

DATE: AUGUST 21, 2020

DAY: FRIDAY

DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service

DENR's six-year strategic plan under review

Published August 20, 2020, 1:02 PM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources' (DENR) six-year strategic plan is being reviewed for enrichments, to align scheduled programs and activities with the current state of the country as it continues to face the effects of climate change, health, and gender issues.



(MANILA BULLETIN FILE PHOTO)

Undersecretary for Climate Change and chairperson of the DENR-Gender and Development Focal Point System (GADFPS) Analiza Rebuelta-Teh is reviewing the 2020-2025 plan with GAD focal persons and planning officers from different central, bureaus, attached agencies and regional offices of the DENR.

Providing inputs were in-house GAD consultant Shalimar Vitan for concerns involving the GAD strategic plan, and feedback/comments to the 2021 Draft GAD plans and budgets; DENR Climate Change Service Director and concurrent DENR GAD Office Director Elenida Basug for linking ENR with climate change, gender and health in GAD strategic and annual plans; ERDB chief Marilyn Lalican for the proposed data sets for baseline data gathering; and GAD external consultant Wilma Rojas for laying down the proposed enrichments to the GAD strategic plan.

Prior to the meeting, a series of webinars on the priority programs of the DENR were conducted from July 8 to Aug. 12.

Webinars were conducted on "Pursuing Climate, Gender, and Health-responsive Programs" in the following sectors: biodiversity, forestry, solid waste and hazardous wastes, air quality, water sector, land, and mineral resources development.

Teh explained the webinars helped all concerned better understand the links, and identify entry points in mainstreaming, and emphasized the need to seriously consider going beyond mainstreaming gender in the priority programs of the DENR.

She reminded the participants of the potential of women as "game changers," "active stakeholders," and agents of change for resilient development.

The webinar participants were provided with a briefer, "Beyond Gender Mainstreaming: Linking Environment and Natural Resources (ENR), Climate Change, Health and Gender (Guide to Planning for Gender and Development in the ENR Sector)" produced by the Office of the DENR Undersecretary for Climate Change and its Climate Change Service, to aid the participants through their enhancement process.

The deadline for submission of the revised/enhanced GAD Strategic Plans per sector is on August 21. These will be consolidated as the Updated DENR National Strategic Plan (2020-2025), and the GAD Plans and Budgets for 2021 by August 27, before these will be submitted to the Philippine Commission on Women in September.

DENR charges individual for dumping chemicals in river

Published August 20, 2020, 2:43 PM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is filing environmental cases against an individual who allegedly dumped chemical wastes in a river in Tuy, Batangas last Wednesday afternoon.



TUY MUNICIPAL POLICE STATION / MANILA BULLETIN

“Patong-patong na kaso ang kakaharapin ng may-ari ng lupa sa Tuy, Batangas na si Romano Cabrera dahil sa ginawang paghuhugas ng mga gamit na drum na may laman na chemical [na ginagamit sa paggawa] ng sabon. (The landowner in Tuy, Batangas, Romano Cabrera, is facing multiple charges for washing in the river drums containing chemical (used in the manufacture) of soap,” DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny Antiporda said.

DENR, together with the local government of Tuy, and the Philippine National Police, recovered 16 drums from the area. Cabrera was arrested last Wednesday afternoon.

Antiporda said the suspect will be charged for violation of the Republic Act (RA) 6969 or the Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act of 1990, and RA 9275 or the Clean Water Act of 2004.

“Ang RA 6969 ay violation sa handling ng hazardous waste at toxic substance. Yung RA 9275 naman ay violation sa Clean Water Act dahil wala ring water discharge permit itong pinaghugasan ng mga gamit na drum na bina buy and sell ni Mr. Cabrera. (RA 6969 is a violation of the handling of hazardous waste and toxic substances. RA 9275 is a violation of the Clean Water Act because the person also does not have a water discharge permit for the water used to wash the drums that are supposedly for the buy-and-sell business of Mr. Cabrera),” the DENR official explained.

The suspect is currently in jail while authorities are preparing the charges to be filed against him.

“Kasama sa mga ikakaso sa kanya ng LGU ay ang kawalan ng mayor’s permit (Among the charges that will be filed against him by the local government unit is the absence of a mayor’s permit for his business),” Antiporda said.

He pointed out that the incident led to the death of a number of catfish and eel along the river.

“Asahan natin na maaakasyunan po ito dahil grabe yung ginawang damage nito sa ating environment kung saan naglutangan ang mga hito at igat sa sapa na yan (We hope that this will be acted upon because it has done so much damage to our environment where catfish and eels floated in that creek),” Antiporda said.

A team from the DENR-Environmental Management Bureau already took water samples to determine the specific chemicals that were thrown into the river.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2020/08/20/denr-charges-individual-for-dumping-chemicals-in-river/>

DENR tests Batangas river after 'bubble' mess

By: [Maricar Cinco](#) - Reporter / [@maricarcincoINQ](#)

[Inquirer Southern Luzon](#) / 02:10 PM August 20, 2020

SAN PEDRO CITY — Two persons were charged on Thursday with violations of the Clean Water Act after washing used plastic drums with detergent soap in a river in the town of Tuy in Batangas province.

Batangas environment chief Noel Recillo said the men used a good amount of detergent that left a thick bubble foam in a river in Barangay Bayudbud on Wednesday.

“The bubble (foam) went as big as (the size of) a tree,” Recillo said, alarming the community and local officials.

The police, on late Wednesday, arrested Mark Anthony Austria and Romano Cabrera, who owned a shop that bought and sold used plastic drums from industries.

It turned out that the suspects also did not have a permit to run the business.

A Department of Environment and Natural Resources team took water samples from the river on Thursday to see if other chemicals were used.

Aside from the Clean Water Act, the suspects were also charged with violation of the Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act, which carries the penalty of six months to six years imprisonment and a fine of P600 to P4,000.

LZB

DENR exec: Suspect to be charged for dumping
chemicals in Batangas river

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Photo courtesy of Tuy Municipal Police Station

DENR exec: Suspect to be charged for dumping chemicals in Batangas river

Published August 20, 2020 4:55pm

By JOVILAND RITA, GMA News

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources is filing charges against the suspect who dumped chemical wastes into a river in Tuy, Batangas that created huge foam, photos of which had gone viral online after being shared by the police.

In a video message sent to reporters, DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda said that one of the arrested individuals, land owner Romano Cabrera, 46, will face charges.

“Patong-patong na kaso ang kakaharapin ng may-ari nitong lupa na si Mr. Romano Cabrera dahil sa ginawa nitong paghuhugas ng mga gamit na drum dyan na may laman na chemical ng sabon,” he said.

Antiporda said they will file charges for his violation of the Philippine Clean Water Act and the Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act.



Courtesy of Tuy Municipal Police Station

DENR exec: Suspect to be charged for dumping
chemicals in Batangas river

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“Yung Republic Act 6969, ito po 'yung violation sa handling po ng hazardous waste at toxic substance,” Antiporda said.

“Yun naman pong RA 9275, ito po ‘yung Clean Water Act dahil wala rin pong water discharge permit itong mga pinaghugasan ng gamit na drum na inaasahan pong bina-buy and sell nitong si Mr. Cabrera,” he added.

Aside from the DENR, the local government unit will also file charges against Cabrera due to lack of permits from the municipal government, according to Antiporda

DENR’s Environmental Management Bureau is currently inspecting the concerned body of water to determine the chemicals poured into it.

“Asahan po natin na maaaksyunan ito dahil grabe po ‘yung ginawang damage nito sa ating environment wherein naglutangan po ‘yung mga hito at igat dyan sa sapa na ‘yan,” Antiporda added.

On Wednesday, [police had received a call from barangay officials that the suspects](#) were throwing some chemical substance in the river.

The suspects, Cabrera and 38-year-old Mark Anthony Austria, were caught by the police cleaning 16 drums of chemical substance that was supposedly thrown in the river. They were arrested, reports said. —**LBG, GMA News**

Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/regions/752217/denr-exec-suspect-to-be-charged-for-dumping-chemicals-in-batangas-river/story/?utm_source=GMAnews&utm_medium=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR2gxjKu6PuOxGd3yADRwcpSO TRGHceI3V40FEkwTKpU3mJdxe8nAK3EZyY

Man nabbed in Batangas for illegal discharge of hazardous waste

By Marita Moaje August 20, 2020, 5:52 pm



MANILA – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will file multiple charges against a man in Batangas who was arrested because of illegal discharge of hazardous waste from used drums allegedly containing chemicals.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources Undersecretary Benny Antiporda on Thursday said the arrest was made in coordination with the local government of Batangas and the Philippine National Police (PNP).

The suspect, identified as Romano Cabrera, is said to be the owner of the lot located in Barangay Bayudbod, Tuy, Batangas, where used drums containing chemicals used for making soap are being washed.

Antiporda said the illegal discharge of hazardous waste caused great damage to the environment.

"*Grabe yung ginawang damage nito sa environment wherein naglutangan yung mga hito at igat sa sapa* (grave environmental damages resulted from this incident as catfish and eels from the nearby stream died)," he said.

A total of 16 used drums were recovered from Cabrera, who is believed to be in the business of buying and selling of the said drums.

He is now detained at Tuy, Batangas Police Station.

Cabrera will be facing multiple charges which include violation of the Republic Act 9275 or the Philippine Clean Water Act and Republic Act 6969 otherwise known as the Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act of 1990.

Moreover, the LGU will also be filing charges against Cabrera for lack of necessary permits from the municipality, including the Mayor's Permit, to be able to operate his business.

The DENR's Environmental Management Bureau is already on-site to check the water quality in the area and to determine what kind of chemicals were dumped by the suspect. **(PNA)**

Trader nabbed for allegedly polluting Batangas river with toxic chemicals

By [Jonathan L. Mayuga](#)

August 21, 2020

A trader engaged in buying and selling of used chemical containers is facing criminal charges for allegedly dumping toxic chemicals into a river in Tuy, Batangas, last Wednesday.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary Benny D. Antiporda said 46-year-old Romano Cabrera is now facing charges for alleged violation of Republic Act 6969, or Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act of 1990, and Republic Act 9275 or the Clean Water Act of 2004.

Antiporda, who heads DENR's Solid Waste Management and Local Government Unit Concerns, told reporters via Viber that Cabrera is also facing charges for conducting business without the necessary permits from LGU office.

An initial investigation report alleged that Cabrera was dumping toxic wastes into a river in Barangay Bayudbud where he was washing foul-smelling drums.

Residents of Barangay Bayudbud and nearby Barangay Sabang, however, complained of the foul smell and fish mortality caused by Cabrera's frequent drum washing and reported these to the authorities, leading to the trader's arrest.

Antiporda said Cabrera's washing of his drums may have caused fish in the river to die and float.

Police reportedly recovered from Cabrera 16 drums containing still unknown chemicals.

According to Antiporda, Cabrera appears to have bought the containers, which he may have intended to sell after washing and cleaning. "The damage he did for the environment is serious. *Naglutangan ang mga igat at hito sa ilog,*" the DENR official said.

Antiporda said a team from the DENR-Environment Management Bureau Calabarzon Office has been dispatched in the area to conduct further investigation to the extent of damage caused by Cabrera.

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2020/08/21/trader-nabbed-for-allegedly-polluting-batangas-river-with-toxic-chemicals/>

2 huli sa pagtatapon ng kemikal sa sapa sa Batangas;

TITLE: higanteng bula lumitaw

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2 huli sa pagtatapon ng kemikal sa sapa sa Batangas; higanteng bula lumitaw

Dennis Datu, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Aug 20 2020 01:50 PM | Updated as of Aug 20 2020 07:32 PM



MAYNILA (UPDATE) - Arestado ang dalawang lalaki na nagtapon umano ng mga kemikal sa sapa sa Tuy, Batangas, na siyang dahilan ng paglitaw ng mga higanteng bula sa tubigan nitong Miyerkoles.

Lumitaw ang mga higanteng bula na masangsang ang amoy sa sapa sa Barangay Sabang at Bayudbud sa bayan ng Tuy. Nagdulot ng pagkamatay ng mga isda ang itinapong kemikal.



2 huli sa pagtatapon ng kemikal sa sapa sa Batangas;

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Sa pagresponde ng Tuy Police at Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office, inabutan nila ang dalawang lalaki na naghuhugas ng mga drum sa sapa.

Agad silang inaresto matapos matuklasan na sila ang nagtapon sa ilog ng mga kemikal mula sa drum.

“Sa pamamagitan po nito eh, ito po ay nakita na hinuhugasan po nila at tinatapon po dun sa ilog, kaya po ito ay naging sanhi po ng pagkamatay ng ilog,” ani Tuy Police Station chief Major Von Eric Gualberto.

Hindi pa matukoy ang uri ng kemikal at kung sino ang may-ari ng mga ito.

Nasa 16 na drum na pinaglagyan ng itinapong kemikal ang nasamsam ng mga otoridad.

Dumating na rin sa Tuy ang mga tauhan ng Environmental Management Bureau ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources para mag imbestiga.

Aminado ang mga suspek na hinugasan nila ang mga drum na binili pala na basura mula sa isang pagawaan at ibebenta sana nila ang mga ito.

Nabatid din ng mga awtoridad na may taon na ring nakalipas nang ipasara ang naturang negosyo dahil sa reklamo ng mga tao.

Nakatakdang kasuhan ang dalawang suspek ng paglabag sa Republic Act (RA) 6969 o Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Waste Control Act of 1990 at RA 9003 o Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

-- May ulat ni **Jorge Carino**, ABS-CBN News

2 behind viral giant foams in Batangas River arrested

Published August 20, 2020, 3:50 PM

by [Aaron Recuenco](#)

The mysterious build-up of giant foams in a river in Tuy town of Batangas that went viral on social media is now solved after the arrest of two people on Wednesday.

Col. Rex Malimban, director of the Batangas Provincial Police Office, said the investigation they conducted disclosed that the giant foams found in a river in Barangay Bayudbud apparently were a result of chemicals dumped by the suspects into the river.

He identified the suspects as Romano Cabrera, 46; and, Mark Anthony Austria, 38. Both are residents of Tuy town.

The photos of the giant foams went viral on social media, with some netizens saying that it could be the result of water pollution from chemicals being spilled into the river.

At around 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Malimban said his men received a call from local residents about two persons dumping something into a river in Barangay Bayudbud.

Local police immediately went to the area and arrested the two suspects.

“They were caught cleaning 16 drums containing chemicals which they were disposing into the river,” said Malimban.

The two were immediately taken to the police station and are facing criminal charges for violation of Republic Act 6969, the Toxic Substance and Hazardous and Nuclear Waste Control Act of 1990; and, RA 9003, the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act.

Malimban said they are now conducting an investigation to determine if the two were just ordered to dispose of the chemicals into the river or acted on their own.



Chemical waste foams after two men tossed the substance into a river in Tuy, Batangas on Wednesday in this handout photo.

STAR/File

2 held for dumping chemical waste into river

[Emmanuel Tupas](#) (The Philippine Star) - August 21, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Two persons were arrested for allegedly dumping chemical waste into a river in Tuy, Batangas on Wednesday.

Romano Cabrera, 46, and Mark Anthony Austria, 38, were apprehended in Barangay Bayudbud by police officers who responded to reports that two men were disposing chemical substance at around 5 p.m.

Authorities said portions of the river were covered by foam when they arrived.

Cabrera and Austria were caught cleaning several drums, which supposedly contained the chemical.

The suspects face charges for violation of Republic Act 6969 or the Toxic Substances and Hazardous Nuclear Wastes Control Act and RA 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act.

'Foam' mystery solved: 2 men held for dumping chemicals on Batangas river

Published 15 hours ago on August 20, 2020 04:03 PM

By [John Roson](#)



Two men were arrested for allegedly dumping chemicals that caused the mysterious appearance of a large foam line along a river in Tuy, Batangas.

Arrested were Romano Cabrera, 46, of Brgy. Bayudbud, and Mark Anthony Austria, 38, of Brgy. Sabang, according to a report from the Batangas provincial police.

Members of the Tuy Police apprehended the two in Brgy. Bayudbud, around 6 p.m. Wednesday.

Officials of Brgys. Sabang and Bayudbud earlier told police that they saw people throwing chemicals into the river, where the foam line had been seen.

Upon arriving in Bayudbud, police caught Cabrera and Austria cleaning 16 drums that allegedly contained the chemicals disposed of into the river, the report said.

Charges for violating the Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act and Ecological Solid Waste Management Act are being prepared against the suspects.

2 held for dumping toxic waste in Batangas river

August 20, 2020

By [Jojo C. Magsombol](#)

[People's Tonight](#)

POLICE on Wednesday reported that they arrested the two men for dumping toxic waste into a river in Barangay Bayudbud, Taysan, Batangas.

Police Major von Eric F. Gualberto, Tuy town police station chief, identified the arrested suspects as Romano Cabrera, 46, married and a resident of Bgy. Bayudbud, and Mark Anthony Austria, 38, single, driver of Bgy. Sabang, both in Tuy.

A call from Bgy. Sabang and Bayudbud officials was received by Tuy police station personnel informing that the suspects were a chemical substance into the river around 5 a.m. on August 19, Gualberto said.

The police chief immediately coordinated with the Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Officers (MENRO), Local Government Units (LGU)s, and verified the report.

The suspects were caught the act of cleaning 16 drums which contained the chemical substance they had just disposed into the river.

The suspects are facing charges for violation of Republic Act (RA) 6969, or the "Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act of 1999," and RA 9003, or the "Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000."

2 lalaki, arestado sa pagtatapon sa ilog ng chemical waste sa Batangas

ni [Lolet Abania](#) | August 20, 2020



Arestado ang dalawang lalaki sa umano pagtatapon ng chemical wastes sa ilog sa Barangay Bayudbud, sa Tuy, Batangas, ayon sa pulisya.

Ayon sa Tuy Municipal Police Station, kinilala ang mga suspek na sina Romano Cabrera, 46; at Mark Anthony Austria, 38.

Sa report ng awtoridad, nakatanggap sila ng tawag mula sa barangay officials na nagtatapon ang mga suspek ng ilang chemical substance sa ilog, Miyerkules ng hapon, August 19. Agad na rumesponde ang pulisya sa lugar upang beripikahin ang impormasyon.

Nahuli ang mga suspek na naglilinis na ng 16 drums ng chemical substance, na sinasabing naitapon na ito sa ilog.

Sasampahan ng kaukulang kaso ang dalawang suspek, ayon pa sa pulisya.

Higanteng bula bumulaga sa Batangas

By Abante News Online — Last updated Aug 20, 2020

METRO



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Nagulantang ang mga residente ng isang barangay sa Batangas dahil sa laki ng bula na biglang sumulpot sa kanilang ilog.

Ang naturang bula ay nasilayan sa ilog ng Barangay Sabang at Bayudbud sa bayan ng Tuy, Batangas, at ayon sa mga residente ay may amoy umano ang naturang bula.

Dahil dito'y nagkasa ng imbestigasyon ang Tuy Municipal Police Station kung saan nauwi sa pag-aresto ng dalawang suspek na sina Romano Cabrera, 46, at Mark Anthony Anthony Austria, 38, na tinuturong may sala sa naturang bula.

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Ito'y matapos na nakatanggap ng report ang pulisya mula sa mga opisyal ng barangay na nahuling nagtatapon ng mga kemikal sa ilog ang dalawang suspek noong Miyerkoles ng hapon.

Nang puntahan ng pulisya ay nakita ang dalawang lalaki na naglilinis ng abot sa 16 drum na nilagyan ng mga kemikal, na hinala ng mga pulis ay

pinaglagaan ng tinapon sa ilog.

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Hinahanda na ang mga posibleng ikaso sa dalawang suspek.

Mga sachet, plastic bag maaaring ibenta sa 'Aling Tindera' collection points

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Aug 20 2020 02:42 PM | Updated as of Aug 20 2020 03:37 PM

MAYNILA (UPDATE) - Iba't ibang klaseng basura ang nakikita ng bangkerong si Allan Sampang tuwing pumapalaot sa Manila Bay. Kabilang dito ang styrofoam, botelya at iba-iba pang plastik.

"Kapag nakakaipon kami ng 2 sako binibenta namin para kahit papaano may bigas kami," ani Sampang sa panayam ng ABS-CBN News.

Pero ayon kay Sampang, hindi naman lahat ng kaniyang kinakalakal ay tinatanggap ng mga junk shop, gaya ng mga sachet at sando plastic bags.

Ang naturang problema ni Sampang ang tinutugunan ng non-profit organization na Plastic Credit Exchange.

Ngayon, mayroon na ring puwedeng pagdalhan ng mga residual plastic waste, gaya ng mga plastic na pambalot sa mga produkto, ang mga mangingisda at mga residente ng Manila Bay.

Ang makokolekta ay maaaring maibenta sa ilalim ng programang "Aling Tindera," kung saan magsisilbing collection points ang ilang sari-sari store na naka-istasyon sa coastal areas.

"Ang target talaga niya na basura, ay 'yong mga basura na mahirap i-recycle katulad ng mga sachet, sando bag na karaniwang hindi na tinatanggap sa mga junkshop," ani Meg Santos, sustainability campaign manager ng Plastic Credit Exchange.

Katuwang ng Plastic Credit Exchange ang lungsod ng Maynila at Department of Environment and Natural Resources-National Capital Region sa proyekto.

"Lalo po natin itong palalakasin. Kung ano ang maitutulong po ng gobyerno para mapondohan ito, itong napakagandang proyekto coming from the private sector, talagang ibibigay natin," ani Environment Spokesperson Benny Antiporda.

Ang programang "Aling Tindera" ay isa lamang sa mga nakikitang solusyon para mas lalo pang mabawasan ang problema sa plastic waste sa Metro Manila.

Bukod sa "Aling Tindera" collection points sa Manila Bay, maglalagay rin sa iba't ibang barangay sa Maynila.

'Palit-basura' sa Mandaluyong

Samantala, sa Barangay Addition Hills sa Mandaluyong, maaari namang ipalit ng mga residente ang kanilang plastic waste para sa bigas at iba pang pagkain sa ilalim ng proyektong "Palit Basura Habang May Pandemya."

Isang kilong bigas, mga de-lata at noodles ang maaaring makuha ng mga residente kapalit ng 5 ecobricks o iyong mga plastic bottle na may lamang mga pira-pirasong plastik.

Ayon kay Barangay Chairperson Carlito Cernal, nakatulong ang programa para maturuan ang mga residente ng wastong pagtatapon ng basura.

"Upang mabawasan ang basura natin sa lansangan at hindi na pagbara sa mga kanal," ani Cernal.

Ayon sa residenteng si Petrona Dingal, malaki ang tulong ng programa para mayroon silang makain lalo at nawalan ng trabaho bilang construction worker ang kaniyang mister.

Mula nang ilunsad ang programa 2 linggo na ang nakalilipas, nakakolekta ang barangay ng higit 2,000 ecobricks, na gagamitin umano sa pagbuo ng ecopark.

-- Ulat nina Bettina Magsaysay at Bianca Dava, ABS-CBN News

Source: https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/08/20/20/mga-sachet-plastic-bag-maaaring-ibenta-sa-aling-tindera-collection-points?fbclid=IwAR2Zg315izooxtIJ7PcxzhX95sEByfMHfJAzFiKv5y980LHYNxu3Vdx_Ybs

DENR flags Calabarzon landfill limits

By [Jonathan L. Mayuga](#)

August 21, 2020



In this file photo, dozer moves refuse evenly over a landfill.

WITH an estimated 5,000 tons of garbage produced daily, Region 4A or the Calabarzon region will soon find itself in trouble. Of the volume, only about 38 percent can be accommodated by its existing landfills.

This prompted the DENR-Calabarzon Office to reiterate its call to stakeholders to work together to reduce the volume of waste for disposal.

In a statement, DENR-Calabarzon Regional Executive Director Nonito Tamayo called on local governments to ensure segregation at source.

The segregation of dry and wet waste, reduction or elimination of the habitual use of single-use plastics; the repair, reuse and upcycling of waste; and turning food scraps and agricultural excess materials into compost will help reduce the daily waste production, said Tamayo.

“We have already seen the success stories of some LGUs such as Teresa in Rizal, Malvar in Batangas, Mauban in Quezon, Biñan in Laguna and Barangay San Jose in Tagaytay City, Cavite,” he said.

To recall, the DENR recently received complaints sent by concerned citizens regarding a sanitary landfill operated by S.B. Hain Enterprises & General Services Inc., located in Purok 1, Barangay Kay-Anlog, Calamba City, Laguna.

Image Credits: [Bloomberg](#)

DENR warns of ecosystem disturbance with rescue of eagle from illegal logging hotspot

Published August 20, 2020, 10:25 AM

by [Marie Tonette Marticio](#)

TACLOBAN City – The Department of Environmental and Natural Resources (DENR-8) warned that there could be disturbance in the ecosystem in the forest after another eagle was rescued in one of the illegal logging hotspots in the region this year.



PHOTO VIA MARIE MARTICIO/ MANILA BULLETIN

A white-bellied sea eagle was recently rescued by the Marabut Police after receiving a report from a concerned citizen that it is being held captive in Brgy. San Roque Marabut, Samar. The adult white-bellied sea eagle with a wingspan of 1.86 meters is considered endangered in the Philippines.

Forester Glenn Garciano of the Community Environment and Natural Resources-Sta. Rita, Samar said eagles are generally territorial and go out once there is a disruption in their habitat.

“We have seen and identified the threats when we conducted a landscape and wildlife indicator (LAWIN) forest and biodiversity protection monitoring system. There are poaching and slash and burn cultivation (kaingin),” he said.

LAWIN hinges on regular monitoring and informed responses to forest and biodiversity threats. It empowers communities and authorities to address forest degradation and achieve conservation objectives.

Marabut Municipal Police Station Chief, PCpt. Charmaine Cartalla said it is the third case of reported captive eagles in her area this year. The first was reported in March and the second was in July.

Donato Labrague, the captor of the eagle, said he caught the eagle one evening after he saw it bump into a coconut tree and fall to the ground.

Although the eagle appeared to be fine, Garciano said it was brought to the rescue center in the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Offices (PENRO) in Palo, Leyte for further assessment.

He added that they have intensified their information and education campaigns not only on environmental policies and laws but also including forestry and laws on wild fauna.

“We sent a warning to those who catch wild animals of the possible sanctions if they are found in possession of them. These wild animals should not be taken as pets because they play a big part in our ecosystem,” he said.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2020/08/20/denr-warns-of-ecosystem-disturbance-with-rescue-of-eagle-from-illegal-logging-hotspot/>

Centennial 'Toog' tree in Agusan del Sur poses risk to

August 21, 2020

TITLE: villagers, commuters

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Centennial 'Toog' tree in Agusan del Sur poses risk to villagers, commuters

Published August 20, 2020, 9:46 AM

by [Mike Crismundo](#)

BUTUAN CITY – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has warned about the danger of the Centennial Toog tree located at the side of the national highway in Barangay Alegria, San Francisco, Agusan del Sur.



The 300-year old Centennial Toog tree poses danger to villagers and the commuting public due to an aggressive kind of fungus found in its structural base that might cause its collapse anytime. (DENR 13-RPAO Erik Gallego/Mike U. Crismundo/Manila Bulletin)

“Our Centennial toog tree already poses danger to our villager

s in the area, and even to our commuting public,” said DENR 13 Regional Executive Director (RED) Hajah Didaw D. Piang-Brahim, in an exclusive interview with The Manila Bulletin on Wednesday.

“We are campaigning for forest protection and preservation but we are also for life,” he said.

DENR officials and pathologists have seen the risk posed to the villagers in the area and commuters when the tree collapses.

The local government of San Francisco town has deferred cutting down the 300-year old Centennial Toog tree due to appeals of local leaders to save it.

TOP DENR officials and the LGU of San Francisco, led by Mayor Solomon T. Rufila, inspected the giant toog tree on Tuesday.

RED Hajah Didaw D. Piang-Brahim expressed respect for the decision made by the local officials in sparing the cutting of the centennial tree in consideration of the appeal of some environmentalists in the area.



Centennial 'Toog' tree in Agusan del Sur poses risk to

August 21, 2020

TITLE: villagers, commuters

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DATE

"The local officials can always find an appropriate solution to the situation just as we uphold the recommendation of the DENR Forest and Wetland Research experts which found the base of the centennial tree deteriorating from fungi disease and has weakened," Piang-Brahim said.

The Toog tree is perhaps the only remaining tallest tree in the area which 300 years ago was once teeming with its kind.

The massive clearing of trees by several holders of the Timber License Agreement (TLA) caused the dwindling of the toog tree species.

Last year, a team of forest specialists at the DENR Forest and Wetlands Research Center conducted a pathological, bio-chemical, and structural analysis of the base of the Centennial Toog tree and found an aggressive kind of fungus on its base. It rated 5.4 high-potential hazard rating at a scale of 1 to 6 hazard rate. They recommended it to be cut down due to the danger it posed.

The CENRO Bunawan and the Research Forest Specialist have issued clearance to the LGUS to cut down the centennial tree. However, some members of the Society of Foresters Inc. in the area requested local officials to preserve the giant toog tree.

DENR nag-donate ng lumber sa Zambo Sibugay COVID-19 isolation facility



August 20, 2020 @ 8:52 AM 23 hours ago

Zamboanga City – Nag-donate ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ng mga upang makapagpatayo ng coronavirus disease (COVID-19) isolation facility sa probinsya ng Zamboanga Sibugay, ayon sa opisyal.

Ayon kay Pilarito Montebon, head ng Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) ng Imelda, Zamboanga Sibugay, ang naturang mga donasyon ay forfeited forest products na nakumpiska sa anti-illegal logging campaigns sa probinsya.

Mayroong 68 piraso ng Bagtikan species na may katumbas na 376 board feet ang ibinigay sa Zamboanga Sibugay Provincial Hospital.

Sa datos ng Department of Health (DOH), ang Zamboanga Sibugay ay mayroong 39 kaso ng COVID-19 buhat pa noong August 18. **RNT/FGDC**

Balanga cleans rivers, drainages

posted August 20, 2020 at 09:30 pm

by [Butch Gunio](#)

Balanga City, Bataan—Behind the leadership of Mayor Francis Garcia and Vice Mayor Vianca Venzon-Gonzon, the city government has recently been cleaning rivers and drainages to prevent flooding.

Plastic wastes and other debris that have clogged open waterways were cleaned, the most recent report from City Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) said.

“Drainages in Virgen Mary Subdivision in Brgy. Jose were cleaned; the river in Brgy. Tenejero was dug up and cleaned; and drainages along Capitol Drive were unclogged,” CENRO reported.

Garcia and Venzon-Gozon have appealed to city residents to dispose of their garbage properly and refrain from throwing them in water tributaries.

“We saw the good result of the waterways cleanup, just the other day there was rain, and we experienced no flooding,” CENRO said. Butch Gunio

The environment office said Garcia and Venzon-Gozon seriously want to solve flooding in the city.

MGB team nagtungo na sa Masbate upang inspeksyunin ang sinasabing 'sinkhole'

By [Bombo Radyo Legazpi](#)

-August 21, 2020 | 3:33 AM

LEGAZPI CITY – Duda pa ang Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) Bicol kung matatawag na “sinkhole” ang nakita sa karagatang sakop ng Barangay Casabangan, Pio V. Corpuz, Masbate.

Nakita ito matapos ang pagtama ng Magnitude 6.6 na lindol sa lalawigan.

Paliwanag ni MGB Bicol Regional Director Guillermo Molina Jr. sa panayam ng Bombo Radyo Legazpi, imbes na “sinkhole” o paglubog ng isang bahagi, tila “uplift” ang nangyari sa umangat ang lupa.

Ganito rin aniya ang nangyari tatlong taon na an nakakalipas sa Cebu-Bohol area na umangat ang lupa sa karagatan dahil sa pagyanig.

Subalit hindi aniya malabong mangyari na magkaroon ng sinkhole sa naturang lugar na marami ang limestone o lupang malambot at soluble sa tubig.

Kung saturated umano sa tubig ang isang material at nagkaroon ng paggalaw ng lupa, posible ang pagpaibabaw nito.

Umaasa naman ang naturang opisyal na mailalabas ang findings sa Lunes, Agosto 24 ng isasagawang pag-explore sa Sabado, Agosto 22 ng mga ipinadalang geologists at divers.

Duterte wants CoA to review spending of Bayanihan 2 funds – Sotto

Published 11 hours ago on August 20, 2020 08:18 PM

By [Hananeel Bordey](#)



To ensure transparency in spending of the P140 billion funds appropriated under the Bayanihan To Recover As One or Bayanihan 2, President Rodrigo Duterte wanted the Commission on Audit to review the government agencies' disbursement of funds.

This was disclosed by Senate President Vicente Sotto III during the plenary session on Thursday.

"Just for the record, so that we are all transparent here, I received a call from Sen. Bong Go last night and the President of the Philippines sent a very important message that he wanted all these transactions transparent and make sure that the Congress is given a report on how it is going to be spent," Sotto narrated on Thursday.

"Also, he specified that the Commission on Audit should be also given a copy of how this Bayanihan 2 funding will be spent. This is a specific order by the President last night," the Senate chief added.

Senate Finance Committee Chairman Sonny Angara manifested that he also received the call from Sen. Go, Duterte's confidant, relaying the same order from the Chief Executive.

"He also called me... that is why we placed the COA there. It was originally supposed to be the oversight committee but that is laudable on the part of the president," Angara said.

Go confirmed Sotto and Angara's statement.

In an online interview with Angara, he mentioned that the CoA will be sent with the reports from the government agencies who have assignments under Bayanihan 2 as collated by the Office of the President.

President Rodrigo Duterte is still required to report to Congress every month.

The Bayanihan 2 has P140 billion regular appropriations as earlier proposed by the Department of Finance.

But the lawmakers have included P25 billion standby funds for the COVID-19 vaccines and capital infusions to Landbank of the Philippines and Development Bank of the Philippines which can be used by the Executive Department once the additional savings and revenues are available.

Bayanihan 2 provides the President the flexibility to use the Executive Department's authority to respond to the COVID-19 crisis.

This also provides assistance to critically-affected sectors to help the economy recover from the adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Source: <https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/08/20/duterte-wants-coa-to-review-spending-of-bayanihan-2-funds-sotto/>

Senate ratifies Bayanihan 2

Published 12 hours ago on August 20, 2020 06:55 PM

By [Hananeel Bordey](#)



The Senate has ratified the Bayanihan To Recover As One Bill or Bayanihan 2 Thursday, a few hours after it was approved by the bicameral conference.

The ratification of the final version of the stimulus bill came after five bicameral meetings led by Senate Finance Committee Chairman Sonny Angara and Deputy Speaker Lray Villafuerte.

Once the House of Representatives ratifies the bicameral report in their chamber, Congress will transmit the final version of the Bayanihan 2 to Malacañang for President Rodrigo Duterte's signature.

In a text message to the Daily Tribune, Angara said the allotment for the stimulus measure is still pegged at P140 billion as earlier proposed by the Department of Finance.

However, there will be P25 billion standby spending authority which can be used by the Executive Department once the additional funds are available.

"The total is still P140 billion with allotments for various government programs to help our affected countrymen and sectors and an additional P25 billion standby appropriations," Angara said.

Big chunk of the Bayanihan funds will also go to capital infusion to government banks. The P39.472 billion will be allocated to Department of Trade and Industry's Small Business Corporation (SB Corp) with P10 billion funding, Land Bank of the Philippines with P18.472 billion, Development Bank of the Philippine with P6 billion, and Philippine Guarantee Corporation with P5 billion.

There is also P24 billion assistance for the Agricultural Sector and Plant Initiative of the Department of Agriculture, P1.5 billion assistance to the local government units and P2 billion subsidy for the payment of interests for loans secured by the LGUs.

Another P2.5 million will be allocated for the computer-based licensure of the Philippine Red Cross, P10 million for the research of DOH's Health Technology Assessment Council, and P15 million for University of the Philippines' Computational Research Laboratory. The Department of Foreign Affairs will also be given P820 million for the overseas Filipino workers and P180 million will be allocated for national athletes and coaches' allowance.

A big chunk of the the P25 billion standby fund will be allocated for COVID-19 vaccines, amounting to P10 billion; P9.027 billion will go to the equity infusion for Landbank of the Philippines for low-interest loans; P6.5 billion for equity infusion to the Development Bank of the Philippines.

The standby funds will enable the government to conduct advanced procurement of the vaccine once the Health Organization certified the use of any vaccine being developed.

"Ginawa natin iyon para hindi tali 'yung kamay nitong gobyerno para dito sa vaccine," he said.

Angara also disclosed that there are more items included in the Bayanihan 2 but assured that at least P40 billion or a quarter of the total funding will proceed to the health-related response of the government.

The measure will provide P4.5 billion for isolation and quarantine facilities, field hospitals, dormitories for frontliners, P5 billion for contact tracing, and P3 billion for the procurement of protective personal equipment.

The measure allocates P13.5 billion to provide P10,000 monthly special risk allowance to both private and public health workers, P1 million death compensation, P100,000 assistance for medical workers who have severe cases of COVID-19, and P15,000 assistance for those with mild COVID-19 cases. This provision of the bill will be applied retroactively from 1 February 2020.

The same amount will also cover the expenses for the continuous employment of existing emergency human resources for health, augmentation for operations of the Department of Health hospitals, hazard pay, free accommodation transportation and meals to all health workers.

The Bayanihan 2 will also include Social Amelioration Program that provides P5,000 to P8,000 to affected low-income households in areas placed under enhanced community quarantine or hard lockdown, displaced workers, and households with recently returned OFWs.

Angara said this measure will target and prioritize those who have not received any subsidy from the government under the Bayanihan To Heal As One Act.

Under Bayanihan 2, P8.9 billion for additional funds for education including assistance for the teachers and students is also allocated.

There will be P13 billion allocation for the assistance of displaced workers, P9.5 billion assistance for the transportation sector, and P10 billion for the tourism sector, among others.

Senate Minority Leader Franklin Drilon, who is part of the bicameral committee, provided details on the P10 billion for the tourism sector.

The P10 billion will be distributed as follows: P6 billion for tourism Micro, Small, Medium Enterprises; P3 billion for displaced tourism workers; P1 billion for tourism infrastructure under the Department of Public Works and Highways.

A 60-day grace period will also be applied to all loans regardless of the quarantine protocol imposed by the government.

Payments for the utilities falling within the period of MECQ and ECQ will be given a 30-day grace period.

One major provision that the bicam has approved is the temporary suspension of permit requirements and clearances in constructing telecommunications and internet infrastructures except for building permits.

Unlike in Bayanihan 1, the penal provisions for quarantine violations are scrapped under Bayanihan 2 but lawmakers inserted a provision that will penalize COVID-19-related discrimination.

The Bayanihan 2 will expire on 19 December 2020 or when the Congress adjourns its plenary sessions.

This is in accordance with Article VI Section 23 (2) of the Constitution which provides: special laws or emergency measures "shall cease upon the next adjournment of Congress."

President Rodrigo Duterte will still report to Congress every month but stricter auditing will be imposed under the Bayanihan 2.

Angara said the Executive Department wanted to “show that they are being transparent in using the funds” and requested to include the Commission on Audit in the reporting of funds utilized for COVID-19 response.

“The Office of the President will collate reports from various agencies with assignments under Bayanihan 2...it will be collated then it will be sent to the Congress but the changes here in Bayanihan 2, even the Commission on Audit will be given the figures,” Angara told reporters.

Once approved by the President, Bayanihan 2 will not need implementing rules and regulations and it will be effective immediately after its publication.

Restrictions eased but great care must continue

Published August 20, 2020, 10:00 PM
by [Manila Bulletin](#)



We can expect a rise in COVID-19 infections with the easing of restrictions in Metro Manila from Modified Enhanced Community Quarantine (MECQ) to General Community Quarantine (GCQ), because more people movement will now be allowed and a greater deal of the responsibility of keeping infections down will fall on the people themselves.

The two-week return to the stricter MECQ last August 4 had been granted by President Duterte after the nation's doctors, nurses, and other hospital personnel had asked for a "time-out" from the rigors of their hospital work in the face of rising COVID-19 cases. We could not, however, stay long in that restrictive because people need to work and earn a livelihood. They cannot stay home forever.

In the words of Carlito Galvez Jr., chief implementor of the National Task Force carrying out the restrictions ordered by the government, the prolonged strict lockdowns were not sustainable, as they impacted on the livelihood of the people. "The way to move forward is a granular implementation of the lockdowns," he said.

In the coming days of the reinstated General Community Quarantine, we should be ready for some increase in the number of new cases, but Galvez called on local government units to take on a bigger role in making their constituents comply with the basic protocols of social distancing, face masks, and clean hands.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque added a bit of advice to people themselves: Be specially careful and watchful in hospitals and other healthcare areas, in wet markets, supermarkets, government and private workplaces, in public transportation and all other areas with increased economic activity.

With the easing of restrictions, there will now be more public transportation – more MRT, LRT, and PNR trains, more buses, taxis, UV Express units, and jeepneys. This is where masses of people usually gather, which is why, in addition to face masks and social distancing, those using public transports are now required to wear face shields.

This is a problem we share with all nations of the world in this time of the pandemic – how to find the proper balance between restrictions to keep infections down and the gradual easing of those restrictions so that people can go on with their lives.



This latter concern is shared by business and industry and by government agencies concerned with economic development and progress, with market supplies and market prices, with exports and imports, with trade balances, with the Gross National Product at the end of the year.

In the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the government has had to find the right balance between the interests of this sector and that of the health sector, the lives of COVID-19 victims and the heavy burden on the nation's hospitals and healthcare workers.

The series of restrictions, the various levels of quarantines, were imposed to control and stop the virus. But now it is time to gradually lift the restrictions, so that the people can start going back to work and support themselves and hopefully resume the life they used to live, with the little enjoyments they used to share with family and friends, and the holidays they used to celebrate as a nation.

Lack of discipline

posted August 21, 2020 at 12:15 am

by [Emil Jurado](#)

"People should follow guidelines, period."

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the nation has been heaping praises on frontliners - all the health workers, especially the doctors and nurses, who have devoted most of their time in attending to thousands of Filipinos affected by the coronavirus disease.

There's no doubt that all of these frontliners deserve all the praise that they have been getting, exposing themselves in caring for patients who have tested positive for the virus.

Other frontliners, who I believe should also get praises, are members of media, both in print and broadcast (radio and television). They are risking their lives and exposing themselves to the virus just so they could bring to all Filipinos what's really happening on the ground.

These members of media are there on the spot to give you the news and all the information. Without this, we would be all at a loss on what to do in the fight against a faceless enemy.

**

With the return of Metro Manila and four provinces, Laguna, Bulacan, Rizal, and Cavite to the General Community Quarantine (GCQ), we can expect another upsurge of COVID-19 cases.

This becomes inevitable because with the return of public transport, like buses and jeepneys, the regular run of MRT-3, LRT 1 and 2, with more people going to work, the return of businesses and industries, mass gatherings and other activities, there would be greater mobility.

We should, however, not judge the government's response on the basis of the number of COVID-19 cases, but rather on whether or not the government's response is right or not. In other words, we should ask: Are President Duterte and his team doing right?

My wife and I who have been quarantined for six months are leaving everything to the experts. They should know better than us.

I believe that much of failure or success of the IATF largely depends on the people, on whether they cooperate or not. I am referring to the lack of discipline among many Filipinos who continue to disregard health protocols.

The fact is that most of the people are either ignorant or uneducated. A massive information campaign is needed.

No amount of draconian measures will achieve anything if people are ignorant and uneducated on what they should do in times of crisis.

The need for discipline has always been a big problem for the Philippines. We, Filipinos have the habit of questioning everything the government imposes on us.

Look at the Japanese. When that incident of a tsunami in northern Japan occurred, the Japanese showed their worth and obeyed everything that Japanese government imposed on them.

I recall during Martial Law, the first imposition of Martial Law on us Filipinos was to cooperate. "Disiplina ang kailangan," was the battle cry.

The first three months of Martial Law was unlike any other time. People cleaned their front and backyards and also the streets and obeyed all the laws. The bottomline of everything is the need for discipline, Santa Banana!

**

With all the reports about what is going on at PhilHealth, we need to know why all this is happening.

For so long as human discretion plays a big role in the process, there will always be graft and corruption.

Billions of money are involved in the implementation of the mandate of PhilHealth. Only an angel would be able to resist the temptation not to steal.

So long as the same system prevails, the problem of corruption will certainly stay.

**

When the first tranche of the SAP or Social Amelioration Program was distributed by local government units, the Department of Interior and Local Government issued a show cause order to over 280 barangay officials in Metro Manila.

This show cause order required barangay officials to say why they should not be indicted for graft and corruption. There have been so many anomalies and complaints in the distribution of cash subsidy to those in need. So, what ever happened to those DILG orders?

Philippines files diplomatic protest vs China for confiscating fishing device in Scarborough Shoal

Published August 20, 2020 11:55pm

By [MICHAELA DEL CALLAR/](#)

The Philippine government on Thursday said it filed a diplomatic protest against China for confiscating fish aggregating devices installed by Filipino fishermen in Scarborough Shoal off the country's southwestern waters.

Manila called the Chinese Coast Guard's action of taking away the devices, locally known as payao, as "illegal."

The incident at the shoal, which lies 124 nautical miles off the nearest Philippine landmass of Palawan, occurred last May, the Department of Foreign Affairs said.

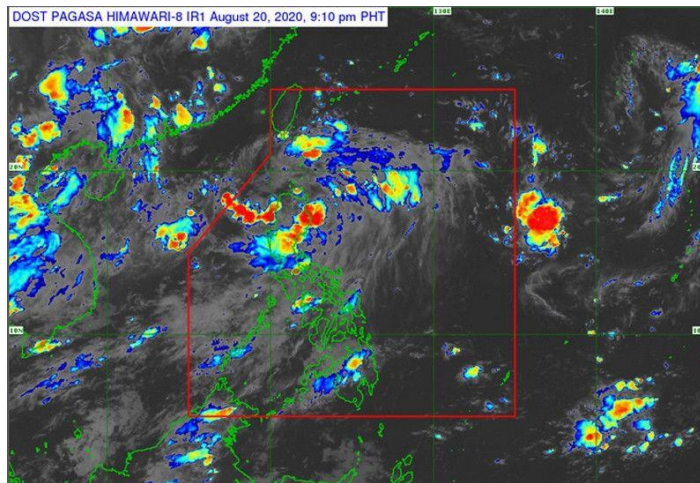
The Philippines "also resolutely objected to China's continuing illicit issuances of radio challenges Philippine aircraft conducting legitimate regular maritime patrols in the West Philippine Sea," the DFA said.

Although the shoal is claimed by the Philippines, an arbitral tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands ruled in 2016 that no country can claim sovereign rights over Scarborough, saying it is a traditional fishing ground for Filipino, Vietnamese and Chinese fishermen.

China refused to recognize the ruling, saying it is within its territory. The shoal is 472 nautical miles from China's nearest coastal province of Hainan.

China blocked Filipinos from fishing at the Scarborough Shoal - a U-shaped rocky outcrop rich in marine resources seized by Beijing from Manila in 2012 following a two-month standoff that triggered an international arbitration complaint by Manila seven years ago. -- **BAP, GMA News**

Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/752294/philippines-files-diplomatic-protest-vs-china-for-confiscating-fishing-device-in-scarborough-shoal/story/?fbclid=IwAR11YTKZfntEk0cLZPFfTAF9c7_zDhmZTQISKyHG6AdC-wSvAk9PUBKOoQ



The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical Astronomical Services Administration, however, said that there is a small chance that the low-presure area would develop into a tropical depression today or tomorrow.

PAGASA

LPA may develop into tropical depression

[Romina Cabrera](#) (The Philippine Star) - August 21, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The southwest monsoon and a low-pressure area off Aurora will continue to bring rains over most of Luzon, including Metro Manila, and Western Visayas today.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), however, said that there is a small chance that the low-presure area would develop into a tropical depression today or tomorrow.

But it will still continue to affect weather conditions and bring scattered, at times heavy rains and thunderstorms in Metro Manila and the provinces in Luzon and Western Visayas.

At 3 p.m. yesterday, the low-pressure area was spotted 100 kilometers east of Casiguran, Aurora.

PAGASA warned that prolonged rainfall, especially in high risk areas, might result in flooding or rain-induced landslides.

PAGASA senior weather specialist Chris Perez said there would be gradual improvement in the weather in Bicol and Palawan today.

MM, Luzon, W. Visayas babayuhin ng LPA, habagat



August 20, 2020 @ 6:22 PM 12 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Magdadala ang low pressure area (LPA) at Habagat ng maulap na papawirin na may kalat-kalat na pag-ulan at thunderstorms sa Metro Manila, nalalabing bahagi ng Luzon, at Western Visayas, ayon sa PAGASA.

Huling namataan ang nasabing LPA sa layong 95 kilometro silangan timog silangan ng Casiguran, Aurora.

Pinag-iingat ng ahensya ang mga residente sa mga nasabing lugar sa posibleng pagbaha at pagguho ng lupa dulot ng mga pag-ulan.

Localized thunderstorms naman ang iiral at magpapa-ulan sa Mindanao at nalalabing bahagi ng Visayas. RNT/LF

Alert 1 up as quakes rock Taal

Published 21 hours ago on August 20, 2020 09:37 AM

By **TDI**



FILE photo of Taal Volcano.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said Thursday morning it has recorded three volcanic earthquakes in the last 24 hours around the Taal Volcano.

The agency raised Alert Level 1 in its latest Taal bulletin, signifying an “abnormal” situation around the volcano.

Phivolcs also noted fumarolic activity or steam rising 80 meters into the air from vents on the main crater, drifting southwest. The volcano erupted last year.

Sudden steam-driven explosions, volcanic quakes, minor ashfall and expulsions of volcanic gas may occur within the Taal Volcano Island, Phivolcs warned.

It “strongly” recommended “that entry into TVI, Taal’s Permanent Danger Zone or PDZ, especially the vicinities of the Main Crater and the Daang Kastila fissure, must remain strictly prohibited.”

People were advised to be on the alert, along with local government units, for possible ground displacement across fissures.

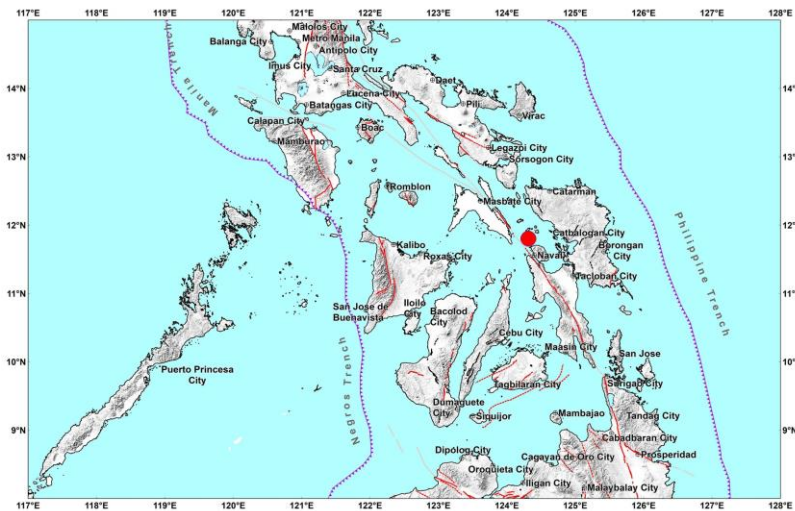
Pilots were also told to avoid flying close to the volcano as ash and ballistic fragments may pose hazards to aircraft.

p/jd

3.6 quakes rattle Eastern Samar, Biliran

By: [Joey Gabieta](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[Inquirer Visayas](#) / 08:20 PM August 20, 2020

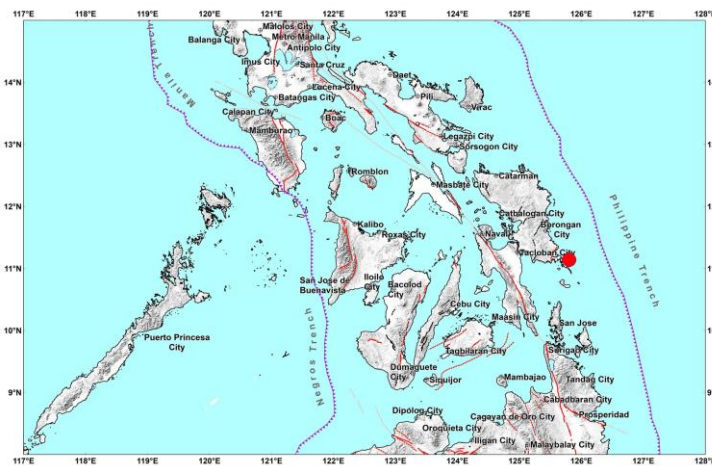


TACLOBAN CITY—Two 3.6 magnitude earthquakes were felt in Eastern Samar and Biliran provinces on Thursday (Aug. 20).

According to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs), the first tremor struck Biliran province at 6:40 p.m. with the island town of Maripipi as its epicenter.

The quake had a depth of less than a kilometer.

Around 7:12 p.m., another tremor was felt in Eastern Samar.



Its epicenter was traced to the town of Mercedes.

Both tremors were tectonic in origin.

Phivolcs said it didn't expect any aftershocks or damage from the earthquakes.

TSB

Source: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1324932/3-6-quakes-rattle-eastern-samar-biliran>

Thousands evacuated as fast-moving fires spread in
California

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Thousands evacuated as fast-moving fires spread in California

Published August 20, 2020 8:48am

Thousands of residents fled a city in northern California on Wednesday as a series of fast-moving wildfires spread across the state, burning dozens of homes and structures.

The fire outside Vacaville -- a city of about 100,000 residents located between the state capital Sacramento and San Francisco -- is part of a series of blazes that have scorched nearly 50,000 acres (20,200 hectares) in the region in recent days.

"If you're asked to evacuate, please do so SAFELY," Vacaville police said on Twitter.

"Practically every single first responder unit in town is actively working to safely notify, evacuate and fight the fires, so our residents are safe."

Some residents of Vacaville heeded the evacuation orders dressed only in their pajamas, as the flames surged across roadways and gas lines exploded at several residences.

Multiple people suffered burns as they ran for their lives.

Fire crews could be seen struggling to protect homes from the flames and rescuing animals, some of which did not survive.

Fire officials said the blaze was zero percent contained early Wednesday and threatened some 1,900 structures in the area.

One woman described fleeing the inferno with her husband, who suffered burns in his car and was forced to abandon the vehicle.

"I had all these flames on me and I lost my shoe but I made it," she told the local NBC station. "God saved me."

The group of fires -- known collectively as the LNU Lightning Complex fires and taking place as the state faces a torrid heat wave -- has so far destroyed dozens of buildings or structures in several counties, including the famed wine regions of Napa and Sonoma.

Governor Gavin Newsom has declared a state of emergency to facilitate the release of emergency funds.

Thousands evacuated as fast-moving fires spread in
California

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"CA has experienced 10,849 lightning strikes in the last 72 hours and WORLD RECORD heat temperatures," Newsom said in a tweet. "We're currently battling 367 known fires.

"Grateful for our firefighters, first responders, and everyone on the frontlines protecting Californians during this time."

He said fire departments in nearby states, including Nevada, Arizona and Texas, were sending reinforcements to help fight the wildfires.

Scorching heat

The LNU Lightning Complex fires were sparked by lightning storms in the Bay Area on Monday and Tuesday, dealing a blow to regions such as Napa and Sonoma still recovering from similar devastating blazes in recent years.

The wildfires are spreading largely uncontrolled, fueled by the record-breaking heat and low humidity.

In the past week, California's Death Valley has been experiencing historic high temperatures, with the mercury rising as high as 130 degrees Fahrenheit (54.4 degrees Celsius).

Nearly 45 million people across the western United States were under an excessive heat warning or heat advisory Wednesday.

The scorching temperatures have put a massive strain on the state's power network, with blackouts leaving some 30,000 people without service, according to Poweroutage.us.

Last week, brush fires near Lake Hughes, just north of Los Angeles, burned more than 10,000 acres and prompted the evacuation of 500 homes.

Wildfires have become more frequent and bigger in California in recent years, in part driven by climate change.

The deadliest fire in the state's history -- the Camp Fire -- took place in northern California in November 2018 and killed 86 people.

Also Wednesday, Washington state Governor Jay Inslee declared a state of emergency over a series of wildfires.

"Wildfires are threatening the safety and livelihoods of Washingtonians all across the state," Inslee said in a statement.

"And the COVID-19 pandemic has put additional strain on our resources, as some of our usual support is further limited due to international movement restrictions."

Several major wildfires were also burning in the state of Colorado, where hot, dry conditions were fueling the flames. — **Agence France-Presse**

Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/world/752151/thousands-evacuated-as-fast-moving-fires-spread-in-california/story/?utm_source=GMANews&utm_medium=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR1-yuNdMbonIIt3v15MXAJIuF8QumV-r9LWQk-crP52zzJ1tYVZrjg9HR0

China's rat, cobra farmers feel coronavirus pain

Beiji Seow, Agence France-Presse

Posted at Aug 19 2020 05:44 PM



A farmer works his rice patties in the village of Zhongxin in the Guizhou Province of China, June 15, 2017. *Bryan Denton, The New York Times/File*

LOUDI, China - Bamboo rat farmer Liu Yanqun was just starting to make plump returns from the rodents in his farm in central China when the coronavirus broke out at the end of last year.

The killer virus has since been linked to China's wildlife trade, with scientists saying it could have originated in bats and been transmitted to people via another mammal.

In response, Chinese authorities imposed a national ban on the trade and consumption of various animals that are used in speciality regional dishes, including bamboo rats, cobras and civet cats.

The ban has cost tens of thousands of jobs in rural China, where the relatively cheap form of farming of wildlife had once been promoted as a way to lift people out of poverty.

"I felt like breaking down... it's hard for me to find another job," said Liu, who has seen his modest business farming about 800 rats in central Hunan province fall apart.

"I don't have a clear plan on what to do next."

Liu, 38, had converted the 6 rooms of his old family house -- nestled deep in winding, mountainous roads -- into the rat farm 6 years ago.

He had just been starting to make decent returns last year and, like many other farmers, government compensation packages for ending his business have not been enough.

In May, Hunan was among the first provinces to offer compensation to encourage farmers to switch livelihoods.

Authorities evaluated farms and inventories, offering 75 yuan (\$11) for a kilogram of bamboo rat, 120 yuan for that of cobra and 600 yuan for each civet cat.

Farmers told AFP the buyout did not meet the market value of the animals, and only covered a small proportion of infrastructure costs on their farms.

One bamboo rat farmer said the buyout covered just half his animals' market value.

Some farmers also struggled while authorities took time to assess livestock.

"We couldn't kill them or sell them," said cobra farmer Li Weiguo, 61, adding that many of his reptiles had died by the time the authorities came for them.

"I had over 3,000 snakes but only received compensation for 1,600 or so eventually," he said.

'CRYING INSIDE'

China's clampdown on exotic animal farms has affected nearly 250,000 jobs, with businesses unable to sell animals worth some 11 billion yuan, a state media report said last week.

With compensation barely covering their investments, farmers told AFP they were struggling to repay debts with little capital to start new ventures.

"All the money (for my business) came from loans... and friends and relatives. I have no means to repay them and they ask me regularly these days," said Li, the cobra farmer.

Another bamboo rat farmer, Huang Guohua, said he had been left with more than 400,000 yuan in debt.

"Last year, I had plans to expand the business... but the coronavirus outbreak caused us to suffer huge losses," said Huang, 47.

His plan was to triple the scale of his farm, but the money he poured into infrastructure has gone down the drain because of the wildlife ban.

"I was crying inside," said Huang, who now raises rabbits and chickens.

China has set an ambitious target of eradicating extreme poverty and building a "moderately prosperous society" by the end of 2020.

But the pandemic fallout has made such a goal increasingly hard to achieve, with China's economy contracting 1.6 percent year-on-year in the first half of 2020.

Even before the coronavirus dragged economic growth, more than 5 million rural Chinese lived in poverty -- defined by the government as surviving on less than 2,300 yuan (\$326) a year.

"With the epidemic this year, we are returning to poverty -- and to a worse state than before," said Huang.

Climate calamity is here, deadlier than COVID-19

By: [Antonio M. Claparols](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

04:00 AM August 21, 2020

“Nothing to fear but fear itself,” said Franklin D. Roosevelt in his 1933 inaugural address, and he was right. Yet today the world has never been so scared of a virus they know so little of.

It has been over 150 days since the government-mandated lockdowns began, and we are prisoners of fear. All this time, I thought that the COVID-19 lockdown would be good for the planet. No pollution, no traffic, and a complete halt in production and movement. Finally, the Earth was happy. She could breathe again. Her lungs had been suffocated by toxic pollution.

Aviation and transport pollution, coupled with oil and coal plants, spewed harmful toxins into the atmosphere until climate change began engulfing the planet. For now, the Earth could take a breather and the animals were free to emerge from their forests and jungles into the emptiness of the world’s largest cities, left quiet and ghostly by the pandemic. I was happy for Mother Earth.

For a while, she could breathe as we reduced the carbon dioxide emissions that polluted our air and warmed our atmosphere. As the people of the world’s cities and towns retreated to the safety of their homes, the planet could rest. For a moment, the Earth slept in silence.

Months later, however, the socioeconomic impact of the pandemic hit. Global economies have collapsed, and unemployment, poverty, hunger, and civil unrest are overwhelming us. We are dying and suffering. The search for a vaccine is slow as geopolitics plays an invisible hand. Yet more die from other causes daily.

The world has never watched this episode and experienced such unprecedented times. Sure, we had the Spanish flu that killed 50 million or more, and also the Black Death, H5N1, SARS, MERS, Ebola, and more. We have yet to discover a cure for cancer, or even the common flu.

In the novel “The Plague,” Albert Camus argues that viruses will always be a part of our lives. In “Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies,” Jared Diamond asserts that man is the sole perpetrator in the destruction of civilization and the environment.

Many will fail and more will die, but governments will fall and change. The right, the left, and the rise of the Green Party will unfold. Survival is key today.

Now our forests are being felled at exponential rates, our biodiversity ravaged, our oceans and marine resources destroyed and dissipated, our coral colonies bleaching as the planet continues to warm.

As dire as the current coronavirus crisis appears, even deadlier climate calamities will surely come and wreak havoc on our world, just as Supertyphoon “Yolanda” devastated Tacloban and wiped thousands of lives in a single day. This pandemic, like many others, will pass, but the climate catastrophes are finally here, and they pose a more severe threat.

Fear hyped by social media and inaccurate news is embedded in our brains. People are scared. People will die as the flowers wither. They are desperate, and I do not blame them. We will go hungry and delirious. The destitute will revolt. People are terrified of an infection they know little of. But if you really think about it, we are the virus. It is we who kill senselessly, who wage wars, and who destroy our Mother Earth.

Let us learn from the simple lessons the lockdown taught us. Let us not waste food and water, let us plant trees, and let us conserve our dying planet. Manage the fear and anxiety so that we can fight to conserve our only home. Sustainability is the key to our future.

Antonio M. Claparols,
president, Ecological Society of the Philippines

Source: <https://opinion.inquirer.net/132878/climate-calamity-is-here-deadlier-than-covid-19>

Record melt: Greenland lost 586 billion tons of ice in

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Record melt: Greenland lost 586 billion tons of ice in 2019

[Associated Press](#) / 05:32 AM August 21, 2020

Greenland lost a record amount of ice during an extra warm 2019, with the melt massive enough to cover California in more than four feet (1.25 meters) of water, a new study said.

After two years when summer ice melt had been minimal, last summer shattered all records with 586 billion tons (532 billion metric tons) of ice melting, according to satellite measurements reported in a study Thursday. That's more than 140 trillion gallons (532 trillion liters) of water.



In this Aug. 16, 2019 file photo, icebergs float away as the sun rises near Kulusuk, Greenland. According to a study released on Thursday, Aug. 20, 2020, Greenland lost a record amount of ice during an extra warm 2019, with the melt massive enough to cover California in more than four feet (1.25 meters) of water. (AP Photo/Felipe Dana, File)

That's far more than the yearly average loss of 259 billion tons (235 billion metric tons) since 2003 and easily surpasses the old record of 511 billion tons (464 billion metric tons) in 2012, said a study in *Communications Earth & Environment*. The study showed that in the 20th century, there were many years when Greenland gained ice.

"Not only is the Greenland ice sheet melting, but it's melting at a faster and faster pace," said study lead author Ingo Sasgen, a geoscientist at the Alfred Wegener Institute in Germany.

Last year's Greenland melt added 0.06 inches (1.5 millimeters) to global sea-level rise. That sounds like a tiny amount but "in our world it's huge, that's astounding," said study co-author Alex Gardner, a NASA ice scientist. Add in more water from melting in other ice sheets and glaciers, along with an ocean that expands as it warms — and that translates into slowly rising sea levels, coastal flooding, and other problems, he said.

While general ice melt records in Greenland go back to 1948, scientists since 2003 have had precise records on how much ice melts because NASA satellites measure the gravity of the ice sheets. That's the equivalent of putting the ice on a scale and weighing it as water flows off, Gardner said.

As massive as the melt was last year, the two years before were only on average about 108 billion tons (98 billion metric tons). That shows that there's a second factor called Greenland blocking, that either super-charges that or dampens climate-related melting, Gardner said.

In the summer, there are generally two factors in Greenland's weather, Gardner said. Last year, Greenland blocking — a high pressure over Canada that changes the northern jet stream — caused warm southern air to come up from the United States and Canada and flow into Greenland, forcing more melting.

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In 2017 and 2018 without Greenland blocking, cooler Arctic air flowed from the open ocean into Greenland, making summer milder, he said.

This year, Greenland's summer melt has been not as severe, closer to normal for recent times, said Ruth Mottram, an ice scientist at the Danish Meteorological Institute, who wasn't part of Sasgen's research.

Mottram and several other outside scientists said Sasgen's calculations make sense. In her own study this month in the International Journal of Climatology, she found similar results and also calculated that Greenland coastal regions have warmed on average 3 degrees (1.7 degrees Celsius) in the summer since 1991.

"The fact that 2019 set an all-time record is very concerning," said New York University ice scientist David Holland, who wasn't part of either study.