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Boracay rehab, Manila Bay clean-up among Duterte's environmental legacies

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[by Aaron Recuenco](#)

The start of the Duterte administration on July 1, 2016 proved to be a morale booster as far as pro-environment groups were concerned, particularly with the appointment of the late staunch environmentalist Gina Lopez at the helm of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Buoyed by the strong backing of President Duterte, Lopez boldly showed the political will that her boss was known for by waging her own war to save the country from environment degradation.

In just less than a year since she assumed the top DENR post, Lopez issued orders that cancelled the permits and or rejected the applications of many mining operations all to the delight of pro-environment groups which were impressed by the hard stand yaken by the Duterte administration.

Her departure from the DENR led to the appointment of former military chief of staff Roy Cimatu, who became the President's 'bastonero' or the take-charge guy for the two most important projects which the Duterte administration would be most remembered—the aggressive Boracay rehabilitation and the massive clean-up of Manila Bay.

After Duterte's viral description of the Boracay Island as a cesspool, the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force was created purposely to rehabilitate the world-famous beach resort amid persistent reports of some of the establishments dumping their respective waste to the sea.

The Boracay rehabilitation also came with the target of protecting the natives of Boracay who have been repeatedly victimized by land-grabbing and hostile takeovers of land and properties.

In just a few months after the start of the clean-up drive, the rehabilitation was already visible with the enforcement of laws that forced most of the establishment owners and local residents to clear the beaches and right of ways according to the law—fetes that were previously deemed impossible to accomplish by cynics as some of the violators are wealthy and powerful.

Roads were improved to meet the tourists' expectation of a world-quality tourist spot.

And the best part? The quality of the water at the beach and in at least nine wetlands improved based on the DENR report as almost, if not all, of the local residents, establishments owners and even tourists were forced to follow the strict implementation of rules with regard to waste disposal.

Early this month, the BIATF was dissolved and the management and supervision of the Boracay Island were turned over to the local government of Malay, Aklan, according to DENR Sec. Jim Sampulna who declared the Boracay Island clean-up a mission accomplished.

Amid the mental stress brought by the lockdowns due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Duterte administration embarked on another project that became controversial but was praised by his supporters—the Dolomite Beach.



Boracay rehab, Manila Bay clean-up among Duterte's environmental legacies

Against all odds that included adverse scientific opinion of environmental experts on the logic and sustainability of dumping white sands from a bulldozed mountain in Cebu, the Duterte administration remained unperturbed and went on to realize the project.=

In its first opening to the public at the height of the pandemic, thousands flocked to the small portion of the Manila Bay to take Instagrammable selfies. For those who went to Dolomite Beach, it was all worth it as it gave them a relief of seeing a Boracay-like white beach within Metro Manila.

The Dolomite Beach was reopened to the public on June 12, which coincides with the Philippine's celebration of Independence Day, after months of implementation of structure-building to protect the white beach from being gobbled up by strong waves at the Manila Bay.

But the Duterte Legacy on environment protection did not end with these two notable projects.

Amid the disasters and natural calamities that struck many communities in the country every year, the Duterte administration stepped up disaster resiliency by implementing big projects aimed at protecting the usual victims of widespread flooding.

By virtue of the Executive Order No. 120 which created the Task Force Build Back Better, President Duterte ordered concerned agencies to strengthen the climate resilience capacities of communities vulnerable to disasters and climate hazards, especially in Cagayan Valley, Bicol Region, and Marikina River Basin.

This resulted in the massive dredging operations in the Magapit Narrows, Cagayan, and Marikina Rivers, which were already completed, and the removal of critical sandbars restricting the water flows of the Cagayan, Marikina, and Bicol Rivers.

With regard the Duterte administration's commitment to clean energy, the DENR reported that President Duterte pushed for the imposition of a moratorium on coal power projects, and advocate for the phase-down of unabated coal power and end of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies during the 26th Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.



Meralco, nakiisa sa interagency cleanup sa Ilog Pasig

[June 22, 2022 jp admin](#)



Kita sa larawan ang ilang mga Meralco employee-volunteers habang tinatanggal ang mga tumubong water hyacinth sa paligid ng Ilog Pasig na malapit sa Isla de Provisor sa Maynila

Bilang paggunita sa International Day of Biological Diversity, nakiisa ang Manila Electric Company (Meralco) sa isang espesyal na interagency clean-up activity sa Estero de Provisor na inorganisa ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at ng Pasig River Coordinating and Management Office (PRCMO).

Meralco, nakiisa sa interagency cleanup sa Ilog Pasig

Layunin ng nasabing clean-up activity na linisin ang mga estero na nakapalibot sa Isla de Provisor sa lungsod ng Maynila upang tanggalin ang mga water hyacinths na kapag pinabayaan ay maaaring magdulot ng matinding pagbaha tuwing panahon ng tag-ulan dahil hinahadlangan at binabarahan nito ang natural na pag-daloy ng tubig sa mga nasabing estero.

Ang social development arm ng Meralco, ang One Meralco Foundation, ay tumulong rin at nagkaloob ng mga gamit para sa mga volunteers katulad ng mga kalaykay, rain boots, kapote, guwantes, masks, at isang heavy duty truck na ginamit pang-hakot ng mga water hyacinths.

Lumahok din sa nasabing clean-up activity ang lokal na pamahalaan ng Maynila, ang NCR – Regional Community Defense Group (RCDG), Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA), at ang K-Line Maritime Academy – Philippines.

Nagpasalamat si PRCMO Deputy Director Dr. Teodoro Lloydon C. Bautista sa mga ahensya at kumpanyang nakilahok sa nasabing aktibidad. Aniya: “At the end of the day, it is not us who is going to benefit from this. It is your children, and your children’s children.”

Ayon naman kay Meralco Central Business Area Head Margarita B. David: “This is all in the spirit of *bayanihan* and of course, *malasakit*. As one of Meralco’s core values, *malasakit* for us not only applies to our customers to whom we deliver electricity service, but also to our environment.”



Pinamunuan ni PRCMO Deputy Director Dr. Teodoro Lloydon C. Bautista (5th from Left) ang clean-up activity na siyang nilahukan ng ilang mga Meralco employee volunteers mula sa iba't-iba nilang opisina katulad ng Central Distribution Services, Sub transmission Services, Malate Business Center, at Organizational Safety and Business Continuity.



Crocodiles sighted in Bulacan river?

By [Ramon Efren Lazaro](#) (The Philippine Star)
- June 29, 2022 - 12:00am

GUIGUINTO, Bulacan, Philippines — Representatives from the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) started an investigation yesterday into the reported presence of crocodiles in a river in this town.

"We acknowledge that there are alleged sightings and have reported the matter to the DENR for immediate investigation and action," Mayor Paula Agatha Cruz told The STAR.

She said a team from the BMB conducted an ocular inspection.

In a post on Facebook, officials of Barangay Malis warned the public against swimming or going to the river, citing the reported sightings of a crocodile.

Bulacan fifth district Rep. Abrocio Cruz said there have been discussions on how to catch the crocodile if found.

As of noon yesterday, environmental personnel have yet to find any crocodile even as residents claimed that there have been sightings.

Barangay leaders of Guiuan bring their mining questions to Cagdianao and Hinatuan

 by [BM Plus](#)

June 28, 2022



Barangay Captains and Kagawads of Guiuan, Eastern Samar, direct their questions about mining to experts at the mine sites

Barangay captains and councilors from the 30 coastal barangays of Guiuan, Eastern Samar, including Manicani, personally directed their questions about responsible mining to the experts at Cagdianao Mining Corp. (CMC) and Hinatuan Mining Corp. (HMC), subsidiaries of Nickel Asia Corp. (NAC).

A 33-strong delegation traveled all the way from Eastern Samar to the Province of Dinagat Islands, where CMC has its operations, and to Surigao del Norte, where HMC operates, for a back-to-back comprehensive mine tours.

The mine tour is part of the requirements of the *Protected Area Management Board* (PAMB) of the Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources, in preparation for the resumption of the mining operations of HMC's Manicani Nickel Project (MNP), which is part of the jurisdiction of the Municipality of Guiuan.

HMC-MNP was recently granted the permit by the DENR to resume its mining operations in Manicani.

Being members of PAMB, the barangay captains and *kagawads* of the coastal barangays expressed particular interest in the details of the environment protection and enhancement programs of the two mining companies.

Most of them have not seen an active mine before and their questions focused on the impact of mining to the environment.



Barangay leaders of Guiuan bring their mining questions to Cagdianao and Hinatuan

One particular feature of the mines that impressed them was the technology of the series of water chambers that starts in 'canal curtains' surrounding the open mine that wind-up in wide settling ponds, plus the silt booms at the exact discharge point before the run-offs enter the body of water surrounding the island. Both CMC and HMC proudly have this system in place, meticulously designed to ensure the protection of marine life and water resources around the mine sites.

"We specifically requested for this mine tour for us to gain the experience that will help us explain to other PAMB members how mining will be done in Manicani and what we have witnessed in CMC and HMC gave us confidence to give our full support to HMC-MNP," says Barangay Captain Leo Lacaba of Barangay 6, the designated spokesperson for the group.

Rehabilitation and environment enhancement also gathered multiple questions and the showcase of HMC's mine eco-tourism sites where guests enjoyed tea from herbs growing at the mined-out areas provided adequate answers.



Guests at the mine site enjoying tea from herbs growing at the mined-out areas.

The barangay leaders conveyed satisfaction, some admitting they only fully comprehend what responsible mining is after the mine tours, debunking every misinformation they have harbored all these years.

"I had misgivings about mining, I was one of those who would shut down favorable opinions about responsible mining, but I now admit I was misinformed so I thank NAC for this learning opportunity," says Nida Sabalbirino, Captain of Barangay 11.



Homegrown Filipino animated Youtube Channel talks about environmental awareness



by [Anne Ruth Dela Cruz](#)

June 28, 2022



The Philippines is one of the world's worst offenders in marine plastic pollution with 0.28 to 0.75 million tons of plastic entering the oceans from the coastal areas in Manila Bay. The country uses almost 60 billion sachets a year. Economic growth, combined with enhanced production and consumption is leading to higher waste generation in the Philippines.

This is according to data gathered from SEA circular. SEA circular is an initiative of the UN Environment Program (UNEP) and the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia which is funded by the government of Sweden to inspire market-based solutions and encourage enabling policies to solve marine plastic pollution at the source.

Atty. Joseph Fabul, Corporate and Government Affairs Country Manager of Mondelez International in the Philippines pointed out that in recent years, plastic packaging has often been blamed for marine litter.

"As a snacks company, we know the value of plastic in protecting the safety and quality of food. In our work to understand how to lessen our environmental impact, particularly in packaging, we have seen that one of the reasons there is marine litter is not the use of plastic. Rather, it is the improper disposal of waste regardless of whether it is plastic or not," Fabul said.



Homegrown Filipino animated Youtube Channel talks about environmental awareness



Supply chain

To reduce Mondelez International's impact on the environment, Fabul said the company is improving the supply chain and supporting recycling systems in the communities where they operate.

"With these actions, we hope to help reduce marine litter and encourage our community to do its part in this endeavor," he said.

Mondelez International also took the initiative to increase awareness on the reasons behind marine litter by partnering with Save Philippine Seas (SPS) for infographics and learning materials. SPS began as an online platform in May 2011 as a response to a large-scale illegal wildlife trade case dubbed in media as the "rape of Philippine seas." What was meant to be a short-lived social media campaign continued to grow. In February 2013, SPS officially became a non-profit organization under the name Philippine Seacitizens, Inc.

"This year we sought to strengthen our partnership with SPS by adapting the message of waste collection and marine preservation through a medium that kids and their parents can easily engage with – YouTube," Fabul related.

"SPS introduced us to Miming and Friends for this purpose and this started our partnership for five episodes related to the environment. We aim to impart the values of marine conservation and waste collection through fun animation and songs to make the learning more enjoyable for children and their parents," he added.

Home grown channel

Miming and Friends is an all Filipino and homegrown YouTube channel focused on providing valuable lessons to kids through animation and songs. The channel is the creation of Miming and Friends Animation Studios, formed by partners Ramon and Meryll Del Prado from Dumaguete.



Homegrown Filipino animated Youtube Channel talks about environmental awareness

The first in a series of five episodes of Miming and Friends supported by Mondel z International was released on World Oceans Day on June 8. It talks about the importance of segregating waste at home to ensure that they do not end up in the ocean.

"Miming and Friends started when the lockdowns occurred in early May 2020. We were stuck at home, and we had nothing to do. So that was a good time to start the passion project which is something that I wanted to do for the longest time," Ramon said.

Meryll added that the pandemic gave them "a unique opportunity to have the time to conceptualize and launch a YouTube channel which is something we have always wanted to do."

"It also aligns very much with our values because it is obviously very educational. It also answers a need. There are over 12 million overseas Filipino workers in the world, and they do want to impart Filipino culture, values and language to their kids and hopefully Miming and Friends can do that," she added.

Pet inspiration

When asked about the inspiration behind the main characters in Miming and Friends, Ramon said Miming was inspired by their 15-year-old pet cat who is called Myr. Buboy is a flying lizard which is endemic in Southeast Asia and common also in Dumaguete where Ramon grew up.

"The next character is Anacorn who is based on everyone's favorite animal – the unicorn. But she also has a backstory in that she does not have the same shape as a typical horse," he related.

"And then, we have Darling the Dugong which we created specifically for this series. We talked with SPS and Mondel z International on what is the best character that can talk about issues with the environment particularly marine issues and SPS told us that the dugong is endangered and is one of the victims of irresponsible garbage disposal," Ramon added.

The couple is currently working on the second episode which takes six to eight weeks to produce. Future episodes will be tackling waste segregation, recycling and how that all impacts on the environment.

"What we are also happy about is that we get to write original songs too like the "Sorting Song" from the first episode that we did. We want to impart lessons also in a fun and entertaining way. This is very crucial now with kids having so many options that they have some locally made and be at par with the rest of the world," Meryll added.

Waste collection

In addition to addressing marine litter, Fabul said Mondel z International is also addressing waste collection and diversion in 2022. The company has partnered with Geocycle Philippines, the waste management arm of Holcim Philippines, to collect and divert 202,000 kilos of plastic waste to prevent them from becoming landfill or marine litter.



Homegrown Filipino animated Youtube Channel talks about environmental awareness

"We also recently concluded a community collection project with Basic Environmental Systems and Technologies (BEST), which involved a 29-location collection activity of waste," Fabul said.

"For the waste consumers brought in, they received environmental points as well as our delicious snack products Tang, Eden Cheese and Cheez Whiz. For this two-month partnership we were able to collect and divert almost 7,400 kilos of plastic waste – the equivalent to the weight of two elephants," he added.

Full liberalization of RE market sought

June 28, 2022 | 12:33 am



Windmills are seen in Pililia, Teresa, Rizal province on April 25. — PHILIPPINE STAR/ MICHAEL VARCAS

THE INCOMING Marcos administration should consider the full liberalization of the renewable energy (RE) sector as part of the government's efforts on climate change mitigation, Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Karl Kendrick T. Chua said on Monday.

"We are trying to fully liberalize all renewable energies; tidal, solar, and wind. In fact, the Economic Development Cluster has a resolution pushing for that. That will, I think, create a better balance between the dirty sources of energy and the cleaner ones," he said at a briefing on Monday.

Energy officials previously said new laws may be needed to relax the foreign ownership restrictions for wind and solar projects.

In 2020, the power generation mix in the Philippines was 57% from coal-fired facilities, 21% from renewable energy, 19% from natural gas, and 2% from oil.

Mr. Chua, who steps down from his post on June 30, also expressed support for the new law aimed at regulating and developing the country's electric vehicle (EV) industry.

"(The) electric vehicle law which will help us shift to cleaner electric vehicles rather than gasoline or diesel ones," the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) director-general said.

Mr. Chua also backed the imposition of a tax on single-use plastics.

The Department of Finance (DoF) had proposed a P20 excise tax per kilogram of single-use plastics under package 1 of the fiscal consolidation plan, which is aimed at generating fresh revenues amid the country's record-high debt.



Full liberalization of RE market sought

During the same briefing, NEDA Undersecretary of the Regional Development Group Mercedita A. Sombilla presented recommendations to accelerate climate action, such as ensuring new programs and policies “support climate-resilient and low-carbon development,” and boost awareness on climate change in local communities.

She also proposed scaling up mobilization of climate finance and strengthening institutional capacity to track these climate finance flows.

“The tight fiscal space does not preclude the government from implementing climate change adaptation and mitigation actions,” Ms. Sombilla said.

“While we’ve continued to make use of government’s limited resources to fund development projects including infrastructure, social protection, and agriculture, we can already make adjustments as early as the design phase to make the projects more climate and disaster resilient without incurring significant additional economic costs due to avoided losses and damage.”

Ms. Sombilla said the government can also maximize the benefits of these projects by reducing or eliminating any greenhouse gas emissions.

Under the Paris Agreement, the Philippines committed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 75% by 2030.

The Philippines is ranked fourth most affected by impacts of climate-related extreme weather events, according to the 2021 Climate Risk Index.

“There are many things that do not require money, but a change of behavior and a better understanding of the consequences of inaction,” Mr. Chua said.

Climate change and smart infrastructure are expected to be part of the next Philippine Development Plan, which will be crafted under the next Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Arsenio M. Balisacan.

“Secretary Balisacan really recognized this because he has been alluding to including climate change as a particular challenge in all the development activities that we will be doing,” Ms. Sombilla said.

NEDA’s climate change priorities also include helping local government units develop climate-risk informed local land use and development plans, and pushing for the passage of the National Land Use Act. — Diego Gabriel C. Robles

Climate warriors protest SMC's plan of building 3 fossil fuel plants in Visayas

By: Mary Rose Sagarino - CDN Digital Correspondent | June 28, 2022 - 05:25 PM



Climate warriors protest San Miguel Corporation's plan of building 3 fossil plants in the Visayas including one in Lapu-Lapu City. /Mary Rose Sagarino

MANDAUE CITY, Philippines — Representatives of local communities and climate warriors held a protest rally against San Miguel Corporation in front of its compound located along the National Highway here, on Monday morning, June 28, 2022.

The group is calling on SMC to suspend its plan of putting up fossil fuel power plants in Lapu-Lapu City in Cebu, Tabango in Leyte, and San Carlos City in Negros Occidental.

SMC is said to be eyeing the establishment of 1.5 GW (1,500 MW) of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) power plants in the Visayas which is part of the 13.042 GW (6 projects) that it plans to build in the entire country.

Of the 1,500 megawatts, 600 of it is planned to be established in Lapu-Lapu City, another 600 MW in Tabango in Leyte, and 300 MW in San Carlos City in Negros Occidental.

LNG is a fossil gas in liquid form, another type of fossil fuel that emits methane, which is another greenhouse gas that has a warming effect of up to 80 or 90 times more powerful than carbon dioxide over a 20-year timescale.

Estela Vasquez, the Visayas Area Coordinator of the Philippine Movement for Climate Justice, said the plants would damage not just the country's climate but the whole planet.

Vasquez said that there are other sources of energy that could be used such as solar, wind, and other renewable energy sources.



Climate warriors protest SMC's plan of building 3 fossil fuel plants in Visayas

"Naa na ta sa 1.09 degrees karun so dili nato paabuton og 1.5 or beyond, dili na na siya liveable, catastrophic scenario na na siya so wala na niya tay mabuhat mao nang sa karun pa lang dili ta magdugang og greenhouse emissions," said Vasquez.

"Nganong anha mangyud ta sa dirty energies nga makadaot sa atong kalikupan, planeta, unya wala man tay laing planeta? Usa ra man unya costly sad kaayo magpadayun ni siya kay magsige tag response sa mga disaster unya maabot ang time wala na tay kakayahan kay mahimo na man siyang catastrophic level, ang Odette type nga mga typhoons mahimo nang natural nga phenomenon, sauna diba? Ang ingun ana nga bagyo tag dugay kaayo maabot karun ang span pila lang ka months then even during summer naa gihapon bagyo nga kusog kaayo kana siya mga indications na nga katung greenhouse gases nato nga na trap sa atmosphere nga dili na nato pun-an," she added.

A local alliance opposed to the SMC LNG project in Lapu-Lapu City was also formed on Monday afternoon, with support from different sectors in the tri-cities.

The alliance initially called Break Free from Fossil Gas, will initiate talks with different stakeholders, including Lapu-Lapu City Mayor Junard "Ahong" Chan who earlier declared his support for the project but expressed that he is not opposed to canceling it "if the project will harm the public and the environment." /rcg

Read more: <https://cebudailynews.inquirer.net/450275/climate-warriors-protest-smcs-plan-of-building-3-fossil-fuel-plants-in-visayas#ixzz7XXfUuIXw>

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Pass the Land Use Act

June 29, 2022

A RECENT report published by the [Land Matrix Initiative](#) has shed some light on the extent of so-called large-scale land acquisitions (LSLA) in the [Philippines](#), and the news is not encouraging. The Philippines is among the top five countries in all of [Asia](#) in terms of the number of land acquisition deals made in the past 20 years. Even more alarming, as of 2021, there are potentially 3.6 million hectares — about 58 percent of all the arable land in the Philippines — that are under negotiation for potential deals.

And this may only be the tip of the iceberg; the Land Matrix Initiative report stresses that information about as many as one-third of LSLAs in the Philippines, whether completed or planned, is simply not available. The lack of transparency raises concern that lands are being converted from their proper use at a rapid rate. A tool exists to correct this — a [National Land Use Code](#) — but successive Congresses for nearly 30 years have been unwilling to pass it. This must change in the upcoming 20th [Congress](#).

The need for a national land use code has been recognized since at least 1987, and a vast number of bills to create one have been introduced in the legislature every year since at least 1994. As of last year, there were 18 different land use bills pending in the House of Representatives, and four in the Senate. As in every other Congress preceding the recently departed 19th Congress, these bills were quietly shelved, advancing no further than the committee level. The reasons why our elected representatives have been so steadfast in avoiding passing a land use bill for so long are certainly open to speculation.

While there have obviously been differences in details of the many bills that have been proposed, the basic function of a land use code is to provide a comprehensive set of definitions for all land in the Philippines, and then govern the management and execution of a land use system and physical planning mechanisms. Parameters would be established for sustainable land use at all levels of government in terms of land protection, different types of production, infrastructure use, and settlement uses. The fundamental objective of a land use code is to ensure that all the land in the Philippines is put to its most beneficial use, whether that is agriculture, mining, or industry, residential or commercial use, or preservation.

It is not that there is a complete lack of land use regulation in the Philippines now, but rather that there is a lack of consistency in land designation and the application and enforcement of such rules as do exist. Land use guidelines and regulations are sectoral-based; for example, definitions used by the [Department of Agrarian Reform](#) are different in some ways from those used by the [Department of Environment and Natural Resources](#). Compounding the problem are differing rules — and levels of sincerity in enforcing them — at the level of local governments.

Not having a comprehensive land use code has resulted in what anyone can easily see in the Philippines now. Agriculture land is converted, sometimes illegally, for industrial or commercial use, or residential real estate development. Forest lands that ought to be preserved are instead stripped bare for agriculture or mining. Human settlements are planted and grow in geologically or environmentally hazardous areas, with the unfortunate consequence that lives and property are harmed in the country's frequent natural disasters. Our urban areas have become densely overbuilt, raising safety and health risks for those who live in them.



Pass the Land Use Act

The incoming [Marcos](#) administration, just as the administrations before it, has well-intentioned plans to support growth and prosperity of the nation. We certainly wish the new government all the best in its efforts, and will support them. It is difficult to see, however, how the anticipated results can be achieved in anything more than an unsatisfactorily partial fashion unless the National Land Use Code is finally created and implemented. The new government, and particularly those legislators who have pledged to work with and support the president's programs, should make it their first order of business.



Tropical cyclones' decline a climate change sign'



By Xinhua News Agency

June 29, 2022



FORCE OF NATURE This Jan. 31, 2021 file photo shows tree branches that had fallen after Tropical Cyclone Ana made landfall in Fiji's capital Suva. XINHUA PHOTO

SYDNEY: A team of researchers charting the frequency of tropical cyclones since the mid-19th century has found that these weather disturbances' accelerating decline may be another warning sign of climate change.

Their paper on the finding, published in the *Nature Climate Change* journal on Tuesday, said tropical cyclones had declined by approximately 13 percent in the 20th century, a trend that had been accelerating since the 1950s.

Savin Chand, the paper's lead author and a meteorologist from Federation University Australia, told the state-run Xinhua News Agency on Tuesday it was the first time modern and historical data had been combined to chart global cyclone trends.

"We have reconstructed tropical cyclone numbers back to the 1850s using the 'Twentieth Century Reanalysis' dataset, and together with high-resolution climate model experiments, we have quantified for the first time how cyclone numbers have changed over the past century," he said.

The findings were unexpected as changes in sea surface temperatures normally intensify storms, but Chand said associated changes in atmospheric circulations could also prevent them from forming.

"As the climate has warmed over the 20th century, underlying atmospheric conditions...have created an environment that is less conducive for tropical cyclone formation globally," he said.

The problem arises in the intensity and location of tropical cyclones. Chand's team found that tropical cyclones had been getting closer to coastal areas in parts of the world and growing more intense in recent decades.



Tropical cyclones' decline a climate change sign'

Chand said that while this study focused on the frequency of cyclones over time, his team hoped to look at how other characteristics of cyclones had been evolving over the past century.

"Going forward, it is anticipated that continued improvement in climate model products and in observational datasets can help identify attributable anthropogenic climate change signals on other metrics such as tropical cyclone intensity and landfalling activities," he added.



X-ray finds 109 live animals in women's luggage at Bangkok airport, Thai officials say

Kocha Olarn, CNN • Updated 28th June 2022



Bangkok (CNN) — Two women were arrested at Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi Airport and accused of smuggling after 109 live animals were found in their luggage, Thai officials say.

[Thailand's](#) Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation said on Monday the wild animals were discovered in two suitcases following an x-ray inspection.

Wildlife officials called to the scene discovered two white porcupines, two armadillos, 35 turtles, 50 lizards and 20 snakes in the two pieces of luggage.



X-ray finds 109 live animals in women's luggage at Bangkok airport, Thai officials say



Thai officials reportedly discovered 109 animals in the women's luggage, including 50 lizards.

Department of Natural Parks and Wildlife Conservation

Thai authorities said the suitcases belonged to two Indian women: Nithya Raja, 38, and Zakia Sulthana Ebrahim, 24, who were due to board a flight to the Indian city of Chennai.

The women have reportedly been charged with violating the Wildlife Conservation and Protection Act of 2019, the Animal Disease Act of 2015 and the Customs Act of 2017.

Animal trafficking via airports has long been an issue in the region. In 2019, a man arriving in Chennai, India, from Bangkok was [reportedly detained](#) at the airport after customs officers found a month-old leopard cub in his luggage.

A [March 2022 report](#) by TRAFFIC, a wildlife trade monitoring agency, said that more than 70,000 native and exotic wild animals -- including their body parts or derivatives -- were discovered in 140 seizures at 18 Indian airports between 2011 and 2020.

"Chennai International Airport, Tamil Nadu, recorded the highest number of wildlife seizure incidents, followed by Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport, Mumbai and Indira Gandhi Airport New Delhi," the report said.

Green groups fear failure on new global biodiversity pact after sluggish talks

Lack of progress at Nairobi talks aimed at brokering a global nature deal leave environmentalists frustrated, with much to do ahead of the make-or-break COP15 in December.



A tiger stalks prey near the water in Pak Phraek, Kanchanaburi, Thailand. Image: [Chris Parker, CC BY-SA 3.0](#), via [Flickr](#).

[Thomson Reuters Foundation](#)

5 minute read June 28, 2022

Vital talks aimed at hammering out a new global pact to protect and restore nature did not make sufficient progress last week and are on the brink of failure, environmentalists have warned, urging political leaders to step in to salvage negotiations.

About 195 countries are set to finalise a deal to stem human damage to plants, animals and ecosystems - similar to the Paris climate agreement - at a UN summit, [known as COP15](#), now set for December after being switched from China to Montreal.

The talks have been delayed due to logistical difficulties caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. Negotiators met in Nairobi last week to work on a draft agreement after the first in-person session in two years in Geneva in March [fell short](#).

Marco Lambertini, director general of green group WWF International, said governments had moved forward on "very few elements of the draft" text during the last six days of talks.

Green groups fear failure on new global biodiversity pact after sluggish talks

That, he warned, leaves “the chance of securing an ambitious global agreement capable of tackling the world’s accelerating nature crisis hanging by a thread”.

“We risk facing a 2030 world with even less biodiversity than we have today, driving entire ecosystems to collapse - that is just unacceptable,” he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

We are wasting time at a moment when action is urgent, key species are dying and resources are becoming increasingly scarce.

Toerris Jaeger, secretary general, Rainforest Foundation Norway

Improving conservation and management of natural areas, such as parks, oceans, forests and wetlands, is seen as vital to safeguarding the ecosystems and wildlife on which people depend and limiting global warming to internationally agreed goals.

But [forests are still being cut down](#) worldwide - often to produce commodities like palm oil, soybean and beef - destroying biodiversity and undermining climate action, as trees absorb about a third of planet-warming emissions produced worldwide.

The aim in Nairobi was to clean up and simplify the draft accord and reach consensus on its targets - but instead greater complexity was added amid a lack of ambition, said Lambertini, who singled out Brazil for undermining discussions.

“World leaders that have committed to reversing biodiversity loss by 2030 ... need to show leadership,” he added. “We need to see their commitments matched by both ambition at the negotiations and action on the ground.”

Basile van Havre, co-chair of the group developing the deal for the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), agreed a “significant” amount of work remained but said it was “do-able”, urging ministers to engage with the process to secure a good global biodiversity framework.

He had seen Brazil play a constructive role in the past week, with no country blocking progress, he added.

Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, CBD executive secretary, said the Nairobi talks had entered into serious negotiation and laid the groundwork for compromises on the accord before Montreal.

Extra talks

But environmentalists largely took a more pessimistic view.

Li Shuo, a policy advisor at Greenpeace China, said Nairobi had brought the nature deal process to a “crisis point”, and warned the COP15 gathering could end in failure, like the acrimonious UN climate summit in Copenhagen in 2009.

“All the problems we have lamented before - the lack of preparation and leadership, the imbalanced agenda and the persistent negligence on finance and implementation - were in full

Green groups fear failure on new global biodiversity pact after sluggish talks

display, resulting in very limited progress, and in certain areas backsliding from the last session in Geneva," he said.

"Biodiversity seems to be left as an orphan on the global stage," said Li, calling on leaders to intervene urgently and instruct negotiators to be ready for commitments and compromises in Montreal.

The CBD plans to convene another round of talks just ahead of the Canada summit - but some observers said this may be too little, too late to get things back on track.

A central pillar of the planned nature pact is a pledge to conserve at least 30 per cent of the planet's land and oceans by 2030.

Little progress has been made on this element, said Linda Krueger, director of biodiversity at The Nature Conservancy, with the text still to be agreed and no discussion of the 30 per cent figure itself in Nairobi.

While there is wide backing for the direction of the target, with about half of the world's governments publicly declaring their support, the potential exclusion of freshwater - limiting protection to land and sea areas - is a concern, she added.

Brian O'Donnell, director of the non-profit Campaign for Nature, said the draft accord was now nearly an "unreadable jumble of unagreed-upon text".

He branded Nairobi "an insult to the children of the world who are facing a future on a degraded planet without action".

Wake up China

After much prevarication, host China agreed to move the COP15 summit from the city of Kunming to Canada last week, due to Covid-19 restrictions - and new dates were set for Dec. 5-17.

Observers largely welcomed the announcement, which fixed a deadline for the deal, but called for bigger diplomatic efforts.

"We need China to wake up to lead this process," said Oscar Soria, campaign director at advocacy group Avaaz.

"Instead of halting biodiversity loss, Beijing's apathy halted the global political momentum to tackle the ecological crisis ... Montreal is the last chance to correct this."

Soria also urged leaders to use key global forums such as the UN General Assembly, the G7 and the G20 to press other heads of government to attend COP15 and make commitments.

Finance provided by rich countries to help developing nations meet the targets of the expected deal remains a challenging issue, nature campaigners said.

To spur on the talks, China launched a multi-million-dollar biodiversity fund last year.



Green groups fear failure on new global biodiversity pact after sluggish talks

Donor governments, meanwhile, are looking at [doubling foreign aid for biodiversity](#) to \$20 billion per year, according to The Nature Conservancy.

But developing countries and activists are calling for tens of billions more, given the scale of the damage to nature.

Toerris Jaeger, secretary general of the Oslo-based Rainforest Foundation Norway, said countries should own up to their global responsibilities to protect rainforests and other biodiversity-rich ecosystems, including by boosting funding.

"We are wasting time at a moment when action is urgent, key species are dying and resources are becoming increasingly scarce," he said.

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G7 urges countries, companies to release food stockpiles

Agence France-Presse

Posted at Jun 28 2022 06:48 PM



A Ukrainian farmer checks grain during a barley harvest in Odesa area, Ukraine, 23 June 2022. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations said in its 10 June note assessing the risks emanating from the conflict in Ukraine that 'the current war raises concerns over whether crops will be harvested. *Leszek Szymanski, EPA-EFE*

ELMAU CASTLE, Germany - G7 industrialized nations on Tuesday urged countries and companies with large food stockpiles to help ease a hunger crisis sparked by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

"We call on those partners with large food stockpiles, as well as on the private sector, to make food available without distorting the market," the Group of Seven leaders said in a statement after a summit in Germany.

They called "on all countries to avoid excessive stockpiling of food which can lead to further price increases".

The war in Ukraine, a country known as Europe's breadbasket, has pushed up food prices and led to shortages, as Russia's blockade of Black Sea ports prevents millions of tonnes of grain from being shipped out.

The crisis has sparked fears of famine in vulnerable countries highly reliant on Ukrainian exports, particularly in Africa.

The issue was a key topic of discussion at a three-day summit of the G7 -- comprising Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States -- held in the Bavarian Alps.



G7 urges countries, companies to release food stockpiles

In their final communique, G7 leaders pledged an additional \$4.5 billion to combat global food insecurity, bringing the total sum committed this year to more than \$14 billion.

They again urged Russia to "end its blockade of Ukrainian Black Sea ports, destruction of key port and transport infrastructure, grain silos and terminals, illegal appropriation by Russia of agricultural commodities and equipment in Ukraine".

These actions "can only be assessed as a geopolitically motivated attack on global food security", they said.

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/business/06/28/22/g7-urges-countries-companies-to-release-food-stockpiles?fbclid=IwAR20FR7FoYqqbr09xYaKh14lfxdEHRjtbgsBo3Gme47wAbSMaJQqqFTP>
[Twc](#)



September every year declared 'Bamboo Month'

By Azer Parrocha June 28, 2022, 8:08 pm



(Contributed photo)

MANILA – September of every year will be celebrated as “Philippine Bamboo Month” based on Proclamation No. 1401 signed by President Rodrigo Duterte on Monday.

Duterte recognized the “need to instill in the national consciousness of the Filipino people the importance of the bamboo plant and its products”

“I, Rodrigo Roa Duterte, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution and existing laws, do hereby declare the month of September of every year as Philippine Bamboo Month,” read the proclamation released on Tuesday.

The proclamation directs the Philippine Bamboo Industry Development Council (PBIDC) to lead and promote the observance of Philippine Bamboo Month and identify the programs, projects, and activities for its yearly celebration.

All other agencies and instrumentalities of the national government, including government-owned or -controlled corporations and state universities and colleges are directed and all local government units, relevant non-government organizations and civil society groups, as well as the private sector, encouraged to support the PBIDC.

Executive Order No. 879 in 2010 created the PBIDC to promote the product development of bamboo and enhance market access to bamboo products, for the purpose of sustaining and strengthening the bamboo industry.

Bamboo has been identified by the Department of Trade and Industry as one of the right priority industry clusters.

Parts of the bamboo plant are being used not only for nourishment and construction of simple infrastructure, but also in producing world-class furniture and handicrafts. *(PNA)*



LPA west of Zambales now tropical depression Caloy

By RICHA NORIEGA, GMA News
Published June 28, 2022 11:57pm

The low pressure area (LPA) west of Zambales on Tuesday developed into a tropical depression which has been named Caloy, the weather bureau PAGASA has said.

PAGASA said the LPA developed into a tropical depression at 8 p.m. on Tuesday.

At 10 p.m. on Tuesday night, Caloy was spotted 385 kilometers west of Iba town.

It has maximum winds of 45 kph near the center and gustiness of 55kph.

Caloy was moving west northwest slowly and is expected to move over the West Philippine Sea to leave the Philippine Area of Responsibility.

It is seen to enhance the Southwest Monsoon to cause rains in Luzon and the Visayas.

It is expected to be 405 kilometers west of Iba in 12 hours and 560 kilometers west of Dagupan City and already outside the PAR in 24 hours or by Wednesday night.

No tropical cyclone wind signal has been hoisted for Caloy.

PAGASA said the enhanced Southwest Monsoon would bring occasionally gusty conditions reaching strong breeze to near gale in strength over extreme Northern Luzon, and the western sections of Luzon and Visayas.

These conditions are more likely in mountainous and upland localities of these areas.

PAGASA said moderate to heavy with at times intense rains are expected over Palawan, Oriental Mindoro, Occidental Mindoro, Zambales, Bataan, Cavite, Batangas, Laguna, Aurora, and Quezon.

It said light to moderate with at times heavy rains are likely over Metro Manila, the rest of Mimaropa, Rizal, Tarlac, Pampanga, Ilocos Region, Bicol Region, and Western Visayas.

The tropical depression and the enhanced Southwest Monsoon will bring moderate to rough seas (1.2 to 3.1 meters) over the seaboard of Northern Luzon and the western seaboard of Central and Southern Luzon, the weather bureau said.

"These conditions may be risky for those using small seacraft. Mariners are advised to take precautionary measures when venturing out to sea and, if possible, avoid navigating in these conditions," PAGASA said.

PAGASA earlier said the monsoon would bring cloudy skies with scattered rain showers and thunderstorms over Metro Manila, the rest of Luzon, Visayas, and the Zamboanga Peninsula.



LPA west of Zambales now tropical depression Caloy

This could cause flash floods or landslides due to moderate to at times heavy rains.

Meanwhile, the rest of Mindanao will experience partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rain showers or thunderstorms.

Residents were advised of possible flash floods or landslides during severe thunderstorms. —NB, GMA News

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/scitech/weather/836419/lpa-west-of-zambales-now-tropical-depression-caloy/story/?fbclid=IwAR1vkOe9EVSEDjyFj7DFgSDK9xAXNzcNzLiAa-ZYkqHBACbUM8g5jYhIS7Q>

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Manila Bayani Awards 2022

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has given recognition to volunteers and partners who had significant contribution to the cleanup and rehabilitation of Manila Bay during the "Manila BAYANI Awards" ceremony on June 14, 2022 at the Diamond Hotel in Manila. The signatories of the award are the International Council for Environmental Law (ICEL), the DENR, Normandy Chair for Peace, the Institute for Governance and Sustainable Development (IGSD), Asia Pacific Center for Environmental Law and Juliana Oposa.

DENR Acting Secretary Jim O. Sempolna led the recognition of local government units (LGUs), private organizations, river rangers, and individuals in Metro Manila, Central Luzon and Southern Luzon for their active participation in the Manila Bay rehabilitation program. Acting Secretary Sempolna also attributed the success of the Manila Bay Rehabilitation Program to the "strong will" of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte to accomplish a monumental task. "We would not have accomplished our task without the people and organizations who helped us as we journey along our rehabilitation and cleanup efforts. We have a lot of heroes amid all this," Sempolna added.

Senator Cynthia Villar was specially cited in gratitude by the DENR as one of the recipients of the "Manila BAYANI Award" in recognition of her efforts as the Chair of the Senate Committee on Environment because of her persistence in strongly reminding the concerned agencies to do their job as mandated by the Supreme Court under the continuing mandamus to clean the Manila Bay issued on December 18, 2008. The continuing mandamus compels the DILG, DENR and 11 other national agencies (NGAs) to rehabilitate and preserve the Manila Bay to make it fit for swimming, skin diving, and other forms of contact recreation in its waters. Based on the Order, the government agencies were given 10 years to rehabilitate Manila Bay.

Senator Villar was also recognized for her efforts in physically initiating the cleaning of Baseco Compound, in Barangay 649, Gasangan, Zone 6B, Port Area, Manila which she started in 2015 thereby boosting environmental awareness among Filipinos.

She did monthly clean up and tree-planting activities as well as the construction of toilets and establishment of various livelihood projects for the residents.



USEC, Analiza Rebutista-Teh, USGC Juan Miguel T. Ouna, Former DENR Sec. Roy A. Cimatu, Sen. Cynthia A. Villar, Atty. Rita Linda Jimeno, NIA Senior Deputy Director Benny Antiporda, Atty. Antonio Oposa Jr., DENR Secretary Jim O. Sempolna

Senator Cynthia Villar in addressing the poor sanitary conditions of the people who have no access to toilet facilities in Baseco, she has tapped the help of the DOH, DSWD, the City of Manila and Maynilad together and launched the "Zero Open Defecation for Baseco Compound" project in May 2017. She initiated the paving of the street and built a communal septic tank. She also sought the commitment of authorities for the regular collection of garbage to prevent solid waste accumulation in Manila Bay. In a bid to turn the compound into a model community rehabilitation project and site for urban agriculture and aquaculture, she asked the help of the Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM) to establish urban gardens which have been the source of vegetables for residents' own consumption and livelihood. Recycling projects were also initiated in the area provided by the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission.

Together with the residents of Baseco, mangroves were also planted in the area to serve as natural barriers that will protect the community in the event of storm surges. The Baseco compound is located near the sea wall of Manila Bay, making it vulnerable to flooding and storm surges during typhoon. Aquaculture was also introduced in the area with the help of Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) who provided the training and distribution of fishing boats and trikes to the residents.

The Senator has always mobilized other sectors in helping Baseco such as partner-organizations namely Department of Health, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Public Works and Highways, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Bureau of Soils



Certificate of Gratitude given to Sen. Cynthia A. Villar and Villar SIPAG Foundation as recipients of Manila BAYANI Awards

and Water Management, Department of Education, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, Maynilad, Kabalikot sa Kaunlaran ng Baseco, MBC-DZRH, and Gasangan barangay officials.

It may be recalled that on Dec. 18, 2008, the Supreme Court issued a Continuing Mandamus on Manila Bay (G.R. 171947-48) directing 13 government agencies to clean up, rehabilitate, and preserve Manila Bay, and restore and maintain its waters to class "B" level to make them fit for swimming, sky-diving and other forms of contact recreation. The 13 agencies involved are:

1. DENR
2. DILG
3. DepEd
4. DOH
5. DA
6. DPWH
7. DBM
8. Philippine Coast Guard (PCG)
9. Philippine National Police-Maritime Group
10. Philippine Ports Authority (PPA)
11. Metropolitan Manila Development Authority
12. Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS)
13. Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA)

Among those who also received the Manila Bay Awards were:

1. Former DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu
2. Former MMDA Chair Danilo Lim
3. Manila Mayor Francisco "Isko Moreno" Domagosa
4. Cavite Gov. Jonvic Remulla
5. Senator-elect and former DPWH Sec. Mark Villar
6. NIA Senior Deputy Administrator and former DENR Undersecretary Benny D. Antiporda
7. Environmental lawyer Antonio Oposa Jr.
8. Atty. Rita Linda V. Jimeno
9. Congressman - Elect Edward Hegodan

Also recognized during the event are the Villar SIPAG Foundation, Wild Bird Club, Asian Terminal Inc., Brgy. 412 in Sempaloc, Manila, environmental planner Jason Villaza, the "river rangers" of Bacoor City, Cavite City, and the municipalities of Nalc, Kawit, and Novleta in the province of Cavite.

Among the LGUs include: Balanga, Bataan; Palayan, Nueva Ecija; Sasmuan, Pampanga; Maricao, Bulacan and the Environment and Natural Resources Office of the Provincial Government of Pampanga.

Senator Cynthia Villar's Initiatives for the protection and conservation of Manila Bay



Tree planting at LPPWP during Arbor Day Celebration



Monthly clean-up at Las Pitos-Parafuquas Wetland Park



Mangroves planting at Baseco



Urban farming at Gasangan in Baseco



Turned over toilet facilities to residents of Brgy. 649 Baseco, Tondo



Regular clean-up drive at the shoreline of Baseco, Tondo



Distribution of bangus (milkfish) fingerlings to Baseco residents



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President Duterte's 6 years:

Boracay, Manila Bay clean-up among environment legacies

By AARON RECUIENCO

The start of the Duterte administration on July 1, 2016 proved to be a morale booster to pro-environment groups, particularly with the appointment of the late environmentalist Gina Lopez at the helm of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Buoyed by the strong backing of President Duterte, Lopez boldly showed the political will that her boss was known for by waging her own war to save the country from environment degradation.

In just less than a year since she assumed the top DENR post, Lopez issued orders that cancelled the permits, or rejected the applications of many mining operations all to the delight of pro-environment groups which were impressed by the hard stand taken by the Duterte administration.

Her departure from the DENR led to the appointment of former military chief of staff Roy Cimatu, who became the President's "bastioner," or "take-charge guy" for the two most important projects which the Duterte administration would be most remembered — the aggressive Boracay rehabilitation, and the massive clean-up of Manila Bay.

After Duterte described Boracay as a "cesspool" — a comment which became viral — the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force was created to rehabilitate the world-famous beach resort amid persistent reports of some of the establishments dumping their wastes in the sea.

The Boracay rehabilitation also came with the target of protecting the natives of Boracay who

have been repeatedly victimized by land-grabbing and hostile takeovers of land and properties.

In just a few months after the start of the clean-up drive, the rehabilitation work became visible with the enforcement of laws that forced most of the establishment owners and local residents to clear the beaches and right of ways according to the law.

Roads were improved to meet the tourists' expectation of a world-quality tourist spot.

The best part? The quality of the water at the beach and in at least nine wetlands improved. According to a DENR report, almost, if not all, of the local residents, establishment owners, and even

turned over to the local government of Malay.

Dolomite Beach

Meanwhile, in Manila, even amid the lockdowns due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Duterte administration embarked on another project that became controversial but was praised by his supporters — the Dolomite Beach.

Against all odds that included adverse scientific opinion of environmental experts on the logic and sustainability of dumping white sand from a bulldozed mountain in Cebu, the Duterte administration remained unperturbed and went on to realize the project.



BORACAY ISLAND (DOT PHOTO)

tourists were forced to follow the strict implementation of rules on waste disposal.

Early this month, DENR Sec. Jim Sampulna declared the Boracay Island clean-up program as mission accomplished. The BIATF was dissolved and the management and supervision of the Boracay Island

In its first opening to the public on Sept. 19, 2020 at the height of the pandemic, thousands flocked to the small portion of the Manila Bay to take selfies and flood Instagram and Facebook of images of the controversial beach. But the beach was closed on Oct. 29, 2021 to continue work on it.



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DOLomite BEACH (DENR PHOTO)

The Dolomite Beach was reopened to the public on June 12, which coincided with the Philippine celebration of Independence Day, after months of implementation of structure-building to protect the white beach from being gobbled up by strong waves at the Manila Bay.

But the Duterte legacy on environment protection did not end with these two notable projects.

Climate resilience

Amid the disasters and natural calamities that struck many communities in the country every year, the Duterte administration stepped up disaster resiliency by implementing big projects aimed at protecting the usual victims of widespread flooding.

By virtue of the Executive Order No. 120 which created the Task Force Build Back Better, President Duterte ordered concerned agencies to strengthen the climate resilience capacities of communities vulnerable to disasters and climate hazards, especially in Cagayan Valley, Bicol Region, and Marikina River Basin.

This resulted in the massive dredging operations at the Magapit Narrows, Cagayan, and Marikina Rivers, which were already completed, and the removal of critical sandbars restricting the water flow of the Cagayan, Marikina, and Bicol Rivers.

Clean energy

The DENR reported that President Duterte pushed for the imposition of a moratorium on coal power projects, and advocated for the phase-down of unabated coal power, and end of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies during the 26th Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Responsible mining

Efforts for responsible mining also materialized with the completion of the first and second phases of the mining audit, covering 43 large-scale surface metallic mining companies.

Based on the DENR report, an estimated ₱2.7 billion was committed to environmental programs, on top of the 8.1 million seedlings and reforestation of 6,600 hectares of mined-out and other areas for the Mining Forest Program.

A total of ₱407.6 million of the Social Development Management Program of mining companies was also realigned to support the affected communities during the pandemic.

In the words of DENR officials, President Duterte made great strides in institutionalizing the centrality of the environment to the country's development.



QC prods DENR on MPSA cancellation

While quarry operations had been suspended at Masungi and the Marikina Watershed, the illegal construction, tree-cutting activities and destruction of waterways in the areas have continued

BY PAULA ANTONIN
antonin@tribune.ph

Quezon City has joined calls from various local government units in and out of Metro Manila for the cancellation of quarrying permits covering the Upper Marikina Watershed and the Masungi Geopark Project. Mayor Joy Belmonte

was the latest to ink a petition paper calling on the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) not just to suspend but to cancel the three Mineral Production Sharing Agreements (MPSA) that cover the ecologically important area.

At least four mayors in

the National Capital Region, as well as other officials, have prodded the DENR to do its job of protecting the environment against quarrying activities that lay mountains bare and cause floodings in cities and towns in Rizal and the capital region.

"We are deeply concerned that the DENR is reportedly not acting upon the cancellation of the MPSA since they are allegedly 'not operational' and 'will expire soon' anyway," part of the petition read.

The mayors, including

Muntinlupa's Jaime Fresnedi, Pasig City's Vico Sotto and Marikina's Marcelino Teodoro, joined ecological experts and indigenous Filipino groups in asking President Rodrigo Duterte to cancel the MPSA.

Signing the manifesto for Malabon was City Administrator Voltaire Dela Cruz.

They noted that Acting DENR Secretary Jim Sampilna merely suspended the 25-year MPSA expiring in 2023 and 2024, enough time for the protected areas to be destroyed if the suspensions

are lifted or the MPSA are renewed.

In 2020, then-DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu vowed to cancel the MPSA, but the pledge did not materialize.

Environmentalists have complained that while quarry operations had been suspended, the illegal construction, tree-cutting activities and destruction of waterways in the areas have continued.

They added that the lives and safety of park rangers would continue to be threatened unless the MPSA are canceled.



Editorial

DENR, inutil sa quarrying sa Marikina Watershed

MARAMI nang nangyaring trahedya na pagguho ng lupa at malawakang pagbaha na isinisasi sa quarrying. Bukod sa quarrying, mayroon ding mga pagmimina at resort construction. Pati ang mga protected areas at watershed ay sinisira dahil sa mga gawaing ito. At bago pa makakilos para pigilan ang quarrying at pagmimina, butas-butang na ang bundok.

Ang pagkasira ng mga bundok ang dahilan ng grabeng baha na nararanasan ngayon sa maraming bahagi ng bansa. Maraming panat na bundok ang nabibiyak at nagos dito ang putik at mga bato at sasagasa sa mga barangay na nasa paanan. Ibibing nang buhay ang mga residente.

Ganito ang kahaharapin kapag hindi napigilan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang quarrying operations sa Masungi Upper Marikina Watershed sa Baras, Rizal. Nakalulunog ang baha na maaaring mangyari. 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. Noong nakaraang Lunes, nanawagan sa DENR ang mayor ng Quezon City, Marikina City, Muntinlupa at Pasig City na kanselahin ang mineral production sharing agreements (MPSA) na inisyu sa quarrying firms. Walang pagkilos ang DENR.

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 panganiib na idululot ng mga ginagawang aktibidad sa lugar. Ang grupo ng Masungi ang nagrehabilitate 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.

Bagama't may direktiba na ang presidente, hindi kumikilos ang DENR para mapigil ang quarrying operations sa lugar. Ayon sa report, "malalaking politiko" ang may-ari ng quarrying kaya hindi maipatigil.

Wala pang inihahayag na DENR secretary si president-elect Ferdinand Marcos Jr. Harinawang ang itatalaga niya ay hindi inutil. Sana, taong may malasakit sa kapaligiran at kalikasan.



Maynilad to start distributing 'new water' in July

MAYNILAD Water Services, Inc. targets to distribute starting in July up to 10 million liters per day (MLD) of its "new water" or treated used water from households that passes through a rigorous purifying process to make it potable.

"We're still doing some pipe-laying in Sucat, and we're still waiting for our permit to operate from the Department of Health, but once we get it, maybe next month we can already distribute 10 MLD," Maynilad Chief Operating Officer Randolph T. Estrallado said partly in Filipino during a virtual press briefing on Tuesday.

He said the company's target eventually is to use all the wastewater in Metro Manila to be purified into new water. He said 80% of the

water produced in its concession areas comes back as wastewater.

The treated water will come from its modular treatment plants or ModTPs that will get raw water from the Parañaque Water Reclamation Facility.

The initial 10 MLD will be flowed into the distribution system for blending with the standard drinking water produced by Maynilad's La Mesa treatment plants.

The blended supply will then be conveyed to barangays San Dionisio and San Isidro in Parañaque City, which are the areas nearest to the ModTP location. The two barangays will benefit from the additional supply, as it will improve water availability in the area.

Maynilad said it had been holding a series of social acceptability

tests and public consultations with residential and commercial customers, local government units, and government agencies such as the DoH, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), and National Water Resources Board.

The consultations are meant to ensure that the new water will be acceptable to consumers.

Maynilad said that based on the results of its initial social acceptability test, its residential and commercial customers have expressed willingness to use new water after seeing it and understanding the process behind it.

"Mahaba ang pinaydaanan na journey ng Maynilad bago kami nakarating dito (Maynilad's jour-

ney has been long before we got here)," Maynilad President and Chief Executive Officer Ramoncito S. Fernandez said.

"We will ensure that periodic tests will be done," he added.

Maynilad said the new water will have no impact on customers' water bill. The standard water tariff rates will apply whether raw water is sourced from Angat Dam, Laguna Lake, or treated used water.

The initiative is part of Maynilad's move toward potable water reuse, which is aimed at boosting available supply in view of the growing demand for water. It is also in response to the strain on existing raw water sources due to the impact of climate change, the company said.

At present, used water from households is collected, cleaned

in sewage treatment plants, and discharged into bodies of water. But with potable water reuse, treated used water goes through a second treatment plant for a more rigorous purification process. The new water output can be used for drinking, having passed the Philippine National Standards for Drinking Water.

Maynilad officials said treated water reuse for drinking is already done in other countries.

Since 2019, Maynilad has been looking into potable water reuse when a water crisis hit Metro Manila, prompting the company to tap alternative sources, including Laguna Lake, apart from Angat Dam.

Maynilad is a private concessionaire of the MWSS. It is the water and wastewater services provider

for the 17 cities and municipalities that comprise the west zone of the greater Metro Manila area.

Maynilad sources 91% of its supply from a single source — Angat Dam, which also supplies another water concessionaire, a hydroelectric plant, and the needs of farmers for irrigation.

Metro Pacific Investments Corp., which has a majority stake in Maynilad, is one of three Philippine units of Hong Kong-based First Pacific Co. Ltd., the others being Philex Mining Corp. and PLDT, Inc.

Hastings Holdings, Inc., a unit of PLDT Beneficial Trust Fund subsidiary MediaQuest Holdings, Inc., has an interest in *BusinessWorld* through the Philippine Star Group, which it controls. — Victor V. Saulon



Maynilad taps Israel expertise to recycle water for potable use

By Othel V. Campos

WEST zone concessionaire Maynilad Water Services Inc. said Tuesday it plans to tap used water as an alternative raw water supply source for drinking.

The water company said in a briefing the initiative would benchmark the Philippines with Namibia in Southern Africa and Singapore in Asia as the first water company in the Philippines to produce drinkable reused water.

The company will utilize one of its new modular treatment plants to convert treated used water into potable supply called "new water." These plants utilize a treatment technology from Israel—a known global leader in water innovation.

It said the used water from households collected through its conveyance system will pass through a sewage treatment plant where it will undergo a series of treatment processes to become "treated used water."

The company said this meets the ambient water and general effluent standards of 2021 set by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

The "treated used water" discharged by the STP will pass through a ModTP where it will be further purified. The ModTP's multi-stage treatment process includes pressurized media filtration, ultrafiltration, reverse osmosis and chlorine disinfection.

Maynilad said the output from this process is called new water—a supply that meets the Philippine National Standards for Drinking Water, which is among the more stringent drinking water standards in the world.

It said for the initial implementation, Maynilad would produce around 10 million liters per day of new water through a ModTP that will source "treated used water" from the company's STP in Parañaque City.

The used treated water will be fed into the distribution system where it will blend with the standard drinking water produced by Maynilad's La Mesa Treatment Plants.



Maynilad's 'New Water' passes potability test

THE "New Water" that Maynilad produced using raw water supply from its Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) in Paranaque City has been issued a Certificate of Potability by the Paranaque City Health Office.

The collected samples were tested by accredited laboratories of the Department of Health (DOH) to ensure that the water is safe to drink. The issuance of a Certificate of Potability proves that "New Water" meets the Philippine National Standards for Drinking Water.

"New Water" is a drinkable water supply that is sourced from the used water generated by households. Maynilad now produces "New Water" by collecting the treated used water discharged by its Paranaque Water Reclamation Facility and putting it through a Modular Treatment Plant for a more rigorous purification process to make it potable.

Maynilad has been looking into potable water reuse since 2019. The initiative is in line with the company's bid to expand its alternative raw water source options so it can better augment supply during times of shortage.

Photo shows Department of Health (DOH)-certified water samplers collecting samples of "New Water" from the company's Modular Treatment Plant for testing, in the presence of representatives from the Paranaque City Health Office.





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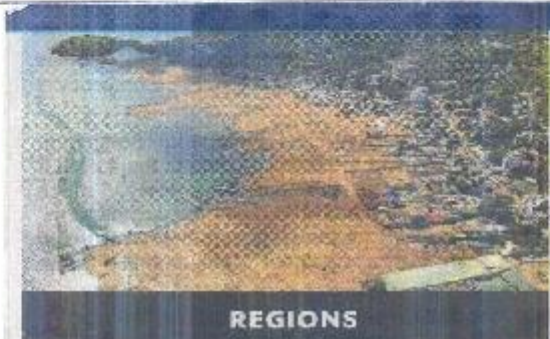
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PRA forfeits Coron reclamation project

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—The Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA) has ordered the forfeiture of about 22 hectares of reclaimed land in Coron, Palawan, saying the project of the provincial government and its joint venture partners was unauthorized. The PRA found out that the project lacked area clearance from the environment department. A civic group hailed it as a victory for the environment. —STORY BY ROMAR MIRANDA

ATI

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DRY LAND The reclamation of a 22-hectare area at the town center of Coron, Palawan, has been stopped after the provincial government and its joint venture partners failed to secure an area clearance. The reclaimed area has been forfeited in favor of the national government. —CORON/PHOTO BY [unreadable]



PRA forfeits Coron reclamation project

National gov't to take over illegally reclaimed area in Palawan's tourist town; civic movement leaders, locals claim victory for environment

By Romar Miranda
@RVMirandaINQ

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—After years of battling against a "destructive development project," a civic movement in Coron, Palawan, scored a win when the Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA) ordered the forfeiture in favor of the national government of an unfinished reclamation project in the town.

Lawyer Mark Arthur Catabona, acting board secretary of the PRA, in Resolution No. 5542-2022 issued on June 16, ordered the forfeiture of about 22 hectares of reclaimed land in Coron, citing the unauthorized reclamation undertaken by the Palawan provincial government and its joint venture partners.

The decision came after the PRA found out that the project continued without area clearance from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), as directed by President Duterte on March 22, after a meeting with Sagip Coron Palawan (SCP) conveners.

"In view of the total forfeiture of the said reclaimed land, the PRA management is also hereby granted with authority to apply and comply with the DENR requirements for presidential proclamation declaring the land alienable and disposable and no longer needed for public use, issuance of a special patent, and eventual titling thereof," the PRA resolution said.



REHAB UNDER WAY. Members of the civic movement Sagip Coron Palawan vow to rehabilitate the illegally reclaimed land in the tourist town, saying they will protect it from moves that may hurt the local environment. —CONTRIBUTED PHOTO BY RANDOLPH ABOROT/SAGIP CORON PALAWAN

PRA General Manager and CEO Janilo Rubiato said the Coron case could be the first total forfeiture granted by the agency in favor of the national government, meaning forfeiture orders previously issued in other reclamation sites had partial coverage that allowed proponents to use certain parts of the reclaimed area.

'Good fight'

Bob Magallanes, one of the conveners of Sagip Coron and a native of the island town, welcomed the development after years of "fighting the good fight," which, he said, would not have been possible without the persistent call to action from locals.

"I am thankful to Sagip Coron members who showed concern for the nation and future generations and to all residents of

Coron who sacrificed their time and effort for this cause," Magallanes said in a message to the Inquirer on Tuesday.

Marion Raagas, also among Sagip Coron's conveners, said the forfeiture of the illegally reclaimed land was a "big victory for mother nature and the Coron people."

Raagas said the PRA, the tourism, public works, interior and local government, and environment departments; the Armed Forces of the Philippines; and all allied government agencies and the community would work together and come up with a comprehensive master plan for Coron.

"We are also hoping that the incoming administration will be supportive [of] our efforts, hopes and dreams for ordinary people who are affected by ille-

gal reclamation and quarrying that they may review the 'Executive Order Coron,' which SCP's legal counsel drafted, so we can execute the whole-of-nation approach (and the) much needed reforms for both our country's development and responsible reclamation and quarrying will be followed and enforced to the letter," Raagas said.

Incumbent provincial government officials had yet to issue a statement on Tuesday, but had initially distanced themselves from the controversy, citing that the project was continued from a previous plan under the administration of former Gov. Joel Reyes 15 years ago.

The Coron Bay Development Project was started in 2007 by Reyes, who applied for the environmental compliance certificate (ECC) with the DENR for a 3-ha area. In 2009, it got another ECC for 48 ha.

Between 2012 and 2018, the project was halted reportedly due to lack of funds but was reinstated by outgoing Gov. Jose Alvarez, who entered into a joint venture with developers for the construction of hotels, docking stations, and other tourism-related facilities at Coron town center.

Alvarez won as representative of Palawan's second congressional district during the May 9 elections. His vice governor, Dennis Socrates, will succeed him as governor of the province. **sq**



Crocodiles sighted in Bulacan river?

GUIGUINTO, Bulacan – Representatives from the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) started an investigation yesterday into the reported presence of crocodiles in a river in this town.

"We acknowledge that there are alleged sightings and have reported the matter to the DENR for immediate investigation and action," Mayor Paula Agatha Cruz told **The STAR**.

She said a team from the BMB conducted an ocular inspection.

In a post on Facebook, officials of Barangay Malis warned the public against swimming or going to the river, citing the reported sightings of a crocodile.

Bulacan fifth district Rep. Abrocio Cruz said there have been discussions on how to catch the crocodile if found.

As of noon yesterday, environmental personnel have yet to find any crocodile even as residents claimed that there have been sightings.

– Ramon Efren Lazaro

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Buwaya namataan sa ilog sa Bulacan

GUIGUINTO, Bulacan - Mahigpit na ipinagbabawal ngayon sa mga residente ng Brgy. Malis ang pagpunta at pagligo sa ilog matapos mamataan ang isang buwaya sa ilog ka-makalawa.

Ayon sa Facebook post ng I Am Malis, nakita at nakuhanan ng litrato ang buwaya, kasama ng tuyot na weterily sa ilog.

Dahil dito, pinag-lingat ng mga opisyal ng barangay ang mga residente, partikular ang mga nakatira sa tabing-ilog para maiwasan ang ka-pahamakan.

Nanawagan sila sa mga residente na sakaling mamataan muli ang buwaya ay agad ipagbigay-alam sa kanila upang mahuli ito.

Sinasabing matapos ma-kipag-ugnayan ang barangay sa pamahalaang bayan, DENR, MENRO at MDRRMO ay agad itong rumas-pondo sa lugar upang ma-benipika at mahuli ang buwaya.

Iniusulat ito, wala pang impormasyon kung muling lumutang o namataan ang si-nasabing buwaya sa lugar.

DICK MIRASOL-III



ANG buwayang namataan sa ilog sa Brgy. Malis sa Gui-guinto, Bulacan kaya pinag-lingat ang mga residente sa pangingsda at paglalangoy dito.

Photo courtesy: I Am Malis



Editorial

Pass the Land Use Act

A RECENT report published by the Land Matrix Initiative has shed some light on the extent of so-called large-scale land acquisitions (LSLA) in the Philippines, and the news is not encouraging. The Philippines is among the top five countries in all of Asia in terms of the number of land acquisition deals made in the past 20 years. Even more alarming, as of 2021, there are potentially 3.6 million hectares — about 58 percent of all the arable land in the Philippines — that are under negotiation for potential deals.

And this may only be the tip of the iceberg: the Land Matrix Initiative report stresses that information about as many as one-third of LSLAs in the Philippines, whether completed or planned, is simply not available. The lack of transparency raises concern that lands are being converted from their proper use at a rapid rate. A tool exists to correct this — a National Land Use Code — but successive Congresses for nearly 30 years have been unwilling to pass it. This must change in the upcoming 20th Congress.

The need for a national land use code has been recognized since at least 1987, and a vast number of bills to create one have been introduced in the legislature every year since at least 1994. As of last year, there were 18 different land use bills pending in the House of Representatives, and four in the Senate. As in every other Congress preceding the recently departed 19th Congress, these bills were quietly shelved, advancing no further than the committee level. The reasons why our elected representatives have been so steadfast in avoiding passing a land use bill for so long are certainly open to speculation.

While there have obviously been differences in details of the many bills that have been proposed, the basic function of a land use code is to provide a comprehensive set of definitions for all land in the Philippines, and then govern the management and execution of a land use system and physical planning mechanisms. Parameters would be established for sustainable land use at all levels of government in terms of land protection, different types of production, infrastructure use, and settlement uses. The fundamental objective of a land use code is to ensure that all the land in the Philippines is put to its most beneficial use, whether that is agriculture, mining, or industry, residential or commercial use, or preservation.

It is not that there is a complete lack of land use regulation in the Philippines now, but rather that there is a lack of consistency in land designation and the application and enforcement of such rules as do exist.

Lack of consistency

It is not that there is a complete lack of land use regulation in the Philippines now, but rather that there is a lack of consistency in land designation and the application and enforcement of such rules as do exist. Land use guidelines and regulations are sectoral-based; for example, definitions used by the Department of Agrarian Reform are different in some ways from those used by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Compounding the problem are differing rules — and levels of sincerity in enforcing them — at the level of local governments.

Not having a comprehensive land use code has resulted in what anyone can easily see in the Philippines now. Agriculture land is converted, sometimes illegally, for industrial or commercial use, or residential real estate development. Forest lands that ought to be preserved are instead stripped bare for agriculture or mining. Human settlements are planted and grow in geologically or environmentally hazardous areas, with the unfortunate consequence that lives and property are harmed in the country's frequent natural disasters. Our urban areas have become densely overbuilt, raising safety and health risks for those who live in them.

The incoming Marcos administration, just as the administrations before it, has well-intentioned plans to support growth and prosperity of the nation. We certainly wish the new government all the best in its efforts, and will support them. It is difficult to see, however, how the anticipated results can be achieved in anything more than an unsatisfactorily partial fashion unless the National Land Use Code is finally created and implemented. The new government, and particularly those legislators who have pledged to work with and support the president's programs, should make it their first order of business.



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'Selfishness of nations delays oceans deal'

LISBON: Some countries won't accept that the world's oceans belong to everyone and their "egoism" is holding up a global agreement on protecting these vast tracts of the planet, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres charged on Monday.

He didn't name the countries he was referring to, but stressed the significance of the oceans to everyone on the planet, saying, "International waters are ours."

The UN chief was with senior officials and scientists from more than 120 countries attending the five-day UN Ocean Conference in Portugal's capital Lisbon. Also present were activists frustrated by the failure to come up with international rules that might ensure ocean sustainability.

The UN hopes the conference that got underway on Monday would bring fresh momentum to protracted efforts for a global ocean agreement.

There's no comprehensive legal framework applying to the high seas. Oceans cover some 70 percent of the Earth's surface and provide food and livelihoods for billions of people. Some activists refer to them as the largest unregulated area on the planet.

The conference is set to adopt a declaration that, though not binding on its signatories, could help implement and facilitate the protection and conservation of oceans and their resources, according to the UN. The declaration is due to be endorsed on Friday.

But still beyond reach is a vital new international agreement on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction, also known as the Treaty of the High Seas.

That treaty is being negotiated with-

in the framework of the United Convention on the Law of the Sea, which is the main international agreement governing human maritime activities.

After 10 years of talks, however, including a fourth round of negotiations three months ago, a deal remains elusive. A fifth round is scheduled for August in New York.

"The world's largest ecosystem... is still unprotected and is dying as we watch," the activist group Ocean Rebellion said.

Guterres said "significant progress" has been made toward a deal on a high seas treaty and that the world stands at "a crucial moment" for the future of the oceans.

"We need to make people put pressure on those who decide," Guterres said, appealing for people to make themselves heard.

Threats to the oceans include global warming, pollution, acidification and other problems, the UN says. Potentially harmful deep-sea mining also lacks rules.

Despite the frustrations, the conference is "an important opportunity to accelerate" steps toward a high seas treaty, the UN says, as delegates informally debate possible ways forward.

The conference is also expected to reaffirm and build upon the some 62 commitments made by governments at the previous ocean summit in the Kenyan capital Nairobi in 2018, from protecting small island states with ocean-based economies to sustainable fishing and combatting warming waters.

Financing models for ocean conservation are also on the agenda this year, as well as coming up with science-based, innovative solutions that might improve ocean health. AP

UNITED NATIONS OCEAN CONFERENCE



I SEA YOU United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres at the UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon on Monday, June 27, 2022. AP PHOTO



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There is no pride on a dead planet



Dennis Gorecho
Kuwentong Peyups

THERE is no pride on a dead planet." Thus says a poster by Greenpeace that I saw last Saturday during the celebration of Pride month in Pasay City, carrying with them the iconic rainbow flag interposed with their peace signage.

"Climate justice is queer justice. Our fight must go beyond the usual "green"; rather, it should be multi-perspective and multi-colored. At the end of the day, we all deserve to live on an Earth we can be proud of, where we don't have to wait for the rain just to see the rainbow," Greenpeace said in a statement.

Pride Month commemorates the 1969 Stonewall riots in Manhattan, New York where LGBTQ+ individuals protested against police harassment and persecution commonly experienced by the community.

I covered Greenpeace in the mid-1990s when I was still connected with a major newspaper where I was assigned on the environment beat.

Climate change at that time was already one of their campaigns.

Climate change is driven by factors such as changes in the atmospheric concentration of greenhouse gases and aerosols, land cover and radiation, and their combinations, which then result in what is called radiative forcing (warming and cooling effect).

The Philippines is already in the path of major weather disturbances that damage property and critical infrastructure.

Climate change is expected to lead to more intense typhoons, higher sea levels, and storm surges.

Storm surges are projected to affect about 14 percent of the popula-

Greenpeace said that the fight for genuine climate justice intersects with queer justice. Climate action and policy must be inclusive, it said, adding that the connection of the climate struggle with the liberation of various minority groups from outdated systems must be recognized.

tion and 42 percent of coastal populations. These weather patterns frequently jeopardize the welfare of communities in high-risk areas.

Greenpeace said that the fight for genuine climate justice intersects with queer justice.

Climate action and policy must be inclusive, it said, adding that the connection of the climate struggle with the liberation of various minority groups from outdated systems must be recognized.

Climate change can only be addressed through a vibrant democracy where communities play a key role in policy—and decision-making—regardless of region, class, or gender.

The LGBTQIA+ community is considered one of the strongest allies of the climate movement—a community that knows what it means

to liberate themselves from oppressive practices and give voice to the vulnerable.

Greenpeace calls for the government to enact policies that promote inclusivity and reject discrimination, such as the long-debated Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Expression Equality (SOGIE) Bill.

In her virtual speech, reelected opposition Senator Risa Hontiveros said that she will push anew for the passage of the bill, as its principal author and sponsor, which seeks to ban discrimination based on an individual's SOGIE.

The bill lists the practices to be considered discriminatory and unlawful, which include the denial of rights to LGBTQ+ community on the basis of their SOGIE, such as their right to access public services, right to use establishments and services including housing, and right to apply for a professional license, among others.

The bill also deems as discriminatory the differential treatment of an employee or anyone engaged to render services, denial of admission to or expulsion from an educational institution, refusal or revocation of accreditation to any organization due

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to an individual's SOGIE.

The act of forcing any person to undertake any medical or psychological examination to alter his SOGIE, the publication of information intending to "out" a person without his or her consent, public speech meant to vilify LGBTQ+, the harassment and coercion of the latter by anyone especially those involved in law enforcement, and gender profiling will also be penalized.

"It is time we forge a country that includes all, loves all," Hontiveros said. "You are more than Pride Day or Pride Month. You have every right to exist as you are in the day to day. You deserve these grand celebrations, these spaces of resistance; but you also deserve the ordinary moments."

Akbayan's Perci Cendaña holds

the historical distinction of being the first openly gay chairperson of the UP Diliman University Student Council in the mid 1990s. He was part of UP's LGBT group Babayan, UP SAMASA, and was also a former head of the National Youth Commission.

"The Philippine youth development plan states that youth development is defined as enabled, involved, patriotic youth realizing their aspirations. Discrimination leads to stigma that is a deterrent to development," Cendana said in one of the Senate hearings. "Discrimination is an issue not just of human rights but a development issue because it deters our young people from realizing their aspirations."

Percy is the moniker of University of the Philippines. Atty. Dennis R. Gorecho heads the seafarers' division of the Sapalo Velez Benildang Bulkan law offices. For comments, e-mail info@sapalovelez.com, or call 0917-5025808 or 0908-8665786.



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

BANGKOK 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 tracking and scenarios 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 percent of all life on earth is found under the ocean surface. Seven of every 10 fish caught around the globe comes 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 front line 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 percent of the coral reefs and approximately 60 percent 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, the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (Escap), in collaboration with partner UN agencies, provides a regional platform in support of SDG 14, 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.

IPS

Armida Salsiah Aisjabbana is an undersecretary-general of the United Nations and executive secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (Escap).



'Tropical cyclones' decline a climate change sign

SYDNEY: A team of researchers charting the frequency of tropical cyclones since the mid-19th century has found that these weather disturbances' accelerating decline may be another warning sign of climate change.

Their paper on the finding, published in the *Nature Climate Change* journal on Tuesday, said tropical cyclones had declined by approximately 13 percent in the 20th century, a trend that had been accelerating since the 1950s.

Savin Chand, the paper's lead author and a meteorologist from Federation University Australia, told the state-run Xinhua News Agency on Tuesday it was the first time modern and historical data had been combined to chart global cyclone trends.

"We have reconstructed tropical cyclone numbers back to the 1850s using the 'Twentieth Century Reanalysis' dataset, and together with high-resolution cli-



FORCE OF NATURE This Jan. 31, 2021 file photo shows tree branches that had fallen after Tropical Cyclone Ana made landfall in Fiji's capital Suva. XINHUA PHOTO

mate model experiments, we have quantified for the first time how cyclone numbers have changed over the past century," he said.

The findings were unexpected as changes in sea surface tem-



peratures normally intensify storms, but Chand said associated changes in atmospheric circulations could also prevent them from forming.

"As the climate has warmed

over the 20th century, underlying atmospheric conditions...have created an environment that is less conducive for tropical cyclone formation globally," he said.

The problem arises in the intensity and location of tropical cyclones. Chand's team found that tropical cyclones had been getting closer to coastal areas in parts of the world and growing more intense in recent decades.

Chand said that while this study focused on the frequency of cyclones over time, his team hoped to look at how other characteristics of cyclones had been evolving over the past century.

"Going forward, it is anticipated that continued improvement in climate model products and in observational datasets can help identify attributable anthropogenic climate change signals on other metrics such as tropical cyclone intensity and landfalling activities," he added. XINHUA



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ARBOR DAY.

Manila Water Company Inc., along with government agencies, non-government organizations and private sector groups, leads the observation of the Arbor Day. Quezon City 5th District Rep. Alfred Vargas plants a tree sapling with her daughter Aryanna Cassandra Vargas at the La Mesa Nature Reserve in Quezon City.





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LPA, habagat to bring rains

By ROMINA CABRERA

The southwest monsoon or *habagat* and a low-pressure area spotted off the coast of Zambales will bring rains over Metro Manila and most parts of the country, according to the state weather bureau.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said scattered rains can be expected in Metro Manila, the rest of Luzon, the Visayas and Zamboanga peninsula.

The low-pressure area was estimated at 420 kilometers west of Iba town as of 3 p.m. yesterday.

PAGASA said the weather system was moving west and may exit the Philippine area of responsibility once it develops into a tropical cyclone.

The agency said it is also monitoring a cloud cluster east of Northern Luzon that may develop into another low-pressure area in the next 24 hours.

The weather systems are intensifying the southwest monsoon.

The rest of Mindanao will experience localized thunderstorms.

PAGASA warned the public of flash floods or landslides during heavy rain.

Temperatures in Metro Manila will range between 24 to 31 degrees Celsius.

PAGASA declared the start of the rainy season on May 18.

Two tropical cyclones - Basyang and Agaton - have entered the country this year, both in April.



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Department of Environment and Natural Resources
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU
DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City 1116
Tel. Nos. (632) 927-1517; 828-3725; Fax No. (632) 920-2258
Website: www.emb.gov.ph Email: recordsco@emb.gov.ph

June 24, 2022

EMB MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR
No. 2022 - 05

SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF THE USE OF HAZARDHUNTERPH IN GENERATING INITIAL HAZARD ASSESSMENT REPORTS AS PART OF ENHANCING THE INTEGRATION OF DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION INTO THE PHILIPPINE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT SYSTEM

Consistent with the Bureau's effort to standardize, streamline, and rationalize the Philippine Environmental Impact Statement System (PEISS), as well as enhance the integration of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) concerns into the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) being conducted by proponents, the use of the HazardHunterPH for generation of initial hazard assessment reports and formulation of measures to prepare for and mitigate effects of hazards in their proposed project areas is hereby adopted.

SECTION 1. Rationale

The recent implementation of the support mission carried out by the World Bank for the Third Disaster Risk Management Development Policy Loan (DRM DPL3) requires the DENR to undertake the Pillar A: Strengthening the policy and institutional framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. The DENR, through the EMB, is tasked with issuing updated EIA Guidelines that integrate disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation by June 2022.

The EIA DRR/CCA Technical Guidelines were established through the issuance of EMB Memorandum Circular 2011-005, which was intended to promote climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction at the project level. This is also intended to formulate project-specific checklists for the integration of DRR and CCA into EIA (streamline EIA requirements under the PEISS as provided for in DENR MC 2010-14).

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) has developed platforms and integrated database systems for hazards and risk assessments through the Geospatial Information Management and Analysis Project for Hazards and Risk Assessment in the Philippines (GeoRiskPH). One of GeoRiskPH's products is the HazardHunterPH. It is a tool that can be used to generate indicative hazard assessment reports on the user's specified location. It is helpful as a reference for property owners, buyers, land developers, planners, and other stakeholders needing immediate hazard information and assessment. It aims to increase people's awareness of natural hazards and advocates the implementation of plans to prepare for and mitigate the effects of hazards.

To further enhance the integration of DRR and CCA into the EIA, the GeoRiskPH, specifically the HazardHunterPH tool, shall be integrated into the EIA Online System for proponents to generate initial hazard assessments and integrate the initial findings into the formulation of their mitigating measures for their proposed projects.

SECTION 2. Objectives

The objectives of this Memorandum Circular are the following:

1. Provide proponents access to generate an initial hazard assessment report using the HazardHunterPH tool.
2. Require the proponent to provide appropriate measures in their Environmental Management Plan based on the results of hazard assessment using HazardHunterPH.

SECTION 3. Requirements on the use of HazardHunterPH for ECC applications

Based on Section 2 of the EIA DRR/CCA Technical Guidelines, hazard maps generated by mandated agencies (e.g., PHIVOLCS, MGB, PAGASA) will be used in the assessment of the project area. To ensure that appropriate hazard maps from mandated agencies are being used, the proponents are required to generate an initial hazard assessment using the HazardHunterPH tool of GeoRiskPH.

Should there be any findings in the initial hazard assessment, the proponent must include in their EMP the appropriate measures to mitigate the impacts of the hazards for the proposed project.

SECTION 4. Procedures

To use the HazardHunterPH tool to generate an initial hazard assessment of the proposed project areas, the following are the procedures:

4.1 Generating Initial Hazard Assessment through the HazardHunterPH Website

The proponents are required to generate HazardHunterPH's initial assessment report through HazardHunterPH's website for projects requiring an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in their ECC application. The following are the steps in obtaining the initial assessment report:

1. Go to the EMB website (emb.gov.ph) and click "HazardHunterPH" to go to the HazardHunterPH website. Alternatively, you may go directly to the HazardHunterPH website (<https://hazardhunter.ph/geo-risk.gov.ph/>).
2. Provide the location of your project through either of the following:
 - a. Input the coordinates for the assessment
 - i. Click "Use Coordinates"
 - ii. Specify the longitude and latitude of the area, then click the Search button
 - b. Search the location of the project site through a map view
 - i. Click "Go to Map View"
 - ii. Using the map, search for the project site, then double-click the project site on the map
3. Wait for HazardHunterPH to calculate for the hazard assessment and,
4. Once completed, download the Assessment Results by clicking "View Report with Recommendations".

4.2 Generating Initial Hazard Assessment as part of ECC Online Application

For proponents who are applying for an ECC through the ECC Online System, they shall do the following:

1. After inputting the geographic coordinates of the project area, click "Generate HazardHunterPH initial hazard assessment for your proposed project area".
2. The generated initial hazard assessment will form part of the uploaded documentary requirements, which the proponents can download.

SECTION 5. Separability Clause

If any provision of this Memorandum Circular shall be held invalid or unconstitutional, the other portions or provisions hereof which are not affected shall continue in full force and effect.

SECTION 6. Effectivity

This Memorandum Circular shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation and upon acknowledgment of the receipt of the copy thereof by the Office of the National Administrative Registrar (ONAR).

Digitally signed by **ENGR. WILLIAM P. CUNYAN**
Director



H. No. 9433

Republic of the Philippines
Congress of the Philippines
Metro Manila
Eighty-first Congress
Third Regular Session

Began and held in Metro Manila, on Monday, the twenty-sixth day of July, two thousand twenty-one.

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11806]

AN ACT DECLARING A PARCEL OF LAND LOCATED IN THE CITY OF MASBATE AND THE MUNICIPALITY OF MOBO, IN THE PROVINCE OF MASBATE, A PROTECTED AREA WITH THE CATEGORY OF NATURAL BIOTIC AREA UNDER THE NATIONAL INTEGRATED PROTECTED AREAS SYSTEM (NIPAS), TO BE REFERRED TO AS THE TUGBO NATURAL BIOTIC AREA, PROVIDING FOR ITS MANAGEMENT, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled.

ARTICLE I
GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Tugbo Natural Biotic Area Act".

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - Cognizant of the profound impact of human activities on all components of the natural environment, it is hereby declared the policy of the State to secure for the Filipino people of present and future generations, the perpetual existence of all native plants and animals through the declaration of protected areas under the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) within the classification of national park as provided for in the Constitution.

In recognition of the richness of the biological resources, both flora and fauna, that are native and distinct to the Tugbo Watershed Forest Reserve, as well as their aesthetic and ecological importance, a parcel of land located in the City of Masbate and the Municipality of Mobo, in the Province of Masbate, is hereby declared a protected area with the category of natural biotic area, and shall hereinafter be referred to as the Tugbo Natural Biotic Area (TNBA). As such, the State shall ensure the conservation, protection, management and rehabilitation of the area. It is likewise recognized that effective administration of this area is possible only through cooperation among national government, local government units (LGUs), concerned nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), private entities and local communities. The use and enjoyment of this area must be consistent with the principles of biological diversity and sustainable development.

Towards this end, the State shall ensure the full implementation of this Act, the mobilization of resources for the institutional mechanisms herein established, and the full scientific and technical support needed for the conservation of biodiversity and the integrity of the ecosystems, culture and indigenous practices.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* - As used in this Act:

(a) *Buffer zones* refer to identified areas outside the boundaries of and immediately adjacent to designated protected areas that need special development control in order to avoid or minimize harm to the protected area.

TITLE:

PAGE 23

(b) Conservation refers to any act or acts of preservation and sustainable utilization of wildlife or maintenance, restoration and enhancement of habitats;

(c) Indigenous cultural communities (ICCs) / Indigenous peoples (IPs) refer to groups of people sharing common bonds of language, customs, traditions, and other distinctive cultural traits, and who have, since time immemorial, possessed and occupied a territory;

(d) National park refers to land of the public domain classified as such in the Constitution, which include all areas under the NIPAS, primarily designated for the conservation of native plants and animals, their associated habitats and cultural diversity;

(e) National historic area refers to an area set aside to allow the way of life of societies living in harmony with the environment to adapt to modern technology as their pass;

(f) Protected area refers to an identified portion of land and water set aside by reason of its unique physical and biological significance, managed to enhance biological diversity and prevent significant destructive human exploitation; and

(g) Timed reforestation refers to protected area occupants who have been actually, continuously and presently occupying a portion of the protected area for five (5) years before the proclamation or law establishing the same as a protected area, and are solely dependent thereon for subsistence.

SEC. 4. Closed/Location as a National Park. - The TNBA is comprised of a parcel of land of the public domain located in the City of Masbate and Municipality of Mabo, in the Province of Masbate. All lands of the public domain within the coverage and scope of the TNBA shall fall under the classification of national park as provided for in Article XVI, Section 3 of the Constitution.

SEC. 5. Scope and Coverage. - The boundaries of the TNBA are more particularly described as the area beginning at a point marked "T" on plan, which is N 51° 03' 05" E, 2,854.619 meters from P19899 "MSY-9109" with geographic coordinates of 127° 37' 33.000" Longitude and 132° 35' 33.97029" Longitude located at Barangay Binilalagan, City of Masbate, Province of Masbate.

Corner N64-05-00W	54.15	meters to corner 2;
Corner N113-25-00W	185.84	meters to corner 3;
Corner N45-37-00W	374.35	meters to corner 4;
Corner N31-33-00W	282.89	meters to corner 5;
Corner N119-36-00W	187.03	meters to corner 6;
Corner N07-34-00W	113.39	meters to corner 7;
Corner N04-45-00E	146.10	meters to corner 8;
Corner N08-07-00W	309.80	meters to corner 9;
Corner N41-30-00W	388.89	meters to corner 10;
Corner N46-03-00E	280.65	meters to corner 11;
Corner N23-49-00E	382.81	meters to corner 12;
Corner S71-09-00E	116.80	meters to corner 13;
Corner N07-13-00E	100.43	meters to corner 14;
Corner N34-17-00E	73.94	meters to corner 15;
Corner N43-13-00E	89.84	meters to corner 16;
Corner S69-34-00E	147.69	meters to corner 17;
Corner S28-42-00E	101.56	meters to corner 18;
Corner S13-10-00W	113.39	meters to corner 19;
Corner S43-05-00E	96.59	meters to corner 20;
Corner S60-04-00E	74.50	meters to corner 21;
Corner S60-39-00E	102.45	meters to corner 22;
Corner S17-39-00E	138.81	meters to corner 23;
Corner S13-37-00E	85.30	meters to corner 24;
Corner S43-16-00E	75.74	meters to corner 25;
Corner S36-17-00E	263.19	meters to corner 26;
Corner S49-24-00E	139.69	meters to corner 27;
Corner S25-26-00E	42.97	meters to corner 28;
Corner S41-01-00E	93.03	meters to corner 29;
Corner S41-45-00E	149.91	meters to corner 30;
Corner S55-10-00E	50.55	meters to corner 31;
Corner S46-31-00E	52.11	meters to corner 32;
Corner S83-49-00E	117.28	meters to corner 33;
Corner S06-28-00W	259.70	meters to corner 34;
Corner S24-38-00W	317.14	meters to corner 35;
Corner S37-10-00W	30.09	meters to corner 36;
Corner S37-10-00W	320.51	meters to corner 37;
Corner S30-16-00W	70.80	meters to corner 38;
Corner S44-24-00E	32.79	meters to corner 39;
Corner S45-04-00W	146.07	meters to corner 40;
Corner S46-34-00W	134.08	meters to corner 41;
Corner S77-35-00W	30.88	meters to corner 42;
Corner N45-25-00W	170.03	meters to corner 43;
Corner N76-17-00W	151.09	meters to corner 44;

Corner N64-35-00W 73.34 meters to corner 45;
 Corner N64-06-00W 112.29 meters to corner 46;
 Corner S24-00-00W 306.20 meters to corner 47;
 Corner S04-15-00W 45.45 meters to corner 1,
 and comprises two hundred twenty-four (224) hectares, more or less.

SEC. 6. Establishment of Buffer Zones. - The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary, upon the recommendation of the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) created under Section 7 of this Act, may designate areas surrounding the TNBA as buffer zones for the purpose of providing an extra layer of protection, where restrictions may be applied. Provided, That, in cases where the designated buffer zone would cover private lands, the owners thereof shall be required to design their development with due consideration to the protected area management plan.

**ARTICLE II
MANAGEMENT MECHANISMS**

SEC. 7. Protected Area Management Board (PAMB). - Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, a Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) shall be created to oversee the management of the TNBA. The PAMB shall be composed of the following:

- (a) DENR Regional Executive Director for Region V, as Chairperson;
- (b) Governor of the Province of Masbate or his/her duly authorized representative;
- (c) Senators of the Republic of the Philippines whose duly registered residence in the Province of Masbate, or their duly designated representatives, unless the Senators decline the membership in the PAMB;
- (d) District Representative of the Congressional District where the TNBA is located, or his/her duly designated representative, unless the District Representative declines the membership in the PAMB;
- (e) Mayors of the City of Masbate, and Municipality of Mabo, in the Province of Masbate, or their duly authorized representatives;
- (f) Chairpersons of all the barangays with territorial jurisdiction over the TNBA.

(g) Regional Director(s) of the following government agencies, namely: Department of Agriculture (DA), National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Philippine National Police (PNP), Department of National Defense (DND), and Department of Tourism (DOT);

(h) Three (3) representatives from either NGOs, or people's organizations (POs) based in the Province of Masbate, duly accredited both by the DENR and the provincial government. The NGOs or POs represented should have been in existence for at least five (5) years and must have a record of accomplishments in the field of protected area management;

(i) At least one (1) but not more than three (3) representatives from all the ICCA's present in the area and recognized by the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP);

(j) One (1) representative from an academic institution, preferably from a university or college in the Province of Masbate, with proven track record in or related to protected area management; and

(k) One (1) representative from the private sector, preferably a resident of the Province of Masbate, who is distinguished in a profession or field of interest relevant to the protected area management.

The terms of office of members of the PAMB, as well as the grounds for their removal, shall be in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act No. 7982, otherwise known as the "National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 1997", as amended by Republic Act No. 11085, otherwise known as the "Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 2018".

SEC. 8. Functions of the PAMB. - The PAMB shall have the following powers and functions:

- (a) Oversee the management of the protected area;
- (b) Approve policies, plans and programs, proposals, agreements, and other related documents for the management of the protected area;
- (c) Approve the management plan of the protected area and ensure its harmonization with and integration into the Ancestral Domain Sustainable Development and Protection Plan, land use plan and other development plans, public or private, and their implementation;
- (d) Adopt a manual of operations to include rules of procedure in the conduct of business, and the creation of committees and their respective terms of reference;
- (e) Recommend the deputization of appropriate agencies and individuals for the enforcement of the laws, rules and regulations governing the management of the protected area;
- (f) Allocate financial resources for the implementation of the management plan and manage the Protected Area Reversion Income Account and other funds in accordance with government accounting, budgeting, and auditing rules and regulations;
- (g) Set fees and charges in accordance with existing guidelines;
- (h) Issue rules and regulations for the resolution of conflicts through appropriate and effective means;
- (i) Recommend appropriate policy changes to the DENR and other government authorities with respect to the management of the TNBA;
- (j) Monitor and assess the performance of the Protected Area Superintendent (PAS) and other protected area personnel and compliance of partners with the terms and conditions of any undertaking, contract or agreement relative to any project or activity within the TNBA;
- (k) Recommend from among a shortlist of qualified

candidates, the designation or appointment of the PAS; and

(l) Assess the effectiveness of the management of the protected area. Provided, That the members of the PAMB representing the LGUs and national agencies shall inform their respective constituents, offices or sectors, of PAMB-approved or other relevant policies, rules, regulations, programs and projects and shall ensure that the provisions of this Act and the rules and regulations issued to implement it are complied with and need as reference and framework in their respective plans, policies, programs, and projects. Failure to comply with the foregoing shall be the basis for disciplinary action against such member according to administrative rules and regulations and such penalties as the PAMB may provide. Provided, Further, That the DENR, through the Regional Director, shall ensure that the PAMB acts within the scope of its powers and functions. In case of conflict between the resolutions issued by the PAMB and the existing administrative orders of national application, the latter shall prevail.

SEC. 9. The Protected Area Management Office (PAMO). - There is hereby established a Protected Area Management Office (PAMO) to be headed by a PAS who shall supervise the day to day management, protection, and administration of the TNBA. The PAS shall hold a permanent pleistate position and shall be appointed by the DENR Secretary. A sufficient number of support staff with permanent pleistate positions shall likewise be appointed by the DENR Secretary to assist the PAS in the management of the protected area.

The PAS shall be primarily accountable to the PAMB and the DENR for the management and operations of the TNBA. Pursuant thereto, the PAS shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

- (a) Prepare the management plan, in consultation with the stakeholders, including the annual work and financial plan and ensure its implementation;
- (b) Ensure the integration of the protected area management plans, programs, projects, and policies with relevant national and LGU's plans and programs;
- (c) Provide secretariat services to the PAMB and its committees and ensure the availability of relevant and timely information for decision-making;
- (d) Formulate and recommend to the PAMB proposed policies, rules, regulations, and programs;
- (e) Establish, operate, and maintain a database management system which shall be an important basis for decision-making;
- (f) Enforce the laws, rules and regulations relevant to the protected area, coordinate and initiate administrative and legal actions in collaboration with other government agencies or organizations and assist in the prosecution of offenses committed in violation of the provisions of this Act;
- (g) Monitor, evaluate, and report the implementation of management activities of the protected area;
- (h) Request for and receive any technical assistance, support or advice from any agency or instrumentality of the government as well as academic institutions, NGOs, and the private sector, as may be necessary for the effective management, protection and administration of the protected area;
- (i) Issue permits and clearances for activities that implement the management plan and other permitted activities in accordance with laws, conditions, and criteria established by the PAMB. Provided, That all permits for extraction of natural resources, including collection of wildlife, and its by-products or derivatives for research purposes, shall continue to be issued by relevant authorities, subject to prior clearance from the PAMB, through the PAS, in accordance with the specific rules to be created;
- (j) Collect and receive permit fees, charges, donations, and other income for the protected area. Provided, That such fees, charges, donations, and other income collected and received shall be reported regularly to the PAMB and the DENR in accordance with existing guidelines;
- (k) Prepare and recommend to the PAMB, approval of the annual work and financial plans of the protected area based on the management plan; and
- (l) Perform such other functions as the PAMB and the DENR may assign.

The PAMO may be augmented by the deputized local environment and natural resources officers upon the recommendation of the PAMB and approval of the DENR.

**ARTICLE III
PROCEEDS AND FEES**

SEC. 10. The Tugbo Natural Biotic Area Integrated Protected Area Fund. - There is hereby established a trust fund to be known as the Tugbo Natural Biotic Area Integrated Protected Area Fund (TNBA-ITAF) for purposes of financing projects of the TNBA and the NIPAS. All income generated from the operation of the system or the management of wild flora and fauna in the TNBA shall accrue to the TNBA-ITAF. The income shall be derived from fees from permitted sale and export of flora and fauna and other resources from the TNBA proceeds from lease of multiple-use areas, contributions from industries and facilities directly benefiting from the TNBA, and such other fees and income derived from the operation of the TNBA.

The PAMB shall retain seventy-five percent (75%) of all revenues received through the above means, which shall be deposited to the Protected Area Reversion Income Account (PAR-RIA) in any authorized government depository bank within the locality. Provided, That disbursements out of such deposits shall be used solely for the protection, maintenance, administration, and management of the protected area, and implementation of duly approved projects of the PAMB. The remaining twenty-five percent (25%) of revenue shall be deposited as a special account in the general fund in the National Treasury for purposes of financing the projects of the NIPAS.

The fund may be augmented by grants, donations, endowment from various sources, domestic or foreign. Provided, That the fund shall be deposited in full as a special account in the National Treasury and disbursements therefrom shall be made solely for the protection, maintenance, administration and management of the TNBA and duly approved projects authorized by the PAMB in accordance with existing accounting, budgeting, and auditing rules and regulations. Provided, Further, That the fund shall not be used to cover personnel services expenditures.

The LGUs shall continue to impose and collect all taxes and other fees not enumerated herein, which they have traditionally collected, such as business permits, property tax, and rentals of LGU's facilities.



TRANSITORY AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SEC. 11. Appropriations. – The Secretary of the DENR shall immediately include in the Department's program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 12. Suppletory Application of the NIPAS Law. – The provisions of Republic Act No. 7686, as amended by Republic Act No. 11038, shall have suppletory application to this Act.

SEC. 13. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of the DENR shall, in consultation with the local governments of the City of Masbate and Municipality of Mobo, the provincial government of Masbate, and concerned national government agencies, issue the corresponding rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 14. Separability Clause. – If any section or provision of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining sections or provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 15. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, letters of instruction, executive orders, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 16. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved:

VICENTE C. SOTTO III
President of the Senate

LORD ALLAN JAY Q. VELASCO
Speaker of the House of Representatives

This Act which originated in the House of Representatives was passed by the House of Representatives on August 3, 2021, amended by the Senate of the Philippines on January 31, 2022, and which amendments were concurred in by the House of Representatives on February 2, 2022.

MYRA MARIE D. VELASCO
Secretary of the Senate

MARK L. MENDOZA
Secretary General
House of Representatives

Approved:

JUN 29 2022
Signed into law on _____
without the signature of the President,
in accordance with Article VI,
Section 27 (1), of the Constitution.

RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE
President of the Philippines

29 JUNE 2022, Wednesday



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



COVID-19 cases sa Pilipinas posibleng lumobo sa 5,300/araw sa Hulyo

(Philstar.com)

-June 28, 2022 - 11:32am



Residents of San Juan City participated in this year's Wattah Wattah Festival on Friday, June 24, 2022. This tradition is held yearly to celebrate the feast of St. John the Baptist.

The STAR / Walter Bollozos

MANILA, Philippines — Lalong tumataas ang projections ng mga dalubhasa sa maaaring bilang ng tamaan ng COVID-19 araw-araw sa buong Pilipinas sa susunod na buwan — ito'y kung mananatiling mababa ang nagpapa-booster shots at kumokonti ang sumusunod sa minimum public health standards.

Ito ang sabi ni Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire, Martes, sa mga reporters habang ibinabahagi ang panibagong projections ng FASSTER.

"[If] mobility continues to increase, compliance to [minimum public health standards] continues to reduce (20-22% reduction) and booster uptake is maintained at this low level, we MAY see 3,800 to 5,300 daily cases nationally by mid-July," wika ni Vergeire kanina.

Mas malaki ito 'di hamak kumpara sa [1,500 hanggang 2,000 daily new cases ng COVID-19](#) na unang ipriproject ng Australian Tuberculosis Modelling Network (AuTuMN) para sa Metro Manila sa pagtatapos ng Hulyo.

Aabot pa lang sa [14.86 milyon ang nagpapaturok ng booster doses sa Pilipinas](#). Ito'y kahit na 70.27 milyon na ang nakakukuha ng kumpletong primary doses.

Bagama't nasa Alert Level 1 ang Metro Manila, kung saan pinakamaluwag at pinapayagan ang 100% capacity ng mga establishment, dahan-dahan na uli tumataas ang kaso ng COVID-19 nitong mga nagdaang linggo.



COVID-19 cases sa Pilipinas posibleng lumobo sa 5,300/araw sa Hulyo

Lunes lang nang ibalita ng Department of Health na umabot sa 4,634 ang bagong COVID-19 sa nagdaang linggo. [Mas mataas ito ng 53% kumpara sa linggo bago ito.](#)

Aabot na sa 3.7 milyon ang tinatamaan ng naturang virus simula nang nakapasok ito ng Pilipinas simula nang nakapasok ito noong 2020. Sa bilang na 'yan, patay na ang namatay na ang 60,518. — James Relativo



More cases of Omicron subvariants detected

By [Gaea Katreena Cabico](#)(Philstar.com)

- June 28, 2022 - 3:16pm



People queue for free packed meals distributed by Catholic religious order Society of the Divine Word (SVD) in Manila on June 24, 2022.

AFP/Ted Aljibe

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines has detected 63 additional cases of fast-spreading Omicron BA.2.12.1, BA.4, and BA.5 subvariants, the Department of Health reported Tuesday.

Local authorities detected 50 more cases of the BA.5 subvariant, bringing its total to 93, Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said.

- Thirty-eight individuals from Western Visayas, five from Metro Manila, and seven returning Filipinos were found to have the more transmissible Omicron subvariant.
- One individual is fully vaccinated against COVID-19, and one is unvaccinated. The vaccination status of the remaining 48 cases is still being verified.
- The department said the exposures of the cases are still unknown, and their travel histories are being checked.
- One case had mild symptoms. The symptoms of the remaining 49 cases are still being verified.



More cases of Omicron subvariants detected

- Forty-one individuals have recovered from the disease, and four are still undergoing isolation. The DOH is still checking the outcomes of the rest.

Eleven additional BA.2.12.1 cases were found, raising the total to 43.

- Seven people from Western Visayas, and four returning overseas Filipinos tested positive for the Omicron subvariant.
- The DOH is still verifying the vaccination status as well as the signs and symptoms of the 11 cases. It is also checking their exposures and travel histories.
- Ten people have been tagged as recovered, and one is still under isolation.

Vergeire also said that two more BA.4 cases were detected. The agency logged the country's first BA.4 case last month.

- One person from Western Visayas and one returning Filipino were found to have the Omicron subvariant. Both have recovered from COVID-19.
- One is fully vaccinated, while the vaccination status of the other case is being verified.
- One of the cases had mild symptoms.

COVID-19 infections in the Philippines are once again increasing. Authorities said the presence of more transmissible variants with immune escape characteristics, increased mobility, reduced compliance with health protocols, and waning vaccine immunity are fueling the renewed spike in cases.



NCR remains under Alert Level 1 until July 15; IATF revises alert level system guidelines

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Jun 28, 2022 10:28:09 AM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, June 28) — Metro Manila will remain under Alert Level 1, the laxest COVID-19 restrictions, until July 15, the Palace announced in a statement on Tuesday.

The move of the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) comes as it also greenlit recommendations by the sub-Technical Working Group for Data Analytics on revising matrices for the alert level system.

The matrix used as basis for the Alert Level System shall be modified as follows:

- (1) Removal of two-week growth rate in determining case risk classification is based on average daily attack rates and its current thresholds.
- (2) Total beds utilization rate and its current thresholds are retained as the main metric for health system capacity.
- (3) Assignment of Alert Level shall be based on the revised cross tabulation of total beds utilization rate and average daily attack rate.

Along with the capital region, 85 of 121 provinces and highly urbanized cities and independent component cities are under the most lenient alert level from July 1 to 15.

They are joined by 166 of 744 other component cities and municipalities.

These are as follows:

Provinces, HUCs, ICCs

Cordillera Administrative Region - Abra, Apayao, Baguio City, Kalinga, and Mountain Province



NCR remains under Alert Level 1 until July 15; IATF revises alert level system guidelines

Region I - Dagupan City, Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, La Union, and Pangasinan

Region II - Batanes, Cagayan, City of Santiago, Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya, and Quirino

Region III - Angeles City, Aurora, Bataan, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Olongapo City, Pampanga, Tarlac, and Zambales

Region IV-A - Batangas, Cavite, Laguna, Lucena City, and Rizal

Region IV-B - Marinduque, Oriental Mindoro, Puerto Princesa City, and Romblon

Region V - Albay, Catanduanes, Naga City, and Sorsogon

Region VI - Aklan, Bacolod City, Capiz, Guimaras, Iloilo Province, and Iloilo City

Region VII - Cebu City, Lapu-Lapu City (Opon), Mandaue City, and Siquijor

Region VIII - Biliran, Eastern Samar, Ormoc City, Southern Leyte, and Tacloban City

Region IX - Zamboanga City

Region X - Bukidnon, Cagayan De Oro City, Camiguin, Iligan City, Misamis Occidental, and Misamis Oriental

Region XI - Davao City and Davao Oriental

Region XII - South Cotabato

Caraga - Butuan City, Surigao Del Sur, Agusan Del Norte, and Agusan Del Sur

Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao - Cotabato City

Component cities and municipalities

Cordillera Administrative Region

Benguet - Buguias and Tublay

Ifugao - Kiangnan, Lagawe (Capital), and Lamut

Region IV-A

Quezon - Atimonan, Candelaria, City of Tayabas, Dolores, Lucban, Mauban, Pagbilao, Plaridel, Polillo, Quezon, Sampaloc, San Antonio, Tiaong, and Unisan

Region IV-B

Occidental Mindoro - Calintaan, Looc, Lubang, and Rizal

Palawan - Cagayancillo and Culion



NCR remains under Alert Level 1 until July 15; IATF revises alert level system guidelines

Region V

Camarines Norte - Basud, Capalonga, Daet (Capital), San Vicente, and Talisay

Camarines Sur - Bombon, Cabusao, Camaligan, Caramoan, Goa, Iriga City, Pamplona, Pili (Capital), Presentacion (Parubcan), San Fernando, San Jose, and Tigaon

Masbate - Balud, City of Masbate (Capital), and Mandaon

Region VI

Antique - Anini-Y, San Jose (Capital), Sebaste, and Tobias Fornier (Dao)

Negros Occidental - Cadiz City, Candoni, City of Talisay, City of Victorias, Enrique B., Magalona (Saravia), La Carlota City, Pontevedra, Pulupandan, Sagay City, San Enrique, and Valladolid

Region VII

Bohol - Batuan, Calape, Corella, Dimiao, Duero, Garcia Hernandez, Jagna, Lila, Loay, Loboc, Maribojoc, San Isidro, San Miguel, Sevilla, Sikatuna, and Tagbilaran City (Capital)

Cebu - Alcoy, Borbon, City of Talisay, Oslob, Pilar, Santander, and Tudela

Negros Oriental - Amlan (Ayuquitan), Bacong, Dauin, Dumaguete City (Capital), Valencia (Luzurriaga), and Zamboanguita

Region VIII

Leyte - Albuera, City of Baybay, Dulag, Javier (Bugho), La Paz, Matag-Ob, Matalom, Palo, Tunga, and Villaba

Northern Samar - Allen, Capul, Lapinig, Lavezares, San Antonio, San Jose, and Victoria

Samar (Western Samar) - Marabut, Pagsanghan, Paranas (Wright), Tarangnan, and Zumarraga

Region IX

Zamboanga Del Norte - Dapitan City, Dipolog City (Capital), Jose Dalman (Ponot), Labason, Manukan, Piñan (New Piñan), Polanco, Rizal, and Salug

Zamboanga Del Sur - Kumalarang, Labangan, Lapuyan, Mahayag, Molave, and Ramon Magsaysay (Liargo)

Zamboanga Sibugay - Alicia, Buug, Diplahan, Ipil (Capital), Siay, and Tungawan

Region X

Lanao Del Norte - Bacolod, Baroy, Kauswagan, Lala, Linamon, and Tubod (Capital)



NCR remains under Alert Level 1 until July 15; IATF revises alert level system guidelines

Region XI

Davao De Oro - Mawab, Montevista, Nabunturan (Capital), and New Bataan

Davao Del Sur - Padada

Region XII

Cotabato (North Cotabato) - Antipas, Arakan, City of Kidapawan (Capital), and President Roxas

Sultan Kudarat - City of Tacurong, Kalamansig, and Lebak

Caraga

Dinagat Islands - Cagdianao, Dinagat, Libjo (Albor), Loreto, and Tubajon

Surigao Del Norte - Claver, Dapa, General Luna, Mainit, and Tagana-An

BARMM

Lanao Del Sur - Bumbaran, Ditsaan-Ramain, and Wao

Maguindanao - South Upi and Upi

Tawi-Tawi - Turtle Islands

The following areas, meanwhile, were placed under the stricter Alert Level 2 during the same period:

Cordillera Administrative Region - Benguet and Ifugao

Region IV-A - Quezon Province

Region IV-B - Occidental Mindoro and Palawan

Region V - Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, and Masbate

Region VI - Antique and Negros Occidental

Region VII - Bohol, Cebu, and Negros Oriental

Region VIII - Leyte, Northern Samar, and Samar (Western Samar)

Region IX - City of Isabela, Zamboanga Del Norte, Zamboanga Del Sur, and Zamboanga Sibugay

Region X - Lanao Del Norte

Region XI - Davao De Oro, Davao Del Norte, Davao Del Sur, and Davao Occidental

Region XII - Cotabato (North Cotabato), General Santos City (Dadiangas), Sarangani, and Sultan Kudarat

Caraga - Dinagat Islands and Surigao Del Norte

Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao - Basilan, Lanao Del Sur, Maguindanao, Sulu, and Tawi-Tawi

Source: <https://www.cnnphilippines.com/news/2022/6/28/alert-levels-july-1-15.html>

Covid-19 cases on the rise across all regions: DOH

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor June 28, 2022, 2:54 pm



MANILA – The number of Covid-19 cases continue to increase across all regions with a national positivity rate of 4.1 percent but the average daily attack rate remains low, a health official said Tuesday.

In an online media forum, Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said the current positivity rate is similar with the rate the country logged at the start of March this year.

"Nationally, we have recorded 4,976 new cases from June 21 to June 27. While we're under low risk classification, the cases continue to rise at 710 cases per day, 257 cases or 57 percent more than the previous week," she said. "There's nothing to worry about because we're still at less than one case per 100,000 population for our average daily attack rate."

The National Capital Region (NCR) shows a steep increase in the number of Covid-19 cases which started in mid-May and has an average of 350 cases per day.

The rest of Luzon, NCR Plus areas, and the Visayas logged sharp increases in Covid-19 infections but their cases remain lower than 150 per day.

Cases in Mindanao also showed continued increase in infections in the past days at 50 cases per day.

"Based on the health status of those hospitalized, more than half remain asymptomatic and mild. The number of severe and critical admissions at the national level remains less than 1,000 cases starting March or mid-March of 2022 despite continued slight increase in cases in the past days," Vergeire said.

The severe and critical cases comprise at least 10.68 percent or 591 cases of the total hospital admissions and this remains lower than the 20 percent logged in January, she added. (PNA)

29 JUNE 2022, Wednesday



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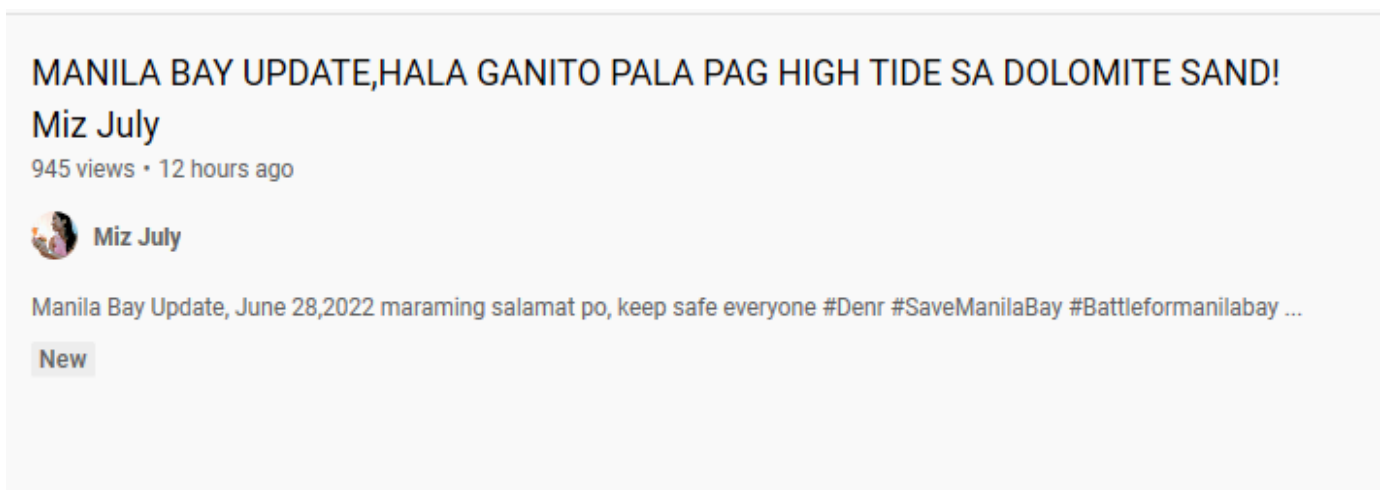
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Miz July

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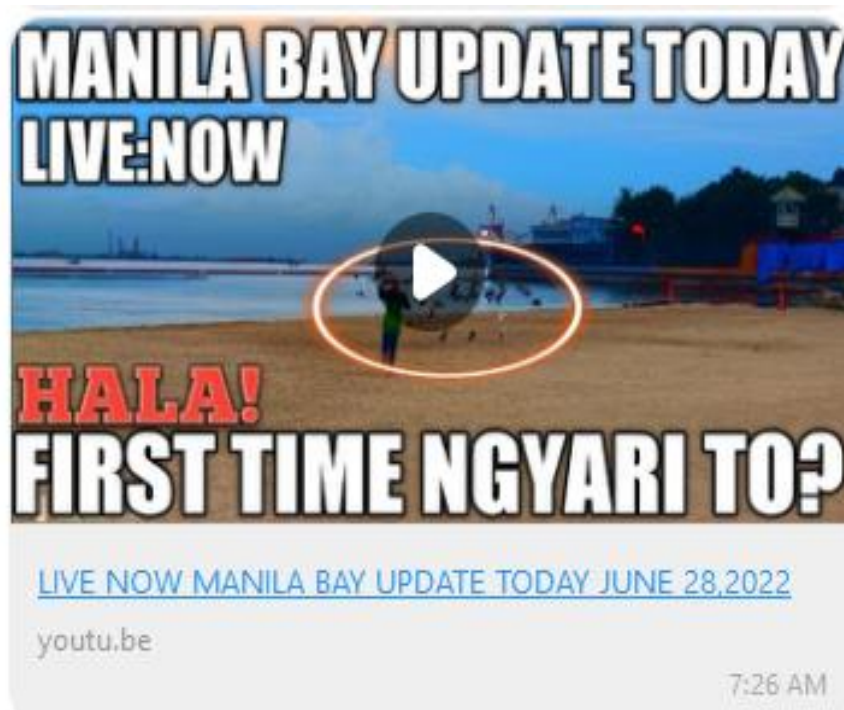
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