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By: Othel V. Campos and Alena Mae S. Flores

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By: Prof. Julio O. Castillo, Jr., DBA

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Following the increasing restiveness of Mount Mayon, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) on Monday raised to Level 2 the alert status over the volcano in Albay province.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[Bad habits, lack of bins hinder plastic bottle recycling in Southeast Asia — study](#)

By: Gaea Katreena Cabico

Lack of recycling bins and storage space for recyclables are the top barriers to recycling single-use plastic bottles in Southeast Asia, a study of a Singapore-based consumer research firm suggested.

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CCC IN THE NEWS:

MAHARLIKA TV

[Climate Change Commission holds fora on food security, urban agriculture in Malabon](#)

Giving importance to sustained availability of food and sustenance, Climate Change Commissioner Albert Dela Cruz led a forum on food security and urban agriculture in Barangay Longos, Malabon to promote the Marcos administration’s climate action program and its food security agenda. Photo shows Comm. Dela Cruz (2nd from right) with Malabon City mayor Jeannie Sandoval and Bgy. Longos chairwoman Angelika Dela Cruz (right).

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[DENR vows to end plastic pollution in PH](#)

By: Marita Moaje

As the country celebrates Philippine Environment Month this June, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has vowed to fight the worsening plastic pollution in the country through the promotion of a circular plastic economy.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

BUSINESS WORLD

[Hearings begin in Torres Strait Islands's climate suit versus Australia](#)

Australian federal court officials on Monday began hearings on a lawsuit filed by a group of Torres Strait Islanders alleging the Australian government had failed to protect them from climate change, which threatens to destroy their homes.

The case, the first climate class action brought by Australia's First Nations people, was filed in 2021 on behalf of the remote islands of Boigu and Saibai in the Torres Strait off Australia's north coast.

The initial hearings will happen in the islands until June 19, with the court expected to hear from the islanders about the threats from rising sea to their culture, life and homes.

"From Saibai's point of view, they say by 2029 most of the low-lying islands in the Torres Strait will go underwater, that is very true because Saibai and Boigu will be the very first islands to disappear," Paul Kabai, one of the two plaintiffs, told Reuters.

The Torres Strait Islands face the threat of floods and salt ruining their soil as global warming leads to more storms and rising sea levels.

Plaintiffs are seeking court orders that require the federal government – which currently aims to reach net zero emissions by 2050 – to take more steps to hit that target earlier.

The case is being supported by a non-profit advocacy group, Grata Fund, and the Urgenda Foundation, and is being run by class action firm Phi Finney McDonald.

MANILA STANDARD

[German chamber, Napocor team up to study use of green hydrogen, fuel cell](#)

By: Othel V. Campos and Alena Mae S. Flores

The German-Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry and state-run National Power Corp. teamed up to conduct a feasibility study on the use of green hydrogen and fuel cell technologies in off-grid areas.

The collaboration aims to promote knowledge transfer, modernization opportunities and the economic achievement of clean and affordable energy.

“Napocor is excited to partner with GPCCI in exploring the potential of green hydrogen and fuel cell technologies in off-grid areas,” said Napocor president Fernando Martin Roxas.

“With our mandate to provide electricity to rural areas and our commitment to optimizing power generation assets, this collaboration presents an opportunity to modernize power systems and reduce emissions. We believe this feasibility study will pave the way for a sustainable and climate-friendly energy transition in the Philippines,” Roxas said.

The purpose of the joint project is to produce a comprehensive feasibility study titled “Feasibility Study for Green Hydrogen Technology in Off-Grid Areas in the Philippines.”

The study aims to support the modernization of power-generating assets in off-grid areas by exploring the potential replacement of diesel-powered systems with green hydrogen and fuel cell technologies.

The project, which will be implemented in three phases, aims to make a positive contribution to climate change by reducing emissions in an economically viable manner.

It is supported by the German Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, with the goal to promote technologies to protect the environment.

Two suitable sites will be selected based on criteria such as renewable resource availability, economic factors, accessibility and community support under phase 1 (set-up and coordination).

Napocor will provide technical and economic data, while GPCCI will assist in data gathering.

Phase 2 (execution of modeling and presentation of results) will involve the modeling of the selected sites by the Reiner Lemoine Institut in collaboration with stakeholders.

The results will be presented internally to the NPC and externally to interested parties through a technical event organized by GPCCI.

Phase 3 (evaluation of project results and public relations work) will see GPCCI launch an information campaign to disseminate the project's results through various channels, including interviews, podcasts, press releases and social media.

"The Philippines is experiencing rapid growth in energy demand, and the existing fossil fuel power generation capacity is unable to keep up with this growth in an environmentally friendly manner," said GPCCI president Stefan Schmitz.

"In light of the challenges related to energy supply and rising fuel and transportation costs that contribute to high electricity prices, the GPCCI and Napocor recognize the potential of hydrogen technology and fuel cells as an alternative energy solution for off-grid areas," he said.

The project aims to showcase the economic and environmental benefits of green hydrogen and fuel cell technologies while promoting sustainable development and supporting the country's development goals.

This collaboration also underscores the commitment of the German Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety to knowledge and technology transfer in the field of green hydrogen and fuel cell technologies.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[PH, Israel to share tech; partner on environment protection](#)

By: Joyce Ann L. Rocamora

The Philippines and Israel on Monday signed an agreement that will enhance the two nations' interactions on environment protection and technology sharing.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Cooperation in the Field of Environmental Protection was signed at the conclusion of the bilateral meeting between Foreign Affairs Secretary Enrique Manalo and visiting Israel Foreign Minister Eliyahu Cohen in Manila.

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said the deal would provide opportunities for both the Philippines and Israel to share best practices in addressing common challenges related to the environment, preservation of ecosystems, disaster risk management, and promotion and dissemination of environmental technologies, among others.

"We believe that close cooperation in the field of environmental protection can provide an important contribution to the friendly relations between our two states and to help in addressing issues of sustainability, climate change and help protect our planet," Cohen said.

In a separate statement, Cohen said Israel is also keen to improve existing partnerships with the country, particularly in agriculture and water, citing "huge potential" to make the two nations' 65-year-old relations more meaningful for its people.

"I see my visit to the Philippines as a strong political and economic message, a response to former President Rodrigo Roa Duterte's visit to Israel in 2018, which resulted in the establishment of Israeli Defense and Economic Attaché offices in Manila, the signing of bilateral agreements on OFWs, and the expansion of defense cooperation," he told the Philippine News Agency.

"I am sure that this visit will improve our already existing partnerships in agriculture, water, innovation and technology, and economic cooperation," he added.

'Developing bridges'

Over the past years, thousands of Filipinos have received training in Israel through its agency for international development cooperation, Mashav, in various areas such as

agriculture, water management, education, gender equality, women's empowerment, sustainability, and health, among others.

Cohen said some 5,550 Filipinos are currently completing an 11-month agricultural internship to learn about and experience contemporary and lucrative farming.

Israel also extended humanitarian assistance to the Philippines when Typhoons Yolanda, Odette, and Paeng battered the country.

"With this visit and the Israeli Embassy's active involvement in the public and business sectors in the Philippines, we look forward to a brighter future for our relations," he said.

Cohen's trip to the Philippines is the first by an Israeli foreign minister after more than 50 years.

The last Israeli minister of foreign affairs to visit Manila was Abba Eban in 1967.

War on garbage: Continuous zero waste IEC program

By: Prof. Julio O. Castillo, Jr., DBA

As our society continuously progresses through modernization, our world is facing a multitude of environmental challenges that include climate change, soil and forest degradation and pollution, among other issues. It is incumbent upon us to take steps toward protecting and preserving our environment for generations to come.

The global community, in recent years, has become more aware of the consequences of environmental degradation and waste mismanagement. The Philippines has been making strides towards enacting pro-environment programs. The Marcos administration's current environmental initiatives, focusing on resiliency and adaptation to the "new normal" of climate change have made significant headway in addressing these issues.

One of the most effective ways to preserve the environment is through proper waste management. Efficient waste management programs can influence positive changes in the environment and contribute to ecological sustainability toward a better future for our children and our planet. By reducing our overall consumption and by reusing and recycling our resources, we can ensure that we safeguard our environment. In doing so, we contribute to the government's programs and even support our local communities' initiatives that promote environmental protection and preservation.

The process of implementing the 3R's -- Reduce, Reuse and Recycle -- can practically go a long way in protecting our environment and natural resources.

Our personal commitment to implement 3R's has led to the establishment of Project Luntian Cavite. Along with five of our neighbors at Barangay Pasong Kawayan 2 in General Trias, Cavite we organized said group in April of 2018 with the main purpose of educating the people in our community on the proper ways to handle and dispose of household wastes. From this small membership, we grew to over 400 active member volunteers who are seriously exerting efforts to care for the environment. In inspiring our community, it has resulted in the extension of our advocacy on the 3R's IEC (information, education campaign) program in the entire Cavite province.

Our goal is to promote and implement the 3R's under Republic Act 9003 or the "Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000" that was enacted during the term of then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

We adhere to the provisions of the said legislation to ensure the protection of public health and environment; utilize environmentally-sound methods that maximize the utilization of valuable resources and encourage resource conservation and recovery; set

guidelines and targets for solid waste avoidance and volume reduction through source reduction and waste minimization measures, including composting, recycling, re-use, recovery, green charcoal process, and others, before collection, treatment and disposal in appropriate and environmentally sound solid waste management facilities in accordance with ecologically sustainable development principles; and to ensure the proper segregation, collection, transport, storage, treatment and disposal of solid waste through the formulation and adoption of the best environmental practice in ecological waste management excluding incineration, among others.

My personal advocacy for environmental sustainability started during PGMA's term in Malacañang as an associate at the Malacañang Ecological Solid Waste Management Office (MESWMO) which she established. We coordinated with the members of the Malacañang League of Barangays (MALBAR) to conduct lectures on how to properly manage wastes and convert recyclables into income-generating projects.

Project Luntian Cavite was involved in extensive efforts for this cause through various activities in General Trias, Cavite. We conducted lectures and symposia in several locations and discussed the topic "zero-waste at source," among others. Volunteerism and commitment to environmental protection was the main key to the success of such projects with proper recognition from the local government unit and the City Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) of General Trias under the leadership of Dr. Renato Escurel.

This initiative went on as more and more groups from various areas of the province, LGUs and the private sector joined us in this noble cause. Eventually, the Akbay Kalikasan Environmental Society, Inc. (AKESI) / Project Luntian Cavite was established in the Municipality of Tanza Cavite in the year 2020. Our vision is to reach other areas in the country to involve more volunteers to achieve our goals. At present, AKESI have affiliates in the town of Minalin in Pampanga and Rosario, Batangas. The group is actively gaining support not only in the province of Cavite but in other provinces as well like Batangas, Paniqui and Pampanga.

The importance of implementing an efficient waste management program cannot be stressed enough. This program can significantly reduce the amount of waste that ends up in landfills and reduce the negative impact on our environment. Simply put, it is a systematic approach to manage waste in a way that is environmentally sustainable.

The 3R is the cornerstones of a successful waste management program.

- Reduce is to limit the use of commodities to the minimum necessary. This means that we should shun the temptation of overconsumption and let go of things we do not need.
- Reuse is all about finding alternative ways to use a product before it is disposed of.

-- Recycle is transforming a discarded item to create new products that will be usable.

An effective waste management program should be anchored on pro-environment policies and programs. The Marcos administration has been proactive in promoting pro-environment programs such as renewable energy, biodiversity conservation and sustainable agriculture. It is essential to align waste management programs with these initiatives to ensure their success.

Environmental protection is everyone's responsibility. We must all do our part... all of us must be volunteers in advocating the 3R's and supporting pro-environment programs. The benefits will be immeasurable towards maintaining a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable world.

Let us all act now!

Let us embrace this change in lifestyle and do our part towards protecting and preserving the environment. We can make a difference and influence positive changes in the society and generally in our world.

RAPPLER

[Marcos urged to protect Masungi Geopark Project from contract cancellation](#)

By: Iya Gozum

Environmental advocates, scientists, and government leaders urged President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to protect the Masungi Geopark Project's (MGP) contract from possible cancellation.

Seventy individuals appealed to the Marcos administration to save the reforestation site in Rizal province and its defenders, in an open letter released on Monday, June 5.

The letter reads, "With looming threats to cancel the MGP 2017 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Masungi Georeserve Foundation (MGFI) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the signatories called on the Marcos administration to uphold its commitment to achieving the country's climate and biodiversity targets."

Signatories of the open letter include Palawan 3rd District Representative Edward Hagedorn, Pasig City Mayor Vico Sotto, and Neric Acosta, chairperson of non-profit organization Philippine Center for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development.

The contract, signed in 2017 under the leadership of the late former environment secretary Gina Lopez, mandates the MGFI to rehabilitate around 2,700 hectares of deforested land in the Upper Marikina Watershed.

It is currently under scrutiny, with the DENR now contesting the constitutionality of the perpetual land trust granted to the MGFI.

The Department of Justice also released a formal opinion saying that this particular provision violates Section 2, Article XII of the 1987 Constitution, which provides that such agreements must not exceed a period of 25 years.

Ann Dumaliang, one of the managing trustees of the MGFI, told Rappler the foundation is also calling on the President to help convene an oversight committee.

This committee shall be chaired by the environment secretary herself, as stipulated in the contract, and would provide guidance to the operations of the conservation project.

Ways forward

There is no doubt that the foundation has done good work, Environment Secretary Toni Yulo-Loyzaga admitted in a press conference on Monday, June 5.

“However, there are certain features of this agreement that really bring it into question,” said Loyzaga. “And because of those features, we will need to take the appropriate actions.”

If the contract is cancelled, the DENR will take over the rehabilitation site through the department’s Project TRANSFORM.

The project would involve concerned local government units, academic institutions, and different public and private sectors, the DENR chief said.

“This shall be a whole-of-government and a whole-of-society effort,” Loyzaga said. “And not just the effort of one single foundation or entity because in fact we all are part of this environment and not just that one foundation.”

SUNSTAR

[Tell it to SunStar: Protecting our food sources](#)

Marking Monday, June 5, 2023, as World Environment Day, we joined fisherfolk group Pamalakaya and environmental activists in calling for an end to nationwide reclamation projects destroying critical coastal ecosystems.

We would like to highlight the massive displacement of fisherfolk communities due to ongoing dredging and reclamation projects and the repercussions on the natural environment, as well as the effects of destroying fishing grounds on national food security.

Reclamation is one of the major threats to Philippine food security.

By destroying the marine environment where our fishers make their catches, you not only destroy the livelihood of the poorest sector in the Philippines but also a significant food source for the entire country. Most of the fish that we eat still comes from small fisherfolk.

The destruction of our fishing grounds is another excuse to bloat massive importation, a trend that is worsening under the Marcos administration.

We supported the fishers and environmental groups in holding the 3rd National People's Summit against Reclamation last June 3-4, 2023 in the National Capital Region. The summit provided a venue for fisherfolk and environmentalists to voice their concerns and demands over the immediate and long-term effects of reclamation.

According to Pamalakaya, there are 187 ongoing reclamation projects across the country, spanning 25,000 hectares of fishing waters. Thirty of these projects are located in Manila Bay.

We must also raise the alarm over the environmental impacts of reclamation, especially now that we are facing the climate crisis and rising sea levels.

The global food crisis will only continue to get worse under climate change.

This is the time to urgently protect our food sources -- our fishing grounds and our agricultural lands. Instead, corporations and government compradors profit from their destruction.

THE MANILA TIMES

Phivolcs warns against impending Mayon explosion

By: Rhaydz Barcia

Following the increasing restiveness of Mount Mayon, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) on Monday raised to Level 2 the alert status over the volcano in Albay province.

Phivolcs resident volcanologist chief Dr. Paul Alanis also told The Manila Times that a deadly pyroclastic flow might occur if the lava dome of the volcano collapses.

A pyroclastic flow is a fast-moving current of hot gas containing a high-density mix of hot lava blocks, pumice, ash and volcanic gas, Alanis explained. The pyroclastic can tumble at a very high speed down volcanic slopes with extreme temperatures of rocks and gas generally between 200 C and 700 C (390-1300 F) and can ignite fires, he added.

The possible direction of pyroclastic flow, Alanis said, is the southeast quadrant of the volcano and could be a threat to Legazpi City and the municipalities of Sto. Domingo, Daraga and Camalig.

It can be recalled that in 1993, at least 77 farmers were killed after a pyroclastic flow tumbled down the slopes of Mount Mayon generated by the sudden phreatic explosion. Legazpi City Mayor Geraldine Rosal, meanwhile, issued a directive to the City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (CDRRMO) and Climate Change Resilience Council to be ready with contingency plans to ensure the safety of the public.

In her directive, Rosal told the barangay (village) leaders along the slope of the Volcano, such as Mabinit, Buyuan, Matanag, Bogña and Padang, to take all necessary precautionary measures and constantly monitor the alerts issued by the Phivolcs and the local government units.

"The public is reminded that entry in the six-kilometer permanent danger zone and other activities like ATV rides, mountain climbing, hiking and quarrying must be strictly avoided due to the increase in the chances of sudden stream-driven or phreatic explosion as well as perennial hazards or rock falls, avalanches and ash burst at the summit area that may occur without warning," Rosal said.

Residents living in valleys and active river channels are cautioned to remain vigilant against sediment-laden stream flows and lahar in the event of prolonged and heavy

rainfall brought by the advent of the rainy season and all are enjoined to properly coordinate with the CDRRMO.

Rock fall

Phivolcs chief Teresito "Toto" Bacolcol said that since last the week of April, daily visual and camera monitoring of the summit crater revealed an increase in rock fall from the volcano's summit lava dome indicating aseismic growth.

"Rock fall increased in frequency from an average of five events a day to 49 events per day from 5 a.m., June 4 to 5 a.m., June 5," Bacolcol said.

Since April, the agency said a total of 318 rock fall events have been recorded by the Mayon Volcano Network while 26 volcanic earthquakes have been recorded for the same period.

The advisory explained that the longer-term ground deformation parameters based on electronic distance measuring, precise leveling, continuous global positioning system, and electronic tilt monitoring indicate that the volcano is still inflated, especially on the northwest and southeast since 2020.

Phivolcs also said the highest sulfur dioxide (SO₂) emission was recorded on April 29 at 576 tons and the last measurement on May 23 at 162 tons.

These low-level volcanic earthquakes, ground deformation, and volcanic gas parameters are overshadowed by recent steep increases in rock fall events which may possibly lead to further dome activity, said Bacolcol.

Commercial and private planes on Monday were also advised to avoid areas near the volcano.

Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines spokesman Eric Apolonio said that flights have been prohibited to operate 10,000 feet from the surface and advised to avoid flying close to the volcanos' summit as ash from the sudden phreatic eruption can be hazardous to aircraft.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[Bad habits, lack of bins hinder plastic bottle recycling in Southeast Asia — study](#)

By: Gaea Katreena Cabico

Lack of recycling bins and storage space for recyclables are the top barriers to recycling single-use plastic bottles in Southeast Asia, a study of a Singapore-based consumer research firm suggested.

In a study released ahead of World Environment Day, Milieu Insight found the lack of easily-accessible recycling chutes or areas (44%), inadequate storage space for materials for recycling (43%), and the habit of disposing of plastic waste instead of recycling (35%) were cited by Southeast Asian consumers as their top reasons for not recycling.

“It is a cause of concern to observe that many consumers remain relatively complacent and continue to cite inconvenience as a reason for not recycling, especially when a significant majority of nearly eight in 10 respondents agree that single-use plastic bottles present a pressing environmental problem,” the research firm said.

No place to put plastics

Fifty-two percent of Southeast Asian respondents said they would be more inclined to recycle if recycling areas were more accessible.

Forty-four percent of consumers in the region said the availability of a designated space to store their recyclables and another 44% said that reward, whether monetary or non-monetary, would encourage them to engage in recycling more often.

In the Philippines, the top motivators for recycling were the presence of areas to keep recyclables (49%), more accessible recycling bins (44%), when people around them are also recycling (43%), and when they have the time to recycle (39%).

‘Readily available’ plastic bottles

According to the poll, only 7% of the Filipino respondents rely on single-use plastic bottles for their water consumption as half depend on larger and reusable plastic bottles used in water dispensers.

But 70% of the Filipino respondents said they consume products in plastic bottles because those are readily available.

Twenty-six percent of the Filipinos surveyed said they always recycle plastic bottles, and 25% said they often do it after drinking water. Meanwhile, 35% said they sometimes recycle plastic bottles, 17% said they rarely do it, and only 3% said never.

The study also found that 88% of Filipinos strongly agree that everyone has a part to play in reducing single-use plastic bottles.

Milieu Insight surveyed 1,000 respondents in Singapore and 500 respondents each in the Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam and Malaysia. The survey was conducted in May.

'Ban single-use plastics'

This year's World Environment Day focuses on solutions to plastic pollution.

Oceana Philippines renewed its call to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the National Solid Waste Commission to ban single-use plastic in the country.

"They had the chance to turn off the tap and avoid the onslaught of plastics and microplastics in the air and in the ocean more than 20 years ago, but they reneged on their mandate under the law to ban single-use plastics," said Rose Liza Eisma-Osorio, acting vice president and legal and policy director of Oceana Philippines.

According to a study of the Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology, residents of Metro Manila are at risk of inhaling microplastics in the environment.

An earlier study of the DENR's Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau found microplastics in 10 study sites, with the Tañon Strait Protected Seascape—the country's largest protected seascape and major fishing ground topping the list—having the highest density.

In a briefing Monday, Environment Secretary Antonia Loyzaga acknowledged that the country is "not winning the war against single use-plastics."

"If we cannot address the social issue, we will not be able to address the use of single-use plastic especially for certain sectors of our economy," she said. Sachets give the country's poorest people access to everyday household essentials.

The country has an Extended Producer Responsibility law, which aims to address the mismanagement of plastic waste and uphold circularity by requiring large enterprises to recover or offset their plastic packaging footprint.

Over the weekend, around 170 countries agreed to develop a first draft a much needed international treaty to combat plastic pollution by the end of November.

[Green advocates, scientists urge Marcos to protect Masungi's reforestation efforts](#)

By: Gaea Katreena Cabico

Environmentalists, scientists and government officials appealed to President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. on Monday to protect the ecologically important Masungi Geopark Project and its defenders.

In an open letter released on World Environment Day, 70 individuals urged Marcos to support the 2,700-hectare reforestation project in the Upper Marikina Watershed, a critical protected area in Rizal province.

“We condemn the attacks against Masungi’s environment defenders in the form of disinformation, political and legal harassment, and physical violence. These heroes deserve the nation’s gratitude, not oppression,” the letter read.

The signatories stressed the “invaluable” contributions of the Masungi Geopark Project in rescuing abused forestland, protecting the watershed from “syndicates” and quarry operators, and transforming ancient limestones into a globally-acclaimed conservation model at no cost to the government.

“Verily, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources’ moves to discredit, undermine or altogether scrap the Masungi Geopark Project [go] against our national agenda and international commitments,” they added.

Signatories of the letter include Pasig City Mayor Vico Sotto, Rep. Ed Hagedorn (Palawan) and Philippine Center for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development chair Neric Acosta.

‘Questionable’ features of deal

Under a 2017 agreement between the foundation and then-environment chief Gina Lopez, Masungi will plant and nurture trees to help heal a 2,700-hectare area in the Upper Marikina Watershed.

But the DENR is now claiming the agreement’s provision on perpetual land trust for conservation is unconstitutional.

“There is no doubt that there has been good work done by this group,” Environment Secretary Antonia Loyzaga said in a briefing Monday.

“However, there are certain features of this agreement that really bring it into question, and because of those features we will need to take appropriate actions,” she added.

The DENR will take charge of the reforestation project through its Project TRANSFORM (Transdisciplinary Approach for Resilient and Sustainable Communities) in the event of the cancellation of the agreement with Masungi.

“This will be a whole-of-government, whole-of-society effort and not just the effort of one single foundation or entity, because in fact we are part of this environment and not just one foundation,” Loyzaga.

Over the years, Masungi has locked horns with quarry operators, resort owners and other entities who illegally occupy forestlands within the Upper Marikina Watershed.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

MAHARLIKA TV

[Climate Change Commission holds fora on food security, urban agriculture in Malabon](#)

Giving importance to sustained availability of food and sustenance, Climate Change Commissioner Albert Dela Cruz led a forum on food security and urban agriculture in Barangay Longos, Malabon to promote the Marcos administration's climate action program and its food security agenda. Photo shows Comm. Dela Cruz (2nd from right) with Malabon City mayor Jeannie Sandoval and Bgy. Longos chairwoman Angelika Dela Cruz (right).



Climate Change Commission holds fora on food security, urban agriculture in Malabon

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[DENR vows to end plastic pollution in PH](#)

By: Marita Moaje

As the country celebrates Philippine Environment Month this June, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has vowed to fight the worsening plastic pollution in the country through the promotion of a circular plastic economy.

DENR Secretary Antonia Loyzaga, in a news release issued on Monday, said she wants to promote reuse, recycling and responsible management of plastic waste during and after use to enable a lower greenhouse gas emissions plastic economy.

In January, Loyzaga signed the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 11898, or the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Act of 2022.

“The EPR law aims to address the mismanagement of plastic waste and uphold circularity through maximizing the material value of plastics as it serves as the environmental policy approach and practice that requires producers to be environmentally responsible throughout the life cycle of a product, especially its post-consumer or end-of-life stage,” Loyzaga said.

By virtue of Proclamation No. 237 signed in 1988 by President Corazon Aquino, the month of June was declared Philippine Environment Month to raise environmental consciousness among Filipinos.

The DENR led the local celebration of World Environment Day, with the theme “No To Waste: Advancing Circular Economy to #BeatPlasticPollution,” with a tree-planting activity at Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center in Quezon City on Monday.

A forum was also held at the DENR central office in Diliman, together with strategic partners from the private sector, where best practices on plastic waste management were shared.

According to the United Nations, over 400 million tons of plastic are produced worldwide every year, one-third of which is used just once. It also said that every day, the equivalent of over 2,000 garbage trucks full of plastic is dumped into the world’s oceans, rivers and lakes.

In a separate event also on Monday, the DENR - Environmental Management Bureau recognized women’s organizations and their significant contributions to the planning,

implementation, and monitoring of environmental management projects through the "Luntiang Puso - Women in Action for Environment" awarding ceremony.

Cooperation

Meanwhile, Senate President Pro Tempore Loren Legarda urged local government units and other stakeholders to implement environmental laws as she expressed hopes to curb plastic pollution by 2024.

In a statement on Sunday, Legarda renewed her call to comply with Republic Act 9003, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, and for the implementing agencies, led by the DENR, to take strategic actions to ensure compliance.

"With the negotiations rolling, we are hopefully months away from a global plastics treaty that will address the scourge of plastic pollution," she said, referring to the ongoing talks by country delegations, non-government organizations, and industry representatives in Paris, France on a legally binding pact that aims to stop the upsurge of plastic waste.

A report by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in March 2022 said plastic wastes produced globally will almost triple by 2060, with around half ending up in landfills and less than a fifth recycled.

The report estimated that almost two-thirds of plastic waste in 2060 will be from short-lived items such as packaging, low-cost products and textiles.

"If we want a world that is free of plastic pollution, in line with the ambitions of the United Nations Environment Assembly, we will need to take much more stringent and globally coordinated action," OECD secretary general Mathias Cormann said in the report.

More efforts, activities

On June 7, the DENR is set to sign three memoranda of agreement together with the Office of the Vice President for "PagbaBAGo: A Million Learners and Trees" program, Energy Development Corporation for nature-based solutions, and Green Convergence for greenhouse gas accounting.

The DENR, in partnership with the United Nations Development Program Philippines and the Climate Change Commission, will launch the nationwide campaign "LOOPFORWARD: Linking Opportunities and Partnerships Towards Circular Economy through EPR" on June 19 to support the implementation of the EPR law.

The event aims to convene the national government, private sector and other development partners to inform stakeholders on their roles and gather support for the EPR Act implementation.

To spread awareness on marine litter, its impact on communities and wildlife, and empower young people to take action on its prevention as individuals, in their households, and in their communities, the DENR and UN-Habitat Philippines will hold on June 21 to 23 the first Marine Litter Learning Activity.

The activity will be participated in by representatives from youth-led organizations on the environment and officers of Youth for Environment in Schools Organization (YES-O).

Loyzaga emphasized the important role that the youth sector plays in protecting the environment and in fighting the effects of climate change.

She also cited the importance of joining forces with the youth, listening to their ideas, and engaging them in environmental conservation and protection.

As a culminating activity for Environment Month, the EMB will launch on June 30 the Luntiang Puso - Outstanding Community Livelihood Projects Through Local Waste Recovery.

The event aims to recognize livelihood programs initiated by communities to reduce and recover waste.

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