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The Manila Times



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to report illegal quarry operations

ILOILO: The Provincial Government Environment and Natural Resources (PGENRO) here has called on the local government units (LGUs) to report the illegal quarry operations in their area.

PGENRO head Caesar Emanuelle Buyco said that they need the help of local communities to address the problem of illegal quarrying and mining across the 43 towns and one component city of the province.

"We cannot handle it alone. We need the assistance of the local government to report. ... I hope that our municipal officials and barangay officials will be vigilant because if something happens, you are still the first to respond,"

The provincial government, through Provincial Ordinance 2017-145, prohibits quarrying without a permit and individuals engaged in unauthorized quarrying can be penalized with a minimum fine of P1,000 and a maximum fine of P5,000.

Meanwhile, under Section 103 of Republic Act 7942, individuals or corporations caught without a mineral or quarry processing permit or license can be imprisoned from six months to six years or pay a fine from P10,000 to P20,000, or both.

Buyco, however, noted that illegal quarrying in the province is "not that rampant."

"Those engaging in illegal quarrying are those that are audacious. They are not as many but they are experienced," Buyco said.

Buyco said they usually forward the reported cases of illegal quarrying to the Mines and Geosciences Bureau-Western Visayas (MGB-6) since the penalties imposed by the agency are more severe.

"In the province, our jurisdiction over penalties is quite limited. That's why we are being taken advantage of," he explained.

The PGENRO head said it will step up its enforcement against unlawful activities in the province following the death of a 19-year-old mother due to a rockslide in an illegal quarry site in Barangay Sulangan in Dumangas town.

On September 2, the young mother was crushed by a boulder while doing dishes inside their house which is located at the foot of a mountain quarry site.

Based on the preliminary investigation of PGENRO, the area is an old quarry site for limestone

Buyco said that the heavy rainfall over the past week in the province might have seeped through the cracks and crevices of the limestone, triggering the accident.

PGENRO is currently coordinating with the MGB-6 a georisk assessment and site validation in the area.

RJAY ZURIAGA CASTOR





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Beacon 2023 kicks off today, Sept. 6, 2023, at the SMX Convention
Center, Mall of Asia Complex, Pasay City. The event opens with the
celebration of Maritime Archipelagic Nation Awareness Month, or Manamo.

Beacon 2023 kicks off today in SMX Convention Center

THE Blue Economy Annual Trade and Conference (Beacon) 2023, the first of its kind in the Philippines, kicks off today at the SMX Convention Center, Mall of Asia Complex, Pasay City.

The three-day international maritime conference and exhibition is organized by The Maritime League in partnership with the Department of Transportation.

The event opens with the celebration of the Maritime Archipelagic Nation Awareness Month, or Manamo, institutionalized by Presidential Proclamation 316, Series of 2017.

Themed "Philippine Blue Economy: Insights and Foresights," the expo hopes to advance the interests of the country's maritime sector through information sharing, marine technology exhibits, and the active participation of various stakeholders, including those from the government, maritime associations and the maritime industries.

The expo includes a static display of state-of-the-art products and services from domestic and international maritime industries and a three-day set of conferences on International Maritime Organization (IMO) policies and compliances, Philippine maritime administration, and maritime security and defense.

Keynote speakers and guests of honor include Transportation Secretary Jaime Bautista, The Maritime League Chairman and President Eduardo Santos, Maritime Industry Authority Administrator Hernani Fabia, Tourism Secretary Christina Garcia Frasco, Science and Technology Secretary Renato Solidum, Philippine Coast Guard Commandant Artemio Abu, Defense Secretary Carlito Galvez Jr., and World Maritime University President Maximo Mejia.

It will also feature US Ambassador to the Philippines Marykay Carlson, Danish Ambassador Franz-Michael Skjold Mellbind, Argentinian Ambassador Ricardo Luis Bocalandro, Uni Group of Companies Chairman Jae Jung Jang, and former Supreme Court justice Antonio Carpio.

The economic sectors of the Blue Economy include marine transportation (shipping and ports), maritime construction, ship and boat building, marine and coastal tourism, cruise ship industry, defense and security, renewable energy, marine biotechnology, food security, offshore, deep seabed mining, fishery and aquaculture, seawater desalination, maritime research, and education.

YASHIKA F. TORIB











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UN releases plastic pollution deal draft

PARIS: The world inched a step closer toward tackling plastic pollution, with the United Nations publishing the first draft of a binding treaty to tackle the scourge.

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Some 175 nations are working to reach a landmark agreement by the end of 2024 that will curb plastic pollution, which ends up in oceans, birds' stomachs and on mountain peaks. Microplastics have even been detected in blood and mother's milk.

Global plastic production has more than doubled since the start of the century to reach 460 million tons and could triple by 2060 if nothing is done. Only 9 percent is currently recycled.

The draft deal, published by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, will form the basis of fresh talks in the Kenyan capital Nairobi on November 13 to 19, the UN Environment Program said on Monday.

The proposals include reducing the production of primary plastic polymers, which nongovernmental organizations have been advocating for years.

Major plastic producers like the

United States and Gulf countries could strongly oppose the measure. They prefer to promote reuse and recycling to reduce waste.

"The draft is a solid basis for the rest of the negotiations, but includes both strong and weak options," Eirik Lindebjerg, global plastics policy lead at environmental pressure group World Wide Fund for Nature, posted on social media.

"Time is now for countries to choose ambition over failure!"

Sam Chetan-Welsh, a senior

policy adviser at Greenpeace, hailed as "essential" the plan to limit the production of plastic polymers.

But "the devil will be in the detail," he cautioned on X, formerly known as Twitter.

"The most immediate fight will be whether we have a globally binding treaty or an agreement full of loopholes so no-one has to do anything," Chetan-Welsh said.

After Nairobi, talks are due to continue in Canada next April before concluding in South Korea in late 2024.









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THE Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) responded to an oil spill incident involving MTUG Sugbo 2 in the waters off Naga Anchorage, City of Naga, Cebu, on Sunday.

The PCG team deployed three segments of oil spill boom, two bales of absorbent pads, and four segments of the absorbent boom to control the oil spill.

Based on the investigation, the distressed vessel called the PCG to report that they encountered hull damage on the steering portion inside the engine room.

According to the master, he noticed the steering room was flooded due to an approximately 4-inchdiameter hole in the vessel's starboard quarter.

He instructed his crew to provide a submersible pump to remove the seawater inside the steering room, but the tugboat lost its power and electricity.

He contacted its sister ship, MTUG Sugbo 5, to connect its power source to the submersible pump, but he terminated the pumping operation due to the increase in the volume of water in the steering room.

Subsequently, MTUG Sugbo 7 arrived and rendered assistance, but the rate of water going in was much greater than the water they were able to pump out.

Due to the unfavorable sea conditions, the master instructed all crew members on board to abandon the ship which eventually submerged.









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TRASH FOR CASH A man collects discarded plastic materials for possible resale from Manila Bay in Pasay City on Aug. 14, 2023. PHOTO BY MIKE ALQUINTO



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MARCOS: ASEAN MUST URGE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

TO FULFILL CLIMATE CHANGE PLEDGES

By Jean Mangaluz @JMangaluzINQ

JAKARTA, INDONESIA—President Marcos on Tuesday called on regional leaders at the 43rd Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Summit to urge developed countries to uphold their commitments to address climate change at the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) scheduled next month.

"At the upcoming COP28, Asean must call on developed countries to heighten the implementation of their commitments ... that include climate finance, technology development and transfer, and capacity building, in order to drive Asean's capabilities to prevent, mitigate, manage and adapt to the impacts of climate change," Mr. Marcos said in his speech at the plenary.

"As one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world, the Philippines will continue to prioritize international cooperation that will make Asean climate-smart and disaster-ready, including through the Asean Centre for Biodiversity," he added.

The President, who is the concurrent agriculture secretary, also raised the issue of food security in his speech,

saying that to achieve it, "we must build on cooperation that will harness the transformative potential of our agricultural sector to ensure that food production is responsible and will be of benefit for future generations."

Help migrant workers in crisis

At the same time, he called on other Asean leaders to help migrant workers in crisis situations

by drafting regional guidelines to protect them and their families.

"We must be ready to assist those who have toiled to contribute significantly to our economies: our migrant workers. In this regard, the Philippines stands ready to lead and support efforts to operationalize the Asean Guidelines on the Protection of Migrant Workers and Family Members in Crisis Situa-

tions," the President said.

The Philippines has almost 2 million overseas workers, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority.

Mr. Marcos also called for more concerted efforts to boost regional and international cooperation, especially in the mobilization of resources to prevent and combat the abuse of technology in human trafficking, INO



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Marcos urges ASEAN: Spur developing countries' climate action commitment

By ARGYLL CYRUS GEDUCOS

AKARTA, Indonesia - President Marcos has urged members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to call on devel-Ding countries to strengthen their commitment to climate action, saying climate change continues to threaten a country's progress.

Marcos said this in his intervention

at the ongoing 43rd ASEAN Summit and Related Summits here on Tuesday, Sept. 5.

In his remarks, the President described climate change as a "most urgent" threat to progress.

"The most urgent threat to our progress is the impact of climate change. It is a looming reminder of the injustice of disproportionate impact on our people," he said.

According to the President, ASEAN

must call on developed countries to heighten the implementation of their commitments during the COP28 in Dubai in December.

"Their commitments include climate finance, technology development and transfer, and capacity building in order to drive ASEAN's capabilities to prevent, mitigate, manage, and adapt to the impacts of climate change," he said.

With the Philippines among the

most disaster-prone countries in the world, Marcos said the government will continue prioritizing international cooperation that will make ASEAN climate-smart and disaster-ready, including through the ASEAN Center for Biodiversity.

Food security Regarding food security, President Marcos said the ASEAN must build on cooperation that would transform the region's agriculture

"In achieving food security, we must build on cooperation that will harness the transformative potential of our agricultural sector to ensure that food production is responsible and will be of benefit for future generations," he said. "The continued effectiveness of our community-building efforts rests on a clear assessment of our strengths. The Philippines will continue to champion change that will strengthen our institutions, improve our decision-making, and uphold ASEAN Centrality."



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Ineng to intensify into storm - Pagasa

By ROMINA CABRERA

Tropical Depression Ineng is forecast to strengthen into a tropical storm before it leaves the Philippine area of responsibility tonight or tomorrow morning, zon as of 4 p.m. yesteraccording to the Phil- day, packing maximum ippine Atmospheric, sustained winds of 45 Geophysical and Astro- kms per hour near the nomical Services Ad- center and gustiness of ministration.

PAGASA said rain would continue to be experienced over parts of the country due to the southwest monsoon.

Ineng was monitored 1,020 kilometers east of extreme Northern Lu-

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up to 55 kph.

The weather disturbance will remain far from Philippine landmass as

it heads northeastward at 20 kph.
PAGASA said Ineng is slightly enhancing the monsoon alongside Tropical Storm Hanna.

The monsoon will bring rains over Ilocos region and Zambales in the next few days.

Monsoon rain will prevail over

Bataan, Pangasinan and Zambales.

Metro Manila, Batangas, Benguet, Bulacan, Cavite, the rest of Ilocos region, Occidental Mindoro, Pampanga and Rizal will experience occasional rain due to the monsoon.

The weather system will bring scattered rainshowers over the rest of

The rest of the country may see isolated rain due to the monsoon and localized thunderstorms.

The monsoon is expected to weaken within the week.