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By: Jonathan Mayuga

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By: Jonathan Mayuga

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By: Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson

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By: Sheldeen Joy Talavera

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CNN PHILIPPINES

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By: Jelo Ritzhie Mantaring

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MANILA BULLETIN

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[Nordic envoys urge public-private partnership for sustainable solutions to climate change](#)

By: Zacarian Sarao

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PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

[DOST USec meets with potential bamboo industry partners](#)

By: Shaun Alejandrae Uy

MANOLO FORTICH, Bukidnon (PIA)--Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Undersecretary for Regional Operations Sancho A. Maborang met with stakeholders at Cawayanon, San Miguel, Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon, February 9, in line with possible collaborations in the bamboo industry.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[DENR reviews clearance process for solar and wind projects, studies alt fuel use for shipping](#)

By: Gaea Katreena Cabico

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources is reviewing the environmental clearance process for onshore and offshore solar and wind projects, and studying the use of alternative fuels for shipping as part of the government's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, its chief said on Thursday.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[CCC wants to turn Ocampo town into Bicol's 'food basket'](#)

By: Azer Parrocha

MANILA – The Climate Change Commission (CCC) is eyeing to turn the municipality of Ocampo in Camarines Sur into Bicol Region's "food basket" by prioritizing agro-industrial initiatives to ensure food security.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

BUSINESS MIRROR

DENR backs legislated NIPAS listing of Kaliwa River wildlife sanctuary

By: Jonathan Mayuga

A bill that seeks to establish Kaliwa River Forest and Wildlife Sanctuary as a legislated protected area (PA) under the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act has gained the support of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

House Bill (HB) 5055, filed by Rizal Province 2nd District Rep. Emigdio “Dino” P. Tanjuatco III pushes the protection of the forest reserve and wildlife sanctuary.

Legislated PAs are assured of stronger protection measures and a more rigid management regime. They also enjoy regular appropriation for protection and conservation-related activities.

The DENR Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office, Protected Area Management Board (PAMB), and the local government of Rizal province said they support all efforts to further protect and preserve the forest reserve and wildlife sanctuary against various threats, along with the rest of the Sierra Madre Mountain Range.

Republic Act (RA) 7586 or the NIPAS Act, as amended by RA 11038 or the Expanded NIPAS Act of 2018, mandates the DENR to implement measures and programs to protect, maintain, and sustain the perpetual existence of all native plants, animals, and natural resources for the benefit of present and future generations.

The Kaliwa River Forest Reserve (KRFS) is named after its geographic location on the left side of watersheds situated in Luzon’s northeastern seaboard and part of the Sierra Madre Mountain Range.

A recent suitability assessment revealed the KRFS is under the jurisdiction of the municipalities of Tanay, Rizal, and General Nakar, Quezon. It has a total area of 31,883 hectares.

It is known to be the home of various endangered wildlife species such as the Northern Philippine Hawk-eagle (*Nisaetus philippensis*), Philippine Brown Deer (*Rusa marianna*), Philippine Warty Pig (*Sus philippensis*), Northern Rufous Hornbill (*Buceros hydrocorax*)

and others. It is also considered to be the home of the Critically Endangered Philippine Eagle (*Pithecophaga jefferyi*), a species endemic to the Philippines.

The proposed Kaliwa River Forest and Wildlife Sanctuary (KRFWS) has 12,147 hectares of remaining forest with approximately 172 types of plant species, 39 of which are endemic and 17 are classified as threatened. Some species that can be found in the area are *Rafflesia* (*R. Philippinensis* and *R. Lagascae*), and Tayabak or Jade Vine (*Strongylodon macrobotrys*).

A recent study on Pungapong (*Amorphophallus* sp.) led the way to the discovery of a new species of Pungapong (*Amorphophallus funtarumii*), which was first found in a portion of the proposed Kaliwa River Forest and Wildlife Sanctuary. This new species has been classified as highly endangered due to the present threats of forest degradation and destruction.

“All those species are endemic, meaning, they can only be found in the Philippines. Those are considered keystone species, with crucial roles in defining an entire ecosystem,” said DENR Calabarzon Regional Director Nilo B. Tamoria. “Once legislated, fund support for the management of the KRFWS is assured and stringent regulations will be implemented,” he added.

Apart from its rich biodiversity, Kaliwa River Forest Reserve is also home to the Indigenous Peoples of the Dumagat-Remontado of the Sierra Madre who play an important role in the conservation and protection of the environment and natural resources within the area.

No approved SWMP for 445 LGUs, DENR unit reveals

By: Jonathan Mayuga

A total of 445 local government units (LGUs) still have no approved 10-year solid waste management plan (SWMP) as mandated by Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Plan of 2000.

According to the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the DENR-led National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) reported that out of 1,592 local government units (LGU) nationwide, only 1,147 have approved SWMPs.

The DENR-EMB is looking forward to the approval of all remaining 10-year SWMPs of cities and municipalities nationwide this year.

To achieve the 100 percent target, EMB has called on the remaining 445 LGUs with no approved and submitted SWMPs to take proactive actions to develop their plans and have them approved by the NSWMC.

The EMB urged governors and mayors whose provinces, cities, and municipalities concerned to expedite the submission of their plans, as it expressed its commitment to help LGUs needing assistance and technical support.

During the celebration of National Zero Waste Month in January, the EMB, the Department of the Interior and Local Government and EMB regional offices conducted a two-day virtual meeting that served as a platform for LGUs to raise their issues and concerns on the preparation of their plans.

The virtual meeting was attended by over 300 participants from LGUs across three regions, which availed of consultations and made status follow-ups and requests in relation to their respective SWMPs.

After the meeting, the EMB expressed hope that all LGUs nationwide will have their approved SWMPs by the end of the year.

Under RA 9003, every LGU is mandated to have a 10-year SWMP. The law states that “the province, city or municipality, through its local solid waste management boards, shall prepare its respective 10-year solid waste management plans consistent with the national solid waste management framework.”

The said plan should put “primary emphasis on implementation of all feasible reuse, recycling, and composting programs while identifying the amount of landfill and transformation capacity that will be needed for solid waste which cannot be reused, recycled, or composted.”

In the SWMP process, the concerned EMB Regional Office will review and evaluate the plans submitted by the LGUs and endorse them to the EMB Central Office for further review.

If the plan lacks specific requirements, the SWMP will be returned to the LGU for further action. If the plan is suitable for consideration, it will be recommended to the Executive Committee of the NSWMC, which will decide whether or not to support the plan for final approval by the NSWMC en banc.

BUSINESS WORLD

[Climate change impact escalates gender inequality — UNDP](#)

By: Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson

THE EFFECTS of climate change, such as food scarcity due to droughts and flooding triggered by more severe storms, aggravate gender inequalities, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) said.

“Criminalization, discrimination and marginalization create vulnerabilities before disasters, leading to specific and disproportionate disaster impact on gender and sexual minorities,” the UNDP said in a policy brief.

The UN agency said studies show women, girls, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people are more vulnerable to the impacts of extreme weather changes given prevailing marginalization.

“Lack of legal identity may hamper the ability of transgender people to access food aid, shelter and other emergency assistance, as has been documented through research in, for example, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, the Philippines and Samoa,” it added.

The UNDP noted that difficulties in accessing justice, health, education, employment, housing, and other services are exacerbated in crisis situations such as during natural calamities.

“Climate change exposes and amplifies existing inequalities,” it said.

The policy brief recommended measures that would address systemic inequities and facilitate inclusion.

“Full, meaningful and equal participation of women and LGBTI people in all aspects of climate policy and action is vital for achieving medium- and long-term climate goals,” it said.

The UNDP also noted that developing climate-smart and health systems should incorporate women, girls and LGBTI people.

[Environmental groups amplify call for oil companies to wean from fossil fuel](#)

By: Sheldeen Joy Talavera

ENVIRONMENTAL groups on Thursday amplified their call for oil companies to start weaning away from fossil fuel and reiterated their demand for accountability through climate compensation.

The groups, led by Greenpeace Southeast Asia-Philippines, said they have sent demand letters to some of the biggest companies, including Shell, Exxon Mobil, British Petroleum, and Chevron.

“Our communities live with the reality of climate impacts. We feel in our pockets and in our guts, with each climate disaster carving up wounds that will never heal. Despite our suffering, you continue to drill more oil and expand your fossil fuel business,” the letter read.

The groups want the companies to acknowledge their “disproportionate role in historical carbon emissions and commit to a just transition away from fossil fuels.”

“We are not just asking for sustainable practices, we are not just asking for these businesses to change, we are asking them to pay up,” Greenpeace campaigner Jefferson M. Chua said in a media briefing.

An agreement was reached at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in November 2022 to create a fund that will compensate vulnerable countries for “loss and damage” arising from climate disasters.

Jochelle L. Magracia of Young Bataenos Environmental Advocacy Network (YoungBEAN) said fuel-driven activities have affected not just the environment but also the livelihood of communities, such as those in coastal areas.

Citing the latest World Risk Index, the groups said the Philippines has been ranked consistently as a top disaster and climate crisis hotspot.

CNN PHILIPPINES

[Filipinos see climate change, unemployment, military tensions as top challenges in Southeast Asia — study](#)

By: Jelo Ritzhie Mantaring

Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, February 16) — Beyond the COVID-19 threat, Filipinos saw climate change, unemployment and economic recession, and increased military tensions as the top three challenges faced by Southeast Asia in 2023, the latest State of Southeast Asia survey found.

According to the study published on Feb. 9, respondents from the Philippines ranked climate change and more intense and frequent weather events as the highest threat across the region.

"76.8% of Philippine respondents say that climate change is their biggest threat, overtaking unemployment and recession, as the pain of destruction is felt most acutely from Typhoon Nalgae (Paeng) at the end of October 2022," the ASEAN Studies Centre at ISEAS Yusof Ishak Institute noted.

More than half also picked joblessness (60.6%) and increased military tensions arising from potential flashpoints such as the South China Sea, Taiwan Strait, and the Korean Peninsula (50.5%).

Meanwhile, majority of Southeast Asians (59.5%) fear unemployment and economic recession as the region tries to bounce back from the impact of the COVID-19 crisis, followed by the worsening climate (57.1%).

Widening socio-economic gaps and rising income disparity, and increased military tensions shared the third spot (41.9%).

The ASEAN Studies Centre asked 1,308 Southeast Asian nationals affiliated with the academe, private sector, government, civil society, and regional or international groups from Nov. 14, 2022 to Jan. 6, 2023. Filipinos comprised 7.6% of the total number.

It also reported the rising frustration directed at the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), which was described as being "slow and ineffective" resulting in its inability to "cope with fluid political and economic developments and becoming irrelevant in the new world order."

The survey found it remained the top concern of most Southeast Asians (82.6% up from last year's 70.1%), followed by the view that "ASEAN is becoming an arena of major power competition and its member states may become major power proxies."

Likewise, more respondents saw that the ASEAN group is becoming "increasingly disunited" and being "elitist and disconnected from the ordinary people," ranking third and fourth, respectively.

Fewer respondents think that the ASEAN would be unable to recover from the pandemic, with only around 37% selecting it as one of their top three concerns out of the five choices, lower than last year's 49%.

Perception on China

Increased military tensions became part of the top three concerns of Southeast Asians this year, associated mostly with disputes linked to China.

For example, the possible outbreak of hostilities in the Taiwan Strait will destabilize the region, according to 43.3% of the respondents, while 28.7% believe that ASEAN countries will be forced to take sides.

Once it happens, 45.6% of them said their countries must oppose the use of force through diplomatic measures.

Around 54.5% of Filipino respondents also chose that option, with 20.2% saying the Philippine government must facilitate military support for Taiwan.

The survey also revealed that showing support for China is not an option for respondents from Indonesia, the Philippines, or Vietnam at all.

"A conflict over the Taiwan Strait carries the most immediate and serious consequences on the Philippines just by geographical proximity alone," the ASEAN Studies Centre said. "It is also the most likely US ally in the region to be asked to facilitate support for US forces."

The study devoted sections to Southeast Asians' perception of China as it was still regarded as the most influential economic and political-strategic power in the region, but researchers found significant declines in the percentages.

It also said at least 6 out of 10 said they were worried about China's expanding influence in the ASEAN.

Moreover, nearly half or 49.8% of the respondents have either "little confidence" or "no confidence" in China to "do the right thing" to contribute to global peace, security, prosperity, and governance.

"Only 29.5% are either 'confident' or 'very confident' that China will step up to the plate. Overall, the percentage of distrust of China has dwindled from 58.1% in 2022 to 49.8% this year," proponents said in the survey.

High distrust levels were noticed in Myanmar, Vietnam, the Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand, and Singapore.

"Among those who distrust China, 41.4% think that China's economic and military power can be used to threaten their country's interest and sovereignty," the study shared. "This view is shared strongly in Vietnam (65.4%), the Philippines (62.9%), Cambodia (44.0%), Malaysia (41.7%), Indonesia (35.7%), and Singapore (35.0%)."

Researchers also said the United States' popularity in the region continued to rise compared to the East Asian giant, with the European Union and Japan remaining to be the top choices of respondents in hedging against the uncertainties of the US-China strategic rivalry.

[So-called Doomsday Glacier is 'in trouble,' scientists say after finding surprising formations under ice shelf](#)

By: Laura Paddison,

(CNN) — Antarctica's "Doomsday Glacier" — nicknamed because its collapse could drive catastrophic sea level rise — is melting rapidly in unexpected ways, according to new research.

The Thwaites Glacier is roughly the size of Florida and is located in West Antarctica. Part of what holds it in place is an ice shelf that juts out onto the surface of the ocean. The shelf acts like a cork, holding the glacier back on the land and providing an important defense against sea level rise.

But the crucial ice shelf is highly vulnerable as the ocean warms.

In two studies, published in the journal *Nature* on Wednesday, scientists revealed while the pace of melting underneath much of the ice shelf is slower than previously thought, deep cracks and "staircase" formations in the ice are melting much faster.

As climate change accelerates, the Thwaites Glacier is rapidly changing.

Every year it sheds billions of tons of ice into the ocean, contributing about 4% of annual sea level rise. Particularly rapid melting happens at the point where the glacier meets the seafloor, which has retreated nearly nine miles (14 kilometers) since the late 1990s, exposing a larger slice of ice to relatively warm ocean water.

The complete collapse of the Thwaites itself could lead to sea level rise of more than two feet (70 centimeters), which would be enough to devastate coastal communities around the world. But the Thwaites is also acting like a natural dam to the surrounding ice in West Antarctica, and scientists have estimated global sea level could ultimately rise around 10 feet if the Thwaites collapsed.

While it could take hundreds or thousands of years, the ice shelf could disintegrate much sooner, triggering a retreat of the glacier which is both unstable and potentially irreversible.

To better understand the reshaping of the remote coastline, a team of US and British scientists from the International Thwaites Glacier Collaboration traveled to the glacier in late 2019.

Using a hot water drill, they bored a hole nearly 2,000 feet (600 meters) deep into the ice and, over a five-day period, sent down various instruments to take measurements from the glacier.

The instruments included a torpedo-like robot called Icefin, which allowed them access to areas previously almost impossible to survey. The remotely-operated vehicle took images and recorded information about the temperature and salinity of the water, as well as ocean currents.

It was able to "swim up to these really dynamic places and take data from the sea floor all the way to the ice," Britney Schmidt, an associate professor at Cornell University and a lead author on one of the papers, told CNN.

The results of the research reveal "a very nuanced and complex picture," Peter Davis, an oceanographer at the British Antarctic Survey and a lead author on the other paper, told CNN.

The scientists found even though the glacier is receding, the rate of melting beneath much of the flat part of the ice shelf was lower than expected. The melt rate averaged 2 to 5.4 meters a year, according to the study, less than previous models had projected.

Melting is being suppressed by a layer of colder, fresher water at the base of the glacier, between the ice shelf and the ocean, according to the research.

"The glacier is still in trouble," Davis said in a statement, adding, "What we have found is that despite small amounts of melting there is still rapid glacier retreat, so it seems that it doesn't take a lot to push the glacier out of balance."

The scientists were also surprised by a second finding. They discovered an underwater glacial landscape much more complex than expected, dominated by strange staircaselike terraces and crevasses -- big cracks going all the way through the ice shelf.

Melting was particularly rapid in these areas, the research team found. Warm, salty water was able to funnel through and widen cracks and crevasses, contributing to instabilities in the glacier.

"The glacier is not just melting up, but it's melting out," Schmidt said.

Melting along the sloped ice of the cracks and terraces "may become the primary trigger for ice shelf collapse," according to the studies' authors.

The findings add a new layer to a slew of alarming studies pointing to the glacier's rapid melting.

A 2021 study found the ice shelf could shatter within the next five years, and last year scientists said the Thwaites Glacier is hanging on "by its fingernails" as the planet warms, with the potential for rapid retreat in the coming years.

"We knew these glaciers were changing. We knew it was related to ocean temperature. We knew there was melting going on. We knew that the atmosphere was warming. And we knew that the glaciers were falling apart," Schmidt said.

What the latest research does is provide "the missing pieces" to work out exactly how this change is happening, she said.

David Rounce, a glaciologist at Carnegie Mellon University who was not involved in the study, told CNN the new research offered "novel insights into how rapidly the bottom of the ice shelf is melting and the mechanisms by which it's melting, which are very important for improving our understanding and ability to model how Thwaites will change in the future."

Davis said the research can help make more accurate projections about sea level rise, which can be fed into efforts to mitigate climate change and protect coastal communities. From a more personal perspective, he said, he also hopes it prompts people "to sit up and take notice of the changes that are occurring."

"Despite it being so remote, the consequences of what happens on Thwaites will impact everybody," Davis said.

[World Bank President David Malpass to step down early](#)

By: Kate Trafecante

(CNN) -- World Bank President David Malpass plans to step down a year before his term is set to end, the organization announced Wednesday.

Malpass will leave his position on June 30, the end of the World Bank's fiscal year, after serving more than four years in the role.

"It has been an enormous honor and privilege to serve as President of the world's premier development institution," Malpass said in a statement. "With developing countries facing unprecedented crises, I'm proud that the Bank Group has responded with speed, scale, innovation, and impact."

The World Bank, a group of 187 nations, lends money to developing countries to help reduce poverty. Former US President Donald Trump appointed Malpass as World Bank chief in 2019 for a five-year period. As the largest shareholder, the United States traditionally appoints its president.

During Malpass' tenure, the organization responded to multiple crises, including a global pandemic and Russia's war in Ukraine. The World Bank said Malpass implemented record surges in finances in response to both. He also focused on policies to increase economic growth, reduce government debt burdens, and help reduce poverty.

But his tenure has been controversial.

Malpass faced criticism from climate activists in September after he refused to confirm during a climate panel whether he accepted the scientific consensus that burning fossil fuels were dangerously warming the planet. After an outpouring of criticism, many opponents called for his resignation.

He later clarified to CNN that he was not a "denier," and that fossil fuel emissions are "clearly" contributing to global warming. The World Bank also noted on Wednesday that it more than doubled its climate financing in 2022 to a record \$32 billion.

Malpass said he has "decided to pursue new challenges" and that this is an opportunity for a smooth leadership transition at the Bank Group.

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen on Wednesday thanked Malpass for his service, saying in a statement: "The world has benefited from his strong support for Ukraine in the face

of Russia's illegal and unprovoked invasion, his vital work to assist the Afghan people, and his commitment to helping low-income countries achieve debt sustainability through debt reduction."

"And while we all must continue to raise our collective ambitions in the fight against climate change, during President Malpass' tenure the World Bank has made important recent advances in this area," she said.

Yellen also noted his commitment to "ensuring a smooth transition" and said the United States is looking forward to a "transparent, merit-based and swift nomination" for the next World Bank president.

The opening also provides an opportunity for President Joe Biden to nominate an official who can implement the administration's green energy vision and help combat climate change while lowering energy costs for families.

MANILA BULLETIN

[DENR lauds Villar SIPAG for its environmental advocacies](#)

By: Mario Casayuran

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources-National Capital Region (DENR-NCR) has given recognition to the Villar SIPAG Foundation for its initiatives to conserve, maintain and advance a healthy environment.

DENR-NCR thus awarded a Plaque of Recognition to the Villar SIPAG for its invaluable support to its program, projects and activities in the metropolitan area.

The Villar SIPAG Foundation was established by the family of Senator. Cynthia A. Villarr.

The Plaque was received by Villar, who delivered the inspirational message during the DENR-NCR Stakeholders and Partners Forum with the theme “Environmental Partnership for a Sustainable Future” held at Radisson Hotel in Quezon City last Feb. 15.

In her message, the lady lawmaker related that the Villar SIPAG has always served as a ‘significant vehicle’ in pursuing some of her worthy environmental programs and advocacies.

Being at the frontline of environmental protection, Villar spelled out some of the programs of the foundation. They are the following:

- The “Sagip Ilog Para Sa Kinabukasan” project has greatly contributed to the clean-up and rehabilitation of the two rivers in Las Piñas- Zapote River and the Las Piñas River and the waterways and esteros that flow to it.
- Livelihood enterprises that make Sagip-Ilog program sustainable and encourage many to remove the solid wastes in rivers.
- The protection and conservation of the Las Piñas Parañaque Wetland Park (LPPWP), a legislated protected area under Expanded NIPAS Act of 2018.

Villar SIPAG has been pouring in resources, and pursuing projects and activities that promote the protected area status and ecotourism functions of LPPWP.

A known champion of the environment, Villar said that their Las Piñas-Zapote River System Rehabilitation has won the United Nation's Water for Life Best Practices Award in 2011 for its outstanding contribution to improve the living environment and its impact on alleviating people's quality of life within a metropolitan river basin.

Also in November last year, Villar SIPAG emerged as one the winners for environmental sustainability at the 23rd Energy Globe Award Ceremony. It received the 2022 Energy Globe National Honorary Certificate Award in recognition of its Las Piñas Kitchen Waste Composting Program.

While thanking the DENR-NCR led by Regional Executive Director Jacky Caancan for the award, Villar also acknowledged the other awardees for their tremendous work and outstanding efforts for the environment.

"After all, our good work for the environment should be a never-ending story . . . a lifelong commitment," Villar stressed.

"I wish that you could inspire more people to follow the good examples you have been doing for the environment," she added.

Villar also told them to encourage many others to take better care of the environment.

She emphasized that "it is only when there is a critical mass of environmental advocates that we could forge a genuine environmental partnership that will bring us to a sustainable future."

Gov't urged to intervene in new Bilibid Prison site claims at georeserve

By: Khriscielle Yalao

The Masungi Georeserve Foundation called for the urgent intervention of the national government in protecting the environment and environmental defenders following the claims from supposed Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) personnel of a relocation site of the New Bilibid Prison within the vicinity of the geopark.

“We thus ask for the urgent intervention of President Bongbong Marcos and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Ma. Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga to uphold the Masungi Geopark Project, appoint a competent project manager to resolve conflicts and prevent further violence against environment defenders, immediately cease the unending issuance/applications of unscrupulous instruments within Masungi and adjacent protected areas, and make those responsible accountable,” Masungi said in a statement.

Five cars and 20 men, allegedly from BuCor, arrived at the georeserve at around 6 a.m. on Thursday, Feb. 16, with orders to conduct an “ocular inspection” for the supposed New Bilibid Prison site.

“They bear a newly minted title over 270 hectares of the Lot 10 property in the name of BuCor. The remaining 30 hectares of Lot 10 were reportedly titled in the name of the DENR. Lot 10 and the 300 hectares in question comprise the Masungi Georeserve,” the statement read.

The foundation questioned these claims.

According to Masungi, Lot 10, the location of the georeserve’s limestone formations, was equitized in a joint venture project between the DENR and Blue Star Development Corporation since 2002, and included in conservation projects with the DENR through the memorandum of agreement (MOA) signed by former Secretary Gina Lopez in 2017.

Lot 10 has also been included in several protected and conserved areas such as the National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary and Game Preserve (Proclamation 1636 in 1977 created by President Ferdinand E. Marcos Sr.), the proposed Masungi Strict Nature Reserve and Wildlife Sanctuary (DENR DAO 33 in 1993 by former DENR Secretary Dr. Angel C. Alcala), and the Kaliwa River Forest Reserve (Proclamation 573 in 1969).

“As early as 2009, DENR Secretary Lito Atienza issued a memorandum to the DENR Regional Director to submit an alternative area for the New Bilibid Prison for the

amendment of Presidential Proclamation 1158, since Lot 10 is already subject to private rights,” it said.

The statement added that the people in the community were not consulted regarding the relocation site. Masungi cited Tanay Council’s Resolution 2011-103, dated May 10, 2011, which opposed the New Bilibid project.

Masungi said it also sent letters relaying the information concerning Lot 10 to BuCor last Feb. 11, 2022 and June 28, 2022.

The foundation emphasized that its team, especially the rangers and environmental defenders at the frontlines, have been physically and legally protecting the georeserve against professional squatters for decades.

Masungi insisted on the preservation of the geopark, saying there must be other viable alternative sites for the prison.

“The Masungi Geopark Project is at the forefront of the Philippines’ climate change agenda to enable effective, nature-based solutions involving the private sector, civil society, and communities. Sabotaging Masungi goes against our nation’s sustainable development,” it said.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[Nordic envoys urge public-private partnership for sustainable solutions to climate change](#)

By: Zacarian Sarao

MANILA, Philippines — Nordic ambassadors to the Philippines on Thursday called for close cooperation between the public and private sectors to find and employ new sustainable solutions to climate change.

This came as their embassies conducted a dialogue on climate change, promoting the Nordic Cooperation model and experience in combatting or adapting to global climate changes which they believe can be suitable for Southeast Asia.

Ambassadors Franz-Michael Mellbin of the Royal Danish Embassy, Juha Pyykkö of the Finland Embassy, Christian Halaas Lyster of the Royal Norwegian Embassy, and Annika Thunborg of the Embassy of Sweden led the talk at The Manila Hotel in Manila.

They reiterated their countries' commitments to help in achieving the sustainable development agenda and advancing climate action.

"The Nordic countries aim to be the most sustainable and integrated region in the world. I hope that the Nordic Cooperation model and experience, in general, is something of interest for this region, as well," said Pyykkö.

"Sustainable solutions can only be achieved by working together. Private and public sectors working together, creating an environment where we can share best practices and adapt new solutions to mitigate the global challenges," said Lyster.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga and Negros Oriental 1st District Rep. Jocelyn Limkaichong, vice-chair of the House committee on climate change, as well as local government officials also attended the dialogue.

Yulo-Loyzaga presented the climate situation in the Philippines and the climate challenges that the country is facing. She also enumerated the Philippine government's goals to address climate change, including its target to cut gas emissions by 75 percent.

Limkaichong, for her part, emphasized the importance of climate laws in the fight against the adverse impacts of climate change. She also reaffirmed during the dialogue

the House's commitment to create more regulations to address global warming and the climate crisis.

PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

[DOST USec meets with potential bamboo industry partners](#)

By: Shaun Alejandrae Uy

MANOLO FORTICH, Bukidnon (PIA)--Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Undersecretary for Regional Operations Sancho A. Maborang met with stakeholders at Cawayanon, San Miguel, Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon, February 9, in line with possible collaborations in the bamboo industry.

Lawyer Burt M. Estrada, Bukidnon Tagoloanon Mulahay Ha Kabukalagan Agriculture Cooperative (BUKTAMACO) CEO, said in 2020, the cooperative was able to start on a bamboo project together with RIZOME Philippines and other partners during the "hard lockdowns" of the pandemic.

"These [bamboo plantations] are not yet existing; you see bamboo everywhere but not in a plantation setting," said Estrada.

BUKTAMACO planted *Dendrocalamus asper*, which is also called "giant bamboo," as an experiment to see how it grew and to figure out how to make a bamboo plantation that would last.

This bamboo is a giant tropical and subtropical dense clumping species native to Southeast Asia and is ideal for use as a building material for heavy construction, and its shoots, or bamboo sprouts, are used as vegetables in numerous Asian dishes and broths.

Estrada said, "We learned of the demand for our bamboo, specifically the variety here in Bukidnon—the giant bamboo. We were tapped to do the experimental planting, and we collaboratively wrote a proposal to USAID to fund 1,100 hectares of giant bamboo plantations in Bukidnon and Misamis Oriental as part of what we call the Mindanao Bamboo Value-Chain Development Project."

The goal of the project is to look into an undeveloped bamboo value chain that would let Mindanao planters make the most of the unique technical qualities of the giant bamboo that is only found on Mindanao.

According to Estrada, as of February 2023, there were already 225,950 seedlings planted on 1,066.77 hectares of land.

USAID Philippines, BUKTAMACO, and partners implement a two-year Mindanao Bamboo Value Chain Development Project. This is a bamboo reforestation campaign for climate mitigation, adaptation, and social impact among indigenous communities.

For his part, Undersecretary Maborang said there are "two tracks: one is technology, and the other is policy and governance. As early as now, the local government units should come up with policies and some resolutions that will help entice locators later on in the area to invest [in the bamboo plantation]."

Maborang and staff from the DOST regional office also went to Cagayan de Oro City to see RIZOME Philippines. This was the first company in the Philippines to make a wide range of eco-friendly bamboo building materials, such as bamboo slats, veneers, panels, laminated veneer lumber, and laminated strand lumber.

By providing a more environmentally friendly option, the company hopes to change the way people build homes. This will help fight climate change and global warming, since bamboo is very good at storing carbon, preventing flooding, and protecting forest watersheds.

Russell Smith, RIZOME President & CEO, said the giant bamboo in Bukidnon is "strong as steel, tough as concrete."

Smith also believes that the giant bamboo found abundantly in Bukidnon is the world's best bamboo.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[DENR reviews clearance process for solar and wind projects, studies alt fuel use for shipping](#)

By: Gaea Katreena Cabico

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources is reviewing the environmental clearance process for onshore and offshore solar and wind projects, and studying the use of alternative fuels for shipping as part of the government's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, its chief said on Thursday.

Environment Secretary Toni Loyzaga said the government wants to work with the Nordic governments and the private sector to accelerate the decarbonization of different industries in the Philippines.

"We are reviewing the environmental clearance processes for onshore and offshore solar power. This is to facilitate more capital investments in the renewable energy sector, but also to bring us up to speed in terms of global standards of competitiveness in this regard," Loyzaga said during the Nordic-Philippine Climate Executive Dialogue held at The Manila Hotel.

To reduce emissions from the transport sector, the agency is focusing on sustainable mobility and shipping.

Seafarers will need to be equipped with adequate skills and training to operate new technologies and handle alternative fuel sources like ammonia, which could pose a significant health and safety risk to them.

"As we are the primary source of professional seafarers all over the world, there must be just a transition here," Loyzaga said.

Waste-to-Energy, mining

The environment chief added the agency is conducting a survey of waste-to-fuel and waste-to-energy technologies "to address the growing solid waste problem." The Ecological Solid Waste Management Act and the Clean Air Act prohibit incineration—or the burning of wastes that emits poisonous and toxic fumes.

Green groups opposed to the technology of waste-to-energy say it poses harm not only to the environment but also to people's health.

According to Loyzaga, there is also a need to revitalize the mining industry and steer the sector toward a safe and sustainable future. The mining industry only accounts for less than one percent of the country's gross domestic product.

"The DENR believes that the resilient mining industry could be an effective vehicle for supporting the improvements in our people's quality of life through capital formation and wealth creation," Loyzaga said.

"But it must invest simultaneously in operational efficiency, social and environmental protection, climate change mitigation and adaptation and disaster risk reduction," she added.

Nordic interventions

The embassies of Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden on Thursday held a high-level dialogue to tackle sustainable and innovative solutions to address climate change.

"Our four embassies have joined forces to provide a venue for climate discourse to increase our awareness and understanding about the challenges of climate change, to facilitate a dialogue among public sector, business, civil society and academe, and to work together towards possible solutions in the context of sustainable development and circular economy," Finnish Ambassador Juha Pyykkö said.

The Nordic embassies in the country said they are working with the Philippine government and with private organizations to promote a green, competitive and sustainable development.

"The Nordic countries are at the forefront of pushing forward the climate action agenda and at the same time presenting climate-smart solutions and we are committed to be the most sustainable region in the world by 2030. We are also committed to sharing our experiences to the world, to the Philippines," Norwegian Ambassador Christian Halaas-Lyster said.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[CCC wants to turn Ocampo town into Bicol's 'food basket'](#)

By: Azer Parrocha

MANILA – The Climate Change Commission (CCC) is eyeing to turn the municipality of Ocampo in Camarines Sur into Bicol Region's "food basket" by prioritizing agro-industrial initiatives to ensure food security.

In a press release, the CCC announced that its commissioner Albert de la Cruz Sr. recently met with Ocampo, Camarines Sur Mayor Ronald Allan Go, Presidential Adviser for Bicol Affairs Undersecretary Rex Villegas as well as private and local climate action proponents, and other municipal officials to discuss measures that would link the municipality with CCC.

"The linkage between Ocampo and the Commission headed by Secretary Robert Borje will help the town as well as other local government units (LGUs) to gear up and become the country's food basket, particularly in the Bicol Region," the CCC said.

Dela Cruz conferred with Go on the possibilities of ensuring safe and compliant slaughterhouse facilities in the municipality through the National Meat Inspection Service.

They also discussed ways the CCC could assist in the formulation of a comprehensive land use plan that would benefit his constituents and the whole country.

Dela Cruz has repeatedly stressed the importance of partnerships with LGUs in speedily implementing climate action across the archipelago to pursue sustainable development.

These partnerships, he said, could create more green jobs and implement other pro-environment efforts that would mitigate the impact of climate change and help the country adapt and gain benefits from the phenomenon.

"Climate action has no political color like what our beloved President 'Bongbong' (Marcos) has repeatedly said. It is an issue we should all face in unity and with each other's help," Dela Cruz said.

He also underscored the need to consolidate partnerships between the CCC and the Department of Agriculture for more agricultural ventures that would assist LGUs and other stakeholders to establish a whole of national and community approach to addressing climate change and global warming.

Agro-industrial initiatives are among the initiatives anchored in the government's Local Climate Change Action Plan, an action plan formulated by local governments to address climate change concerns.

The LCCAP focuses on both climate change adaptation and mitigation and describes how LGUs plan to respond to the impacts of climate change and mainstream them into local development plans.

Climate action advocacy is among the top priorities under the administration of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. Camarines Sur is known for having the highest number of farms and the largest farm area in the Bicol Region.

Green and edible vegetation

Meanwhile, Dela Cruz called on the business sector, public officials, and private entities to allocate funding for programs and projects that promote the propagation of green and edible vegetation.

According to the CCC, edible landscaping (EL) is an innovative concept that could promote green and edible vegetation and through it, various principles of landscape design are combined with existing technologies for small-scale crop and utilizes vegetables, herbs, and fruit crops as major softscape materials to substitute for the ornamental plants commonly used in conventional landscaping.

“Even though EL is focused on food availability at household level, it is also intended to increase interest in the utilization of endemic edible plants and greening of urban spaces to alleviate environmental problems. Moreover, surplus crop products can be marketed to generate additional income,” Dela Cruz said.

To date, EL is being intensively promoted in the Philippines and is open for further development to cater for a wider scope of crop production.

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