

31 JULY 2022, SUNDAY



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NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service
SUMMARY OF NEWS ALERTS
31 July 2022

TOP STORIES

- I. **Ester maintains strength, heads north; Sunday afternoon PAR exit expected –PAGASA**
Rainy across Metro Manila, other areas as 'Ester' enhances habagat
'Ester' causes floods, landslides in Bicol
Ilang lugar sa Albay at Camarines Sur, binaha

Tropical Depression Ester maintained its strength while moving slowly northward over the Philippine Sea, weather bureau PAGASA said on Saturday afternoon

Ester is forecast to gradually accelerate northward throughout the forecast period and may exit the PAR Sunday afternoon.

Affected municipalities include Nabua, Baao, and Buhi in the province of Camarines Sur and Guinobatan in the province of Albay.
- II. **Mine sites in quake-hit areas remain safe, MGB chief says**
Quake damage on roads, bridges now at P596.7M; Over 1,300 structures in CAR, Ilocos Region inspected
62K families affected by quake; infra damage at P596-M
More aftershocks recorded after Abra quake

The Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) has ordered a quick assessment of mines following the 7.0-magnitude earthquake that shook Luzon on Wednesday and a 4.8-magnitude temblor in Ilocos Sur.

MGB Director Wilfredo Moncano said he had already asked MGB field personnel to coordinate with mining companies to conduct a quick assessment to determine whether mine facilities, such as tailing dams, have been damaged for the safety of mine workers and residents of nearby towns as a preventive measure.

"Reports from Region 1, 2, CAR, 4A, and 3 indicated that there is no damage to Tailings Storage Facility or Waste Dumps or buildings of any operating mines near the affected area," Moncano told the BusinessMirror via text message.
- III. **Senator Bong Go has renewed his call for the passage of his twin**

Department of Disaster Resilience requiring the construction of mandatory evacuation centers

Sen. Bong Go has renewed his call for the passage of his twin measures establishing the Department of Disaster Resilience and requiring the construction of mandatory evacuation centers.

He made the appeal in the wake of the magnitude 7.0 earthquake that hit Northern Luzon. Senate Bill 188 aims to establish a Department of Disaster Resilience (DDR) that seeks to bring together all essential functions and mandates currently scattered among various disaster-related agencies.

IV. New law introduces concept of circular economy to address plastic packaging waste



Extended Producer Responsibility Act of 2022 or Republic Act No. 11898 lapsed into law on July 23, 2022.

Senator Cynthia Villar, chairwoman of the Senate Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Climate Change, pushed for the passage of the law. The law has set specific recovery targets for large companies to recover a part of their plastic wastes, starting with 20 percent by end of 2023, and by 80 percent by the end of 2028.

Among the plastic packaging wastes that producers will be expected to recover are sachets, labels, laminates, single or multi-layered plastics, beverage and food containers, lids and caps, plastic forks and spoons, plates, straws, tarps, signages, etc.

Submitted by:


Ma. Anna Katrina C. Manapat
Media Production Specialist II
PID

Noted by:  
KHALIL S. BAYAM
Director
Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service

**ACTIONS TAKEN REGARDING THE NEWS ALERTS CONCERN ON THE FLOODED AREAS
IN ALBAY AND IN CAMARINES SUR ON JULY 31, 2022**

The SCIS Director instructed the concerned regions to prepare a memo on assessing the flooded and landslide-affected areas as mentioned in the news.

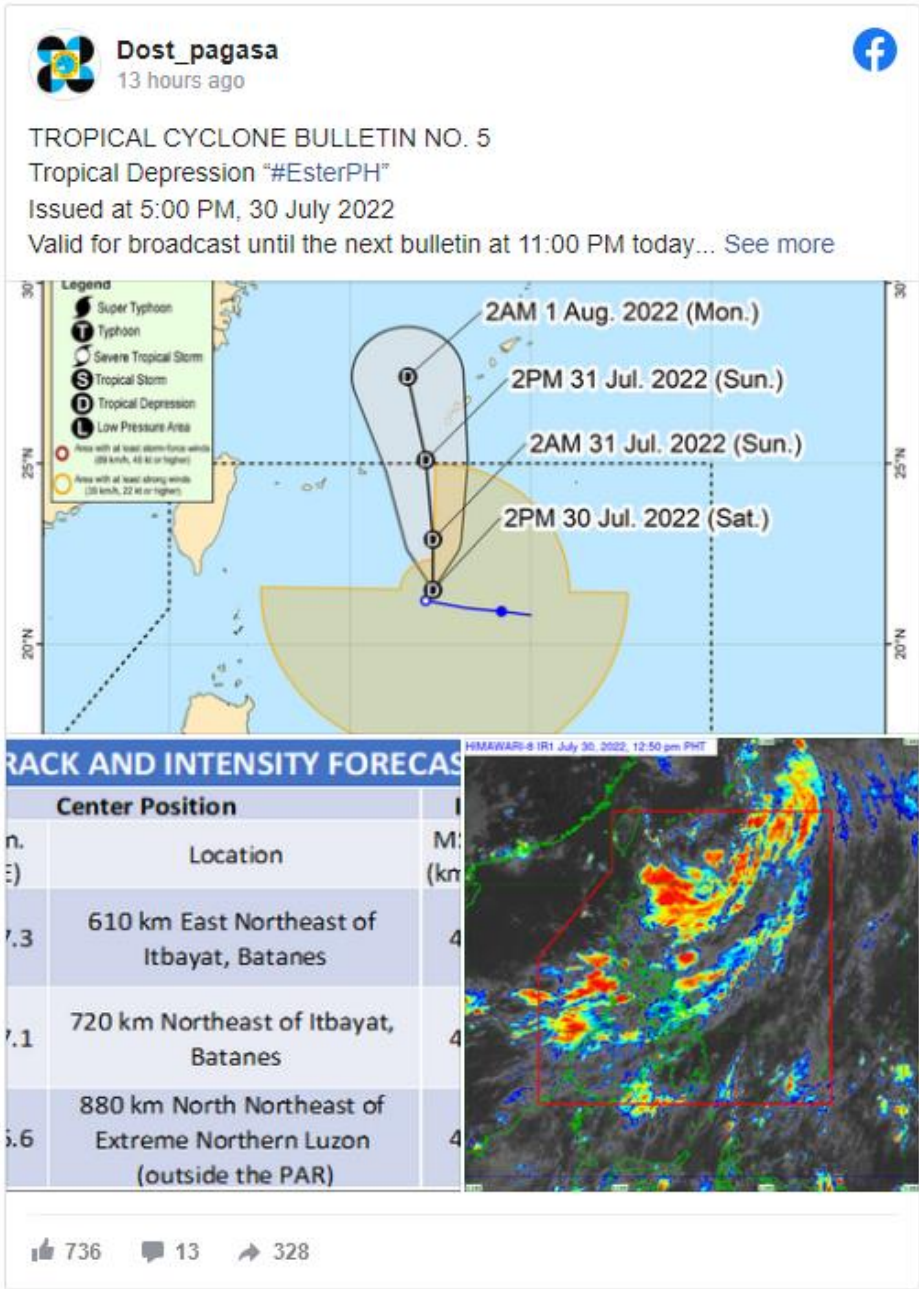
Attached herewith is the draft memo for your reference.



Ester maintains strength, heads north; Sunday afternoon PAR exit expected –PAGASA

By RICHA NORIEGA, GMA News

Published July 30, 2022 6:14pm



Tropical Depression Ester maintained its strength while moving slowly northward over the Philippine Sea, weather bureau PAGASA said on Saturday afternoon.

Based on the weather bureau’s 5 p.m. bulletin, the center of Ester was 575 kilometers east of Itbayat, Batanes (21.6 °N, 127.3 °E).

Ester had maximum sustained winds of 45 km/h near the center and gustiness of up to 55 km/h.

PAGASA said the southwest monsoon, enhanced by Ester and Tropical Storm Songda which is outside the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR), will bring rains over several provinces in the western sections of Central and Southern Luzon and the Visayas.

The weather bureau said no tropical cyclone wind signal is currently hoisted.



Ester and the southwest monsoon will bring moderate to rough seas of 1.2 to 2.8 m over the northern and eastern seaboard of the country.

The weather bureau also advised mariners to take precautionary measures when venturing out to sea and, if possible, avoid navigating in these conditions.

It added that these conditions may also be risky for those using small sea crafts.

PAGASA, meanwhile, said Ester is forecast to gradually accelerate northward throughout the forecast period and may exit the PAR Sunday afternoon. — **DVM, GMA News**

Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/scitech/weather/839952/ester-maintains-strength-heads-north-sunday-afternoon-par-exit-expected-pagasa/story/?fbclid=IwAR1GlcUu9ytNaFG9uHPi8W9cfkqF8m3Amz3Pw8oA_0sqDFGnxmgaS2Folk



Rainy across Metro Manila, other areas as 'Ester' enhances habagat

Philstar.com July 30, 2022 | 12:37pm



Children from Barangay Tumana in Marikina City play under heavy rain caused by Tropical Storm Dante on June 2, 2021.

The STAR / Walter Bollozos

MANILA, Philippines (Updated 2:09 p.m.) — Tropical Depression Ester, which is being enhanced by the southwest monsoon or habagat, will continue to bring rains over Metro Manila and other areas, state weather bureau PAGASA said Saturday.

According to a tropical cyclone bulletin issued at 11 a.m. Saturday, Tropical Depression Ester has accelerated while moving westward over the Philippine Sea east of extreme northern Luzon.

"Ester" was last spotted 550 kilometers east of Itbayat, Batanes, with peak winds of 45 kilometers per hour near the center and gusts of up to 55 kph.

The tropical depression was moving westward at 20 kph.

No tropical cyclone wind signal is currently hoisted.

The habagat is being enhanced by Ester and Tropical Storm Songda, which is outside the Philippine area of responsibility.

Several provinces in the western sections of Central and Southern Luzon (including Metro Manila) will experience light to moderate with at times heavy rains.

PAGASA said scattered flooding and rain-induced landslides are possible, especially in high-risk areas.

The tropical depression and the southwest monsoon will bring moderate to rough seas over the northern and eastern seaboard of the country, which may be risky for small seacrafts.

Mariners are advised to take precautionary measures when venturing out to sea and to avoid navigating in these conditions.

Tropical Depression Ester is forecast to decelerate north northwestward in the next 12 hours and will gradually accelerate northward by Sunday early morning. It is expected to exit the Philippine Area of Responsibility on Sunday morning or afternoon.

"Ester" is seen to remain a tropical depression in the next 36 hours.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2022/07/30/2199057/rainy-across-metro-manila-other-areas-ester-enhances-habagat>



‘Ester’ causes floods, landslide in Bicol

By Connie Calipay July 30, 2022, 4:45 pm



Office of Civil Defense-Bicol (File photo)

LEGAZPI CITY – At least six flooding incidents and a landslide were reported in the provinces of Camarines Sur and Albay on Saturday, according to the Office of Civil Defense in Bicol (OCD-5).

Gremil Alexis Naz, OCD-5 spokesperson, said in an interview that heavy rains were spawned by Tropical Depression Ester, which was earlier located east of Itbayat, Batanes.

"Affected municipalities are Nabua, Baao and Buhi in the province of Camarines Sur, and Guinobatan, in the province of Albay," he said.

Naz said five roads in the municipalities of Nabua, Baao, and Buhi in Camarines Sur were reported impassable due to flooding.

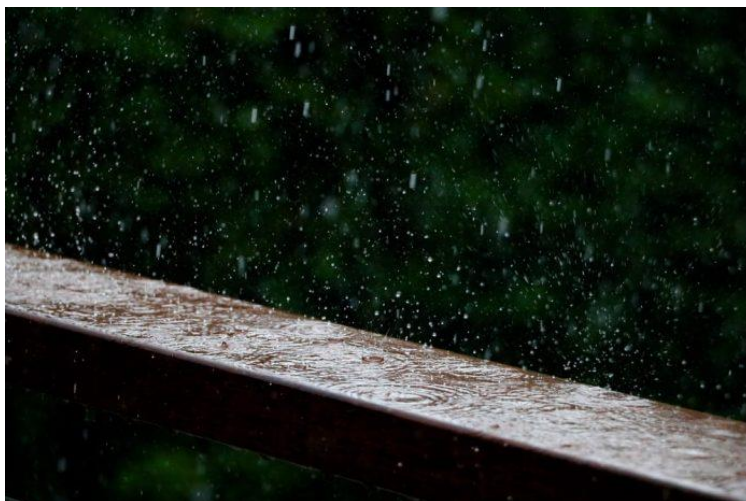
"We are continuously monitoring and coordinating with the disaster risk reduction management offices of the affected provinces," he said.

OCD Bicol advised local government units with high susceptibility to flood and landslide to monitor updates and implement countermeasures.

As of the 11 a.m. bulletin of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), there is no tropical cyclone wind signal yet but moderate to at times heavy rains are expected in the next 24 hours over several provinces in the western sections of Central and Southern Luzon, including Metro Manila, and Visayas due to the southwest monsoon enhanced by “Ester” and Tropical Storm Songda, which is still outside the Philippine Area of Responsibility. **(PNA)**

'Ester' causes floods, landslides in Bicol

July 30, 2022



(Photo courtesy of Unsplash)

By Connie Calipay | Philippines News Agency

LEGAZPI CITY – At least six flooding incidents and a landslide were reported in the provinces of Camarines Sur and Albay on Saturday, according to the Office of Civil Defense in Bicol (OCD-5).

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Source: <https://ptvnews.ph/ester-causes-floods-landslides-in-bicol/>



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TIME

PAGE

DATE

'Ester' brings floods, landslide in Bicol

LEGAZPI CITY — The Office of Civil Defense in Bicol (OCD-5) on Saturday reported that at least six flooding incidents and a landslide were reported in the provinces of Camarines Sur and Albay due to heavy rains spawned by tropical depression "Ester."

OCD-5 spokesperson Gremil Alexis Naz said that affected municipalities are Nabua, Baao and Buhi in the province of Camarines Sur and Guinobatan, in the province of Albay, adding that five roads in the municipalities

of Nabua, Baao and Buhi in Camarines Sur were reported impassable due to flooding.

"We are continuously monitoring and coordinating with the disaster risk reduction management offices of the affected provinces," he said.

OCD Bicol advised local government units with high susceptibility to flood and landslide to monitor updates and implement countermeasures.

According to an earlier bulletin of the Philippine Atmospheric,

Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration, there is no tropical cyclone wind signal yet but moderate to at times heavy rains are expected in the next 24 hours.

It includes several provinces in the western sections of Central and Southern Luzon, including Metro Manila, and Visayas due to the southwest monsoon enhanced by "Ester" and tropical storm "Songda", which is still outside the Philippine Area of Responsibility.

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4 pang patay sa lindol nahukay. death toll pumalo na sa 10 – NDRRMC

Umakyat na sa 10 katao ang kumpirmadong nasawi sa magnitude 7.3 na lindol na tumama sa Northern Luzon matapos na apat pang bangkay ang narekober sa lalawigan ng Abra, ayon sa ulat ng National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC).

Nitong Biyernes ng gabi, ayon kay NDRRMC Spokesman Mark Timbal, nakatanggap sila ng report na nahukay na ang mga bangkay ng apat na nawawala sa Abra.

"We received report po that the four missing in Abra had been retrieved already. These four will be added po sa ating fatalities," ayon kay Timbal.

Sa report ng Cordillera Police, ang apat na nawawala na nalibing nang buhay ay nahukay sa landslide area sa Sitio Bangel, Brgy. Poblacion, Luba, Abra bandang alas-4 ng hapon kamakalawa. Sila ay nakilalang sina Mar Barreyro, 38, foreman ng Luba, Abra; construction workers na sina Louie Dinaig, 21-anyos; Jack Gamengan, 17 at ang 15-anyos na si Angelo Badi; pawang ng Manabo, Abra.

Naitala naman sa 19,486 pamilya na may katumbas na 79,260 katao ang naapektuhan ng lindol sa 246 mga barangay sa Ilocos Region at Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR).

Ayon sa NDRRMC, nasa kabuuang 1,583 na kabahayan ang nasira ng lindol kung saan 1,535 dito bahagyang nawasak at 48 naman ang tuluyang nasira sa Ilocos at CAR.

Sa pagtaya ng NDRRMC, nasa P48.3 milyon naman ang halaga ng pinsala na naiulat sa Ilocos, Cagayan at Cordillera CAR sa malakas na lindol na yumanig sa Northern Luzon.

Naitala naman sa P396.58 milyon ang inisyal na pinsala sa mga tulay at mga kalsada base sa pagtaya ng Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).

Umaabot naman sa 1,375 ang aftershocks ng malakas na lindol sa norte ang naitala ng Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) nitong Sabado.

Sa nasabing bilang, 387 dito ay plotted o seismic events na naitala sa tatlo o higit pang earthquake monitoring stations ng Phivolcs. Ang mga aftershocks ay nasa pagitan ng 1.5 magnitude hanggang 5.0 magnitude. -Joy Santos, Angie dela Cruz-



13 Ecija dams including Pantabangan 'safe' after strong quake

By STEVE A. GOSUICO

CABANATUAN CITY – Thirteen dams in Nueva Ecija, including the mammoth Pantabangan Dam, which supplies irrigation water to this province and parts of Pampanga, Bulacan, and Tarlac, are declared "safe" and "free from any damages" as per initial assessments made in the aftermath of a powerful 7.3-magnitude earthquake that shook Abra and other Northern Luzon provinces last Wednesday, irrigation officials said.

Engr. Rosalinda B. Bote, National Irrigation Administration-Upper Pampanga River Integrated Irriga-

tion Systems chief, quoting post-earthquake reports from three staff divisions and six division offices under UPRIIS, said: "no damages were recorded during their initial inspection" on dams, irrigation structures, and facilities, including office buildings within their respective service areas.

Declared safe were the Pantabangan and Masiway Dams under the Dam and Reservoir Division-Pantabangan; the Tayabo, Torre Cojuangco, and Macanac Dams under Division I-Science City of Muñoz; Vaca Murcon, and Rizal Dams under Division II-Talavera; the Atate, Aulo, and Up-

per Tabuating Dams under Division III-Cabanatuan City; and Penaranda Dam under Division IV-Gapan City.

Bote's order for a post-quake inspection of the facilities also included monitoring in-progress rehab and construction of irrigation facilities amid the ongoing farming activities for wet cropping season 2022.

The NIA-UPRIIS chief also advised her men to remain alert and always bear in mind the lessons learned during nationwide simultaneous earthquake drills conducted by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council.

"Be calm, be alert, and

always think of your safety since it (earthquake) cannot be forecasted," Engr. Bote said.

In 2011, then-NIA administrator Antonio S. Nangel, a former UPRIIS chief, said that Pantabangan Dam could withstand an intensity of 10 temblors (earthquake).

It was designed to survive an earthquake like the powerful magnitude 9.0 to 9.1 that devastated northeastern Japan last March 11, 2011, added Nangel. The former NIA chief also noted that Pantabangan Dam withstood the July 16, 1990 Intensity 7.7 killer quake in Luzon without any damage.



Ilang lugar sa Albay at Camarines Sur, binaha

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jul 30 2022 05:54 PM | Updated as of Jul 30 2022 07:44 PM

(UPDATED) Nakaranas ng pagbaha ang ilang lugar sa Bicol region, partikular na sa Guinobatan, Albay at ilang lugar sa Camarines Sur dahil sa malakas na buhos ng ulan magmula pa nitong gabi ng Biyernes.

Ayon sa Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction ang Management Office ng Guinobatan, ilang purok sa mga barangay ng Maguiron at Minto ang nalubog dahil sa umapaw na ilog.

Umabot hanggang tuhod ang tubig sa ilang lugar na binaha, kaya inirekomenda ng MDRMO ang localized evacuation.

Inaasahan pa ang pag-ulan sa Albay sa sunod na mga oras dahil sa Habagat na hinihila ng Bagyong Ester, kaya nag-inspeksyon na rin ang MDRMO sa mga barangay na walang sapat na flood control structures gaya ng San Rafael, Masarawag, at sa Iraya na gumuho ang ginagawang flood control dike noong isang linggo.

Pinulong na ng LGU ang mga opisyal ng mga high-risk barangay.

“Kinukuha na namin yung report nila. Kung anong mga reports kung anong nangyari sa lakas ng ulan kagabi then if ever lumakas ang ulan ngayon, kung ano po ang mga measures,” saad pa ni Maravillas.

Tiniyak din nito na may sapat na pondo para sa relief goods ang LGU para sa mga posibleng ilikas na mga pamilya.

Nakapagtala rin ng baha sa maraming lugar sa ika-5 distrito ng Camarines Sur dahil sa mga pag-ulan. Muli ring binaha ang mga barangay sa población ng Baao nang bumuhos ang malakas na ulan madaling araw ng Sabado.

Umabot sa paanan ang tubig-baha sa national highway sa tapat ng public market kaya nakadaan pa rin ang mga sasakyan, pero maraming tindahan ang tanghali na nagbukas.

Sa Barangay San Ramon, halos umapaw na sa tulay na riles ang tubig sa creek. Nagtulong-tulong ang ilang residente na alisin ang nakabarang mga kahoy at basura para hindi masira.

Binaha naman ang ilang palayan sa Bgy. Iyagan, ayon sa residenteng si Randy Babor. Aniya pa, ilang motorista ang stranded dahil nalubog sa tubig mula sa Pawili River ang spillway na papuntang bayan ng Ocampo.

“Yung pinaka-tulay di naman nasira, yung dulo lang po ang naputol sa may tabi ng ilog dun dumaan ang baha nabarahan po kasi,” kuwento ni Babor.

Lubog din sa tubig ang spillway na nag-uugnay sa Sagrada, Baao at San Jose, Iriga City at spillway sa Sta. Elena Baras, Nabua dahil sa umapaw na Waras River.

Dahil dito, ipinag-utos na ni Gov. Luigi Villafuerte ang pre-emptive evacuation sa buong 5th district o Rinconada Area ng Camarines Sur. Pinauuna nitong ipinalilikas sa disaster officials ang mga pamilyang nakatira sa mga lugar na may banta ng baha at landslide.

Ipinaalala pa nito ang pagsunod sa health protocols sa paglilikas lalo’t hanggang kahapon, umabot na sa 26 ang bagong COVID-19 cases sa lalawigan.

-- **Ulat ni Jonathan Magistrado**

Source: https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/07/30/22/ilang-lugar-sa-albay-at-camarines-sur-binaha?fbclid=IwAR0e_FAAthBUiEaSSfvXHK6M4R50MWC6OJO34NfLauuwBNZznvxfyw_sYTPE



Binaha ang ilang lugar sa Metro Manila at mga probinsya bunsod ng malalakas na ulan. | July 30, 2022

See Translation



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24 Comments 29 Shares



Mine sites in quake-hit areas remain safe, MGB chief says

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA
JULY 29, 2022



[P/Harley Palangchao](#)

A damaged truck lies beside boulders after it fell along a road during an earthquake in Bauko, Mountain Province, Philippines on Wednesday July 27, 2022.

The Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) has ordered a quick assessment of mines following the 7.0-magnitude earthquake that shook Luzon on Wednesday and a 4.8-magnitude temblor in Ilocos Sur.

MGB Director Wilfredo Moncano said he had already asked MGB field personnel to coordinate with mining companies to conduct a quick assessment to determine whether mine facilities, such as tailing dams, have been damaged for the safety of mine workers and residents of nearby towns as a preventive measure.

“The assessment is still ongoing,” he told the BusinessMirror via text message.

However, the MGB official assured the public that operating mines in these earthquake-affected areas remain safe as there was no report from MGB field offices concerning structural damage to any of the mine facilities, including tailing dams that may endanger miners’ lives or communities around them.

“Reports from Region 1, 2, CAR, 4A, and 3 indicated that there is no damage to Tailings Storage Facility or Waste Dumps or buildings of any operating mines near the affected area,” Moncano told the BusinessMirror via text message.

The earthquake that struck at 8:43 a.m. with the epicenter pinpointed in Abra caused landslides in La Union. Heritage Sites were also reported damaged.

According to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs), Intensity VI and VII earthquake were felt in parts of Abra, Benguet, Mountain Province, San Fernando, La Union, Pangasinan, Cagayan and Isabela.

On July 28, at exactly 2:43 a.m., a 4.8 magnitude earthquake struck Ilocos Sur.

The event shook Sigay and Suyu, Ilocos Sur, and Gregorio del Pilar, where an Intensity IV to V ground movement were recorded by Phivolcs.

Intensity II were also felt in Vigan City, and Intensity I in Baguio City and Benguet as well as Sinait, Ilocos Sur.

Image credits: [P/Harley Palangchao](#)

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2022/07/29/mine-sites-in-quake-hit-areas-remain-safe-mgb-chief-says/>



Quake damage on roads, bridges now at P596.7M; Over 1,300 structures in CAR, Ilocos Region inspected

Published July 30, 2022, 5:01 PM

by [Aaron Recuenco](#)

Quick assessment teams of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) have inspected at least 1,350 structures in the Cordillera Administrative Region and Ilocos Region, the regions worst hit by the July 27 magnitude 7.0 magnitude quake.

Of the structures inspected, 621 of them were national bridges, 23 were government hospitals, 275 were public school buildings and 417 were other public buildings, according to DPWH Sec. Manuel M. Bonoan.

So far, Bonoan said they restricted the use of 21 structures due to cracks and other damage noticed by the inspection teams.

Based on the DPWH data, the partial cost of damage to roads, bridges, and flood-control structures has now reached P596.7 million—P474.1 million of them are in CAR; P119.5 million in Region 1; P3.1 Million Region 2.

“Our Quick Response Teams are still working on clearing and reopening remaining three national roads that are closed to traffic,” said Bonoan.

They are the Baguio – Bontoc Road K0347+090 – K0347+180 section Mt. Data Cliff, Bauko, Mt. Province due to soil collapse; Mt. Province Boundary – Calanan – Pinukpuk – Abbut Road, K0428+000, Basao, Tinglayan, Kalinga due to soil collapse; and Tagudin – Cervantes Road K0353+100, K0353+500 sections in Ilocos Sur due to landslide and rockslide.

Motorists are also advised on road sections that are only passable to light vehicles for safety reasons including: Tagudin – Cervantes Road, Itogon Bridge, K0267+519, Benguet; Abra – Ilocos Norte Road, K0411+234-K0412+081, Calaba Bridge, Calaba, Bangued, Abra; Rosario – Pugo Road, San Luis Bridge 2, K0220+759 in La Union; and the Dagupan-Bonuan-San Fabian-Road K0380+058 – K0380+182, Dawel Bridge in Pangasinan.

62K families affected by quake; infra damage at P596-M

July 30, 2022



Road-clearing operations in Kibungan, Benguet (Photo courtesy of Cesar Molitas Facebook via PNA)

By Priam Nepomuceno, Liza Agoot, and Ferdinand Patinio | Philippine News Agency

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) reported on Saturday, July 30, that the number of families affected by the magnitude 7 earthquake that rocked Abra and nearby provinces in northern Luzon on July 27 has climbed to 62,024.

The data is equivalent to 228,238 persons living in 639 villages in the regions of Ilocos, Cagayan Valley, and Cordillera.

The NDRRMC said 46 evacuation centers are sheltering 1,910 families or 6,490 individuals, while the rest are being aided by families and friends.

The agency has confirmed four deaths in Cordillera and 300 injured – two in Cagayan Valley and 298 in Cordillera.

Still undergoing validation are reports of two deaths in Ilocos and Cagayan Valley and the identities of four bodies retrieved in Abra and 20 injured.

Abra province was the hardest hit by the earthquake that happened at 8:43 a.m.

The epicenter was recorded in the town of Tayum.

Intensity V (strong) was felt in Manila and IV (moderately strong) in Makati, Mandaluyong, Marikina, Quezon City, Pasay, and Pasig.

Million-peso damage

Damaged houses were placed at 12,802 in Ilocos, Cagayan Valley, Cordillera, and the National Capital Region.

Of the total, 12,645 were classified as “partially damaged” and 157 as “totally damaged”.

The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) reported the partial cost of damage to roads, bridges, and flood-control structures at P596.7 million as of Saturday.

DPWH – Cordillera recorded initial damage to infrastructure at P491,170,138.76.



The report, released Friday night, showed that Abra sustained the most damage, estimated at P436.1 million.

The damage were mostly on roads, particularly at the Abra-Ilocos Norte Road; Abra-Cervantes Road; Abra-Kalinga Road; and Abra-Ilocos Sur Road, placed at P246,130,000.

Damage to flood control infrastructures is at P190 million while the National Irrigation Authority reported PHP4.5 million worth of damage in Cordillera.

Aside from Abra, the 1st District Engineering Office (DEO) in Ifugao recorded an initial P20 million damage, and Benguet's 1st DEO, P18,807,138.76.

The Upper Kalinga DEO logged PHP16 million in initial damage; Mountain Province DEO, P133,000; and Baguio City, P100,000.

The DPWH likewise classified as "restricted" 17 structures in Region 1 and CAR based on the assessment of 1,350 establishments.

The inspected structures included 621 national bridges, 23 government hospitals, 275 public school buildings, 417 other public buildings, and 18 other structures.

A separate report will be submitted to the DPWH through the National Building Code Development Office after more inspections on both public and private structures by building officials and city/municipal engineers.

Road-clearing

During the situational briefing in Abra on Thursday, led by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., DPWH-Cordillera Director Khadaffi Tanggol said their first action was to clear the roads that were blocked by landslides.

DPWH Quick Response Teams were working on clearing and reopening three national roads that remained closed to traffic as of 8 a.m. Saturday. Baguio – Bontoc Road K0347+090 – K0347+180 section Mt. Data Cliff, Bauko, Mt. Province due to soil collapse; Mt. Province Boundary – Calanan – Pinukpuk – Abbut Road, K0428+000, Basao, Tingleyan, Kalinga due to soil collapse; and Tagudin – Cervantes Road K0353+100, K0353+500 sections in Ilocos Sur due to landslide and rockslide.

Tanggol also said they have started checking on the structural integrity of government facilities, starting with hospitals.

"Tuloy-tuloy pa rin tayong nag a-assess ng damage at syempre ang safety ng structures, lalo na sa Abra, dahil may mga aftershock pa rin," he said in a previous interview. – **gb**

More aftershocks recorded after Abra quake

July 30, 2022



Personnel of La Paz Municipal Police Station in Abra province conduct monitoring and area assessment following the magnitude 7 earthquake that hit the province and other areas in Luzon, July 27, 2022. (Photo courtesy of PNP Abra La Paz)/FILE

By Gabriela Baron

A total of 1,433 aftershocks were recorded by the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) after the magnitude 7.0 quake that rocked Northern Luzon on July 27.

As of 2:00 p.m. Saturday, Phivolcs plotted a total of 431 earthquakes.

However, only 37 of the tremors were felt.

The quakes ranged from magnitudes 1.5 to 5.0

Based on the Friday, July 29, data provided by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, six individuals have been reported dead while four others are missing following the major quake.



Heritage ruins in Lal-lo, Cagayan sustain earthquake damage

Published July 30, 2022, 12:07 PM

by [Liezle Basa Iñigo](#)



THE Tocolana Ruins in Lal-lo, Cagayan sustained damage in the magnitude-7 earthquake last Wednesday, July 27.
(Bec Bautista/LGU Lal-lo)

LAL-LO, Cagayan – The Tocolana Ruins here was damaged in the magnitude-7 earthquake that hit Northern Luzon Wednesday, July 27.

The Tocolana Ruins is part of the old church here. It is also a heritage area and a tourist destination.

Jenifer Baquiran, officer-in-charge tourism officer of the Provincial Government of Cagayan, received the damage report.

Municipal tourism offices have been ordered to submit reports on the condition of tourist destinations in the province after the earthquake.

Debris was found scattered on the Tocolana Ruins. The local government immediately closed the site which now needs restoration.

Lal-lo is now coordinating with government agencies in charge of restoring heritage sites to ensure the orderly and proper adjustment of damaged part of the ruins.

The church of Santo Domingo de Guzman here sustained minor cracks from the temblor.

Local tourism officers started Friday, July 29, conducting validation on other tourist sites here such as the Callao Cave for earthquake damage.

The Callao Cave was found out to be unscathed by the earthquake.

“Okay naman lahat ng ating mga sites, maging ang ating mga Visitors’ Pavilion at maging ang Callao Caves ay maayos (Our tourist sites are OK, including the Visitors’ Pavilion and Callao Caves),” said Baquiran.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2022/07/30/heritage-ruins-in-lal-lo-cagayan-sustain-earthquake-damage/>



Centuries-old churches, bell towers among strong quake's casualties

THE powerful magnitude-7 earthquake that shook Abra province and other parts of northern Luzon on Wednesday left a trail of centuries-old churches and bell towers among the many heritage sites damaged or destroyed.

Among the heritage sites and architectural treasures the "major earthquake" damaged was the 16th-century popular Vigan Cathedral, canonically known as Metropolitan Cathedral of the Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle, in Ilocos Sur's capital, Vigan.

Viral Facebook videos and photos showed debris fell from its façade. The Unesco World Heritage site cathedral was temporary closed due to damage.

"We will wait for the pronouncement from the structural engineers that it is safe to use for our Eucharistic celebrations. Please pray for all Biguenos," said the cathedral's Rector/Parish Priest Msgr. Gary Noel S. Formoso on its Facebook page.

The cathedral was declared a World Heritage Site, along with the Historic Town of Vigan in 1999.

When the seat of the Nueva Segovia Diocese was transferred to Villa Fernandina de Vigan in 1758, the church was elevated to the status of a cathedral and became the center of Catholic faith in the north, the Vigan web site said.

Its Baroque architectural design that has been modified to strengthen the structure against earthquakes is known as "earthquake Baroque."

In nearby Bantay town, the Bantay Bell Tower was also damaged.

A viral Facebook video by Edi-

son Adducul showed some bricks falling, while people were running away from it.

The bell tower of the St. Augustine Parish Church was built in 1591. It is called the Bantay Belfry being located in the Bantay district of Vigan.

It was said to be the people's watchtower as part of the defence against enemies during the Spanish colonial era, Vigan's web site said.

The belfry is popular among local tourists being the site of the shooting of the well-known Filipino film "Panday."

Also in Ilocos Sur, photos from Saints of Today Facebook account showed the 300-year old Saint Dominic de Guzman Parish Church in Sto. Domingo town with cracked walls and saints' statues toppled inside the church.

The Christ the King Church in Bantay also had cracked walls.

Abra province

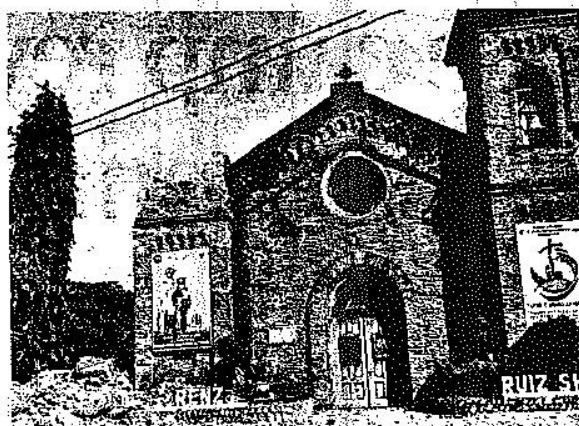
IN Abra province, the epicenter of the powerful earthquake, the Philippine News Agency (PNA) reported that the Department of Tourism has recorded damages to at least two churches that had been declared "National Cultural Treasure" by the National Museum of the Philippines were affected by the tremor.

The façade of Sta. Catalina de Alexandria Church, a 19th-century ba-



TITLE: Centuries-old churches, bell towers among wrong... PAGE 4/2

DATE



SAN Lorenzo Ruiz Shrine, among the oldest churches in Bangued, Abra, one of its two bell towers was heavily damaged. PHOTO FROM SAN LORENZO RUIZ SHRINE FACEBOOK PAGE



THE facade of the Vigan Cathedral, a Unesco Heritage site, was damaged by the strong earthquake that jolted Northern Luzon on Wednesday morning. PHOTO FROM VIGAN LGU FACEBOOK PAGE



THE centuries-old St. Catherine of Alexandria Church in Abra, also known as Tayum Church, suffered big cracks. Completed in 1803, it is considered a national cultural treasure, being the oldest and largest in the Cordillera region. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO/PNA

roque church in Tayum town, suffered big cracks, PNA said, while concrete bricks fell off from its bell tower and main altar, the Abra Province Facebook page said.

Completed in 1803, the church was declared a National Cultural Treasure by the National Museum of the Philippines in 2001. It is the oldest and largest in the Cordillera region.

The San Lorenzo Ruiz Shrine in Bangued town was also heavily damaged, PNA reported.

Built during the turn of the 19th century, its heritage structure has red-clay brick details on its facade, nave and twin belfries, said Abra Province's Facebook page.

The La Paz Aglipayan Church in Abra was also damaged. Its walls and belfry suffered cracks, PNA said in a separate report.

Ilocos Norte

IN nearby Ilocos Norte province, the home province of President Marcos Jr., the earthquake caused rocks and bricks fall off from Laoag City's famous Sinking Bell Tower.

According to Laoag City's web site, the tower, believed to have

been built after an earthquake in 1707, "sinks into the ground at a rate of an inch a year."

"There aren't any conclusive scientific explanations for this, but one accepted theory is that the tower being built on sandy land and its heavy and massive structure is causing it to slowly bury itself into the ground," the web site said.

The bell tower has withstood several minor earthquakes since completion, earning membership to the "earthquake Baroque" style label by architecture scholars, along with several churches in the country.

In Badoc town, the tremor caused debris fall from the old convent of St. John the Baptist Minor Basilica and were left scattered along Soriano Street, PNA reported.

The minor basilica, also known as the Shrine of La Virgen Milagrosa de Badoc, houses the Virgin Milagrosa statue of the Virgin Mary.

Built in the 17th century, the Baroque style church was dedicated to John the Baptist and was given the title of a minor basilica since 2018.

It is one of the 11 churches known as Baroque Fil-Hispanic in Ilocos Norte. The side walls of the single-nave church are reinforced with massive buttress walls that protected it against earthquakes.

"We will request Tieza [Tourism Infrastructure Enterprise Zone Authority] to prioritize assessment of the cultural treasures affected by the recent earthquake recognizing the need to protect and sustain our heritage and cultural treasures for the benefit and welfare of our future generations," Tourism Secretary Christina Frasco said.

The National Museum of the Philippines said it was committed to helping local governments in the rehabilitation and restoration efforts for damaged heritage structures, the PNA reported.

Lyn B. Resurreccion



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The Quake Threat

With the “Big One” knocking on the doorstep of Metro Manila, how do we prepare ourselves for such a natural eventuality?

BY RORY VISCO JULY 30, 2022



ISOGA1 | Dreamstime.com

ON July 27, 2022, Wednesday, at 8:43 a.m., a Magnitude 7 earthquake jolted an otherwise sunny and casual morning for the people of the province of Abra.

The powerful temblor left four people dead and about 64 people injured, and damaged hundreds of establishments and homes, including centuries-old churches and heritage sites. More than 50 landslides occurred in the area.



[David Pereiras Villagra | Dreamstime.com](#)

According to the Aftershock Count of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs), as of 8 a.m. of July 28, 2022, there were 815 total number of recorded earthquakes, 168 total plotted earthquakes, and around 24 felt earthquakes, all within a Magnitude range of 1.5 to 5.

The Philippines is no stranger to natural disasters, the country being located in the so-called “Pacific Ring of Fire,” and regularly experiences earthquakes of varying magnitudes.

Survival and disaster management expert Dr. Ted Esguerra said that when preparing for a disaster before it strikes, there are two things that have to be considered: behavioral and structural.

Shift in response

IN terms of behavioral aspects, there is an old paradigm that no longer applies to today's settings, which is “you should be helped.”



[Contributed photo](#)

Earthquake and flood simulation drill led by Dr. Esguerra (in glasses).

He said that the new Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 encourages everyone, regardless of age and physical abilities or the lack of it, to be capacitated based on his or her understanding when it comes to emergencies.

“When I say emergencies, these involve all hazards. It can be acts of terror or gunfights, or structural collapse because of earthquakes or hydro-meteorological events. So, whether it’s natural or man-made disasters, they have to understand what the situation is, but there is a baseline to that,” said Dr. Esguerra on the sidelines of the recently concluded Emergency Preparedness Forum for PWDs and Senior Citizens held at the SkyDome of SM City North Edsa in Quezon City.

The forum, which was organized by SM Cares, the corporate social responsibility arm of SM Prime Holdings, aims to teach these most vulnerable groups on how to become prepared and resilient in times of emergencies and disasters.

One, Dr. Esguerra said it has to be determined first whether the individual has a mobility impediment; then something must be done about it.

The approach should involve capacitating persons individually, be site-specific, hazard-focused, adopt culturally amenable practices, and everything should be time bound.



Differently abled Filipinos attend the SM Cares Emergency Preparedness Forum at the SkyDome of SM City North Edsa.

‘YOYO’

“THIS means a one-size-fits-all approach will not work; it should be customized. How can a person who is hearing impaired understand instructions verbally, unless a form of nonverbal communication is adopted? How would people with developmental disorders, like those with Down’s Syndrome, understand instructions? So you have to be repetitive, there is a process, and we review it before, during and after.”



When empowering people, it should include a primary support group and the community. Today, a person should teach himself how to survive, he said, and during his talk at the forum, Dr. Esguerra mentioned that in a disaster, one should learn “you are on your own” or “YOYO.”

“When a person is empowered to learn what to do during a disaster, even when left alone, that person will survive on his or her own. That’s what I call the ‘Starfish Principle,’ where if you cut one portion of the starfish, it will grow back, unlike the ‘Spider Principle,’ where if you cut one, it will die. I believe that an empowered person is a very dynamic person,” he explained.

When it comes to teaching people disaster preparedness, Dr. Esguerra said there has to be a champion who will propagate the message of being prepared mentally and physically for disasters. It can be the government or the private sector, but the best part is for these two institutions to collaborate, adding that such will certainly reap benefits.

Dr. Esguerra also shared these basic tips in terms of disaster preparedness, not just for the differently abled and the elderly but for the general population as well.

One is to increase one’s situational awareness by anchoring it to one’s worth, especially for the differently abled or those with problems on mobility who may not be able to move as fast as the others.

Two, have what Dr. Esguerra called an “everyday carry,” a bag that contains basic essentials: first-aid kit, maintenance medicines for those who need it or even simple, over-the-counter medicines, potable water, flashlight, signaling device like a whistle.

Three is what Dr. Esguerra calls “life skills” such as basic life support, how to administer first aid like bandaging, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), even firefighting.

Fourth is a “contacts list” that contains contact details of important institutions like police, fire department, poison control, more of like a small handbook, preferably wrapped in waterproof or resilient material, or it can be reading materials posted in strategic places such as schools, churches and of course, even homes, or transport vehicles like jeeps, buses or tricycles.

“People can store this list in their cellphones, like what many people do, but what if the phone runs out of battery or falls into water? It’ll be useless already, so this list has to be separate and carried by the person in his body like in a bag, or for those who are wheelchair-bound, it can be placed at the pouch behind the wheelchair.”

Fifth is to train people on whether to evacuate or “shelter in place,” especially for those with mobility problems or developmental disorders, which should be done repetitively since they cannot discern whether to evacuate or shelter in place so they would understand.

More to learn

IT was 32 years ago, or July 16, 1990, when a powerful Magnitude 7.8 tremor hit the Philippines’ main island of Luzon and left an estimated 2,412 people dead, scores injured, with damage worth an estimated P20 billion.

To many, that was the longest 45 seconds in their lives where many Filipinos called practically every god and saint in their vocabulary and prayed fervently for survival.

And of course, there’s the “Big One” that many have been talking about. Does the country already have a recipe to counter disasters, which should be all about preparedness? It will certainly take a lot of work.

Image credits: [ISOGA1](#) | [Dreamstime.com](#), [David Pereiras Villagra](#) | [Dreamstime.com](#), [Contributed photo](#)

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2022/07/30/the-quake-threat/>



The July 1990 earthquake

Published July 31, 2022, 12:05 AM

by [Former Speaker Of The House Jose C. De Venecia Jr.](#)

PEACE-MAKER



The 7.0-magnitude earthquake that struck Northern Luzon several days ago reminded us of the powerful quake that devastated Central and Northern Luzon on July 16, 1990, leaving some 2,500 people dead, thousands injured, and an estimated P20 billion worth of damages.

Our own hometown Dagupan City was a scene of massive devastation and looked condemned to extinction when the 1990 earthquake, recorded at 7.7-magnitude, hit the city.

Buildings sank by one meter, a bridge collapsed, roads cracked open and trapped many vehicles inside, electric poles crushed, liquid mud emitted because of liquefaction, and a number of people killed and injured.

There was pandemonium, fear, despair, and confusion all around the city. People were running back home or looking for their children as the earthquake hit around 4:30 p.m., when classes had just been dismissed.

The national government considered condemning Dagupan City but we, as then representative of the fourth district of Pangasinan, together with then Dagupan City Mayor Liberato Reyna, Sr., Vice Mayor Alipio Fernandez, Jr., our fellow Dagupeños, and our constituents of the fourth district of Pangasinan pleaded with President Cory Aquino to help us rebuild the city. She did and for which we were most grateful.

Together with the late Camarines Sur Representative Rolando Andaya, Sr., we authored the Earthquake Rehabilitation Fund Law which completely rebuilt Dagupan City in two years, as well as paved the way for the rebuilding of Baguio City, Cabanatuan City, and other areas of Pangasinan, La Union, and Tarlac that were destroyed by the powerful earthquake.

We hope that many of us have now realized the necessity of a nationwide preparation in the event of an earthquake and other natural disasters.

We are glad, however, that earthquake drills are now regularly conducted in schools and workplaces, as well as the nationwide simultaneous earthquake drill spearheaded by the NDRRMC, or the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council.

Our country is one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world, being located in the so-called "Pacific Ring of Fire" or "Circum-Pacific Belt," an area around the Pacific Ocean where many volcanic eruptions and earthquakes occur.



Our heart goes to the people of Northern Luzon. But by the grace of God and the unshakeable faith of the Filipino people, we know that our kababayans there will be able to rise from the destruction and despair.

Earthquakes can destroy houses, buildings, and other infrastructure but they can never shatter the indomitable spirit of the Filipino.



Paglindol, kagagawan din ng tao?

GO NORTH - [Artemio Dumlao](#) - Pilipino Star Ngayon July 31, 2022 | 12:00am

Hindi nagkakalayo ang pinsala ng July 16, 1990 “killer quake” sa July 27, 2022 “Abra quake”. Ang 1990 quake ay may magnitude 7.8 sa Richter Scale samantalang ang lindol noong Miyerkules ay magnitude 7.0.

Libong tao ang namatay noong 1990 samantalang anim sa nangyaring lindol noong Miyerkules. Salamat at ganito lamang ang casualties ng Abra quake.

Maraming napinsala sa Abra na epicenter ng lindol. Maari pa raw lumala ang mga pinsala dahil patuloy ang aftershocks sa nasabing probinsiya. Marami sa mga residente ang ayaw pang umuwi sa kanilang mga bahay dahil natatakot na muling lumindol.

Ayon sa siyensiya, hindi malalaman kung kailan tatama ang lindol na karaniwang sanhi ay ang paggalaw ng tectonic plates sa ilalim ng lupa o pagsabog ng bulkan.

Ngunit ayon sa pananaliksik na nalathala sa Seismological Research Letters noong 2017 sa National Geographic, natunton ang 730 lugar kung saan kagagawan umano ng tao ang mga paglindol sa nakalipas na 150 taon.

Itinuturo ang mga minahan (37%) at water impoundment ng mga dams (23%) ang karaniwang sanhi ng “induced earthquakes”. Napatunayan din na ang unconventional oil at gas extraction projects na gumagamit ng hydraulic fracturing ay nagtri-trigger din para lumindol.

Pagtuunan sana ng pansin ng pamahalaan at policy-makers ang nasaliksik na ito upang mabawasan ang kapahamakan tuwing lumilindol.

Pag-isipang mabuti bago isakatuparan ang mga tinataguriang development projects gaya ng commercial mineral explorations at dambuhalang geothermal dams lalo’t ang ating bansa’y nasa Pacific Ring of Fire kung saan madalas ang pagsabog ng mga bulkan at paglindol.

Sana umabante tayo ng ilang hakbang mula sa relief and rescue mindset tungo sa disaster mitigation dahil ang buhay ay mahalaga.

* * *

Para sa suhestiyon: art.dumlao@gmail.com



EDITORIAL - Nalimutan na ang earthquake drill

(Pang-Masa) - July 31, 2022 - 12:00am



ANIM ang namatay at apat pa ang hinahanap sa magnitude 7.0 na lindol na tumama sa Northern Luzon noong Miyerkules. Pinakamatinding tinamaan ang Abra na maraming nawasak na bahay, simbahan at nagkaroon ng landslides. Malakas din ang pagyanig sa Benguet, Baguio City, Ilocos Sur, Nueva Viscaya, Nueva Ecija, Pangasinan, Tarlac, Pampanga at Bulacan. Bahagyang naramdaman ang lindol sa Metro Manila, Cavite at Laguna.

Ang naganap na lindol ay nagpasariwa sa alaala ng malakas na lindol na naganap noong Hulyo 1990 na tinamaan din ang Northern Luzon. Maraming namatay nang gumuho ang mga gusali at isang hotel sa Baguio City.

Maraming nag-panic nang lumindol noong Miyerkules. Hindi alam ang gagawin. May babae umanong tumalon mula second floor ng bahay dahil sa pagkabigla sa lindol. Hindi naman namatay ang babae. Marami rin ang nag-unahan sa pagbaba sa ilang gusali. Mayroon ding gumamit ng elevator na hindi naman nararapat sa ganoong sitwasyon.

Ang huling malagim na lindol (magnitude 6.1) na naganap sa bansa ay noong Abril 2019 kung saan, 11 katao ang namatay sa Porac, Pampanga kung saan isang supermarket ang naguho. Nag-panic ang mga tao sa supermarket at hindi malaman kung saan lalabas. Nagpapakita lamang na walang kahandaan ang mga tao sa pagtama ng lindol. At ang resulta, ang mga namatay ay hindi sa pagyanig namatay kundi nabagsakan at natabunan ng gumuhong istruktura.

Ang nangyaring lindol sa Hilagang Luzon ay nagpapaalala sa mga awtoridad para magdaos ng earthquake drill. Dati nang nagsasagawa ng regular earthquake drills sa Metro Manila subalit nakapagtata kang hindi na ito ginagawa ngayon. Nalimutan na ba ang banta ng "The Big One"? Ang Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) ang nangangasiwa sa earthquake drill bilang paghahanda sa malakas na lindol na tatama sa Kalakhang Maynila.

Mahalaga ang pagdaraos ng regular na earthquake drill at sana hindi lamang ito sa Metro Manila gawin kundi maging sa mga probinsiya. Nararapat maihanda ang mamamayan sa pagtama ng lindol. Hindi sila dapat mag-panic para makaiwas sa kamatayan. Isaisip at sundin ang mga natutuhan sa drill.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pang-masa/punto-mo/2022/07/31/2199225/editorial-nalimutan-na-ang-earthquake-drill/amp/>



Go renews call for passage of disaster resilience bills

[Cecille Suerte Felipe](#) - The Philippine Star July 31, 2022 | 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Bong Go has renewed his call for the passage of his twin measures establishing the Department of Disaster Resilience and requiring the construction of mandatory evacuation centers.

He made the appeal in the wake of the magnitude 7.0 earthquake that hit Northern Luzon.

Senate Bill 188 aims to establish a Department of Disaster Resilience (DDR) that seeks to bring together all essential functions and mandates currently scattered among various disaster-related agencies.

Once established, it shall be primarily responsible for implementing programs, projects and activities that ensure communities are disaster-resilient, adaptive, and safe.

“I, as your senator, at the opening of Congress, filed Senate Bill 188, this is the Department of Disaster Resilience. I filed this a long time ago in the 18th Congress,” Go said in Filipino in an ambush interview after personally distributing assistance to indigent residents of Manay, Davao Oriental on Thursday.

“If this bill passes, we will have a cabinet secretary level department. That will be the focus at the cabinet secretary level,” he added.

Go said he felt the need to re-file the bill because “the Philippines’ experiences with natural disasters have shown that the existing laws, policies, resources, and institutional arrangements governing disaster management lacked responsiveness to the country’s requirements for disaster resilience.”

“There needs to be a dedicated office, and immediate coordination. A cabinet secretary level that fellow cabinet secretaries will respect. That’s what we want to happen, a department that focuses on disaster-related situations,” stressed Go.

He maintained that a new department with a secretary in charge would ensure more focused government efforts during calamities. This will also support President Ferdinand Marcos’ pronouncements in his inaugural speech to “spare victims” and “help them recover” from the impact of climate change.

Aside from the DDR bill, Go also re-filed Senate Bill 193, or the Mandatory Evacuation Center Bill, which seeks to require every province, city, and municipality to construct such centers that would be equipped with emergency packs, medicines and other basic necessities.

Disaster resiliency program ng Pilipinas, itinampok sa UN

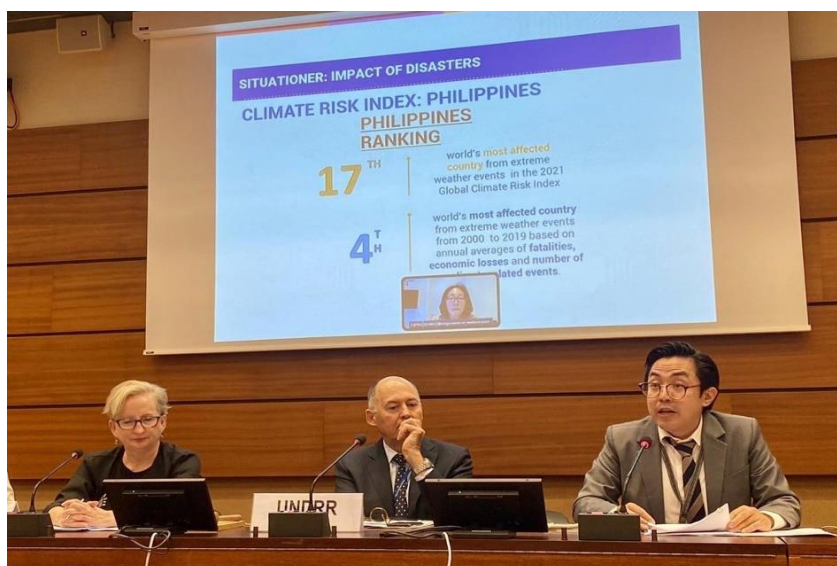
Jerome Fadriquela | TFC News

Posted at Jul 30 2022 10:21 PM

GENEVA - Ibinahagi ng Pilipinas ang Disaster resiliency program ng bansa sa United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) Support Group meeting na ginanap sa Palais des Nations nitong July 22.

Alinsunod ito sa hangad ng Pilipinas na makabuo ng mas ligtas na disaster resilient communities.

Ang Permanent Mission ng Pilipinas, na kinakatawan ng Humanitarian at Migration Expert na si Jet Olfato, ang nag-update sa diplomatic corps sa Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010 o Republic Act 10121 na ipinapatupad ng National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) sa Pilipinas.



Si Third Secretary Jet Olfato ang kinatawan ng Permanent Mission ng Republika ng Pilipinas sa kanyang presentation sa United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) Support Group Meeting sa Palais des Nations sa Geneva, Switzerland nitong 22 July 2022. (Geneva PM photo)

Ibinahagi rin ni Olfato ang innovation at digital transformation strategies ng DRRM, kabilang ang GeoRisk Philippines Initiative (GeoRiskPH), isang mobile at web application na ginagawang accessible ang impormasyon sa mga panganib at risk assessment para sa publiko at pribadong sektor.

Mahalaga ang ambag na kaalaman ng Pilipinas sa United Nations dahil sa ating karanasan sa disaster resiliency. Ayon kasi sa Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAG-ASA) ng Pilipinas, sinasalanta ang bansa ng humigit kumulang na 20 bagyo kung saan umaabot sa lima ang super typhoons.

Nagdudulot ito ng malawakang mga pagbaha, landslides at pagkasira ng mga pananim at ari-arian, malaking panganib rin ito sa buhay. Noong isang taon, kumitil ng mahigit 400 buhay ang super typhoon Odette nang manalasa ito sa Hilagang Mindanao at Kabisayaan.

Dagdag pa rito ang posisyon ng Pilipinas sa Pacific Ring of Fire o ang rehiyon ng karagatang Pasipiko kung saan may pinakamaraming aktibong bulkan at madalas makaranas ng malalakas na lindol, tulad na lamang ng 7.0 magnitude earthquake na tumama sa Hilagang Pilipinas nitong July 27.



Para sa mga nagbabagang balita tungkol sa ating mga kababayan natin sa Europa, Gitnang Silangan at Africa, tumutok sa TFC News sa TV Patrol.

Source: DFA website

Source: https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/07/30/22/disaster-resiliency-program-ng-pilipinas-itinampok-sa-un?fbclid=IwAR1GlcbUu9ytNaFG9uHPi8W9cfkqF8m3Amz3Pw8oA_0sqDFGnxmgaS2Folk



Guaranteed to underperform

SINCE it turned out to be the highlight of most people's week — and not in a good way — before I take on the subject I intended for this column, allow me to share a few observations about Wednesday morning's earthquake and its aftermath.

From what was observable in the news and confirmed by a few first-hand reports from the affected areas, those most impacted by it, the people of Northern Luzon and the government agencies in the area, responded admirably to it. Obviously it was (and still is) a challenging situation, but the impression is that the response was faster and more effective than we have been accustomed to seeing, particularly when compared with the most recent similar calamity, the earthquake that hit Central Luzon in April 2019.

That positive outcome, however, does not seem to be attributable to national-level action. In Manila, the response of most everyone was to either panic or develop a serious case of main character syndrome; ably abetted, of course, by a news media that is congenitally incapable of asking the question, "So what?" whenever any of these self-important clowns does or says anything.

At least four separate news outlets churned out "breaking news" (another term the local media does not seem to understand, or care to) that Sen. Robin "Gusto ko Sogo ka" Padilla had evacuated the Senate complex in Pasay safely, complete with pictures of the World's Biggest Fish Out of Water himself, as though anyone outside of his immediate family would have wondered, or cared. Not to be outdone, permanent chairman of the Senate Committee on Redundancy Committee



ROUGH
TRADE

**BEN
KRITZ**

Sen. Bong Go took the opportunity to make a non-sequitur pitch for the passage of his Department of Disaster Resilience bill, even though actual events were belying the necessity of another awkwardly named layer of bureaucracy.

Taking a more proactive approach, Secretary Whichever Tulfo This One Is of the Department of Social Welfare and Development somehow managed to travel to the affected areas before the ground even stopped shaking to helpfully instruct local DSWD personnel to do the job they were already doing, and be seen listening thoughtfully to local government officials. That pensive look is hard to pull off if you're wearing an N95 mask, but he did it, because the man is nothing if not a professional.

Even President Bongbong Marcos got into the act. After initially making the very sensible statement that he would hold off on traveling to the affected areas to avoid the unnecessary disruption a visiting party of VIPs would cause, he reversed himself and announced plans to visit forthwith. The reason for the change of heart may have had something to do with being upstaged by big sister and Senator Imee, who wears her annoyance at not being accorded the same empress vibe as her mother by the public like a bright red t-shirt, and who got to the northlands ahead of "bunso," disruption be damned.

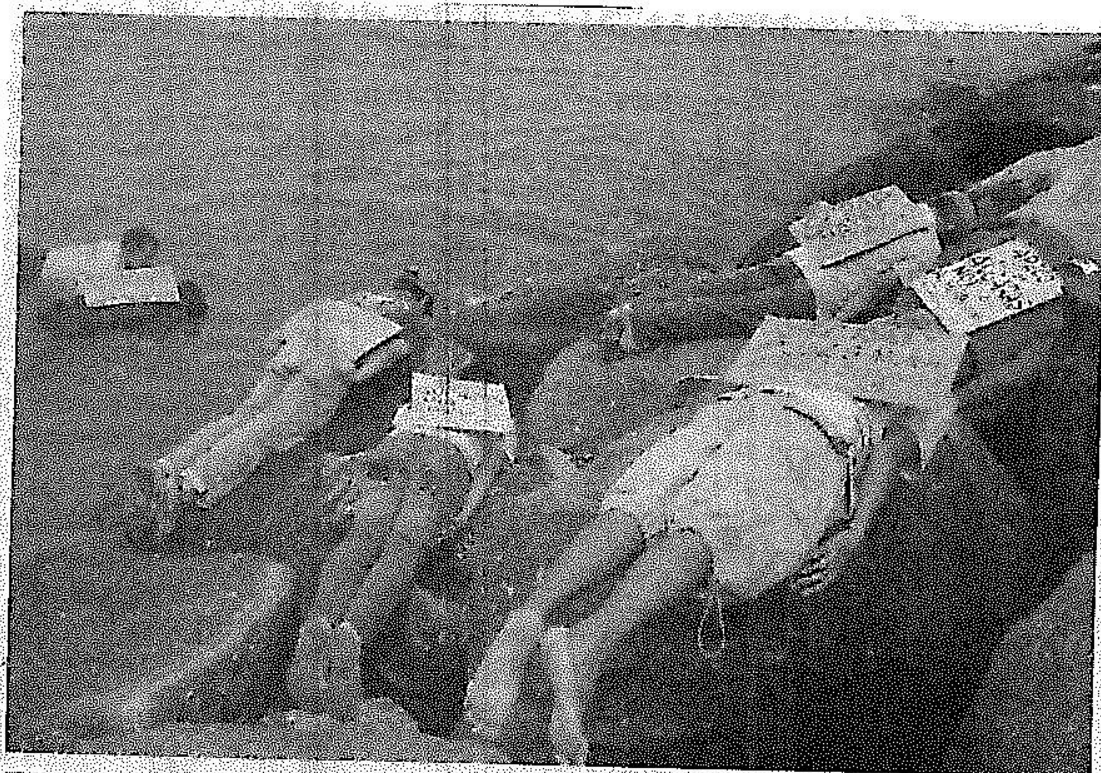
Although any human toll is tragic and fully deserving of a



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■ Not everyone is thrilled with special economic zones, such as these citizens creatively protesting one located in Aurora province. PHOTO FROM FARMLANDGRAB.COM

careful assessment of how it could be even further minimized, the fact that it was not worse than it was given the timing of the earthquake might be viewed as a positive sign. This country is and always will be prone to natural disasters, but as long as there is continuous improvement in the way in which they are managed, progress is being made, and that's about all anyone can ask for.

Now on to regular business. Earlier in the week, the Philippine Institute of Development Studies (PIDS) released a study of the Generalized Scheme of Preferences Plus (GSP+) tariff scheme applied to the Philippines by the European Union. The conclusion of the study was that despite the great advantages, particularly to small and medium enterprises,

advertised about GSP+, its benefits have been modest at best.

That is a whole other topic; the part of the study that jumped out at me was the assertion that a large part of the reason the Philippines may not be benefiting as anticipated is that this is an "anti-development" economy. The statement was made in almost an offhand way, and it should have been given more prominence because it perfectly sums up the reason why this supposedly growing economy seems almost guaranteed to underperform: micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) make up more than 99 percent of all businesses in the country and are acknowledged as the true power of the economy, and yet broader economic policy in practice is geared toward doing almost everything possible to retard their progress.

The characteristics of an "anti-developmental state," according to PIDS, include factors such as the country's reliance on imports, private consumption, foreign investment and economic zones; challenges to the expansion of capacity of the country's exporters; difficulties with the development of the country's local supply chains and infrastructure; and disparities in income and political power.

Each of those factors is by itself a complex problem to solve, except for one: The country's stubborn, irrational belief in the imagined advantages of economic zones. That problem is one that can be solved quickly, and President Marcos recently sent a signal that may give us hope it might be with his veto of the proposed ecozone attached to San Miguel Corp.'s airport project in Bulacan.



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Special economic zones, which include export processing zones, freeports, free trade zones and similar arrangements, are fairly popular, not just in the Philippines; there are a total of about 5,400 of them worldwide in at least 147 countries, according to data from the UN Conference on Trade and Development (Unctad). While they certainly do have some benefits, they are increasingly being seen as problematic for developing economies because the benefits those countries need — enterprise and productivity growth, technology transfer and value chain expansion — cannot be gained on any meaningful scale precisely because most domestic enterprises are excluded from special economic zones. The benefits those zones do confer, such as providing jobs that support greater household consumption, tend to be ones that strengthen the anti-developmental economy.

If the government were using the benefits it gained from special economic zones — tax revenues that are already constrained by the compromises necessary to make locating in the zones attractive in the first place — to support domestic enterprise and value chain development, the persistence of this part of the economic framework might be a bit more palatable, but that has never been the case, so the next best thing is to effectively turn the entire country into an economic zone. Some of the reforms of the Duterte administration started the country down that path, and so far at least, it seems the current administration is at least willing to consider continuing. We can at least hope so.

ben.kritz@manilatimes.net
Twitter: @benkritz



Speaker vows approval of National Land Use Act by yearend

[Sheila Crisostomo](#) - The Philippine Star July 31, 2022 | 12:00am



Newly-elected House Speaker Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez took his oath of office before the House of Representatives on Monday (July 25, 2022).

The STAR / KJ Rosales

MANILA, Philippines — Speaker Martin Romualdez has committed that the National Land Use Act will be approved by the end of the year and he would support other bills for the development of the real estate sector.

“We share with the President a common desire to craft a unified framework that will govern the use of land resources in the country,” Romualdez said yesterday.

In his first State of the Nation Address last Monday, President Marcos underscored the inclusion of a comprehensive land use policy in his legislative agenda, particularly the National Land Use Act.

Romualdez noted that there is a need to “harmonize and integrate conflicting laws, policies, principles and guidelines on land use and physical planning.”

“Our policy experts noted that there are around 30 overlapping environmental and ecological protection laws and policies on the use of water and land management,” he said.

This as the speaker urged the National Real Estate Association (NREA) to study and submit position papers on other legislative measures now filed in Congress that have impact on the development of the real estate sector.

“We will not pass any law affecting your sector without hearing you first,” he said in an assembly of the NREA recently.

He also acknowledged the roles of the NREA in generating jobs and in providing “shelter for the protection and security of Filipino households and contributing to the “steady flow of income for the nation’s coffer.”

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2022/07/31/2199200/speaker-vows-approval-national-land-use-act-yearend>



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House chief vows Land Use bill nod

BY EDJEN OLIQUINO AND RAFFY AYENG

Speaker Martin Romualdez has pledged to deliver the National Land Use Act that eluded previous administrations, at the "soonest time possible" or before the end of this year.

Romualdez underscored that he and President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos shared the desire to create a unified framework that would govern the use of land resources in the country.

Turn to page A2

We at the House of Representatives are committed to approve the National Land Use Act the soonest time possible.

From page 1

In his State of the Nation Address last Monday, Marcos stressed a comprehensive land use policy is included in his legislative agenda, particularly the National Land Use Act.

"My dear friends at NREA (National Real Estate Association), we at the House of Representatives are committed to approve the National Land Use Act the soonest time possible. We expect to approve this measure on third and final reading before the year is over," Romualdez said during his address to the NREA assembly on Friday night.

The top lawmaker pointed out the need to harmonize and integrate conflicting laws, policies, principles and guidelines on land use and physical planning.

Romualdez cited policy experts who identified around 30 overlapping environmental and ecological protection laws, water use policies and land management policies.

Meanwhile, he urged NREA to research and submit position papers on other bills that have been filed in Congress related to the growth of the real estate industry.

Consultations key to bills

"We will not pass any law affecting your sector without hearing you first," Romualdez stressed.

"You generate jobs for our people, provide shelter for the protection and

security of Filipino households, and contribute a steady flow of income for the nation's coffers," he continued.

According to Romualdez, the Real Estate Service Act of the Philippines, also known as Republic Act 9646, was passed by Congress in 2009 to address various concerns in the sector and to develop and nurture through proper and effective regulation and supervision a list of technically competent, responsible and respected professional real estate service practitioners whose standards of practice and service are globally competitive and promote the growth of the industry.

Romualdez and Gatchalian shared the view that initiatives meant for the real-estate sector will be protected in both chambers of Congress.

"We will pursue it (Land Use Act) in the 19th Congress, it was filed already at the House of Representatives, as this would promote the real estate industry in many ways. We look at the different facets of the bill, and we will check how we can pass it," the House leader said.

Senator Sherwin Gatchalian, who also graced the NREA assembly, said that although the Land Use Act already has its Senate version, he admitted that the law has been languishing in both chambers of the legislative department.

"But now that the President has made a

clear marching order to tackle that bill, we must follow him as it is important to know the appropriate use of lands, whether it is for agriculture, housing, industrial. There are cases where we are losing the lands meant for the agriculture sector because it is invaded by developers. Those issues should be rectified," Gatchalian told the *Daily Tribune*.

Voice of real estate sector

Meanwhile, Romualdez and Gatchalian shared the view that initiatives meant for the real-estate sector will be protected in both chambers of Congress.

With this, NREA chairperson Ricky Celis and NREA chairman emerita and One Filipinos Worldwide Partylist Representative Marissa del Mar extolled the assurance of both lawmakers.

"We are happy about the full support extended by our lawmakers to the housing industry. We at NREA are one with our lawmakers to make the lives of our member developers, brokers, and clients calm as well, especially in launching projects such as producing affordable housing for our *kababayans*. We will work together with the government to put an end to the more than 5 million backlogs in the housing industry," according to Del Mar.

Further, Del Mar said they also wanted to realize the long-held dream of most Filipino families and overseas Filipino workers to at least have a decent house that they can call their own through socialized housing.

@tribunephil_oao @tribunephil_raf



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PHOTOGRAPH BY BOB DUNGO JR. FOR THE DAILY TRIBUNE @tribunephil_bob

SPEAKER Martin Romualdez (third from left) and Senator Sherwin Gatchalian (right) give a toast to National Real Estate Authority representative Imelda Magloto (left) and One Filipino Worldwide Partylist Rep. Marissa del Mar during an NREA assembly. Both legislators vowed to back the passage of the Land Use Act.

House chief vows Land Use bill nod



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ROMUALDEZ VOWS OK OF NAT'L LAND USE ACT

By RYAN PONCE
PACAPACO

ROMUALDEZ

FROM PAGE 1

President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr., in his State of the Nation Address last Monday, stressed the inclusion of a comprehensive land use policy in his legislative agenda, particularly the National Land Use Act.

"We share with the President a common desire to craft a unified framework that will govern the use of land resources in the country. We need to harmonize and integrate conflicting laws, policies, principles and guidelines on land use and physical planning. Our policy experts noted that there are around 30 overlapping environmental and ecological protection laws and policies on the use of water and land management," Romualdez, who was overwhelmingly elected as Speaker of the House of Representatives in the current 19th Congress, said during his speech at the NREA midyear membership assembly in Makati City.

"My dear friends at NREA, we in the House of Representatives are committed to approve the National Land Use Act the soonest time possible. We expect to approve this measure on third and final reading before the year is over," he added.

The Leyte 1st District representative also urged the NREA to study and submit position papers on the other legislative measures now filed in Congress that have impact on the development of the real estate sector.

"We will not pass any law affecting your sector without hearing you first," Romualdez stressed, as he recognized the valuable contributions of the real estate industry to the country.

"You generate jobs for our people, provide shelter for the protection and security of Filipino household, and



National Real Estate Association Chair-Emerita and OFW Party-list Rep. Marissa Del Mar (3rd left) hand over a plaque of appreciation to House Speaker Martin Romualdez (3rd right) during the Mid-Year Membership Assembly and Honor Dinner of the National Real Estate Association Inc. Friday night at the Ayala Hall, Makati Sports Club in Makati City. Romualdez was a guest of honor and speaker during the event. Also in photo are (from right) NREA National President Ronnie Blando, Senator Sherwin Gatchalian, Board Chairman Ricky Sells and Board Vice-Chairlady Imelda Magtoto. Photo by VER NOVENO

contribute a steady flow of income for the nation's coffers," Romualdez added.

He said Congress enacted Republic Act No. 9646 or the Real Estate Service Act of the Philippines in 2009 to address some issues in the industry and to "develop and nurture through proper and effective regulation and supervision a corps of technically competent, responsible and respected professional real estate service practitioners whose standards of practice and service shall be globally competitive and will promote the growth of the real estate industry."



DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES LILIKHAIN

July 26, 2022 jp admin



NAKATAKDANG likhain ni Senador Grace Poe ang Department of Water Resources upang tuluyan nang tuldukan ang kakapusan ng suplay ng tubig sa bansa at magarantiya ang malinis at ligtas na tubig para sa lahat.

Sa pahayag sinabi ni Poe na layunin ng panukalang na maging epektibo at mabilis ang pamamahala sa sistema ng tubig na magbibigay proteksyon sa pinakamataas na interes ng publiko.

Sa pamamagitan ng epektibo at mabilis na pamahalaan na magbibigay proteksyon pinakamataas na interes.

“Water shortage should not be a way of life. We expect reforms in water governance and infrastructure the way the Filipinos deserve this basic utility as an essential human right,” ayon kay Poe.

Ayon kay Poe, layunin din ng Senate Bill No. 102 na may pamagat na “National Water Resource Management Act,” na lumikha ng pambansang burador sa mas mahusay na pamamahala ng yamang-tubig.

Inaatasan ng panukala ang paglikha ng Department of Water Resources na mangunguna at pagsama-samahin ang whole-of-society efforts para sa komprehensibo at integrated development at pamamahala ng water resources sa bansa.

Ipinaliwanag pa ni Poe sa panukala na patuloy na dumadami ang populasyon ng bansa, kaya dapat mas maraming water resources ang mapaunlad at magamit upang matiyak ang patuloy na suplay ng malinis at abot-kayang tubig sa lahat ng mamamayan.

Magkakaroon din ng rasyonalisasyon sa regulasyong pang-ekonomiya at administratibo sa water utilities sa pamamagitan ng independyente, quasi-judicial agency na tatawaging Water Regulatory Commission.

“This is clearly about the law of supply and demand. All consumers must have access to safe and reliable water,” giit ni Poe.



“The commission shall set the policy for water supply, sewerage and septage management; issue licenses; review and approve rates; assess and suspend contracts; initiate investigations on erring officials; and ensure that the welfare of consumers are prioritized,” ayon sa panukala.

Nakatakda din sa panukala ang probisyon na: “All water supply and sanitation service providers, including bulk water suppliers and other public or private service providers, shall register with the commission, which shall ensure that the grant or revocation of licenses is carried out fairly and transparently.”

Tinukoy pa ni Poe na iniulat ng National Economic and Development Authority noong nakaraang taon na mahigit 12.4 milyong katao ang nakalimutang makakuha ng tubig sa ligtas na pagkukunan, at may ilang lugar na walang water service provider.

Sa ilalim ng panukala ni Poe, kailangan magtakda ang regulasyon ng parehas, resonableng taripa at rate base sa scientific at evidence-based methodology. A 12-percent cap on return of investment must be adhered to by providers.

Kasabay nito, inaatasan din ng panukala ang pagbibigay ng insentibo upang mahimok ang episyente, mas malawak na serbisyo at mas mababang halaga.

“Water is essential to our daily lives. It is fundamental to our survival and growth. We must manage this resource efficiently to ensure that our people’s needs are sufficiently met,” ani Poe. (ESTONG REYES)

Source: <https://saksingayon.com/balita/departament-of-water-resources-lilikhain/?fbclid=IwAR3mo7Z9KlJ841OW8eigap3HdnlgRkkMIQXnBsyoPOZ6hGtM0l2NF5ekglk>



Villar continues push for wetland park protection

Published July 30, 2022, 4:28 PM

by [Mario Casayuran](#)

To raise awareness on the role of wetlands as the “cradle of biodiversity”, Senator Cynthia Villar filed Senate Bill (SB) 124, or the National Wetlands Conservation Bill, during the opening of the 19th Congress this month.

Speaking before the participants of the 8th Wetland Link International – Asia Conference (8WLI-Asia) at the Villar SIPAG on July 28, 2022, Villar noted that her bill seeks to guide all concerned national government agencies and local government units (LGUs) to adjust the policies consistent with wetland conservation and wise use.

Villar, chairperson of the Senate Committee on Environment, has also been pursuing the establishment of substantial area of buffer zones on Manila Bay waters and fighting off reclamation to avert destruction of Las Piñas-Parañaque Wetland Park.

The lady lawmaker acknowledged the Philippines still has much work to do to give its wetlands the care and support they deserve.

“With our country’s archipelagic nature, we have an abundant number of wetlands that call for much-needed attention,” said the lady lawmaker.

The 2016 Atlas of Philippine Inland Wetlands and Classified Caves has put the number at 314 inland wetlands and 2,487 river systems. Out of these, 314 wetlands are 221 lakes, 12 marshes and swamps, 9 peat lands, 39 water storage, and 31 ponds.

She also extolled their own wetland in her hometown in Las Pinas City- the Las Pinas-Paranaque Wetland Park (LPPWP). Home to about 84 species of migratory and resident birds, like the endemic Philippine Duck and the Chinese Egret, and Black-winged Stilts. LPPWP was listed in the Ramsar Convention as Wetland of International Importance.

The senator also thanked the Society for the Conservation of Philippine Wetlands, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-National Capital Region (DENR-NCR), the Ramsar Regional Center for East Asia, and the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust UK for bringing the 8th Wetland Link International – Asia Conference to the Philippines, and particularly for having it in Las Piñas City.



Villar pushes wetland protection measures

Cecille Suerte Felipe - The Philippine Star July 31, 2022 | 12:00am



Sen. Cynthia Villar faces reporters in the senate building on Wednesday, June 1, 2022.

The STAR / Geremy Pintolo

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Cynthia Villar is pushing for measures that would raise awareness on the role and importance of wetlands as “cradle of biodiversity.”

At the 8th Wetland Link International-Asia Conference (8WLI-Asia) held at the Villar SIPAG, Villar told participants that her “proposed measure aims to guide all concerned national government agencies and local government units to adjust the policies consistent with wetland conservation and wise use.”

She was referring to Senate Bill 124 or the National Wetlands Conservation bill she filed at the opening of the 19th Congress.

Villar has also been pursuing the establishment of buffer zones around Manila Bay waters and opposing reclamation to avert the destruction of Las Piñas-Parañaque Wetland Park.

She acknowledged that the Philippines still has much work to do “to give our wetlands the care and support they deserve.”

“With our country’s archipelagic nature, we have an abundant number of wetlands that call for much-needed attention,” said Villar, chairperson of the Senate committee on environment.

The 2016 Atlas of Philippine Inland Wetlands and Classified Caves has identified 314 inland wetlands and 2,487 river systems in the country. Of the wetlands, 221 are lakes, 12 are marshes and swamps, nine are peatlands, 39 are water storage, and 31 are ponds.

She said the Las Piñas-Parañaque Wetland Park is home to 84 species of migratory and resident birds, like the endemic Philippine Duck, Chinese Egret, Black-winged Stilts. The park is also listed in the Ramsar Convention as Wetland of International Importance.

Villar thanked the Society for the Conservation of Philippine Wetlands, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in the National Capital Region, Ramsar Regional Center for East Asia, and the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust UK for bringing the 8WLI-Asia to the Philippines.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2022/07/31/2199189/villar-pushes-wetland-protection-measures>



Saving coastal, marine environment through Marine Protected Areas

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA JULY 31, 2022



[Danny Ocampo](#)

A school of bannerfish adds beauty to the underground world in Barangay Ermita Marine Protected Area in Sipaway Island, San Carlos City, Negros Occidental.

As part of the Plastic Free July, a global movement that amplifies the call for strengthened efforts to solve the global plastic crisis, ocean conservation advocate nongovernment organization, Oceana Philippines, called on President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to protect marine protected areas against plastic pollution.

Environmental lawyer Gloria Estenzo-Ramos, vice president of Oceana Philippines, said the country's marine ecosystems hold immense potential in the efforts to curb the impact of the global food crisis. But the threat of destruction and losses is becoming more pronounced as plastic waste make their way to Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) that are supposed to be set aside for conservation in different parts of the country.



[Danny Ocampo](#)

Sea fans and colorful corals are found in the Tubbataha Reef Natural Park, a renowned diving spot and a Unesco World Heritage site.



Legal basis

MPAs in the Philippines are governed by two major laws, Criselda Castor, focal person for MPAs of the Biodiversity Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR-BMB), told the BusinessMirror in a telephone interview on July 26.

First is Republic Act 11038, or the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System Act, which is the basis for the establishment of MPAs under the National Integrated Protected Areas System (Nipas) framework.

Second is Republic Act 10654, the basis for the establishment of locally managed MPAs, which are governed by concerned local government units (LGUs).

“Through this law, all LGUs are mandated to apportion 15 percent of their municipal water as a fish refuge or sanctuary, whenever possible,” Castor, also a senior ecosystems management specialist, said.

She said MPAs under the Nipas are administrated or governed by the national government, the DENR-BMB in particular.

“They are relatively large MPAs, covering several hectares and encompassing ecologically rich and unique areas and biologically important public lands that are habitats of rare and threatened species, biogeographic zones and related ecosystems,” Castor said.

Biodiversity-rich islands

A biodiversity-rich archipelago, the Philippines has more reason to protect and conserve its rich marine ecosystem from destructive human activities.

Currently, there are a total of 75 Nipas MPAs, wherein 35 are legislated, five are proclaimed and 35 are initial components.

There are also more than 1,500 locally managed MPAs established around the country.

The DENR-BMB is also pushing for the establishment of networks of MPAs to strengthen the protection and conservation of these biodiversity-rich areas. There are currently 60 established MPA networks in the Philippines.

Besides plastic and microplastic pollution, MPAs are facing persistent threats like encroachment of commercial fishing vessels, destructive and unsustainable fishing practices, unsustainable tourism practices and climate change.

“Sometimes, there is also resistance from the community on the establishment of MPAs and networks because of the initial belief that they will have a smaller area to fish. But this can be addressed by engaging them at the onset and continuous consultation and awareness activities, Castor said.

MPA management tools

According to Castor, locally-managed MPAs use the MPA Management Effectiveness Assessment Tool. At the same time, the Nipas MPAs use the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT).

“There are a number of MPAs that are already doing good in terms of managing their MPAs. However, there are also other Nipas MPAs that need to improve in certain areas of management. Moreover, there is a need to re-evaluate/update the METT scores of our Nipas MPAs to be able to get a better understanding of how effective the management of their MPAs is,” she explained.



The DENR-BMB implements a program called Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Management Program, which is fully funded by the government through the General Appropriations Act.

“Through this program, we are able to strengthen MPAs through scaling up to networks, habitat assessment and monitoring, provision of biodiversity-friendly enterprises, capacity building and social mobilization, among others,” she said.

‘Not a silver bullet’

Sought for comment, the Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya), however, expressed doubt that MPAs could actually protect marine resources.

“While we recognize the urgent need to preserve our marine and aquatic resources from various forms of destruction, there is no guarantee that [MPAs] will function as it is. Rather, it may threaten the livelihood of small fisherfolk, who will be deprived to fish within the established MPAs,” Ronnel Arambulo, Pamalakaya national spokesman told the BusinessMirror via Messenger on July 27.

“Marine and aquatic resources deteriorate because of exploitation of large-scale commercial fishing fleets, as well as by government’s approval of destructive projects, such as reclamation and conversion,” he said.

He said big fishing firms continue to exploit and monopolize the country’s marine and aquatic resources, and no amount of government conservation program could stop this threat to our marine ecosystem.

“What we have been pushing for genuine rehabilitation of aquatic and marine waters is through the massive restoration of mangrove areas and sea grasses, and ultimately end all destructive projects, such as reclamation and conversion. The government must also restrict commercial fishing vessels from entering the 15-kilometer municipal waters intended for small and subsistence fisherfolk,” he pointed out.

Reinforcing protection

Oceana Philippines, however, insisted that MPAs are important because they reinforce the protection of the livelihoods of the country’s fisherfolk and coastal communities, and build the resiliency of the natural ecosystems and the people from the ravaging impacts of climate change.

“We have national laws and local ordinances that establish marine reserves, protected seascapes and fish sanctuaries but we need to have more of them. Thus, Oceana supports the government and stakeholders in having more ecologically and biologically significant marine areas in our country protected,” Ramos told the BusinessMirror via email on July 26.

“The [DENR-BMB] admits that we only have roughly 1 percent of our waters, including exclusive economic zone, protected,” she lamented.

According to Ramos, an effective MPA must be science-based, implements the Enipas Act, Fisheries Code, as amended, and other laws, without fear or favor, and require strong and continuing collaboration not just among Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) members but also with the stakeholders, including the 12 Fisheries Management Areas (FMAs), a legacy of the Duterte administration.

The Management Plan has to be complied with, and for MPAs which are considered sub-groups of the FMAs, it has to be synchronized with the FMA Management Plans and national policies, she explained.

“I hope also the state colleges and universities step up in being active actors in MPA management including monitoring. Fisherfolk also needs strong support from both national and local decision-makers,” Ramos said.



Scientifically recognized

Theresa Mundita S. Lim, executive director of the Asean Centre for Biodiversity said that MPAs are a scientifically recognized tool in protecting coastal and marine biodiversity.

She told the BusinessMirror via Messenger on July 27 said that years ago, Asean Biodiversity hero, Dr. Angel Alcala of the Philippines, has already proven through a study of the Apo Island Protected Landscape and Seascape, that a well-managed protected area can yield up to around 125 tons of fish biomass per year.

She noted that Apo Island started as a locally managed no-take marine reserve before it was eventually established as a national protected area.

“Locally managed MPAs definitely contribute to fishery production and complement the benefits derived from effectively managed national marine protected areas. But it is not enough to set aside just a percentage of local waters as MPAs,” she said.

However, Lim, a former DENR-BMB director, said it is more important to identify the appropriate areas to protect, to ensure that they are the rich breeding or foraging grounds for important fishery resources and keystone species.

“Since our oceans and oceanic resources are interconnected, organisms can breed in one area and move across political boundaries to grow, mate, feed and thrive. For us to protect them across all these life stages, and eventually sustainably harness the benefits they can provide [food security, resilient ecosystems, livelihoods], networking of smaller MPAs may be relevant and necessary,” she said.

“In Asean, we are already exploring the declaration of transboundary Asean Heritage Parks based on reliable scientific information on migratory patterns and life cycles of important marine biodiversity,” Lim said.

Image credits: [Danny Ocampo](#)



Ganda at banta sa mga dalampasigan

(AGHAM AT TEKNOLOHIYA) PANDAYAN - [Ramon M. Bernardo](#) - Pang-masa July 31, 2022 | 12:00am

DITO sa ating bansa, marami itong pangalan. Tila wala itong permanenteng tatak sa bokabularyong Pilipino. Minsan, dalampasigan ang tawag dito. Kilala rin ito bilang tabing-dagat, aplaya o pampang. Pero, sa kultura natin ngayon na mas madalas nagagamit ang salitang Ingles o magkahalong Tagalog at Ingles, beach ang laging tinatawag dito. Beach ito sa mga bakasyunista, turista o sinumang gustong magliwaliw sa tabing-dagat. Pero, siyempre, sa mga mahihirap na nakatira sa mga ganitong lugar tulad ng mga mangingisda, hindi karaniwang lumalabas sa kanilang bibig ang “beach.”

Ang mga dalampasigan ang isa sa mga magagandang bahagi ng kalikasan. Natatampok ito sa mga obra ng mga pintor at litratista, mga kuwento, nobela, tula at maging sa mga pelikula at palabas sa telebisyon. Isa sa pinananabikang matanaw mula sa tabing-dagat ang pagsikat o paglubog ng araw. Nakakapagpagaan sa kalooban ng mga taong nais mapag-isa o makapagsarili at makapag-isip ang magpalipas ng oras sa aplaya. Karaniwan na itong pasyalan ng mga magkasintahan. Maraming pamilya ang malimit nagpipiknik dito.

Pero, dumarating ang panahon na, kahit gaano kaganda ang bahaging ito ng kalikasan, nagiging banta rin ito sa buhay at kabuhayan ng mga tao at ari-arian. Bukod sa tsunami at ng tinatawag na daluyong o surge kapag may malakas na bagyo, nariyan ang patuloy na pagtaas ng lebel ng dagat na unti-unting kumakain sa mga dalampasigan habang dumaraan at lumilipas ang maraming taon o dekada.

Matagal nang babala ng mga scientist, environmentalist at ibang mga eksperto ang pa-nganib na idudulot ng pagtaas ng lebel ng dagat na bunga ng global warming o climate change. May mga maliliit at mabababang islang maglalahi, may mga bayan at lunsod sa mabababang lugar o tabing dagat na lulubog sa baha o mabubura sa mapa, milyun-milyong mamamayan sa buong mundo ang mawawalan ng kabuhayan at tahanan partikular ang mga naninirahan sa mga dalampasigan. At kabilang ang Pilipinas na nangangnanib sa pagtaas ng lebel ng dagat. May ilan na ngang lugar sa bansa na nasa tabing-dagat ang laging binabaha.

May mga pagkilos namang ginagawa ang mga pamahalaan, mga bansa at iba pang mga kinaukulan para matugunan ang banta ng pagtaas ng lebel ng dagat na isa sa mga epekto ng global warming. Pero tila hindi pa sapat ang kanilang mga hakbang. May ilang bansa nga na sumusubok na magtayo ng isang lunsod sa dagat bilang sagot sa pagtaas ng lebel ng dagat at panahon lang ang makakapagsabi kung magiging matagumpay ito.

Ilan sa hakbang na ginagawa sa ilang mga bansa ang pagpapagawa o pagpapataas ng mga seawall at pagtanim ng mga bakawan at ibang halaman o puno na hihigop sa tubig, pagpapalipat ng mga naninirahan sa mga tabing-dagat sa mas matataas na lugar, pagtatayo ng flood gates, pagpapatupad ng mas mahuhusay na flood-control program, pagpapataas sa mga kalsada at iba pa.

Kung sinasabing hindi mapipigilan ang global warming, hindi rin mapipigilan ang pagtaas ng level ng dagat. Maaari lang itong maantala. Pero marahil, may tsansang mapigilan ang global warming kung ganap na masusugpo ang mga bagay na nagdudulot nito tulad ng paggamit ng fossil fuel tulad ng uling, krudong langis at natural gas na ginagamit sa pagluluto, pagpapaandar ng mga makina o paglikha ng kuryente.

Email: rmb2012x@gmail.com

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pang-masa/punto-mo/2022/07/31/2199223/ganda-banta-sa-mga-dalampasigan->



Tagalog News: Pagbisita sa mga kweba sa Marinduque, ipinagbabawal

Published on: July 29, 2022

By Romeo Mataac, Jr.

BOAC, Marinduque (PIA) -- Pansamantalang ipinagbabawal ang pagbisita at pagpasok sa lahat ng mga kweba sa lalawigan ng Marinduque.

Ito ay base sa abiso na inilabas ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-Marinduque kasunod ng magnitude 7.3 na lindol na yumanig sa Northern Luzon noong Hulyo 27 ng umaga.

Ayon kay Imelda Diaz, Officer-In-Charge/provincial environment and natural resources officer, simula Hulyo 27 ay hindi papayagang pumasok sa mga kweba sa probinsya ang sinumang turista o indibidwal para masiguro ang kanilang kaligtasan.

"Ang anumang caving exploration o paglapit sa mga pasukan ng kweba ay hindi pinahihintulutan sa kasalukuyan sapagkat may nakaambang panganib sa mga lugar na ito sanhi ng natural phenomena," ani Diaz.



Simula Hulyo 27, ang anumang caving exploration o paglapit sa mga pasukan ng kweba sa Marinduque ay pansamantalang hindi pinahihintulutan, base sa abiso na inilabas ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Marinduque. (Larawan mula kay Rens Tuzon/Dream Favor Travel and Tours)

Nakapaloob din sa kalatas na maaaring isumbong o ipagbigay alam sa kanilang tanggapan ang sinumang mamamayan na lalabag dito. (RAMJR/PIA MIMAROPA)

Source: <https://pia.gov.ph/news/2022/07/29/tagalog-news-pagbisita-sa-mga-kweba-sa-marinduque-ipinagbabawal>



Net Zero IdeaNation: Youth embrace role to address climate change concerns

BYRIZAL RAOUL REYES JULY 31, 2022

The woke generation will have an important role to play in the fight against climate change.

In a webinar held on July 15, Aneka Abarrientos, a member of Cris's Angels, said she and her fellow youth will be active in promoting sustainability and combating climate change.

"We play a very important role since the youth is the future of the next generation because the wokes are quite in touch with the different aspects of social realities," Abarrientos pointed out.

Cris's Angels is one of the finalists in Net Zero IdeaNation competition, a partnership between Nestlé Philippines and the Department of Agribusiness Management and Entrepreneurship (DAME) of the University of the Philippines-Los Baños (UPLB).

It is a program where DAME students (Foundations of Entrepreneurship) are challenged to ideate innovative business concepts and solutions centered on Nestlé Philippines' three net zero focus areas.

Woke is defined by Meriam and Webster as "aware of and actively attentive to important facts and issues especially of racial and social justice."

The ACENV team composed of Arianne De Goma, Neel Farson Angeles, Carmila Villaseran, Eljon Geroleo and Veronica Parreño recently emerged as the first champion in Net Zero IdeaNation.

De Goma said they developed their project in response to the current challenge of increasing oil prices.

She added that their concept takes off by combining solar power and electric vehicles that delivery riders can utilize as a more sustainable and economical alternative to motors.

The Coffee Cubes concept of Cris's Angels, composed of Abarrientos, Mahonri Alquisalas, Justine Faith Deverla, Angel Vi Manong, Ma. Jhoanna Zapico, clinched the second runner-up award.

Their product offers the beloved Filipino commodity, coffee, in a compact, travel-friendly form, which comes in 100 percent plastic-free packaging. This aims to uphold sustainable material packaging and reinforce coffee plantations in the Philippines.

BayanBiogas, a community-based generation of sustainable and alternative liquified petroleum gas (LPG) from manure and food waste, bagged the first runner-up award.

This concept by Crizza Rodolfo, John Jayme, Justine Zamora, Ashley Anyayahan and Roque Banzon aims to fuel the community through more affordable and eco-friendly resources while promoting solid waste management.

Moreover, Nestlé Philippines has selected Hijo Hija Enerhiya! as the team with special citation for its concept about innovative playgrounds and parks that can generate electricity through tiles and equipment with built-in Piezoelectric Transducers.

The innovation is conceptualized by Abbey Jimenez, Mariellen Silab and Leara Varquez.

From 90 teams, 18 were selected to advance to the Net Zero IdeaNation Grand Finals that was held virtually on July 15.



Prior to competing in the finals, the finalists first underwent a mentoring session led by experts from Nestlé Philippines to help them further develop and polish their ideas for the pitching competition.

In the end, three teams were named as the first set of IdeaNation Champions.

“This partnership with UPLB was an avenue to help mold future entrepreneurs who prioritize social responsibility, critical thinking and innovation by providing them a platform to come up with solutions that help address climate change and first-hand industry knowledge through the mentoring sessions,” said Jose Uy III, SVP and Head of Corporate Affairs of Nestlé Philippines.

“When it comes to mitigating our environmental challenges, innovation is really important. We, as organizations and as individuals, must explore new ways to become more sustainable for the sake of our planet and the future generations,” Uy said.

“It is fulfilling to witness our students get involved in our shared journey toward Net Zero through innovations that will be beneficial to the world. We are grateful that this partnership with Nestlé Philippines has brought them beyond the four walls of our classroom and beyond the screens of their devices,” said Prof. Chip de Guzman, from the UPLB DAME-College of Economics and Management.

Through initiatives like the Net Zero IdeaNation and Klimathon: Our Race Towards a Net Zero Reality, Nestlé Philippines claimed it continues to empower the youth in embracing their crucial role in ensuring a greener, more liveable future in the planet the youth will inherit.



New law introduces concept of circular economy to address plastic packaging waste

Published July 31, 2022, 12:05 AM

by [Manila Bulletin](#)



In a day, how many times does an average consumer use a product that comes from a sachet or a plastic wrapper? Food, beverage, cookies, cooking ingredients, shampoo, liquid soap come in sachets. Numerous personal items are packaged in plastic –razor, hair brush, cosmetics, hygiene care products, towels, socks. Plus candies and fruits too. The list is long.

That kind of consumer behavior in the Philippines has contributed much to our solid waste management problem, specifically to plastic pollution. We have even been referred to as the “sachet economy.” Products sold in sachets, or in small plastic bags, are affordable, thus its popularity in an economy where consumers have limited daily purchasing power.

However, such has caused “by some estimates” consumption of a “staggering 163 million pieces of sachets every day,” according to a World Bank 2021 study on plastics circularity in the Philippines. That is part of the 2.7 million tons of plastic waste we generate each year, where “an estimated 20 percent ends up in the ocean,” the same study said. (The country’s 100 million population produces over 21 million metric tons of garbage a year.)

The solution to this problem can only come from government and private sector behavior. From the government side, that solution has started to roll out with a law requiring large companies to recover and recycle part of the plastic packaging waste of their products so that those will not end in landfills and in the ocean. The mandate will encourage the design of product packaging that can be reused, recycled or biodegrade.

That is the Extended Producer Responsibility Act of 2022, or Republic Act No. 11898, which lapsed into law on July 23, 2022.

Senator Cynthia Villar, chairwoman of the Senate Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Climate Change, pushed for the passage of the law, along with her counterpart in the House of Representatives, Rep. Glona Labadlabad.

The law has set specific recovery targets for large companies to recover a part of their plastic wastes, starting with 20 percent by end of 2023, and by 80 percent by end of 2028. Among the plastic packaging wastes that producers will be expected to recover are sachets, labels, laminates, single or multi-layered plastics, beverage and food containers, lids and caps, plastic forks and spoons, plates, straws, tarps, signages, etc.

A more significant part of the EPR law is the introduction of the concept of a circular economy based on the idea that “there is no such thing as waste.”



The law defines it as: “Circular economy shall refer to an economic model of creating value by extending product lifespan through improved design and servicing, and relocating ways from the end of the supply chain to the beginning.

On the part of the private sector, there is much that can be done, starting with developing a keen awareness on ways to reduce plastic waste. Start by bringing cloth bags to carry groceries. Avoid products packed for smaller consumption for picnics, snacks, school. Refuse a fastfood’s offer of plastic utensils or plastic straws. There are many ways to avoid consuming a plastic package.

A small act for the consumer but a big step when consumers number in the millions.



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"It's a good start," Villar said. "It is time to place the responsibility of retrieving these wastes in the hands of the producers while still calling on the citizenry to do the appropriate thing and reduce, reuse, segregate, recycle and compost."

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A small act for the consumer but a big step when consumers number in the millions.



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THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
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DOLOMITE BEACH TRASH — A worker picks up garbage washed at the Manila Bay Dolomite Beach on Saturday, July 30. (Manny Llano)



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Trusted Since 1898

The Manila Times



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BEACH BELLE A worker from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources cleans debris swept ashore by waves from the Manila Bay Dolomite Beach in Manila on Saturday, July 30, 2022. PHOTO BY MIKE ALQUINTO



Personal Collection continues to lessen environmental devastation with planet-friendly packaging

Friday, July 29, 2022 Journal Online



#GreenLifeGreatLife movement campaigns for change

As more consumers become aware of choices that may impact the environment and believe that there is a way to reverse the harm that has been done to nature. **Personal Collection (PC)** continues to pioneer in terms of consumer packaged goods.

The Filipino-led company took action last year through its **#GreenLifeGreatLife movement**, celebrating now a one-year milestone to mark its continuous commitment to nature. Stepping up its efforts to reduce the amount of plastic produced in households, one of the leading direct selling companies produced more products that are available in biodegradable packaging. Receiving an enormous amount of support from its network of dealers nationwide, the movement ongoingly intends to address the sustainability demand of consumers and simply be part of the solution via reducing packaging waste while empowering direct sellers and customers to take part in protecting the environment.

Better packaging for trusted products

With an awareness on the impact of plastic in our water systems and landfills, the packaging used for some of Personal Collection products is expected to decompose within 5 to 10 years. Standard plastic containers can take 1,000 years to disintegrate. PC's special plastic packaging does not affect the quality of its products and can also be upcycled in several ways.

One of the latest products to join PC's **#GreenLifeGreatLife** biodegradable line is **Tuff Naturals**. It is the company's first liquid laundry detergent, which not only comes in biodegradable packaging but also consists of 95% biodegradable ingredients. It offers superior performance in removing the most stubborn stains while protecting color from fading. It has no residue on clothes and machines, no dyes or parabens and is dermatologically tested to be gentle on the hands. The detergent also comes with natural essential oils and RelaxiWaves that relax and enhance well-being.

Other PC products in biodegradable packaging are **Tuff TBC**, **sof & mmmmm Fabric Conditioner**, and **Tuff MSC**. The company's pioneer product, **Tuff TBC** (Toilet Bowl Cleanser) is especially formulated to effectively clean and disinfect toilet bowls, bathroom floors, shower areas, and sinks. It contains hospital-grade Killer Virex formula that's proven to kill 99.999% of disease-causing germs, bacteria, and the Murine Norovirus that causes gastro-intestinal infections. Tuff TBC Classic variant has a clean, fresh scent while the Lemon Fresh variant has a light citrusy scent. Both are available in 500 mL and 1000 mL biodegradable containers.



sof & mmmmm Fabric Conditioner is infused with perfumed micro crystals that remain in the fabric and gradually release fragrance throughout the day, this product has that odor-fighting power that eliminates the undesirable amoy-pawis, amoy-araw, and amoy-kulob. Its FIBERSOFT technology prevents fabrics from stretching, fading, and wrinkling. This concentrated fabric conditioner comes in four delightful fragrance variants: All-time Fresh has a floral powdery musky fragrance that gives a delightfully clean and fresh scent with a soft, powdery finish. It is powered with Germtec Technology to kill 99.99% of bacteria up to 48 hours; All-day Radiance exudes a fruity floral musky scent and comes with Opticlite Plus Technology that protects and restores different fabrics so that whites stay white and bright colors stay bright longer; Eternity comes with a luxurious fruity floral musky fragrance that lasts up to 30 days while stored in a cabinet; and Evermore comes with a captivating premium vanilla fragrance that can last from 24 hours to even two weeks when kept inside the cabinet. All variants come in 1000 mL bio packaging.

Tuff Multi Surface Cleaner, a US-EPA-approved disinfectant, instantly kills 99.999% of disease-causing bacteria and is proven to kill viruses like the SARS-associated human coronavirus on different surfaces such as wood, tiles, ceramics, stainless steel, glass, and more. It removes stubborn dirt and grime and is infused with clove bud and peppermint oils that help repel insects and leave a spa-like aromatic scent.

More Personal Collection products with environment-friendly biodegradable packaging will soon be available in the market. Besides eco-friendly packaging, the products themselves promote a sense of sustainability as using small amounts of concentrated liquids goes a long way for the household.

Forward-thinking for sustainable living



While the packaging switch required a sizable increase in the product cost due to massive investments in research and development, together with the recalibration of existing packaging, Personal Collection forged ahead, determined to convert its company’s values and principles into actionable programs and, later, milestones as the company likewise explores the use of organic, all-natural ingredients in its product lines.

Outside its walls and realms of direct selling, Personal Collection encourages employees, dealers to participate in CSR activities such as coastal clean-ups and mangrove planting in different parts of the country. For its commitment to positive change that impacts future generations and invaluable support to sustainability initiatives in the country, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) officially recognized Personal Collection Direct Selling Inc. last December 2021 on National Volunteer Month.



Celebrating its 19th year this August, **Personal Collection** continues to provide opportunities for a Great Life for hundreds of thousands of Filipinos, making it one of the leading Filipino Direct Selling companies. With its successful campaign, the Great Life now also includes a Green Life, as employees, direct sellers and customers become ambassadors for sustainable living, environmental conservation, and planet positivity.

PC Board of Directors Chairman, Willie Evangelista, Jr., who strongly supports sustainability and a circular economy, enjoins others to join the movement. “We’re so happy to have set our plans into motion but we still have so much work to do. Our vision of a greener, safer Earth for generations to come is driving our #GreenLifeGreatLife innovations.”

Campaign for change and support Personal Collection as it continues to defend the planet through the #GreenLifeGreatLife movement. Watch for more high-quality, sustainable products, visit www.personalcollection.com.ph or follow [www.Facebook.com/pcdsiofficial](https://www.facebook.com/pcdsiofficial) or @pcdsiofficial on Instagram for more updates.



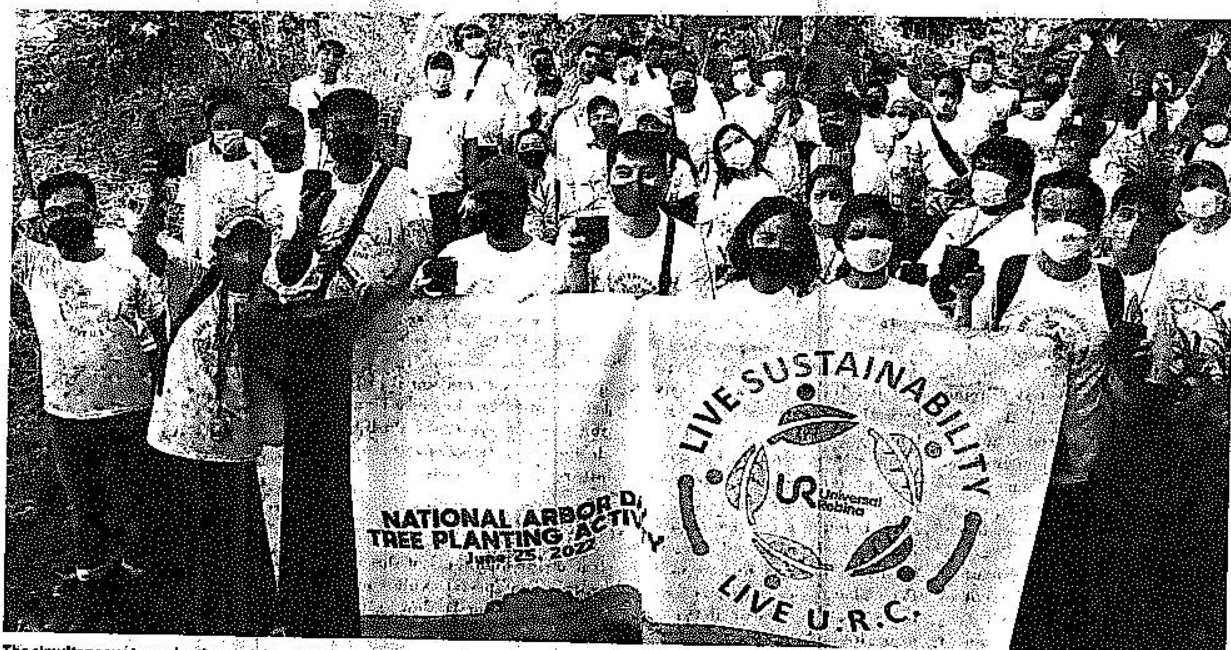
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Tree planting activity from Bulacan to Davao



The simultaneous tree-planting activities in 25 areas nationwide was conducted in celebration of the Environment Month.

UNIVERSAL Robina Corporation (URC) culminated its celebration of Philippine Environment Month with a nationwide tree-planting initiative. From Bulacan to Davao, URC employees and volunteers planted over 6,000 seedlings through simultaneous tree-planting activities across 25 areas.

Under the theme "Protect Nature, Sustain Our Future," this activity aims to promote the relevance of environmental awareness and protection; reinforce its values of environmental stewardship and planet-friendly culture; and capitalize on people engagement to promote environmental compliance and best practices.

"This is an important step in fulfilling our ambition of becoming a sustainable global enterprise. We cannot do all of these without the support of our partners," said URC Chief Executive Officer Irwin Lee.

"We, in the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), encourage URC to continue to build on the success it has started and make more things happen," DENR representative Jean Borromeo shared during the opening ceremony of URC's Environment Month program.

URC held the tree-planting activity on June 25 to coincide with the celebration of Philippine Arbor Day.

Employees from URC's business



TITLE: Tree planting activity from Bulacan to Davao

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**Universal
Robina
Corporation
employees
planted
over 6,000
seedlings as
part of their
nationwide
tree-planting
program**

units-Branded Consumer Foods Group, Flour and Bread Division, Sugar and Renewables and Agro-Industrial Group-planted endemic tree saplings, such bamboo, mangrove, narra and balitathan, among others.

Aside from tree planting, URC also held several activities in celebration of Philippine Environment Month including a coastal cleanup in Sariaya, Quezon, sustainability-themed webinars and sharing of best practices.

These activities are in support of the United Nations Sustainable

Development Goal (SDG) 13 which seeks to combat climate change and address its impacts.

For this program, URC partnered with various organizations, such as the Pasig City Parks & Playground Development Office, Clean and Green Pasig, DENR - Environmental Management Bureau, City Environment and Natural Resources Office, Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office, Philippine Ports Authority, and the local government units of the different sites for the tree-planting sessions.



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Dinagat residents boost recovery from 'Odette' using solar energy

DINAGAT ISLANDS—Residents of Barangay Coring, Basilisa, Dinagat Islands, with the support of environmental groups, installed solar panels on their barangay gymnasium as part of their recovery efforts from Super typhoon Odette (international name Rai).

This collaboration among Communities Organized for Resource Allocation (Cora) Philippines, Greenpeace Philippines and the local government of Barangay Coring aims to demonstrate that renewable energy (RE) is the most sensible energy source for climate-vulnerable, as well as island communities.

During and after the onslaught of Odette late last year, Barangay Coring's diesel-powered electric generator failed to restore power in the area, disrupting efforts toward recovery and resumption of livelihood.

Barangay officials believe the additional 4,800 watts of electricity from the solar panels will prove beneficial to a community struggling to get back on its feet.

"Recovery efforts in our community are being hampered by the lack of reliable sources of electricity. Because we live on an island and it's hard to access electric power, it becomes harder for aid to come in

and to ensure our well-being after storms," resident Tessie Japay said in the vernacular.

"Now that there are solar panels installed in our area, it's easier for us to recover, especially as these panels are cheap and easy to use," she added.

Beyond off-grid installation, Greenpeace said the Philippines must invest massively in utility scale RE, particularly solar and wind, in order to usher in the just transition to clean and safe energy.

In a 2020 report, the group said that investment in wind and solar impacts job creation and other baseline economic indicators were positive, as well as the transformation of energy systems.

The group highlighted how renewable energy investment is an ideal and relatively immediate vehicle for economic development, an essential tool for fast recovery from economic crises, such as Covid-19, and a means to build better performing, more resilient economies.

Greenpeace is calling on the Philippine government to increase its RE target to at least 50 percent by 2030, a figure that is highly achievable and can be delivered mostly by solar power.

The people of Barangay Coring has joined the youth climate advocates' call for the Philippine government to expedite the shift toward RE instead of having the country rely on dirty and dangerous energy sources, such as nuclear and fossil gas.

Greenpeace cited the Commission on Human Rights' final report on the National Inquiry on Climate Change (NICC) as an additional basis for why the government should prioritize the transition to RE.

"Investments in clean energy will protect communities," said Greenpeace Campaigner Virginia Benosa-Llorin.

"The findings of the NICC report recognize that a just transition to RE and an end to fossil fuel dependence is necessary and urgent if we are to avoid the worst impacts of climate change and protect Filipinos' lives and rights," Benosa-Llorin explained.

As climate impacts continue to affect the most vulnerable sectors—like the families in Barangay Coring—"it is imperative that our new government tap the country's massive potential for RE development to provide safe, sustainable, reliable and affordable energy for Filipinos," she added.

The solar installation of the environmental and climate advocacy groups is the second in their ongoing efforts to promote a just transition away from fossil fuel dependence. Another solar installation was conducted in Mantatao Island, Municipality of Calape, Bohol.



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LOGGERS BECOME RIVER TOUR GUIDES IN SAMAR

I USED to help cut and transport logs illegally," revealed Epitanio Obidos, a boat guide. "For generations, we used traditional torpedo-shaped canoes called balugo to transport timber. We would get orders to cut down hardwood trees like banuyo, narra or kamagong. One balugo can transport over 100 board feet of wood."

Samar is among the poorest provinces in the country. In 2015, the Philippine Statistics Authority disclosed that 45 percent of all families in Samar lived below the poverty line.

"The hardest part was that even when we'd risk run-ins with the law by transporting illegally-cut timber, we'd still have barely enough cash to survive. Often we'd borrow money from financiers to buy gas and other provisions to transport the logs they ordered. Even after getting paid, we'd still be in debt," Obidos recalled in a UNDP Biotin news release.

Things have steadily improved. Samar's poverty incidence dropped to 30 percent by 2018, mostly because of small businesses, one of which is the Ulot River Torpedo Extreme Boat Adventure, where boats go bow-to-bow with raging rapids.

"In 2008, to veer away from illegal activities, we started using our torpedo-shaped balugo for tourism to showcase the natural beauty of Samar. We mostly employed locals who formerly worked as illegal loggers or log haulers," Obidos explained.

"Back then we only had 12 people and

a few old boats. But traversing rivers was a way of life for us, since we've been using it for transportation long before Samar's road network was developed," he recounted.

Each torpedo boat has a three-man crew, comprised of a boat operator, tour guide and a point man, who sits at the bow or front of a boat, deftly using a paddle or pole to keep rocks at bay.

"Now our once-small operation has over 20 boats and employs 70 local people," he beamed.

In 2018, their group, Tour Guides and Boat Operators for River Protection and Environmental Development Organization (Torpedo), was recognized by the Department of Tourism for its responsible, community-based operations.

The Ulot River is part of the Samar Island Natural Park (SINP), the country's largest land-based protected area.

"The Philippines hosts 247 protected areas and practically all of them give locals employment," explained Director Natividad Bernardino of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Biodiversity Management Bureau.

The stories of many of these protected areas are similar to Obidos's—of loggers turned into tour guides, hunters turned into rangers, blast fishers transformed into dive guides.

"For all this to continue, there must be a steady stream of clients," noted SINP Superintendent Eires Mate.

"The Covid-19 lockdowns hit the world's protected areas hard, generating all-time visitor revenue lows. Many people were laid off and operations were drastically scaled-down. With our parks again open for business, we invite adventurers to visit the Ulot River and our country's other beautiful protected areas," Mae explained.

Launched in May of 2022, the Year of the Protected Areas (Yopa) aims not just to educate people on the need to conserve protected areas, but to encourage them to visit the sites themselves.

Yopa hopes to generate funds from tourists to ensure continued management for areas hard-hit by Covid-19 budget cuts.

Declaring natural sites as PAs is among the best ways to protect natural capital.

"The jobs generated by sustainable and ethical tourism activities act as economic and social safety nets for locals who might otherwise turn to illegal means to support their families," said Selva Ramachandran, United Nations Development Programme resident representative.

"You know, if not for ecotourism, I would most probably be dead," Obidos said as he quietly glide back to shore. "The authorities would have definitely caught me, like they caught others. I might have starved to death, been shot by the cops or been hauled off to jail."

He looks up, just a bit teary-eyed. "In a very real way, ecotourism saved my life," he said.



Loggers become river tour guides in Samar

BY BUSINESSMIRROR JULY 31, 2022



[Gregg Yan, UNDP Biofin](#)

Epifanio Obidos, father of two and an ecotourism guide for visitors to Samar's Ulot River, once worked to illegally cut and transport logs. He now helps promote Ulot River as a sustainable ecotourism site.

"I used to help cut and transport logs illegally," revealed Epifanio Obidos, a boat guide. "For generations, we used traditional torpedo shaped canoes called balugo to transport timber. We would get orders to cut down hardwood trees like banuyo, narra or kamagong. One balugo can transport over 100 board feet of wood."

Samar is among the poorest provinces in the country. In 2015, the Philippine Statistics Authority disclosed that 45 percent of all families in Samar lived below the poverty line.

"The hardest part was that even when we'd risk run-ins with the law by transporting illegally-cut timber, we'd still have barely enough cash to survive. Often we'd borrow money from financiers to buy gas and other provisions to transport the logs they ordered. Even after getting paid, we'd still be in debt," Obidos recalled in a UNDP Biofin news release.

Things have steadily improved. Samar's poverty incidence dropped to 30 percent by 2018, mostly because of small businesses, one of which is the Ulot River Torpedo Extreme Boat Adventure, where boats go bow-to-bow with raging rapids.

"In 2008, to veer away from illegal activities, we started using our torpedo-shaped balugo for tourism to showcase the natural beauty of Samar. We mostly employed locals who formerly worked as illegal loggers or log haulers," Obidos explained.

"Back then we only had 12 people and a few old boats. But traversing rivers was a way of life for us, since we've been using it for transportation long before Samar's road network was developed," he recounted.

Each torpedo boat has a three-man crew, comprised of a boat operator, tour guide and a point man, who sits at the bow or front of a boat, deftly using a paddle or pole to keep rocks at bay.

"Now our once-small operation has over 20 boats and employs 70 local people," he beamed.

In 2018, their group, Tour Guides and Boat Operators for River Protection and Environmental Development Organization (Torpedo), was recognized by the Department of Tourism for its responsible, community-based operations.

The Ulot River is part of the Samar Island Natural Park (SINP), the country's largest land-based protected area.



“The Philippines hosts 247 protected areas and practically all of them give locals employment,” explained Director Natividad Bernardino of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Biodiversity Management Bureau.

The stories of many of these protected areas are similar to Obidos’s—of loggers turned into tour guides, hunters turned into rangers, blast fishers transformed into dive guides.

“For all this to continue, there must be a steady stream of clients,” noted SINP Superintendent Eires Mate.

“The Covid-19 lockdowns hit the world’s protected areas hard, generating all-time visitor revenue lows. Many people were laid off and operations were drastically scaled-down. With our parks again open for business, we invite adventurers to visit the Ulot River and our country’s other beautiful protected areas,” Mae explained

Launched in May of 2022, the Year of the Protected Areas (Yopa) aims not just to educate people on the need to conserve protected areas, but to encourage them to visit the sites themselves.

Yopa hopes to generate funds from tourists to ensure continued management for areas hard-hit by Covid-19 budget cuts.

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Image credits: [Gregg Yan, UNDP Biofin](#)



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YOUR WORLD MADE BETTER



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As a leading Filipino company, we are committed to being a force for good for our country and people.

The massive clean-up of our major rivers such as the Tullahan-Tinajeros and Pasig river systems, are among our most significant environmental commitments to date. Through these efforts, we hope to help address flooding in our cities and protect our vital waterways and seas, so marine life can thrive in them again.

Through investments and initiatives that generate jobs, opportunities, and improve the lives of more Filipinos, SMC is building a better world for our generation and the next.



Small-scale miners coalition calls the government to recognize their role in promoting responsible mining and uplift lives in the ASM Sector

Friday, July 29, 2022 Journal Online



BAGUIO CITY, July 29 – Small-scale mining groups from across the Philippines gathered for the Third National Assembly of the National Coalition of Small-Scale Miners in the Philippines to address issues in the artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) sector.

The coalition’s third national assembly was held on July 28 -29, 2022, in Baguio City.

With the theme “*Pag-usad ng Responsableng Maliitang Pagmimina sa New Normal*,” the national coalition aimed to tackle the following topics during the third national assembly:

- Proposed amendments to Republic Act No. 7076, otherwise known as the “People’s Small-scale Mining Act of 1991” and Executive Order No. 79, s. 2012;
- Good practices of the small-scale mining associations in terms of environmental protection, elimination of child labor, and occupational safety and health;
- Contribution of the ASGM sector to the Philippine economy in terms of gold sold to Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas; and
- Due diligence in gold production, occupational safety and health, and gender mainstreaming; and

The third national assembly also aimed to gather support from relevant government agencies and legislators for the amendments of laws and policies that are no longer applicable to small-scale mining operations.

The following member mining associations of the national coalition from across the country attended the assembly:

- Benguet Federation Small-Scale Miners, Inc. (BFSSMI)
- United Indigenous Community Livelihood Association
- Bayudang-Maging Clan Small-Scale Miners Association
- Suyoc-Taneg Indigenous Livelihood Association (STELA)
- Bayudang-Maging Clan Small-Scale Miners Association
- Extreme Small-Scale Miners Association
- Eliconsa Workers Association (EWA)
- Golden Hills Small-Scale Miners Association, Municipality of Tuba
- Demonstration Small-Scale Miners Association (DeSSMA)
- Goldstream Pocket Miners and Community Livelihood Association, Inc. (GOPOMICLAI)



- Sugalan Clan Small-scale Miners Association, Inc. (SCSSMAI)
- Antamok Loakan North Wall Mining Association (ALNMA)
- Luneta Miners Association (LMA)
- Ucab Indigenous Community Livelihood Association (UICLA)
- Keystone Small-Scale Miners Association (KEYSSMA)
- Willian-Butch (WB)
- Dalisay Camote Miners Association (DCMA)
- Otek Pocket Miners Association (OPMA)
- Garrison Small-Scale Miners Association (GASSMA)
- Dontog Manganese Pocket Miners Association (DOMAPMA)
- Lolita Ampucao Youth & Adult Organization (LA-YAO)
- Saddle Hartwell Gold coin Goldhills Community Livelihood Association, Inc. (SHAGGCLAI)
- Northern Sagada Community Small-Scale Miners Association
- Pinuhan Small-Scale Miners Association
- Samahan ng mga Kababaihan ng Ultraville
- Elnar Processing Plant
- Mambulao Small-scale Miners Association, Inc.
- Luklukan Sur – BLGU
- Samahan ng mga Magkakabod ng Dalas
- Magkamatao Small-scale Miners Association
- Samahan ng mga Minero ng Barangay Casalugan
- Samahan ng Magkakabod ng Camarines Norte (SAMACANO)
- Nabunturan Integrated Miners Development Cooperative
- Maguan Clan Small-Scale Miners Association (MCSSMAI)
- Desawu Small-Scale Miners Association
- Masabong Village Small-Scale Miners Association (MAVISSMA)
- Barangay Sta. Cruz Small-Scale Miners Association of Agusan del Sur (BSCSSMARADS)
- Co-o Small-Scale Miners Association (COSSMA)

Along with the small-scale miner associations, the event was also attended by government agencies and non-government organizations, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), International Labour Organization (ILO), and planetGOLD Philippines.



“Napakahalaga ng papel na inyong [national coalition] ginagampanan sa pagsiguro sa ating obligasyong isulong ang responsableng pagmimina upang proteksyunan ang ating kapaligiran. Napaka-importante ang mga ganitong pagtitipon upang magkaroon ng pagkakataong dinggin ang mga problema at hamon na kinahaharap ng industriya ng maliitang pagmimina,” says Senator Robin Padilla in his keynote message during the Third National Assembly.



(The national coalition's role is critical in ensuring our obligation to advocate for responsible mining to protect our environment. Assemblies like this are important to give avenue and space for our miners to relay the problems and challenges they are facing in the small-scale mining industry.)

"I share your coalition's thrust of promoting responsible mining through the formalization of the artisanal and small-scale mining sector in the country and in seeking to find ways to uplift the lives of ASM community members," says Senator Jinggoy Estrada in support for the national coalition.

The event was organized with the help of the national coalition's secretariat team, BAN Toxics. BAN Toxics is an environmental non-government organization focused on environmental justice through the promotion of sound chemicals and wastes management. The organization is one of the first NGOs to work closely with poverty-driven artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) communities in order to transform and uplift the sector, specifically to transition miners to mercury-free alternatives, promote human rights and occupational safety and health to miners, and eliminate child labor and gender inequity in the sector.

The national assembly was sponsored and supported by the Benguet Federation of Small-Scale Miners, Inc., International Labour Organization, Swedish Society for Nature Conservation, Cebuana Lhuillier, QES Technology Philippines, and Artisanal Gold Council (AGC) through the [planetGOLD Philippines](#) Project.

"Together with then Senator Nene Pimentel, we lobbied for the legalization and formalization of the small-scale mining sector to the senate and the congress. Through our actions, we were able to help create Republic Act 7076, or the People's Small Scale Mining Act of the Philippines. However, we were disappointed to find out that most of our proposals for the law were not included. The process of legalization has been very long, tedious, and expensive for small-scale miners," says Gil Indino, President of the National Coalition of Small-Scale Miners in the Philippines, Inc.

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Tagalog News: Sabayang paglilinis sa San Jose ipatutupad upang labanan ang Dengue

Published on: July 30, 2022

By Voltaire Dequina

Sabayang paglilinis sa San Jose ipatutupad upang labanan ang Dengue



Ibinabahagi ni Dr. Enid Asuncion, Municipal Health Officer, sa mga dumalong local media ang kalagayan ng Munisipalidad, kaugnay ng patuloy na pagdami ng kaso ng Dengue. (PIA OccMdo)

SAN JOSE, Occidental Mindoro (PIA) -- Isasagawa ang sabayang paglilinis sa San Jose sa loob ng apat na Sabado, bilang isang mahalagang hakbang ng Pamahalaang Lokal upang labanan ang Dengue.

Sa press conference na pinangunahan ng Municipal Health Office (MHO) sa Municipal Plaza kamakailan ay ibinahagi ni Dr. Lordivino Mesina ng nabanggit na tanggapan na ang paglilinis tuwing Sabado sa apat na magkakasunod na linggo ang naisip nilang promosyon upang higit na palakasin ang kampanya kontra Dengue. Aniya, ang paglilinis ng kapaligiran ay isa sa 4S strategy ng Department of Health, ang Search and Destroy kung saan tutukuyin at aalisin ang mga posibleng pangitluran ng lamok, na siyang carrier o tagapagdala ng Dengue virus.

Ipinaliwanag sa isang social media post ng MHO na ang apat na Sabadong paglilinis ay isang paligsahan para sa mga residente ng San Jose. Upang makasali, ipu-post ng kalahok sa Facebook ang mga larawang nagpapakita ng ginawang paglilinis. Ang mga post ay kailangang may kasamang hashtag na #sanjoseiwaslamokatdengue. Bawat linggo ay may tatlong mananalo ng special prizes.

Maaring bisitahin ang Facebook page ng San Jose Public Health and Diagnostic Center gayundin ng Municipal Information Office para sa mas kumpletong detalye ng naturang patimpalak.

Samantala, isinailalim na rin ang San Jose sa state of calamity dahil sa patuloy na pagtaas ng bilang ng mga kaso ng Dengue. Iniulat nina Dr. Enid Asuncion, Municipal Health Officer at Konsehala Dr. Myrna Zapanta na umakyat sa higit 300 ang kaso ng Dengue sa buong bayan at posible anilang tumaas pa kung hindi magsasama-sama ang lahat sa paglaban dito.

Kaugnay nito, inaasahan na ngayong inilagay na sa state of calamity ang Munisipalidad, may sapat na pondo nang magagamit ang pamahalaang lokal upang bilhin ang mga kailangang kagamitan sa paglaban sa Dengue tulad ng misting machine, reagent at iba pa.

Apat na ang naitalang nasawi sa San Jose dahil sa Dengue. (VND/PIA MIMAROPA)

Source: <https://pia.gov.ph/news/2022/07/30/tagalog-news-sabayang-paglilinis-sa-san-jose-ipatutupad-upang-labanan-ang-dengue>



1st space science camp reveals students' grasp in solving environment threats

[BYBUSINESSMIRROR](#)

JULY 31, 2022



[PhilSA](#)

Felix of PhilSA ESSMSD (from left), third-placer Lee Ramses Ibannez of Makati Science High School; High Tide champion Benedict Pangilinan of Navotas National Science High School; second-placer and elimination round highest scorer Lance Chrysler de Jesus of Caloocan National Science and Technology High School; Dr. Refran of the ESSMSD; and Tricia Zafra of PhilSA PRID.

It's not just the catchy mission names like "Sun: AOL" or "Oh my Venus" that impressed the scientists from the Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA) who evaluated the space mission proposals presented by participants during the last day of Lift Off: PhilSA Space Science Camp 2022 held virtually on July 21.

Jamaica Pangasinan, senior science research specialist at the Space Mission Control and Operations Division of PhilSA, was struck by the incoming senior high-school students' level of environmental and social awareness as reflected in their outputs, said PhilSA in a news release.

She said: "The mission objectives showed the students' eagerness on solving present challenges and threats confronting our environment. It was heartening to see that."

"I hope they stay passionate about helping the people and the planet as they pursue their interest in space science and technology," Pangasinan added.

"Touch Down Earth: Space Mission Proposals" was one of the culminating activities of the three-day hybrid camp held from July 19 to 21.

It was organized by PhilSA in partnership with the Department of Education, Department of Science and Technology Science Education Institute, Moon Village Association, and the University of the Philippines National Institute for Science and Mathematics Education (UP Nismed).

The activity was designed to see whether the participants were able to learn the concepts from Day 1's lectures on space missions and satellite payloads.



(Top from left) “Touchdown Earth: Space Mission Proposal” emcees Dr. Dr. James Cesar Refran of the Earth Sciences Space Mission Studies Division and Lester Janz de la Cruz of the Public Relations and Information Division seek the comments of judges Dr. Dr. Paul Leonard Atchong Hilario and (bottom from left) Jamaica Pangasinan and Mark Jayson Felix on the presented mission ideas.

On Day 1, Pangasinan conducted the lecture on space missions, while Dr. Paul Leonard Atchong Hilario, Space Science and Technology Applications Researcher II at PhilSA Spacecraft Payload and Communications Systems Development Division, facilitated the discussion on satellite payloads.

“The ideas presented showed that the students researched their proposals well. They used not only what they learned in the camp, which is apparent in their presentations, but also, concepts and technologies they figured out themselves,” Hilario said.

DepEd selected 14 science high schools from the 16 divisions of Metro Manila to join the camp presented their space missions.

Each team was given five minutes to describe the mission of their satellite, its key technical features, and why it is important.

PhilSA Earth Sciences Space Mission Studies Division Senior Science Research Specialist Mark Jayson Felix noted the variety of missions the students came up with, ranging from Earth observation to space debris monitoring to planetary probes.

“I am surprised with the diversity and high level of the technical accuracy of space missions presented. This tells me that we won’t be short of space missions to pursue in the future,” Felix said.

Pangasinan, Hilario and Felix rated the mission presentations based on creativity, technical soundness and time management.

Two missions bested the rest of the proposals. These are “MIMA,” or “Monitoring Illegal Mining Activities in Remote Areas” by Bianca Louise B. Cruz and Oscar A. Araja II of the City of Mandaluyong Science High School, and “V-SAMS,” or the “Venus Seismic Activity Monitoring Satellite” by Peter James Lyon and Ysabela Juliana Bernardo of Caloocan City Science High School.

The students behind MIMA explained that their satellite mission aims to protect the environment and strengthen the implementation of mining laws and regulations in the country.

Based on their proposal, MIMA would be a Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) satellite that could see through the cloud cover to detect changes in areas where mining activities could be present. It would use optical imagers to capture images.

The objective of V-SAMS, on the other hand, would be to learn more about the Earth’s twin planet, Venus, particularly, its seismic activities.



To be able to achieve this, V-SAMS would use infrared imaging to monitor the surface temperature of Venus's volcanoes, identify which ones will erupt, and discover other active volcanoes on the planet.

It would also have an interferometric SAR (InSAR) to detect deformations and signs of seismic activity on Venus' surface.

In addition, V-SAMS would be equipped with an optical payload to take high-resolution images.

Navotas National SHS dominates space quiz bee

On Day 2, held in person at the University Hotel, UP Diliman, Quezon City, on July 20, all student campers went head-to-head at the "High Tide: Space Science Contest," PhilSA said

The participants were given 30 minutes to answer a pen-and-paper elimination test consisting of 50 questions.

Lance Chrysler de Jesus of Caloocan National Science and Technology High School got the highest score. De Jesus also clinched the second spot in the quiz bee finals.

Lee Ramses Ibanez from Makati Science High School won third place, while Benedict Pangilinan of Navotas National Science High School won the championship, PhilSA said.

"The space science camp team is truly grateful to our partners, resource persons, participants, facilitators and supporters. As we prepare for a bigger camp next year, we hope everyone will continue to support PhilSA in all its initiatives," Lift Off co-lead Dr. James Cesar Refran said.

Image credits: [PhilSA](#)



Tagalog News: Pagdiriwang ng 'Balayong Tree Planting and Nurturing Festival', ika-anim taon na

Published on: July 30, 2022

By Orlan Jabagat

Pagdiriwang ng 'Balayong Tree Planting and Nurturing Festival', ika-anim taon na



Pinangunahan nina Puerto Princesa City Mayor Lucilo R. Bayron (kulay asul na damit at medyo natatakpan ng puno) Palawan 3rd District Representative Edward Solon Hagedorn (naka-jacket ng puti) at Mission Commander of Pacific Partnership US Navy Capt. Hank Kim ang Balayong Tree Planting and Nurturing Festival ngayong Hulyo 30, 2022. (Larawan ni Michael C. Escote/PIA-Palawan)

PUERTO PRINCESA, Palawan (PIA) -- Ipinagdiriwang sa Lungsod ng Puerto Princesa ngayong Hulyo ang pitong araw na 6th Balayong Tree Planting and Nurturing Festival.

Nagsimula ito noong Hulyo 26 ,2022 kung saan iba't-ibang aktibidad ang matutunghayan dito tulad ng Caraenan sa Balayong, Sining sa Balayong Exhibit, Balayong Puppet Show and Book Reading, Pagarbong Concierto 'Y Ang Balayong Park.

Ngayong Hulyo 30 ang pinaka-highlight ng nasabing pagdiriwang kung saan isinagawa ang Balayong Tree Planting and Nurturing sa Balayong People's Park na pinangunahan mismo ni Puerto Princesa City Mayor Lucilo R. Bayron.

Ang 'Balayong Tree Planting and Nurturing Festival' ay inilunsad noong 2017 kung saan 1,391 punong balayong ang naitanim dito. Ang pinakahuling kaganapan nito ay noong 2019 at pansamantala itong natigil noong 2020 at 2021 dahil sa COVID-19 pandemic.

Ngayong taon nasa 840 puno ng Balayong ang ikakalinga ng mga nagtanim nito noong mga nakaraang 'Balayong Tree Planting and Nurturing Festival'.

Samantala, nasa 56 puno naman ng Balayon ang itinanim sa iba't-ibang bahagi ng Balayong People's Park. Maliban sa nasabing puno, makikita din sa parke ang iba pang punong kahoy tulad ng golden shower, banaba, bignay at mulberry.

Ang Balayong tree o Palawan Cherry ang kinikilalang sariling punong kahoy ng Puerto Princesa City, maging ng lalawigan ng Palawan.

Kasabay din nito ang groundbreaking ng iba pang proyekto na itatayo sa Balayong People's Park tulad ng Puerto Princesa City Arboretum Cum Botanical and Herbal Garden.

Nakiisa naman sa nasabing pagdiriwang ang Philippine Information Agency (PIA)-Palawan, kasama ng iba pang mga tanggapan ng pamahalaan, mga pribadong sektor, mga kabataan, senior citizens maging ang mga kinatawan ng Pacific Partnership 2020 na pinangungunahan ni Mission Commander US Navy Capt. Hank Kim. (OCJ/PIA-MIMAROPA, Palawan)

Source: <https://pia.gov.ph/news/2022/07/30/tagalog-news-pagdiriwang-ng-balayong-tree-planting-and-nurturing-festival-ika-anim-taon-na>



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Former dumpsite now a park for pets

By NEL ANDRADE

A vacant space which used to be a community dumpsite at a subdivision in Angono, Rizal, is now a park for the town's felines and canines.

(Turn to Page 2)

Former...

(From Page 1)

The municipal government has transformed the former dumpsite located at Medalva Subdivision in Barangay San Isidro into a pet park complete with playpens for the dogs and cats.

The May Puso Pet Park has

several obstacle courses made of recycled materials, including old tires, where the pets can roam around together with their owners.

In a post on Facebook page of Calderon, several netizens thanked the administration of Mayor Jeri Mae Calderon for the infrastructure project that will be beneficial to the well-being of the fur families.



Climate migration growing but not fully recognized by world

BY JULY 30, 2022



[AP/Mahmud Hossain OPU](#)

Workers walk to work at an export processing zone early in the morning after crossing the Mongla River in Mongla, Bangladesh, March 3, 2022. This Bangladeshi town stands alone to offer new life to thousands of climate migrants.

TIJUANA, Mexico—Worsening climate from the burning of coal and gas is intensifying a range of disasters and uprooting millions of people, with wildfires overrunning towns in California, rising seas overtaking island nations and drought exacerbating conflicts in various parts of the world.

Each year, natural disasters force an average of 21.5 million people from their homes around the world, according to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

And scientists predict migration will grow as the planet gets hotter. Over the next 30 years, 143 million people are likely to be uprooted by rising seas, drought, searing temperatures and other climate catastrophes, according to the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report published this year.

Still, the world has yet to officially recognize climate migrants or come up with formalized ways to assess their needs and help them. Here's a look at climate migration today.

WHO ARE CLIMATE MIGRANTS?

Most climate migrants move within the borders of their homelands, usually from rural areas to cities after losing their home or livelihood because of drought, rising seas or another weather calamity.

Because cities also are facing their own climate-related problems, including soaring temperatures and water scarcity, people are increasingly being forced to flee across international borders to seek refuge.

Yet climate migrants are not afforded refugee status under the 1951 Refugee Convention, which provides legal protection only to people fleeing persecution due to their race, religion, nationality, political opinion or particular social group.

DEFINING CLIMATE MIGRATION

Identifying climate migrants is not easy, especially in regions rife with poverty, violence and conflicts.



While worsening weather conditions are exacerbating poverty, crime and political instability, and fueling tensions over dwindling resources from Africa to Latin America, often climate change is overlooked as a contributing factor to people fleeing their homelands.

According to the UNHCR, 90 percent of refugees under its mandate are from countries “on the front lines of the climate emergency.”

In El Salvador, for example, scores each year leave villages because of crop failure from drought or flooding, and end up in cities where they become victims of gang violence and ultimately flee their countries because of those attacks.

“It’s hard to say that someone moves just because of climate change. Is everyone who leaves Honduras after a hurricane a climate migrant?”

Elizabeth Ferris, a research professor at the Institute for the Study of International Migration at Georgetown University, wrote in an email to The Associated Press. “And then there are non-climate related environmental hazards—people flee earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and tsunamis—should they be treated differently than those displaced by weather-related phenomena?”

Despite the challenges, it’s vital that governments identify climate-displaced people, Ferris added.

“The whole definitional issue isn’t a trivial question—how can you develop a policy for people if you aren’t clear on who it applies to?” she wrote.

INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS

While no nation offers asylum to climate migrants, UNHCR published legal guidance in October 2020 that opens the door for offering protection to people displaced by the effects of global warming.

It said that climate change should be taken into consideration in certain scenarios when it intersects with violence, though it stopped short of redefining the 1951 Refugee Convention.

The commission acknowledged that temporary protection may be insufficient if a country cannot remedy the situation from natural disasters, such as rising seas, suggesting that certain climate displaced people could be eligible for resettlement if their place of origin is considered uninhabitable.

An increasing number of countries are laying the groundwork to become safe havens for climate migrants.

In May, Argentina created a special humanitarian visa for people from Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean displaced by natural disasters to let them stay for three years.

Shortly after taking office, President Joe Biden ordered his national security adviser to conduct a months-long study that included looking at the “options for protection and resettlement of individuals displaced directly or indirectly from climate change.” A task force was set up, but so far the administration has not adopted such a program.

Low-lying Bangladesh, which is extremely vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, has been among the first to try to adapt to the new reality of migration. Efforts are underway to identify climate-resilient towns where people displaced by sea level rise, river erosion, cyclonic storms and intrusion of saline water can move to work, and in return help their new locations economically.



TRANSFORMING DEBATES ON MIGRATION

Policy debates on migration have long centered on locking down borders. Climate change is changing that.

With hundreds of millions of people expected to be uprooted by natural disasters, there is growing discussion about how to manage migration flows rather than stop them, as for many people migration will become a survival tool, according to advocates.

“One problem is just the complete lack of understanding as to how climate is forcing people to move,” said Amali Tower, founder and executive director of Climate Refugees, an advocacy group focused on raising awareness about people displaced because of climate change.

“There is still this idea in the Global North [industrialized nations] that people come here because they are fleeing poverty and seeking a better life, the American Dream. In Europe, it’s the same spin of the same story. But no one wants to leave their home. We’ve got to approach climate displacement as a human security issue and not a border security issue.”

Image credits: [AP/Mahmud Hossain OPU](#)



Climate change made Britain heatwave 10 times more likely: study

[Patrick Galey](#) - Agence France-Presse July 29, 2022 | 7:33am



A commuter carries a bottle of water as they exit the carriage of a London Underground tube train in central London, on July 19, 2022 as the country experiences an extreme heat wave. Britain on Tuesday recorded its first ever temperature exceeding 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit), with the mercury provisionally registering 40.2C at Heathrow Airport, the country's meteorological agency the Met Office said.

AFP/Niklas Halle'n

PARIS, France — Climate change caused by human activity made this month's record-shattering heatwave in Britain at least 10 times more likely to occur, according to research released on Friday.

Eastern England recorded an all-time high temperature of 40.3 degrees Celsius (104.5 degrees Fahrenheit) and the hot spell sparked fires that destroyed dozens of homes in London.

Overall, at least 34 locations in Britain registered record highs on July 20, when the heatwave peaked over western Europe.

An international team of researchers modelled how likely such an extreme hot weather event would have been before the industrial era began in the mid 19th century.

They then compared this likelihood with that of a heatwave occurring in the current climate -- that is, with the planet nearly 1.2C hotter on average than in pre-industrial times.

They focused on maximum temperatures in Britain's most affected region -- central England and east Wales -- and found that the record-breaking heat was made at least 10 times more likely due to the human-generated greenhouse gases that cause global warming.

The study found that extreme heat events across Europe had increased even more than had been estimated by climate models.

Computer-generated models estimated that greenhouse gas emissions increased temperatures in the July heatwave by 2C. But in actual fact, the heatwave was 4C hotter than it would have been without manmade warming.

"In Europe and other parts of the world we are seeing more and more record-breaking heatwaves causing extreme temperatures that have become hotter faster than in most climate models," said Friederike Otto, senior lecturer in climate science at the Imperial College London's Grantham Institute for Climate Change.

"It's a worrying finding that suggests that if carbon emissions are not rapidly cut, the consequences of climate change on extreme heat in Europe, which already is extremely deadly, could be even worse than we previously thought."



In 2020 scientists at Britain's Met Office calculated that the likelihood of temperatures topping 40C in the natural climate -- that is absent of human-caused warming -- to be roughly one in 1,000 years.

Today that estimate stands at one in 100 years but scientists involved in the study said that observed weather extremes were happening even faster than predicted by models.

"Even with a conservative estimate, we see a large role of climate change in the UK heatwave," said Mariam Zachariah, research associate at the Grantham Institute.

"Under our current climate that has been altered by greenhouse gas emissions, many people are experiencing events during their lifetime that would have been almost impossible otherwise. And the longer we take to reach net zero, the worse the heatwaves will become."

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/climate-and-environment/2022/07/29/2198821/climate-change-made-britain-heatwave-10-times-more-likely-study>



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'Agroecology' helps farmers cushion climate impact

SPECIAL REPORT

By **Mariejo S. Ramos**
@MariejoRamosINQ

For years, volunteers of a social agricultural enterprise have witnessed farmers spend months toiling the field only for extreme rain to wash away their crops in an instant, leaving them with nothing to harvest and, often, nothing to eat.

Such is the cruel irony afflicting many smallholder farmers who bring food to Filipino tables yet "are the ones experiencing hunger," said Mabi David, a member of Good Food Community (GFC), who has seen the struggle of Mountain Province growers against nonstop downpours that spoil crops or cause plant disease.

Weather changes, too, affect the quantity and quality of produce, shrinking the size of fruit and vegetables or giving them bad coloration. In GFC's experience, harmful insect populations also tend to multiply as the skies become more unpredictable.

These show how drastic weather events attributed to climate change are threatening not only farmers' yield but their own household food and nutrition security, David said.

Recognizing the impact of climate change on farmers, GFC is raising P1.2 million to support projects designed to make them more resilient, according to Charlene Tan, one of the people behind the enterprise.

The urgent need at the moment is rain shelters, she said.

"We've been through a lot of heartbreaks when farmers lost everything, all the crops were washed away and there was so much more damage (due



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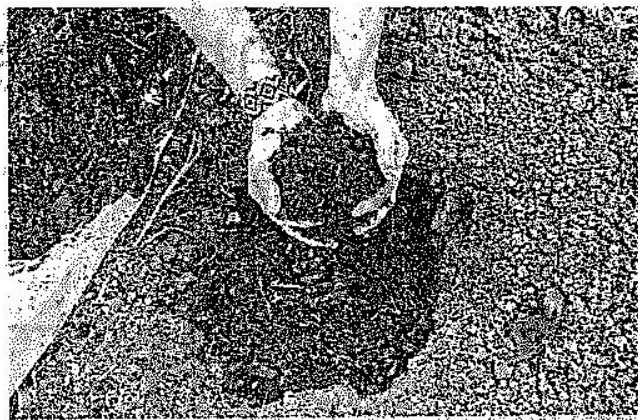
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SOWING SELF-RELIANCE Manobo farmers in Andap Valley, Surigao del Sur province, have adopted scientific sustainable agriculture technology, which includes methods for the formulation of organic fertilizers and pesticides, reducing their dependence on commercial farm inputs. —PHOTOS BY KENNETH CADIANG/CONTRIBUTOR

to typhoons) than we can quantify. But rain shelters could at least give a portion of their land a fighting chance," Tan said.

Cheaper shelters can be built using bamboo or shrub stems covered with thick UV plastic to protect the plants from the force of rain, she added.

Prepurchases reduce waste

Since 2012, GFC has fostered a "relationship with farmers more than the transactional purchase of produce," as Tan put it, through community shared agriculture (CSA) and organic farming in provinces like Tarlac and Benguet.

In the past, farmers found it difficult to sell all of their produce in community markets, leading to crop wastage and pushing them further into debt.

Under the CSA setup, "subscribers" share the responsibility of farming by pledging or "pre purchasing" a farmer's product at the start of the sea-

son or prior to harvest, Tan said.

Subscribers receive a portion of a farmer's harvest on a weekly or monthly basis until the predetermined period ends.

As a result, farmers "can eat regularly because they have people who commit to a share of their harvest," she said.

Almost everywhere else, however, farmers have no other recourse but conventional methods that "expose them to pesticides and chemicals that go into rivers and our bloodstreams," Tan said.

With the worsening climate crisis, a collective of sustainable agriculture advocacy groups like GFC have started a movement to help farmers craft "agroecological" ways of farming and living.

Threat to food security

According to the United Nations' World Food Programme (WFP), food security in the Philippines is highly vulnerable to

climate change, with nearly 10 million Filipinos working in the agricultural sector.

In November 2021, the WFP published a study that identified climate-related risks for food security in the country in the coming years: increased rainfall variability, rising mean temperatures and supertyphoons.

Over the past decade, agricultural losses in the Philippines have reached P290 billion as a result of extreme weather events.

"Pasture and livestock livelihoods are also at risk due to projected ambient temperatures of 30 degrees Celsius or more by 2050, which could cause heat stress and other climate-related hazards to livestock in the provinces of Apayao, Abra, Kalinga, Mountain Province, Ifugao, Benguet and Nueva Vizcaya," the WFP study noted.

Culture vs business

Experts believe food security is multidimensional and

involves not only how food can meet energy and nutritional needs but also its ability to fulfill social and ecological purposes and uphold cultural meanings.

"When we say agriculture, we need to see the 'culture' aspect of the term as people-oriented," said agricultural scientist Leo XL Fuentes, coordinator for Magsasaka at Siyentipik para sa Pag-unlad ng Agrikultura (Masipag) in Mindanao.

He cited the precolonial history of farming in the Philippines, which showed evidence of self-reliant agriculture being practiced "based on the need of local communities and daily subsistence—not on profits."

It was only when the Spanish colonizers came when land ownership among the elite created an export-oriented, import-dependent agricultural system, which is the dominant setup today, Fuentes said.

For the past three decades Masipag has been at the fore-



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front of promoting sustainable agriculture, borne out of the "failures" of the "Masagana 99" project in the 1970s.

Masagana 99, introduced by the dictator Ferdinand Marcos Sr. in 1973 after he declared martial law, sought to increase rice production by introducing high-yield variety seeds, herbicides, low-cost fertilizer and other modern agricultural inputs.

This led to farmers' dependence on chemical fertilizers and pesticides, which proved unsustainable.

In response, Masipag has been crafting scientific and people-oriented alternatives to mainstream chemical-based farming.

The conundrum of food insecurity lies in the current agricultural system, Fuentes said: Hunger is not a problem of production but of distribution, where a large part of food production is used as animal fodder, agrifuel or in the manufacture of plastic.

Based on the 2020 State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World Report, 59 million Filipinos were recorded suffering from moderate to severe lack of consistent access to food—the most in Southeast Asia—from 2017 to 2019.

"It has long been proven that our export-oriented and import-dependent agriculture is unsustainable. We need to cultivate a more sustainable agricultural system that primarily works to produce food, not profit," Fuentes said.

Lumad, or indigenous communities in Mindanao, are no strangers to sustainable farming in harmony with nature, as reflected in their traditions.

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In the Manobo community of Han-ayan in Andap Valley, Surigao del Sur province, volunteer teacher Kenneth Cadiang has seen how the villagers thank nature for their harvest, offering the first batch of produce to the "diwata" of the mountain range.

He said: "For them, without land, there is no life or food security ... Farming is a collective work. Everyone participates in the production and everyone gets to eat."

Agroecology

In lumad communities, Cadiang said he saw people practicing diversified and integrated farming systems different from conventional agriculture.

Conventional agriculture, according to the volunteer teacher, relies on external input like fertilizer, pesticide and seeds.

In Andap Valley, the Manobo practice an intercropping system: legumes are planted near corns, nightshade plants and cucurbits to provide nitrogen to the soil for plants to grow. They also perform polyculture by planting diverse crops to manage pests and plant diseases, said Cadiang.

This is agroecology in practice: combining organic farming with sustainable agriculture and promoting self-reliance among farmers. In this setup, all fertilizers come from community-produced composts, while pesticides are discouraged to prevent pollution.

Single cropping is also frowned on in agroecology because it raises the risk of disease and pest outbreaks and makes the soil less fertile.

Another advantage of diversifying crops is it improves carbon storage in soils and helps in the mitigation of greenhouse gas emission.

Unlike industrial farming that aims to increase single-crop yield for profits by using damaging chemical fertilizers, agroecology aims to strengthen all parts of the food system—from the seed and the soil to the table.

Agricultural scientists like Fuentes define agroecology as both science and movement, crafting scientific solutions to agricultural problems based on local contexts.

In Nueva Ecija, Masipag maintains a robust seed bank of organic rice varieties that can be planted based on suitability for upland or lowland ecosystems. The group also

conducts community study sessions with farmers on the basic foundations of rice breeding.

For decades, many indigenous communities have used "kaingin," or the traditional slash-and-burn farming system, that destroys local ecosystems and soil life.

Thus, Cadiang and other volunteers have introduced novel farming practices from Japan and Korea to lumad communities, such as the use of indigenous microorganism (IMO) and lactobacillus bacteria serum to help enrich the soil and make it more resilient to weather changes.

The IMO input conditions the soil to endure even hotter climates, said Cadiang, adding that volunteers were now practicing these in collective land cultivation farms, or "bungkalan," in the communities.

'Bungkalan'

Agroecology is also tied to issues of land ownership and food sovereignty that are common in bungkalan sites.

On June 9, some 83 farmers, artists and journalists were arrested at a bungkalan activity in Hacienda Tinang in Concepcion, Tarlac.

The farmers were land reform beneficiaries of the 200-hectare farmland in Barangay Tinang under the comprehensive agrarian reform law in 1988. But to date, they have yet to receive their share of the land.

The bungkalan was their attempt to prevent the illegal sale or conversion of their land.

Donna Miranda of Unyon ng mga Manggagawa sa Agrikultura, one of those arrested, said the basic foundation of agroecology is control over land, where farmers themselves discover ways to maximize all available resources at no additional cost.

Because government subsidies to farmers are insufficient, food cultivators must find ways to make farming viable and help them produce food without going into debt, Miranda said.

With the effects of climate change becoming more pronounced, farmers now need access to more resources to maintain their livelihood, Ernest Barreiro of GFC said.

"The principle of agroecology—or 'likas-kayang pagsasaka'—is tied to bungkalan, where farmers lack resources but are not short [of] collective resolve to cultivate and grow their agricultural land," Miranda said. **MO**

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COVID-19 NEWS

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DOH: 3,996 new COVID-19 cases logged, active tally at 33,509

By RICHA NORIEGA, GMA News

Published July 30, 2022 8:17pm



The Department of Health (DOH) on Saturday logged 3,996 new COVID-19 infections, bringing the nationwide tally to 3,772,468.

Also, the active cases climbed to 33,509 from [32,673 on Friday, according to the DOH's latest figures](#).

The National Capital Region (NCR) recorded 13,837 new cases in the recent two weeks, followed by Calabarzon with 9,069, Central Luzon with 4,273, Western Visayas with 2,482, and Central Visayas with 1,725.

Likewise, country's recovery tally also increased to 3,678,240 with 3,121 more patients defeated the viral disease.

The DOH also logged one new death adding the death toll to 60,719.

At least 7,862 beds were occupied, while 21,054 were vacant as the bed occupancy in the country stood at 27.2% as of Thursday, July 28.

The Health department said at least 22,456 individuals were tested, while 322 testing labs submitted data as of July 29. —**LBG, GMA News**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/topstories/nation/839959/doh-3-996-new-covid-19-cases-logged-active-tally-at-33-509/story/?fbclid=IwAR2eKi5XWuGFnMksEhmqqW8kUwI4RRaoeo5Zp6zDjgHtM40veKOBHVyIhUw>



NCR stays under Alert Level 1; more areas de-escalated

By Joyce Ann L. Rocamora July 30, 2022, 7:58 pm



MANILA – More areas have been de-escalated to Alert Level 1 while the National Capital Region stays in the same classification.

The Department of Health (DOH) said Saturday the alert level status will be effective August 1 to 15.

The additional areas eased to Alert Level 1 are:

- Barbaza, Antique
- Bato, Leyte
- Tabontabon, Leyte
- Payao, Zamboanga Sibugay
- Braulio E. Dujali, Davao Del Norte
- Maitum, Sarangani
- Pilar, Surigao Del Norte
- Calanogas, Lanao del Sur
- Marogong, Lanao del Sur
- Tagoloan II, Lanao del Sur

The DOH said these areas maintained their case classification and total bed utilization rates at “low risk” and have reached or neared the vaccination thresholds for the target population and target A2 (senior citizens) priority group.

Apart from Metro Manila, the following remain under Alert Level 1: Abra, Apayao, Baguio City, Kalinga, Mountain Province, Dagupan City, Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, La Union, Pangasinan, Batanes, Cagayan, Santiago City, Isabela, Quirino, Nueva Vizcaya, Angeles City, Aurora, Bataan Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Olongapo City, Pampanga, Tarlac, Zambales, Batangas, Cavite, Laguna, Lucena City, Rizal, Marinduque, Puerto Princesa City, Romblon, Oriental Mindoro, Naga City, Catanduanes, Albay, Sorsogon, Aklan, Bacolod City, Capiz, Guimaras, Iloilo Province, Iloilo City, Cebu City, Siquijor, Lapu-Lapu City, Mandaue City, Biliran, Eastern Samar, Ormoc City, Southern Leyte, Tacloban City, Zamboanga City, Cagayan de Oro City, Bukidnon, Misamis Oriental, Misamis Occidental, Iligan City, Camiguin, Davao City, Davao Oriental, South Cotabato, General Santos City, Surigao del Sur, Butuan City, Agusan Del Norte, Agusan Del Sur, and Cotabato City.

The rest of the Philippines is under Alert Level 2.



"Our continued compliance with the minimum public health standards keeps us safe -- wearing the best-fitting mask, isolating when sick, doubling up protection through vaccines and boosters, and ensuring good airflow," said Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire, DOH Officer-in-Charge, in a statement.

"Join our new campaign to help us open up better and stronger, "PinasLakas", to make it easier for everyone to get a booster," she added. **(PNA)**

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
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
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
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