakalulunog ang maaring mangyari kapag hindi naputol ang mga ginagawang paghuhukay sa reserve areas. Ang Marikina watershed ay napagkalooban ng proteksiyon sa ilalim ng Republic Act No. 7586 o ang National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act of 1992.

Ang large scale quarrying sa lugar ang labis na pinangangambahan ngayon. Umaabot sa 1,300 ektarya ng watershed protected area ang nasakop na ng quarrying operations. Kamakailan, ang mga mayor ng Marikina, Quezon City, Muntinlupa at Pasig ay nanawagan sa DENR na kanselahin ang mineral production sharing agreements (MPSA) na Inisyu sa quarrying firms, subalit walang pagkilos ang nasabing tanggapan.

Noong nakaraang Abril, ang Masungi Georeserve Foundation sa Baras ay umapela na kay President Duterte at kay DENR Sec. Jim Sapulna na kanselahin ang MPSA sa Upper Marikina Watershed upang mapigilan ang panganib na idudulot ng mga ginagawang aktibidad sa lugar. Ang grupo ng Masungi ang nagpapantili at nagre-rehabilitate sa portion ng watershed.

Payo ni Duterte sa Masungi Foundation, sampahan ng kaso ang mga sumisira sa Marikina Watershed. Ipinagutos niya ito sa kalihim ng DENR at sa Anti-Illegal logging Task Force. Ayon sa Presidente, nangangamba sila sa nangyayaring illegal activities sa watershed.

Bagamat may direktiba na ang presidente, hindi rin kumilos ang DENR at iba pang ahensiya para mapigil ang quarrying operations sa lugar. Ayon sa report "malalaking pulitiko" ang may-ari ng quarrying kaya hindi maipatigil.

Malaking hamon sa bagong DENR secretary ang kalagayan ng Marikina Watershed. Ipatigil ang quarrying bago maging huli ang lahat.



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Investments in mineral processing pushed

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is pushing for the establishment of more mineral processing plants and for the utilization of rare earth elements (REEs) to increase the country's mineral production and revenue generation.

The agency said there are 108 active mineral processing permits, most of which are for construction materials including those for limestone, sand, gravel and aggregates.

"Mineral processing plants make the mined mineral ready to use for application. For example, limestone, if processed, will become cement, which is ready to use for construction... If we have more of these plants and more minerals will be processed in the country, then its value will increase even more than 100 percent, and lesser raw materials will be shipped out to other countries, like Japan or China," said Jim Sampulna, DENR acting secretary, in a statement.

Sampulna also proposed the identification of rare earth elements (REEs) such as scandium and yttrium in operating mines as these are essential materials for many technological devices.



More mineral processing plants will boost PH revenue ops – ex-DENR chief

FORMER environment Secretary Jim Sampulna expressed confidence that having more mineral processing plants in the country will help increase the country's mineral production and revenue operation.

According to Sampulna, the DENR during his short stint as acting head, has pushed for the establishment of more (mineral processing) plants and utilization of rare earth deposits.

Mineral processing plants he pointed out, will make the mined mineral ready to use for application.

He cited as example, limestone which if processed, will become cement, which is ready to use for construction.

"If we have more of these plants and more minerals will be processed in the country, then its value will increase even more than 100 percent, and lesser raw materials will be shipped out to other countries, like Japan or China," he said.

The DENR-Mines and Geosciences Bureau has so far issued 108 mineral processing permits, most of which are for construction materials.

Likewise, Sampulna proposed the identification of rare earth elements (REEs), such as scandium and yttrium, in operating mines.

Sampulna, who was the former DENR undersecretary for mining, said that these metals are essential parts for many

high-technology devices.

"The Philippines is conducive to these minerals. It could contribute to the national government through the identification and utilization of these commodities. To date, there are only a few operating mines which have identified REEs," he said.

Last week, the proposed iron mineral processing plant in Zamboanga had its groundbreaking ceremony.

According to Sampulna, the plant will support the DENR's initiatives toward self-utilization of mineral commodities in the country.

"We hope that investors will push for the opening of more processing plants in the Philippines," he said. **Joel dela Torre**



Boosting sustainability in insurance by harnessing the value of mangrove forests

SO, we all know that the Philippines is the preferred target of Pacific Ocean-born typhoons. On top of that, I am sure you have noticed or are noticing the increase in the number and ferocity of normal weather occurrences, said to be the result of climate change. Just the other day, there were video clips trending on social media of trees blowing away, vehicles pushed off course and wind-driven rain moving in all directions. On top of that, it showed the bottom tip of a tornado right smack in the middle of the San Lazaro district of Manila! This was not a named typhoon, this was merely your usual monsoon season, afternoon thunderstorm only this time on steroids. Scientists have been raising the alarm bells around the globe against our worsening weather, and I hope governments and the populace are listening.

We, in the insurance industry, are in the business of risk and we better take note not only of the



INSURANCE-
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elevated amount of risk, but of measures we can take or adopt that may help mitigate the risk itself or the damage that may result from the occurrence of such risk.

On Wednesday, July 6, 2022, groundbreaking research on how we insurers can improve our risk modeling and enhance the resilience of infrastructure to climate change by incorporating the economic value of coastal mangrove forests as natural storm barriers will be unveiled. For the environmental activists among us, this is a win-win as the study shows that mangroves are not just a powerful source of natural carbon capture and storage (one of if not the best carbon sinks), but they can save an estimated \$65 billion per



year in avoided losses from floods and storms and 50 times more cost-effective at resisting storms and storm surges than building concrete sea walls. In this report, we will see that in some coastal cities, mangroves can reduce up to 100 percent of the physical damage from storms and floods. The case studies show that "mangroves are particularly effective in their ability to absorb the impact of waves and storm surges: 100-meter-wide mangrove forests can reduce the

height of waves by up to 70 percent, while 500-meter-wide forests can reduce it by up to 100 percent."

It is also an accepted fact that mangroves are also valuable as fertile breeding grounds for all kinds of sea life, commercial types of fish included. The Philippines is notorious for its air quality, and mangroves are the best air purifiers and source of oxygen. Among the countries in the world, the Philippines is blessed with the most mangroves.



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Boosting sustainability...

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but because of ignorance and neglect, mangrove deforestation is also at its peak. If not addressed, we may lose all our mangroves within the next decade or so.

Earth Security, a think tank and sustainable finance company, in partnership with the Philippine Insurers and Reinsurers Association (PIRA), is collaborating to help make this study a reality. Alejandro Litovsky, the chief executive officer and founder of Earth Security as well as the study's lead author, said: "Financial and corporate decision-makers, without an understanding of nature-based solutions are missing out on the opportunity to develop the companies of the future; inspire clients and employees; build resilience to climate change; restore biodiversity and support and protect local communities." As for me, and I am sure of the entire PIRA membership, we recognize the strategic potential for our industry to factor coastal ecosystems into underwrit-

ing processes. PIRA supports Earth Security's work and innovative insights into the risk mitigation qualities of natural assets, helping build the resilience of the Philippines and the insurance sector to catastrophic weather events.

In the Philippines, as well as the world at large, industry practitioners have not yet begun to recognize the value of such natural assets, and these are not reflected in any existing CAT models used to price insurance policies. On top of this, these models are based on past data and do not specify climate change scenarios making it a challenge for modelers and the insurance and reinsurance clients they serve. As the industry squares up to the task of overhauling tired old models to address global warming, climate change and the risks that it exacerbates, the report offers a simple methodology for the industry to update itself, see the value of working with nature and turning this into an opportunity.



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LLDA allowed excessive exploitation by private corporations: COA

BY PETER TABINGO

PRIVATE corporations operating fish pens and fish cages in Laguna de Bay have occupied 937 hectares more than their allotted area under the fishery Zoning and Management Guidelines (ZOMAG), to the disadvantage of small fishing families who are entitled to a bigger portion of the lake.

This was revealed in the 2021 report released last June 20 by the Commission on Audit, noting that the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) failed to enforce

the 60:40 sharing scheme under the ZOMAG of 2018.

According to the zoning policy, area allocation for aquaculture structures in Laguna de Bay should not exceed 9,200 hectares.

Under the 60:40 sharing scheme, the bigger cut totaling 5,520 hectares should go to small individual fishermen while the remaining 3,680 hectares can be allocated to private corporations and cooperatives.

However, actual allocations as of December 31, 2021 showed private corporations and cooperatives have occupied 4,617 hectares or P937

more than their allowable area.

Individual fishermen, on the other hand, were limited to 3,799.64 hectares, which was just 41 percent of the available area.

The COA said 138 private corporations and cooperatives also exceeded the single operator limit of 20 hectares.

According to the LLDA, since June 2021, no demolition has been undertaken against fish cages that exceeded the limits and that the reduction of occupied area allocation has been deferred until June 30, 2022.



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Balyena sumadsad sa Masbate

Nakita ang isang sperm whale na sumadsad sa mababaw na bahagi ng dagat ng Dimasalang, Masbate nitong Sabado.

Tinatayang aabot ng anim hanggang pitong tonelada ang bigat ng sperm whale na may 12 hanggang 15 talampakan ang haba.

Ayon kay Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) Bicol spokesperson Nonie Enolva, nakita ang balyena bandang alas-10:00 ng umaga at itina-boy ng mga residente sa mas malalim na bahagi

ng dagat.

Ngunit bandang alas-2:00 ng hapon ay nag-low tide kung kaya sumadsad ito sa bahagi ng dagat na may lalim na anim hanggang pitong talampakan.

Naka-monitor ang BFAR at ang lokal na pamahalaan upang tikyakin na maayos ang kalagayan ng balyena hanggang mag-alas-10:00 ng gabi, oras ng high tide sa lalawigan.

Humingi na rin sila ng tulong sa Philippine National Police. (Ansherina Jazul)



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Regions

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JOINT PROJECT Incoming Obando, Bulacan town mayor Leonardo Valeda visits the Paco-Tawiran dike, which has been repaired to stop water from flowing into Manila Bay. The repair was undertaken by the provincial government of Bulacan, city government of Valenzuela and Bulacan Second District Office of the Department of Public Works and Highways. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



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Healthy planet needs 'ocean action' from Asian and Pacific countries

By Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana

AS THE Second Global Ocean Conference opens today in Lisbon, governments in Asia and the Pacific must seize the opportunity to enhance cooperation and solidarity to address a host of challenges that endanger what is a lifeline for millions of people in the region.

If done right, ocean action will also be climate action but this will require working in concert on a few fronts.

First, we must invest in and support science and technology to produce key solutions. Strengthening science-policy interfaces to bridge practitioners and policymakers contributes to a sound understanding of ocean-climate synergies, thereby enabling better policy design, an important priority of the Indonesian Presidency of the G20 process. Additionally, policy support tools can assist governments in identifying and prioritizing actions through policy and SDG (Sustainable Development Goals) tracking and scenario development.

We must also make the invisible visible through ocean data: just three of 10 targets for the goal on life below water are measurable in Asia and the Pacific. Better data is the foundation of better policies and collective action. The Global Ocean Accounts Partnership (GOAP) is an innovative multi-stakeholder collective established to enable countries and other stakeholders to go beyond GDP and to measure and manage progress towards ocean sustainable development.

Solutions for low-carbon maritime transport are also a key part of the transition to decarbonization by the middle of the century. Countries in Asia and the Pacific recognized this when adopting a new Regional Action Program last December, putting more emphasis on such concrete steps as innovative shipping technologies, cooperation on green shipping corridors, and more efficient use of existing port infrastructure and facilities to make this ambition a reality. Finally, aligning finance with our ocean, climate and broader SDG aspirations provides a crucial foundation for all of our action. Blue bonds are an attractive instrument both for governments interested in raising funds for ocean conservation and for investors interested in contributing to sustainable development in addition to obtaining a return for their investment.

These actions and others are steps towards ensuring the viability of several of the region's key ocean-based economic sectors, such as seaborne trade, tourism and fisheries. An estimated 50% to 80% of all life on Earth is found under the ocean surface. Seven of every 10 fish caught around the globe come from Pacific waters. And we know that the oceans and coasts are also vital allies in the fight against climate change, with coastal systems such as mangroves, salt marshes, and seagrass meadows at the frontline of climate change, absorbing carbon at rates of up to 50 times those of the same area of tropical forest. But the health of the oceans in Asia and the Pacific is in serious decline: rampant pollution, destructive and illegal fishing practices, inadequate marine governance and continued urbanization along coastlines have destroyed 40% of the coral reefs and approximately 60% of the coastal mangroves, while fish stocks continue to decline and consumption patterns remain unsustainable. These and other pressures exacerbate climate-induced ocean acidification and warming and weaken the capacity of oceans to mitigate the impacts of climate change. Global climate change is also contributing to sea-level rise, which affects coastal and island communities severely, resulting in greater disaster risk, internal displacement, and international migration.

To promote concerted action, ESCAP (the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific), in collaboration with partner UN agencies, provides a regional platform in support of SDG14, aligned within the framework of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030). Through four editions so far of the Asia-Pacific Day for the Ocean, we also support countries in identifying and putting in place solutions and accelerated actions through regional dialogue and cooperation.

It is abundantly clear there can be no healthy planet without a healthy ocean. Our leaders meeting in Lisbon must step up efforts to protect the ocean and its precious resources and to build sustainable blue economies. ■

ARMIDA SALSIAH ALISJAHBANA is an under-secretary-general of the United Nations and executive secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).



Ammonia leaks again in Navotas ice plant

By Edd
Reyes

FOR the fourth time in two years, residents near the Magsimpan Ice Plant and Cold Storage experienced again an ammonia leak Saturday evening in Navotas City.

But this time, Navotas police investigator P/Cpl. Dandy Sargento said no one was reported hospitalized or died after the leaked toxic fumes was immediately contained.

Sargento said the ice plant had ceased its operation since April 5 when the city government of Navotas ordered its closure following the death of one of its employees who suffered a heart attack. Fifteen individuals who were all residents of North Bay Boulevard were also hospitalized during the incident.

In his report to Navotas police chief P/Col. Dexter

Ollating, Roey Ganzo, officer-in-charge of Maintenance Department of Magsimpan Ice Plant sought the assistance of Navotas police mobile car when he and other employees who were cleaning the remaining liquid sludge smelled an unpleasant odor of ammonia inside the ice plant at around 9 p.m.

Personnel of Navotas Sub-Station 4, along with the Navotas Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) led by F/Insp. Gabriel Trinidad and BFP Ambulance responded to the area and immediately contained the ammonia leak.

Sargento said Navotas BFP duty investigator SFO Junie Bert Mendoza is still conducting further investigation to determine the cause of the leak in spite of the closure order issued by the local government.



TITLE: _____

PAGE _____

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Ammonia leak sa ice plant sa Navotas

NABULABOG ang mga residente matapos tumagas ang ammonia sa isang planta ng yelo sa Navotas City Sabado ng gabi.

Sa report ni PCpl Dandy Sargenton kay Navotas Police chief Col. Dexter Ollaging, dakong alas-9:00 ng gabi nang maganap ang insidente sa Magsimpan Ice Plant

and Cold Storage Inc. sa M. Naval St., Brgy. NBBS Kaunlaran, Navotas City.

Sa pahayag sa pulisya ni Roey Ganzo, nasa hustong gulang at in-charge maintenance ng naturang planta ng yelo, naglilinis siya ng natitirang liquid sludge nang mapansin niya ang malakas na amoy ng ammonia sa loob ng residential area ng nasabing ice plant.

Kaagad silang umalis sa loob ng naturang lugar saka humingi ng tulong sa nagpatrolyang mga tauhan ng Navotas Police. Mabilis na

mang rumesponde sa naturang lugar ang Navotas Police Sub-Station 4 at Navotas Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) sa pangunguna ni F/Insp. Gabriel Trinidad.

Ayon sa mga awtoridad, wala namang iniulat na nasaktan o namatay sa nasabing insidente habang ayon kay BFP investigator SFO2 Junie Bert Mendoza, patuloy ang kanilang imbestigasyon sa nasabing insidente.

BOYSAN BUENAVENTURA



Ammonia, sumingaw sa ice plant sa Navotas

Nabulabog ang mga residente matapos sumingaw ang ammonia sa isang planta ng yelo sa Navotas City, noong Sabado ng gabi.

Sa report ng Navotas-PNP, alas-9:00 ng gabi nang maganap ang insidente sa Magsimban Ice Plant and Cold Storage Inc. na matatagpuan sa kahabaan ng M Naval St., Brgy. NBBS

Kaunlaran, Navotas City.

Sa pahayag sa pulisya ni Roey Ganzo, nasa hustong gulang at in-charge maintenance ng naturang planta ng yelo, habang naglilinis siya ng natitirang liquid sludge nang mapansin niya ang malakas na amoy ng ammonia sa loob ng residential area ng nasabing ice plant.

Kaagad silang umalis sa loob ng naturang lugar saka humingi ng tulong sa nagpapatrolyang mga tauhan ng Navotas police.

Mabilis namang rumesponde sa naturang lugar ang pulisya at bumbero sa lugar at wala namang napaulat na nasaktan o nasawi sa nasabing insidente.

-Doris Franche-



TITLE: _____

PAGE _____

DATE _____

Ammonia leak in Navotas

Fumes from ice plant immediately contained, no casualties reported

By EDD REYES

FOR the fourth time in two years, an ammonia leak from the Magsimpam Ice Plant and Cold Storage was reported Saturday evening in Navotas City.

/Page 11

AMMONIA

FROM PAGE 1

But this time, Navotas police investigator P/Cpl. Dandy Sargento said no one was reported hospitalized or died after the leaked toxic fumes was immediately contained.

Sargento said the ice plant had ceased its operation since April 05, 2022 when the City Government of Navotas ordered its closure following the death of one of its employee who suffered a heart attack

while some 15 individuals who were all residents of North Bay Boulevard were hospitalized due to difficulty of breathing caused by ammonia leak.

In his report to Navotas police chief P/Col. Dexter Ollating, Sargento said that at around 9 p.m. on Saturday, Roey Ganzo, officer-in-charge of Manintenan Department of Magsimpam Ice Plant sought the assistance of Navotas police mobile car when he and other employees who were cleaning the remaining liquid sludge smelled the un-

pleasant odor of ammonia inside the ice plant.

Personnel of Navotas Sub-Station 4, along with the Navotas Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) led by F/Insp. Gabriel Trinidad and BFP Ambulance responded to the area and immediately contained the ammonia leak.

Sargento said Navotas BFP duty investigator SFO Junie Bert Mendoza is still conducting further investigation to determine the cause of the leak despite the closure order issued by the local government.



06-27-22

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AMMONIA LEAK SA ICE PLANT

NABULABOG ang mga residente matapos ang ammonia leak sa isang planta ng yelo sa Navotas City, kamakalawang gabi.

Sa report ni PCpl. Dandy Sargenton kay Navotas police chief Col. Dexter Ollaging, alas-9 ng gabi nang maganap ang insidente sa

Magsimpan Ice Plant and Cold Storage Inc. sa kahabaan ng M. Naval St., Bgy. NBBS Kaunlaran. Sa pahayag sa pulisya ni Roey Ganzo, in-charge maintenance ng naturang planta, naglilinis siya ng natitirang liquid sludge nang mapansin niya ang malakas na amoy ng

ammonia sa loob ng residential area ng nasabing ice plant. Agad silang umalis sa loob ng naturang lugar saka humingi ng tulong sa nagpapatrolyang mga tauhan ng

Navotas police.

Mabilis namang rumesponde ang mga tauhan ng Navotas Police Sub-Station 4, at Navotas Bureau of Fire Protection sa pangunguna ni F/Insp. Gabriel Trinidad.

Walang napaulat na nasaktan o nasawi sa insidente habang ayon kay BFP investigator SFO2 Junie Bert Mendoza, patuloy ang kanilang imbestigasyon sa insidente. *(Maeng Santos)*



AMMONIA MULING TUMAGAS SA IPINASARANG ICE PLANT

NABULABOG ang mga residente sa isang lugar sa Navotas City matapos na muling tumagas ang ammonia mula sa isang planta ng yelo rito noong Sabado ng gabi gayung mahigit dalawang buwan na itong ipinasara ng pamahalaang-lungsod dahil sa parehong insidente.

Sa report ni P/Cpl. Dandy Sargenton, naglilinis ng natirang dumi sa tubig si Roey Ganzo, ang in-charge sa maintenance ng Masimpan Ice Plant and Cold Storage Inc., na matatagpuan sa kahabaan ng M. Naval St., sa Brgy. NBBS Kaunlaran nang malanghap niya ang masangsang na amoy ng ammonia sa loob ng residential area ng nasabing planta bandang alas-nuwebe ng gabi.

Agad itong humingi ng tulong sa mga nagpapatruyang pulis dahilang para mabilis na nakaresponde ang mga tauhan ng Navotas Police Sub-Station 4, at Navotas Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP).

Samantala, nagtataka umano ang BFP sa muling pagtagas ng ammonia sa planta gayung ipinasara ito ng pamahalaang-lungsod nitong Abril 5 dahil sa parehong insidente na nagresulta sa pagkasawi ng isa nitong empleyado at pagkaka-ospital ng 15 iba pa.

Inimbestigahan na ng mga awtoridad ang nasabing insidente para panagutin ang responsable sa nangyari.



TITLE: _____

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Republika ng Pilipinas
Kagawaran ng Kapaligiran at Likas Yaman
PAMBANSANG PUNONG REMIYON
National Ecology Center, East Avenue, Diliman, Lungsod ng Quezon

PAGBEBENTA NG PAMPUBLIKONG LUPA

Ang pabatid na ito ay ipinagkakaloob bilang patunay na ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources—National Capital Region, Patents and Deeds Section, alinsunod sa Department Administrative Order No. 38, 19 April 1990, ay magkakaroon ng bilihan sa DENR-NCR, National Ecology Center, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City sa pamamagitan ng isang sealed bidding, sa makakapagbigay ng pinakamataas na halaga sa ika-10 ng umaga ng OCT 06, 2022, ng lupang matatagpuan sa Western Bicutan (Pinagsama) na inilarawan ng mga sumusunod:

BILANG NG APLIKASYON	PANGALAN NG APPLICANTE	BILANG NG LOTE/PLANO	SUKAT NG LOTE SA METRO KUMINGKING	HALAGA NG LUPA/KADA METRO KUMINGKING	NALILING HALAGANG LUPA	KABUUKANG HALAGANG MGA STRUKTURALA
NEPSA No. 007607-2182	HEZELIA RANKER DT. ORPILLA	Lot 8, Block 51, Pso00-036594	100 sq.m.	PhP400.00	PhP400,000.00	PhP1,500,000.00

Ang mga bid ay dapat na selgado at dapat isumite sa nasabing Dibisyon, mismo o bago sa itinalagang eras at petsa sa itaas at minarkahan na "Bid for Land Described in MSA/IGPSA No.007607-2182. Ang mga bid sa pagbili ay dapat isumite sa pamamagitan ng pera, money order, treasury warrant, seripikadong tsaka, cashier's check o manager's check na nagkakahalaga ng humigit kumulang sa sampung porsiyento (10%) ng isinuniteng turing. Kung ang bumibili ay nais bowin ang kanilang dinepositong halaga bilang alok sa pagbili, ngunit natukoy na ang pinakamataas na bidder, ang katumbas na deposito ay makukumpiska pabor sa pamahalaan. Ang mga alok sa pagbili ay hindi dapat bababa sa kabuuang halaga ng nasabing lupa. Ang pamahalaan ay may karapatang tanggihan ang isa o lahat ng alok sa pagbili kung kinakailangan.

Lungsod ng Quezon, Republika ng Pilipinas

(Sgd.)
ATTY. ALVIN JOSEPH G. CONSTANTINO
Chief, Licenses, Patent and Deeds Division
MSG/JCP/DLM

27 JUNE 2022, Monday



DENR

NEWS

ALERTS

COVID-19

NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

OCTA: Metro Manila logs 353 new COVID-19 cases

By [Pia Lee Brago](#) (The Philippine Star)
- June 27, 2022 - 12:00am



Shoppers wear face masks as protection against the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while inside a market in Marikina City.

MANILA, Philippines — Metro Manila and Quezon City led the list of regions and cities, respectively, with the most number of new COVID-19 cases recorded on Saturday, the OCTA Research Group reported yesterday.

OCTA fellow Guido David said Quezon City accounted for 74 of the 353 new COVID infections in the National Capital Region, followed by Manila with 52, Makati with 39 and Pasig with 31.

Based on the Department of Health (DOH)'s COVID-19 tracker, 777 new COVID-19 cases were recorded on Saturday, bringing to 6,425 the total number of active cases nationwide.

Outside Metro Manila, Cavite posted the most number of new COVID infections with 62 followed by Iloilo with 41, Cebu with 40 and Batangas with 37.

The DOH on Saturday classified five areas in Metro Manila under moderate risk for COVID-19.

These are Marikina, Pasig, Quezon City, San Juan and the municipality of Pateros.

Moderate risk means a city has an average daily attack rate or ADAR of at least six COVID cases daily for every 100,000 population.

The National Capital Region also posted a slight increase in COVID-19 positivity rate, according to the DOH.



OCTA: Metro Manila logs 353 new COVID-19 cases

On Tuesday, OCTA said Metro Manila may log 1,000 new COVID cases daily by end of the month or early July.

Parañaque also posted an increase in COVID-19 cases in the past days.

Data from the local government showed that five new COVID infections were recorded over the weekend, bringing to 85 the total number of active cases in the city.

Only three of 16 villages in Parañaque have no active COVID-19 cases. These are Barangays Don Galo, San Dionisio and Vitalez.

Barangay BF Homes logged the most number of new COVID cases with 22, followed by Barangay Moonwalk with 12, Barangay Don Bosco with 12 and Barangay San Isidro with nine.

Barangay Merville has seven active cases of COVID-19, followed by Barangay San Martin with five, Barangay Marcelo Green and Sun Valley with three cases each, Barangays Santo Niño and Tambo with two and Barangays Baclaran, La Huerta and San Antonio with one case each.

Parañaque has registered 51,333 COVID-19 cases, 50,457 recoveries and 794 deaths since the pandemic started in March 2020. – Ralph Edwin Villanueva

27 JUNE 2022, Monday



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





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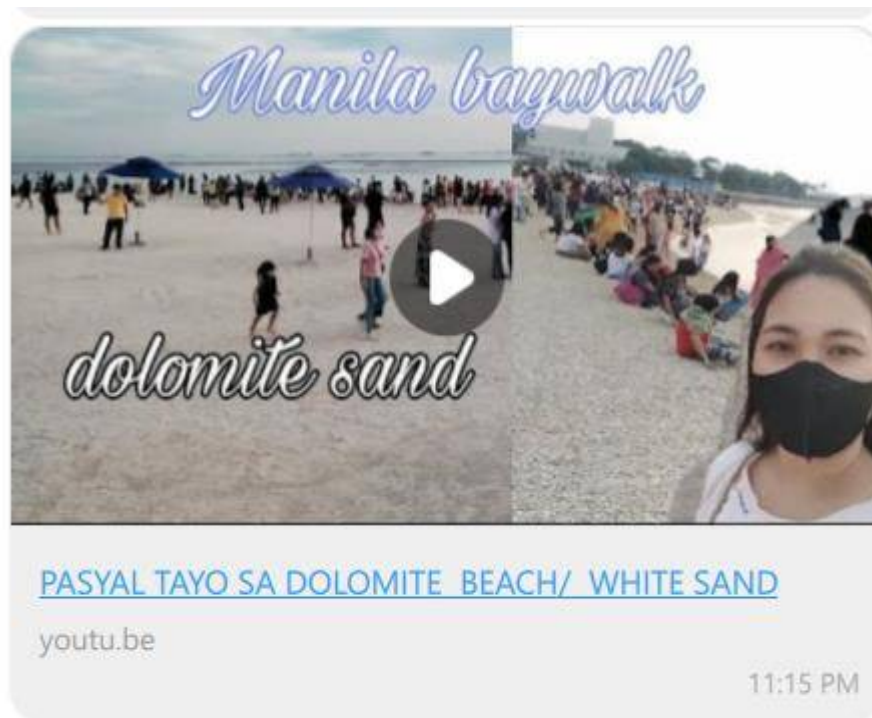
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