

DATE: August 22, 2020

DAY: Saturday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service

Double bamboo plantations, mining firms told

[Louise Maureen Simeon](#) (The Philippine Star ) - August 22, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Mining firms are now required to double their areas allotted for bamboo plantations as part of the government’s economic recovery program amid the pandemic.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources, through the Mines and Geosciences Bureau, has ordered mining companies to allocate at least 20 percent for the establishment of bamboo plantations in mining areas.

A memorandum order in September 2019 instructed firms to establish and maintain bamboo plantations equivalent to 10 percent of the mined-out areas of contractors and permit holders.

The DENR ordered firms to establish an additional bamboo plantation equivalent to 10 percent of their declared final mining area to bring the total bamboo plantation area to at least 20 percent.

The Chamber of Mines of the Philippines welcomed the new directive as bamboo could provide huge environmental benefits, absorb greenhouse gases and protect the soil.

“This offers opportunities for job generation and is a good substitute for wood in many applications, such as paper, furniture, and building materials. Mined-out areas can be planted with bamboo in cooperation with host mining communities as a potential livelihood source on a sustainable basis after the life of the mine,” COMP spokesperson Rocky Dimaculangan told The STAR.

“To maintain biodiversity, however, other plant and tree species should be planted as well as part of a comprehensive mine rehabilitation plan,” he said.

The MGB said there should be a memorandum of agreement between the company concerned and private landowners or people’s organizations to ensure that firms will monitor the growth of bamboo species planted with corresponding appropriate measures implemented.

It shall also not be covered by the existing expanded National Greening Program or any projects of DENR or any non-government organizations.

The MGB has directed mining firms to submit the target area to be committed by contractors and permit holders for the establishment of the plantations.

Bamboo is considered as the “green gold of life” and “grass of hope” with its wide range of application and growing relevance. It is an effective tool in addressing soil erosion, landslides and flooding, which are the common disasters in any mine site.

It is also considered to have the highest potential for maximum benefits to the environment and livelihood as it can release up to 35 percent more oxygen than any other trees, sequester up to 12 metric tons of carbon dioxide per hectare and is the fastest growing canopy for the re-greening of degraded lands.

Aside from its use for furniture and handicrafts, bamboo is used in fiber, clothing, pulp and paper production, food ingredients, beauty products, architecture and construction.

Miners now required to establish bamboo plantations at site

Published August 21, 2020, 6:00 AM

by [Madelaine B. Mirafior](#)

All the mining sites in the Philippines, one of the most highly mineralized countries in the world, are now mandated to have a huge bamboo plantation each as part of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' (DENR) post COVID-19 recovery efforts.

This was written in the June 11, 2020 memorandum issued by Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) titled "Establishment of Bamboo Plantation in Mining Areas".

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu wants all mining contractors to establish an additional bamboo plantation equivalent to 10 percent of their declared final mining area to bring the total target bamboo plantation area to at least 20 percent.

It was in September last year when Cimatu first instructed the mining companies to establish and maintain bamboo plantations equivalent to 10 percent of their mined-out areas.

For miners without mined-out area yet for rehabilitation, an offset bamboo plantation outside its contract areas shall be constructed.

MGB said the offset bamboo plantation shall be covered with a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) by and between the mining company concerned and private landowners or people's organizations in order to ensure that mining companies will monitor the growth of bamboo

species planted with corresponding appropriate measures implemented.

The offset bamboo plantation area should also not be covered by the existing Expanded National Greening Program (ENGP) or any projects of the DENR or any non-government organizations.

Rocky Dimaculangan, vice president for corporate communications at Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (COMP), an organization of some of the country's largest mining operations, said the mining industry welcomes this decision but added that other plant and tree species should also be planted within their sites just like what they are doing now.

"Bamboo can provide huge environmental benefits as it is a renewable resource, absorbs greenhouse gases, fast growing, enriches and protects the soil, and is highly adaptable. This grass specie offers opportunities for job generation and is a good substitute for wood in many applications, such as paper, furniture, and building materials," Dimaculangan said.

"To maintain biodiversity, however, other plant and tree species should be planted as well as part of a comprehensive mine rehabilitation plan," he added.

Fish, turtles turn up dead in Batangas river due to chemicals

Published August 21, 2020 9:59pm

Several fish and turtles turned up dead after two persons dumped chemical wastes into a river in Tuy, Batangas that created huge foam.

According to John Consulta's report on "24 Oras" on Friday, residents of Barangay Bayudbud fear that the smell of the waste might have a bad effect on their health.

"Pag mahangin, medyo nakaamoy na kakaiba. Natatakot ho kasi makakaapekto sa kalusugan ng mga bata," Lita Barrias said.

"Natatakot kami na baka mas lalo pong tumaas, dumami ang bula baka nga po maapektuhan aming kalusugan gawa noong kemikal," Jamaica Barrias added.

Meanwhile, according to the suspect, this was the first time they poured chemical waste into the river.

Romano Cabrera said he thought the chemicals were just ingredients for soap.

"Di namin sinasadya talaga ang pangyayari. Sa mga residente, sana mapatawad nila ako," Cabrera said.

However, in a document from the suspect which was shown to GMA News, it was stated that the chemical waste was hazardous.

"Pinasara na po 'yong kanilang business pero sila ho ay nag-operate pa rin po without business permit, both from the at barangay at tsaka ng munisipyo," Police Major Von Gualberto said.

Initial investigation also showed that this was not the first time that the company dumped chemical waste into the river.

Earlier, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources said it will file [charges](#) for violation of the Philippine Clean Water Act and the Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act against Cabrera.

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

DENR's Environmental Management Bureau is currently inspecting the concerned body of water to determine the chemicals poured into it. —**Ma. Angelica Garcia/LDF, GMA News**



Dambuhalang bula sa sapa ng Tuy, Batangas, humupa na; ilang isda at pagong, nakitang patay

Agosto 21, 2020 10:24pm GMT+08:00

Humuhupa na ang dambuhalang bula na nilikha ng itinapong kemikal sa isang sapa sa Tuy, Batangas. Nalantad din ang pinsalang idinulot nito sa mga nakitang patay na mga isda at pagong.

Sa ulat ni John Consulta sa GMA News “24 Oras” nitong Biyernes, inihayag ng mga residente sa barangay ang pangamba nila sa kanilang kalusugan dahil sa mabahong amoy na nanggagaling sa sapa.

“Pag mahangin, medyo nakaamoy na kakaiba. Natatakot ho kasi makakaapekto sa kalusugan ng mga bata,” sabi ni Lita Barrias.

“Natatakot kami na baka mas lalo pong tumaas, dumami ang bula baka nga po maapektuhan aming kalusugan gawa noong kemikal,” pahayag naman ni Jamaica Barrias.

Ayon sa naarestong nagtapon ng kemikal sa ilog na si Romano Cabrera, inakala niyang sangkap lang ng sabon ang kaniyang itinapon.

Unang pagkakataon lang daw niya itong ginawa.

“Di namin sinasadya talaga ang pangyayari. Sa mga residente, sana mapatawad nila ako,” pakiusap niya.

Sa dokumentong nakita sa suspek, lumitaw na may mga hazardous chemical waste silang kinukuha. Napag-alaman sa pulisya na dati na ring ipinasara ang kanilang kompanya.

“Pinasara na po ‘yong kanilang business pero sila ho ay nag-operate pa rin po without business permit, both from the at barangay at tsaka ng munisipyo,” ayon kay Police Major Von Gualberto, hepe ng Tuy Police.

Hindi rin umano ito ang unang pagkakataon na nagtapon ang kompanya ng kemikal sa ilog.

Inaasahan naman na lalabas na sa susunod na linggo ang pagsusuri sa kung anong uri ng kemikal ang itinapon sa sapa.

Dambuhalang bula sa sapa ng Tuy, Batangas, humupa na; ilang isda at pagong, nakitang patay

Tiniyak naman ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary Benny Antiporda, na pananagutin nila ang nasa likod ng pagtatapon ng kemikal dahil sa pinsalang idinulot sa kalikasan.

Nauna nang sinabi ng DENR na sasampahan ng paglabag sa Philippine Clean Water Act at Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act si Cabrera.

Magsasampa rin ng hiwalay na kaso ang lokal na pamahalaan laban kay Cabrera.—FRJ, GMA News

Protecting wildlife and the environment to prevent pandemics



By [BMPlus](#)

August 21, 2020



While medical frontliners continue to battle COVID-19, we continue to do our part by staying in the confines of our homes while we strive to be healthy and safe from a highly infectious and deadly disease. In addition to adopting the health and safety measures as part of our daily life, we can also take steps to learning more about the pandemic and how we can help prevent its resurgence in the years to come.

Scientific research had identified COVID-19 as “a zoonotic disease, an illness passed on from animals to humans.” The risk of zoonotic disease transmission is directly related to human activities that degrade the environment and exploit wildlife, leading to an increase of interactions between animals and people.

Activities leading to the destruction of natural habitats are considered to be major problem concerning the protection of the environment because these result to the forced transfer of wild animals to the domain of the human populace.

The trade of wild animals, such as bats, pangolins and marine turtles, also creates situations where wild animals have to interact with humans. These situations include keeping wild animals as pets, and their consumption for sustenance and, in some cases, for traditional medicine.

Unless governments take serious preventive measures and the public cooperate and actively participate in the protection of the wildlife and its habitat, experts warn that an outbreak of a disease may lead to another pandemic.

To prevent the spread of zoonotic diseases and avert future pandemics, we should do our share in preserving the natural environment, and help curb wildlife trading. Specifically, we can participate in tree planting activities, monitor and report the sale of wild animals to authorities, and support groups, organizations, and establishments that value the protection of the environment.

At Sandari Batulao, we are building a mountainside community that promotes the seamless integration human of activities with the consistent effort of preserving the environment. Following the high standards of responsible property development, Sandari Batulao respects the topography of the land, leaving the natural habitat undisturbed, and keeping the scenic environment intact for the residents. It is Sandari Batulao’s vision of forming a community that acts as a steward of the environment in pursuit of sustainable living.

Protecting wildlife and the environment to prevent pandemics

This year marks the partnership between Sandari Batulao and the Haribon Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to the protection of nature and preservation of life. Under Haribon's instruction and guidance, Sandari Batulao will be launching several projects and activities to conserve natural sites and habitats and encourage sustainability through community empowerment. In the coming months, the installation of bird observation spots, and a native tree nursery will be underway. In addition, basic knowledge and training on the environment and its protection will be given to the staff and eventually to the members of the community around its site.

Sandari Batulao is a real estate development located in Nasugbu (15 minutes from Tagaytay), Batangas. For inquiries, please email us at

inquiries@cpmc.ph or check out www.sandaribatulao.com, and Sandari Batulao (Official) on Facebook, and Instagram.

NIRAS Asia Manila combats illegal wildlife trade



By [Eireene Jairee Gomez](#)

August 22, 2020

In collaboration with the government, NIRAS Asia Manila has paved the way for a study that will assess the trade, tourism and ecological value of marine turtles and blue-naped parrots as part of its efforts to combat illegal wildlife trade in the Philippines.

The said initiative was done through a recent expert counsel with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Biodiversity Management Bureau (DENR-BMB)

Led by environmental economist Agustin Arcenas, the report analyzed the monetary value and ecosystem benefits derived from marine turtles and blue-naped parrots, representing some of the country's most iconic wildlife.

“The study aims to convince decision-makers that many animals are worth more alive than dead by assessing the trade, tourism and ecological value of marine turtles and blue-naped parrots,” Arcenas said.

Results shall be publicized in the coming months.

NIRAS Asia Manila believes that the reasons for conserving wildlife range from the moral obligation to prevent extinction to more pragmatic reasons like wildlife tourism or the protection of natural systems that benefit local communities.

The Philippines is a hotspot of biodiversity but also hub for illegal wildlife trade (IWT), having served as an illegal transshipment point for elephant ivory, as a source country of wildlife and wildlife byproducts such as pangolins and marine turtles, as well as a destination of trades, such as parrots kept as pets.

“People know that wildlife play an important role in balancing the environment, but their economic value has never been taken seriously,” said DENR-BMB Wildlife Resources Division Officer-in-Charge Theresa Tenazas.

“This study can finally give our enforcers, law practitioners, prosecutors and judges the correct valuation of wildlife – preventing the dismissal of wildlife cases because of the inability to establish their economic value, an argument often used by offenders to escape conviction,” she added.

Currently, the DENR-ADB/Global Environment Facility is pushing for stronger legal reforms against IWT, including enhanced capacity-building for law enforcers, and demand reduction measures targeting consumers.

“Biology, conservation science and economics must be meshed together to defeat the illegal wildlife trade and we are glad to see that the Philippines is taking a leading role in this,” said ADB environmental specialist Francesco Ricciardi.

Cagayan cops lead cleanup of PH longest river bridge

August 21, 2020

By [Alfred P. Dalizon](#) [People's Tonight](#)

Source: Solana Police post on Facebook

LOCAL police and public officials in Solana, Cagayan yesterday led the 1st clean-up drive in Buntun Bridge, considered as the longest river bridge in the Philippines in an effort to restore its cleanliness, Cagayan Police Provincial Office director, Colonel Ariel N. Quilang said.

Quilang reported to Police Regional Office 2 director, Brigadier General Crizaldo O. Nieves that the cleanup drive is history in themaking since Buntun Bridge is considered as the longest river bridge in the entire country.

The river bridge stretches from Tuguegarao City to the municipalities of Solana and Enrile and other parts of Cagayan and Isabela provinces and spans the Cagayan River, the largest river basin in the country.

It is the second longest bridge in the country, coming next to San Juanico Bridge which connects Leyte and Samar, and forms part of the Santiago-Tuguegarao Road which is a major junction of the Pan-Philippine Highway.

Wikipedia says it is a popular belief that the Buntun Bridge is long enough for a person to sing the entire Lupang Hinirang or the Philippine national anthem while traversing it. The Buntun River traverses the big Cagayan River which is a main source of water irrigation for farmers in the region apart from being an access to transportation.

Quilang said that nearly 200 members of the Solana Municipal Police Station led by Captain Jun-Jhun Balisi, Solana Sangguniang Bayan members led by Domingo Lagundi Jr. and officials of different cluster barangays of Lingu, Nangalisan and Maddarlug participated in the clean-up drive.

“This is part of the Solana police’s effort to help restore the beauty of the Buntun Bridge which remains a main tourist spot in Cagayan province,” said the Cagayan police director.

‘We are almost out of time on climate change’



By [Ludwig O. Federigan](#)

August 22, 2020

Climate change means the alteration of the world’s climate that we humans are causing through fossil fuel burning, clearing forests and other practices that increase the concentration of greenhouse gases (GHG) in the atmosphere.

Our ecosystems, agriculture, livelihoods and settlements are very dependent on the climate.

The problem now is global temperatures have risen rapidly over the last few decades with strong evidence of increases in average global air and ocean temperatures, widespread melting of snow and ice, and rising average sea levels.

Climate change will affect all countries, but people in developing countries, like the Philippines, are more likely to suffer the most. Many of them depend on climate-sensitive livelihoods, such as agriculture, and have little or no means to cope with climate change, owing to low savings, no property insurance and poor access to public services. Climate change is expected to reduce already low incomes, and increase illness and death rates in many countries.

Five years ago, in December 2015, during the 21st Conference of Parties (COP21) which gathered heads of states and government representatives in Paris, France, history was made. They came up with a legally binding agreement for reducing GHG emissions to limit the global temperature rise, and to show their commitment to care for our common home, planet Earth, and for all of humanity.

The Paris Agreement was born due to the continuous warming of our climate system, which is changing unprecedentedly over decades and to the millennia. With the Philippines as one of its signatories, the agreement is a landmark international framework for global action, which aims to limit global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial temperature levels; enhance adaptive capacity and climate resilience; and ensure financing for climate-resilient and low carbon development.

The goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial averages was intrinsically linked to loss and damage. The higher our global temperature limit, the hotter our world gets, thereby delivering more severe impacts of climate change.

The IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.50C

The release of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s (IPCC) Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius in 2018 gave the latest assessment of the scientific understanding of climate change. The report reflects the consensus of a broad community of stakeholders and holds to IPCC’s highly regarded standards for scientific integrity.

The report is focused on the risks presented by — and the challenges of avoiding — a warming of 1.5 degree Celsius above pre-industrial levels. It gives policymakers and practitioners the information

‘We are almost out of time on climate change’

they need to make decisions that tackle climate change while considering the local context and people’s needs.

The release of the report affirms the Philippines’ call for greater urgency and ambition in implementing the Paris Agreement. It strengthens the Philippine leadership stand and policy advocacy on the pursuit of the global warming threshold and long-term temperature goal of 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

As climate science informs national policy and global action, it also fortifies the moral foundation on which we call for greater resolve and unequivocal solidarity to do more and faster to make our one planet safer and our future more secure.

The report gave us insights on what awaits us if we remain complacent to the recurring impacts of climate change. According to the report, global warming is likely to reach 1.5 degrees Celsius between 2030 and 2052.

This increase will result in drastic changes in weather patterns, such as warming of extreme temperatures; increase in frequency, intensity, and duration of floods; and increase in frequency and intensity of droughts.

It is projected to shift the ranges of many marine species to higher latitudes, as well as increase the amount of damage to many ecosystems, drive the loss of coastal resources, and reduce the productivity of fisheries and aquaculture.

The level of ocean acidification due to increasing carbon dioxide concentrations associated with global warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius is projected to amplify the adverse effects of warming, impacting the growth, development, calcification and survival, and thus the abundance of a broad range of species. Coral reefs, for example, are projected to decline by a further 70 to 90 percent at 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Climate change is projected to be a poverty multiplier, which means that its impacts are expected to make the poor poorer and the total number of people living in poverty greater.

The IPCC Special Report shows that the world is not on track to reach the goal of the Paris Agreement to limit the global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

World expected to hit 1.5°C by 2024

However, the recent report released by the World Meteorological Organization or WMO alerted the world that we are swiftly nearing the 1.5-degree mark. Based on their projections, the world is expected to reach the 1.5-degree Celsius temperature threshold by 2024. This is far more alarming than the forecast of the recent report that we will reach the benchmark between 2030 to 2052.

The new annual prediction also stated that the annual mean global temperature is likely to be at least 1 degree Celsius above pre-industrial levels from 1850-1900 in each of the coming five years (2020-2024), and there is a 20-percent chance that it will exceed 1.5 degrees Celsius in at least one year.

‘We are almost out of time on climate change’

Furthermore, the report emphasized that there’s a 70-percent chance that the 1.5-degree mark will be exceeded in a single month between 2020 and 2024. The five-year period is expected to see annual average temperatures that are 0.91 to 1.59 degree Celsius higher than pre-industrial averages.

While a new annual high might be followed by several years with lower average temperatures, breaking that threshold would be seen as further evidence that international efforts to curb climate change are futile.

One message is very clear: “We are almost out of time on climate change.” We are seeing the windows of opportunities closing right in front of our eyes.

If business-as-usual were to continue, vulnerable countries, those who are contributing less to the global carbon emissions like the Philippines, are bound to suffer the most from the impacts of climate change.

We need to immediately re-strategize and urgently align our current and future plans and actions to contribute to the global call for climate action. We need to put forward stronger adaptation and mitigation measures to ensure that all Filipinos will survive and thrive in these challenging times.

The author is the executive director of the Young Environmental Forum and a Non-Resident Fellow of Stratbase ADR Institute. He completed his climate change and development course at the University of East Anglia (United Kingdom) and an executive program on sustainability leadership at Yale University (USA). He can be emailed at ludwig.federigan@gmail.com.

BPLO contradicts DENR guidelines and SC decision



By [Al S. Vitangcol 3rd](#)

August 22, 2020

A YEAR ago, the Supreme Court ordered the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) and its water concessionaires, Maynilad Water Services Inc. and Manila Water Co. Inc. to pay huge fines for their non-compliance with the Clean Water Act.

Under the Clean Water Act, the MWSS and its concessionaires are required to provide wastewater treatment facilities and to connect sewage lines in all establishments, including households, to an available sewerage system within five years upon effectivity of the Clean Water Act on March 6, 2004.

On April 22, 2019, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) issued Memorandum Circular 2019-62. This was prior to the Aug. 6, 2019 promulgation of the consolidated cases of Maynilad v. Secretary of the DENR et al. (GR 202987), Manila Water v. Secretary of the DENR et al. (GR 206823) and MWSS v. Pollution Adjudication Board et al. (GR 207969).

The DENR's issuance was part of its effort to rehabilitate the Manila Bay and requires, among others, that "no business owner shall be issued new business permit unless he/she has obtained the necessary clearances and permits such as discharge permits and environmental sanitation clearances as may be prescribed by existing laws or as may be required by DENR, LLDA (Laguna Lake Development Authority), and/or DoH (Department of Health) and its instrumentalities (Paragraph 6.2.8.3)."

Las Piñas BPLO requirement

The Business Permits and Licensing Office (BPLO) of Las Piñas City requires all business permit applicants (also termed as permittees) to secure a wastewater discharge permit from the DENR on or before June 30, 2020. According to a document appended to the business license and mayor's permit, which was signed by the BPLO chief, this is supposedly in compliance with the writ of continuing mandamus relative to the case of Metro Manila Development Authority v. Concerned Citizens (sic) of Manila Bay, GR 171947-48, decided on Dec. 18, 2008.

While the Covid-19 pandemic is raging, the said BPLO started to send out notices to the permittees and threatened the closure of businesses and revocation of their business licenses and mayor's permits for failure to secure such certificates from the DENR. Most of the businesses are temporarily closed due to the extended quarantine periods and yet this BPLO still has the gall to threaten them with closure.

Upon close scrutiny, this requirement of the BPLO for the permittees to secure a wastewater discharge permit from the DENR is void and illegal. Knowing that such a requirement is patently illegal, I wrote a letter (on behalf of some business owners) to the BPLO chief explaining such illegality.

BPLO contradicts DENR guidelines and SC decision

Prevailing jurisprudence

The consolidated cases of Maynilad, Manila Water and MWSS had superseded the MMDA v. Concerned Residents of Manila Bay case, which was used as a basis by the Las Piñas BPLO. Thus, whatever rulings enunciated in the MMDA case can no longer be enforced. The requirement for a permittee to secure a wastewater discharge permit from the DENR is clearly out of order.

The Supreme Court analyzed the Clean Water Act, particularly Section 8 and held:

“Section 8 thus imposes the following obligations, dissected as follows:

- “1. The setting of the obligation is prefaced by stating a day certain for its complete performance period of within five years from effectivity of the Clean Water Act.;
- “2. The actors here are ‘the agenc[ies] vested to provide water supply and sewerage facilities and/or concessionaires in Metro Manila and other highly urbanized cities (HUCs).’;
- “3. The pre-station set by law is the ‘[connection of] the existing sewage line found in all subdivisions, condominiums, commercial centers, hotels, sports and recreational facilities, hospitals, market places, public buildings, industrial complex and other similar establishments, including households, to available sewerage system.’”

It is rather clear and unequivocal that the “connection of the existing sewage line found in all subdivisions, condominiums, commercial centers, hotels, sports and recreational facilities, hospitals, market places, public buildings, industrial complex and other similar establishments, including households, to available sewerage system” is the sole responsibility of “the agencies vested to provide water supply and sewerage facilities and/or concessionaires in Metro Manila.”

Obviously, the agency vested to provide the sewage facilities is the MWSS and the concessionaires are Maynilad and Manila Water. In the instance of Las Piñas City, the water and sewerage concessionaire is Maynilad. Thus, the party responsible to secure the wastewater discharge permit is Maynilad and no one else.

Considering that the subscribers of Maynilad have been paying environmental charges (20 percent of the basic charge and the Foreign Currency Differential Adjustment or FCDA) then they are shielded from the nuances of wastewater discharge operations, including getting a wastewater discharge permit from the DENR. This responsibility rests with Maynilad alone.

DENR response

In order to clear any misunderstandings or misinterpretations, I sent an email to the regional office of the DENR and called up its central office. I was assisted by the Office of the Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concern.

Indeed, paragraph 6.2.3.8 of DENR’s MC 2019-62 is still in effect. However, it is relevant only to those local government units (LGUs), which have no water and sewage concessionaires. Thus, it does not apply to those LGUs with water concessionaires. Since the whole of Las Piñas City has Maynilad as its water concessionaire, then the requirement as set forth in paragraph 6.2.3.8 is inapplicable.

BPLO contradicts DENR guidelines and SC decision

Its BPLO cannot enforce a requirement, specifically getting a wastewater discharge permit from the DENR, if such is misplaced.

Accordingly, all the permittee needs to prove is that it/he/she is a subscriber of the water concessionaire in their area. This will then negate the necessity for a wastewater discharge permit.

Meanwhile, the BPLO chief of Las Piñas City has not responded to my letter.

Likewise, both the DENR-National Capital Region regional director and regional executive director have not replied to my email.

Can we just comfort ourselves with Luke 23:34? “Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they are doing.”

Hundreds of used rapid test kits dumped on Abuyog, Leyte roadside

Published August 21, 2020 8:34pm

Hundreds of used rapid test kits were merely dumped on the side of a highway in Abuyog, Leyte.

According to John Consulta's report on "24 Oras" on Friday, the local government said the test kits came from a private clinic in another district.

"Nalaman na lang namin na galing pala ito sa isang private clinic. Tinapon daw ng driver so hindi pa kami sure. The investigation is still ongoing," Abuyog, Leyte Mayor Lemuel Gintraya said.

"According sa investigation namin, it's from a different municipality actually so it's from a different district. Malayo talaga like mga 100 kilometers, more than 100 kilometers away," he added.

Gintraya said the Environment Management Bureau and the Department of Health are already investigating the matter.

Meanwhile, the test kits were gathered and disposed of properly following health standards, he added.

"Per advise ng EMB, lagyan daw ng concentrated chlorine, i-sanitize siya then ilagay sa plastic drum, 'yong blue na malaki na drum, tapos i-seal siya, huwag na siyang buksan kasi 'yon nga delikado kasi," Gintraya said.

So far, Abuyog has recorded a total of 24 cases of COVID-19 with nine recoveries. — **Ma. Angelica Garcia/DVM, GMA News**

Sey ng experts, bukod sa kanser sa baga... Polusyon sa hangin, sanhi ng pagkabayolente!

September 12, 2019

[Jersey Sanchez / Gulat ka 'noh?!](#)



Alam ng karamihan sa atin na ang exposure sa mataas na antas ng polusyon sa hangin ay nagdudulot ng respiratory infection, sakit sa puso, stroke, kanser sa baga, dementia at Alzheimer's disease. Pero, base sa mga bagong pag-aaral, ang polusyon sa hangin ay hindi lamang nakaapekto sa kalusugan kundi maging sa pag-uugali natin. Sey ng experts, maaari itong maging sanhi ng pagkabayolente ng mga tao.

Base sa pag-aaral na isinagawa sa 9,360 siyudad sa US, napag-alaman na tumataas ang krimen dahil sa polusyon sa hangin. Nati-trigger umano ng polluted air ang anxiety ng indibidwal na nagreresulta sa pagtaas ng unethical behavior.

Gayundin, may isa pang pag-aaral sa UK na sumusuporta rito. Ikinumpara ng mga researcher ang data ng 1.8 milyong krimen at pollution data ng London sa loob ng dalawang taon. Kabilang sa inanalisa ng mga researcher ang temperature, humidity at rainfall, gayundin ang bawat araw at iba't ibang season.

Ang air quality index o AQI ang nagsasabi kung gaano kalinis o karumi ang hangin kada araw. Napag-alaman ng mga researcher na kapag tumaas sa 10-point ang AQI, tumataas din ang crime rate nang .9%.

Gayunman, ang antas ng krimen sa London ay mas mataas sa mga araw na mataas din ang polusyon.

Ang mga resultang ito ay may kaugnayan sa pagtaas ng krimen tulad ng shoplifting at pandurukot. At maaari umano itong dumami at mauwi sa mas seryosong krimen kung patuloy na tataas ang antas ng polusyon.

Ito ay dahil ayon sa mga eksperto, nakaiimpluwensiya rin sa ugali ng indibidwal ang lipunang ginagalawan nito.

Halimbawa nito ang 'broken window theory'.

Isa itong criminological theory kung saan kapag nakikita umano ng mga tao ang senyales ng krimen, anti-social behavior at civil disorder, nahihikayat ang mga ito na maging bayolente at gumawa ng krimen.

Sey ng experts, bukod sa kanser sa baga... Polusyon sa hangin, sanhi ng pagkabayolente!

Samantala, ayon sa World Health Organization (WHO), siyam sa bawat sampu katao sa buong mundo ang nakalalanghap ng toxic na hangin.

Bagama't, marami nang patunay na ang maruming hangin ay nakasasama sa ating physical at mental health, lahat tayo ay may dapat gawin para masiguradong malinis ang hangin na nalalanghap natin.

Kabilang na rito ang paglalakad sa halip na gumamit ng sasakyan kung malapit lang naman ang pu-puntahan, hindi paninigarilyo at marami pang iba.

Mga besh, para hindi na tumaas pa ang bilang ng krimen, make sure na gagawa tayo ng paraan para hindi tumaas ang antas ng polusyon, ha? Copy?

20 families in Masbate town to be relocated after sea intrusion claims their places of residence

Published August 21, 2020, 5:47 PM

by [Nino Luces](#)

LEGAZPI CITY, Albay – At least 20 families in Barangay Magtayum, Cataingan town in Masbate province will be relocated to a safer place after they found their homes submerged in seawater brought about by the 6.5-magnitude earthquake that struck the province on Tuesday morning.



This sitio in Brgy. Magtayum is submerged into waist-deep water due to sea intrusion after 6.5 magnitude quake struck Masbate province on Tuesday. At least 20 families were initially to be relocated to safer ground according to OCD-Bicol.

(Photo by Jsar Adornado, OCD-Bicol / MANILA BULLETIN)

Office of the Civil Defense (OCD) Bicol Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office Chief Jsar Adornado told The Manila Bulletin that in the assessment made by Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs), Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), OCD and the LGU-Cataingan on Friday noon, authorities recommended to relocate 20 families affected by sea intrusion in one sitio of Brgy. Magtayum.

“Hinda naman tumaas yung tubig kundi bumaba yung lupa pagkatapos ng malakas na lindol. Sa ginawang assessment kanina, hahanapan ng relocation site ni mayor yung 20 pamilya na apektado,” Adornado explained.

Brgy. Magtayum is the nearest village to epicenter of the 6.5-magnitude earthquake that rocked the province, according to Adornado.

He said that the water intrusion was waist-level deep, rendering their places of residence no longer suitable to be lived in.

“Hanggang beywang yung lalim ng tubig. Doon ito sa isang sitio. Sa pag-uusap namin kanina, sinabi ni mayor na pagagawan din ng ordinansa na i-relocate pa yung natitirang mga residente maliban sa 20 pamilyang ito. Yung 20 pamilya, heto yung immediate,” he added.

In the meantime, these affected families are now at the evacuation center in Magtayum Elementary School.

20 families in Masbate town to be relocated after sea intrusion claims their places of residence

” So far heto lang talaga yung kritikal kasi di na sila pwede pang tumira sa mga bahay nila. Meron nga dun bagong gawa na bahay at madadagdagan pa ito dahil aalisin na rin yung iba pang residente sa sitio na ito,” he said.

Meanwhile, in report released by OCD-Bicol on Friday noon, there were 416 families or 1,957 individuals affected by the 5.6 magnitude quake.

A total of 504 houses were damaged, of which 51 were totally destroyed while 454 are partially damaged.

Nestlé PH partners with PCEx to reduce its plastic footprint

By [...](#) August 21, 2020



Plastic Credit Exchange (PCEx) founder Nanette Medved-Po (Photo from PCEx)

Nestlé Philippines has entered into an agreement with Plastic Credit Exchange (PCEx) to collect soft plastic waste from Baseco Tondo in Manila, Payatas in Quezon City, and Rodriguez in Rizal province. Nestlé Philippines will support PCEx in its collection of post-consumer soft plastics from communities, consolidators and local government units. The plastic waste will be co-processed and diverted from landfills.

The initiative falls under a plastic waste collection, recycling, and recovery program that Nestlé Philippines is implementing with various partners and stakeholders.

“With plastic waste continuing to accumulate in landfills and oceans, the need for tackling plastic pollution has never been so pressing. It is an urgent priority for us and an issue we take seriously,” said Nestlé Philippines chairman and chief executive officer Kais Marzouki.

Headed by founder and president Nanette Medved-Po, PCEx is an offshoot of HOPE in a Bottle, a brand of bottled water that commits 100 percent of its profits to the building of public school classrooms in partnership with the Department of Education.

A non-profit organization, PCEx takes pledges from companies of all sizes and industries, and funds operations that prevent plastic waste from ending up in nature. It engages communities of waste collectors and aggregators and organizes this informal sector to create dignified work and offer improved livelihood.

“The journey of HOPE to sustainability – and therefore to the Plastic Credit Exchange – in a way, started with Nestlé. Years ago, their Philippine CEO reached out to me about projects that Nestlé was supporting – like eco-bricks. From there, HOPE began to explore environmentally sustainable and affordable ways for companies to be responsible for their plastic footprints. In 2019 we established the Plastic Credit Exchange from our learnings and came back to Nestlé whom we felt would be a natural partner, given our common goals for sustainability,” Medved-Po explained.

Nestlé Philippines is also participating in the *Aling Tindera* Waste-to-Cash program recently launched by PCEx and the City of Manila, in which women with *sari-sari* stores will be provided with incentives for their stores to become collection points for post-consumer plastic waste. Benefits of the program include increased income opportunities for women micro-entrepreneurs and city residents; a more organized informal sector of waste collectors; and a cleaner environment and improved health. Each participating *sari-sari* store will be equipped with a container van to hold collected plastic waste turned in for cash. The container vans will be sponsored by corporations including Nestlé Philippines. Marzouki stressed that while they are working on packaging innovations, alternative materials and plastic reduction, as well as education campaigns, they are finding ways to divert plastic waste from landfills and oceans.

The company recently announced the shift to paper straws for its ready-to-drink products that will eliminate 130 metric tons of plastic straws by the end of the year, when the changeover is expected to be completed.

“We are determined to look at every option to solve complex packaging challenges and embrace multiple solutions that can have an impact now. For our part, we at Nestlé envision a waste-free future in the face of these complex challenges. We are glad to be taking a concrete step, one among many, toward realizing that vision through our partnership with PCEx,” Marzouki said.

Nestlé Philippines partners with Plastic Credit Exchange to reduce its plastic footprint



By [BusinessMirror](#)
August 21, 2020



In a fresh initiative to reduce its plastic footprint, Nestlé Philippines has signed a partnership with Plastic Credit Exchange (PCEx) to recover post-consumer plastic waste from communities, consolidators, and local government units. In photo are waste pickers affiliated with PCEx in BASECO, Manila hard at work helping to keep the environment clean. After weeks of collection, they load thousands of kilograms of post-consumer plastic waste onto the 40-footer PCEx truck bound for the plastic processors (file photo).

In a new step to reduce its plastic footprint in the environment, food and beverage manufacturer Nestlé Philippines has entered into an agreement with Plastic Credit Exchange (PCEx) to collect soft plastic waste from Baseco in Tondo, Manila, Payatas in Quezon City, and Rodriguez in Rizal province.

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Duterte's 'heart in the right place' to solve pandemic — Duque



Published

12 hours ago on August 21, 2020 04:57 PM

By [MJ Blancaflor](#)



President Rodrigo Duterte's heart is in the "right place" to address the pandemic even if he told Filipinos to disinfect their hands and masks with gasoline, Health Secretary Francisco Duque III said Friday.

Duque, in a media forum organized by the University of the Philippines, defended the Philippine leader over his controversial remark by saying that the Chief Executive is just "playful."

The Health chief also admitted that he did not bother to warn President Duterte of the dangers of his pronouncement although he insisted that the government's response to the COVID-19 crisis should be backed by science.

"The President can be playful sometimes. He has off the cuff statements but he is only joking. You know, he has been President for four years, and he really has those comments," Duque told reporters.

"But deep inside, he is really concerned with what's happening and he really wants the government to respond as best as it can and muster all resources that there are," he added.

Duque went further: "His heart is in the right place. If only he can decide on his own, the primacy of health is for him the paramount consideration."

The President's controversial remark last July has landed on foreign publications but health officials in the country brushed it off as a joke. But in another speech, Duterte said: "What I've said was true... go to a gasoline station."

The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention previously warned against the use of gasoline as antiseptic, saying it may cause allergies such as dermatitis.

The World Health Organization recommends washing hands using soap and water for at least 20 seconds as a precautionary measure against COVID-19. In the absence of soap and water, the use of alcohol or alcohol-based hand sanitizer is recommended.

4.7K new Covid-19 infections; active cases now 64.9K

By Raymond Carl Dela Cruz August 21, 2020, 6:05 pm



COVID-19 CASE BULLETIN. The Covid-19 case bulletin of the Department of Health (DOH) on Friday (Aug. 21, 2020). The DOH reported 4,786 new Covid-19 cases, bringing the country's total to 182,365. (Photo courtesy of DOH)

MANILA – The Department of Health (DOH) on Friday reported 4,786 new infections of the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19), bringing the country's active cases at 64,906.

In its daily Covid-19 bulletin, the DOH said the new cases bring the country's total to 182,365, noting that the region with the highest number of new cases remains the National Capital Region (NCR) with 2,716, followed by Cavite with 267, Laguna with 222, and both Batangas and Rizal with 185 each. Of the active cases, it said the majority were exhibiting mild symptoms at 91.5 percent, followed by asymptomatic or no symptoms at 6.5 percent, those in critical condition at 1.2 percent, and severe at 0.8 percent.

It also reported 616 new recoveries—bringing the country's total recoveries to 114,519—and 59 new deaths—resulting in a total of 2,940 casualties since the pandemic hit the country.

Meanwhile, it said about half of the country's total available beds and mechanical ventilators reserved for Covid-19 cases remain available.

For the country's 1,700 beds at intensive care units (ICU), it said 51 percent is occupied; 12,600 isolation beds at 48 percent occupancy, 5,000 ward beds at 51 percent occupancy; and of its 2,200 ventilators, only 30 percent is in use.

In Region 7 or Central Visayas, it reported that its 163 ICU beds are only 31 percent occupied; 1,100 isolation beds 33 percent occupied; 459 ward beds 23 percent occupied; and of its 191 ventilators, only 21 percent is in use.

Meanwhile, the number of available beds in NCR remains critical.

Out of NCR's 626 total ICU beds, it said 70 percent is currently in use; its 3,800 isolation beds at 71 percent occupancy; its 1,700 ward beds at 81 percent occupancy; and out of its 839 ventilators, 46 percent are currently in use.

In Region 4A (Calabarzon), the number of available beds is also reaching critical levels.

Out of its 174 ICU beds, it reported a 63 percent occupancy rate while 61 percent of its 1,300 isolation beds are occupied.

Meanwhile, 65 percent of its 605 ward beds are occupied while 37 percent of its 283 ventilators are currently in use. (PNA)

MGA SIMBAHAN TAGAKALAT NG COVID-19



August 21, 2020 @ 3:54 PM 13 hours ago

Karambola muli ang gobyernong South Korea makaraang kapitan at magkalat ng corona virus disease-19 ang simbahan Sarang Jeil Church sa mismong Seoul at mga karatig-pook na may 25 milyong katao.

Ayon sa mga awtoridad roon, 166 miyembro ng nasabing simbahan ang natagpuan nang may COVID-19 mula sa nasa 800 miyembro na nakakalat sa 12 kongregason na hinihinalang may taglay ring virus.

Nagtatago umano ang may 600 miyembro at pinakikilos na ng gobyerno ang 8,500 pulis para hanapin sila at iba pang may impeksyon din mula sa ibang mga simbahan at raliyesta na kontra sa gobyerno.

Ang simbahanang ito ang umano'y may pinakamalaking bilang ng daan-daang bagong impeksyon sa South Korea araw-araw.

Matatandaang naunang nagkalat ng COVID-19 ang Simbahang Katolikang Shincheonji Church of Jesus sa Daego City na 283 kilometro ang layo sa Seoul noong kalagitnaan ng Pebrero 2020.

Mula sa babaeng Patient 31 na dumalo sa mga misa sa iba't ibang simbahan, palibing, paliligo sa sauna bath at iba pa, sa loob lang ng ilang araw, 1,250 na ang nahawaan at kumalat na ang COVID-19 sa buong Korea.

Dito na nagbanta ang gobyerno ng pag-aresto at pagkulong sa mga lider at kasami ng nasabing simbahan kung manatili silang nagtatago at hindi makipagkooperasyon laban sa pandemya.

Habang sinusulat ito, may 16,670 na kabuuang may impeksyon, 309 patay at 18 kritikal.

MGA AKSYON NG SOUTH KOREA

Bukod sa bantang pag-aresto at pagkulong sa mga ayaw magpa-contact tracing at magpalagay sa isolation facilities, pinagbawalan na ang lahat ng simbahan na magsagawa ng "in-person" na gawain gaya ng pangungumpisal, pabinyag at kasal at isinara na rin ang lahat ng nightclub, karaoke bar, buffet o kainan at cyber café o kompyuteran.

Maaari ring ipagbawal na ang maramihang pagtitipon ng mga Koreano at gagawing hanggang 10 na lang mula sa 50 hanggang 100 katao kung patuloy na mabilis na dumami ang magkakasakit at mamatay.

MGA SIMBAHAN TAGAKALAT NG COVID-19

Ganyan kaistrikto sa South Korea na dahilan upang hindi gaanong mabilis ang paglobo ng may COVID-19.

At sa pakikibalita natin sa mga Pinoy na galing sa nasabing bansa, talaga namang masunurin sa batas ang mga Koreano kaya ang virus ay mabilis at madali nilang nakontrol.

BALITA SA IBANG BANSA

Mayayanig ka sa balitang napakarami ang namamatay na lider ng mga simbahan sa ibang bansa.

Nangunguna rito ang Mexico na may 70 pari nang namatay, 6 deacon at 5 religious.

Aktibong kumikilos ang mga ito sa mga pangsimbahang gawain sa buong Mexico, ngunit karamihan sa kanila ang nakatalaga sa San Luis Potosi, Morelia at Puebla.

Ayon sa Multimedia Catholic Center, nitong Agosto 6, 2020 lamang, limang pari ang namatay sa loob lamang ng 24 oras.

Sa ngayon, halos 550,000 na ang may impeksyon sa pagkakaroon ng nasa 6,000 araw-araw na biktima; mahigit 59,100 patay mula sa nasa 500 biktima araw-araw; at mahigit 3,500 na kritikal ang kalagayan.

Pang-7 sa buong mundo ang Mexico sa may pinakamaraming impeksyon ngayon.

Nauna rito, halos 70 ring pari ang namatay sa Italia sa kasagsagan ng COVID-19 dahil sa noong una'y utos mismo ni Papa Kiko na puntahan at basbasan ang mga nagkakasakit at namamatay sa COVID-19.

30 OBISPO, PARI PATAY RIN .

Kina President Donal Trump naman, aba, parami nang parami rin ang namamatay, lalo na sa hanay ng mga protestanteng grupo gaya ng Church of God in Christ.

Ito umano ang pinakamalaking Pentecostal Church na pangunahing binubuo ng African-Americans sa pagkakaroon ng nasa 6 milyong miyembro.

Namatayan na ang mga ito ng 30 obispo at pastor.

Namamatayan sila dahil sa mga pagtitipon para sa komperensya, kasal at iba pa.

Marami sa mga simbahan sa bansang ito ang gustong may dumalo sa mga panreliyong aktibidad upang makaseguro sila ng kita mula sa kanilang miyembro at hindi mabangkrap.

Kabilang sa mga namatay si Bishop Gerald Glenn, ng Evangelical Church naman, na umaatake sa social distancing bilang patakaran laban sa COVID-19.

May ilang paring Katoliko na rin ang namatay rito, kabilang na ang Mexicanong si Father Jorge Ortiz-Garay sa Brooklyn at si Fr. Father Donnel Kirchner sa Texas.

Makaraang magmisa sa online, namatay si Garay habang namatay rin si Kirchner makaraang magmisa sa kanyang parokyang Holy Ghost Parish sa Houston.

MGA SIMBAHAN TAGAKALAT NG COVID-19

Namatay rin sa Nigeria si Fr. Joachim Cabanyes na isang pari.

PANG-22 SA IMPEKSYON; PANG-31 SA PATAY

Ang mahal kong Pinas naman, sa ngayon ay pang-22 sa buong mundo sa rami ng may impeksyon at pang-31 sa rami ng may patay.

Sa ngayon, nasa 4,00-5,000 ang impeksyon natin at nitong nakaraang mga araw, maliliit lang ang bilang ng mga patay.

Medyo nakagugulat nga lang na nitong nakaraang dalawang araw, naglaro sa 100 ang patay at kabilang tayo sa iilang bansa na may nasa 700 na kritikal ang kalagayan.

Hindi man tayo kabilang sa mga bansang namamatayan ng nasa 1,000 o 200 pataas araw-araw, mahalagang magtulong-tulong tayo na pigilin ang hawaan at kamatayan.

Lalo ngayong ibinaba na sa general community quarantine (GCQ) ang maraming lugar at mas maluwag na modified general community quarantine (MGCQ) ang ibang lugar sa buong bansa.

Heto ang mga idineklarang nasa ilalim ng GCQ simula nitong Agosto 19 at magtatapos ito makaraan ang 15 araw.

Metro Manila, Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna, Rizal, Nueva Ecija, Batangas, Quezon, Iloilo City, Cebu City, Lapu-Lapu City, Mandaue City, Talisay City in Cebu, at mga bayang Minglanilla at Consolacion sa Cebu.

Ang hindi kabilang dito, sakop na ng MGCQ.

ILANG PATAKARAN

Pareho ang GCQ at MGCQ sa patakaran sa galaw ng tao gaya ng hindi paglabas ng tahanan ng mga edad 20 pababa at 60 pataas at mga nasa pagitan ng mga edad na ito na posibleng mahawaan ng COVID-19.

Sa transportasyon, pwedeng bumiyahe ang mga mamamayan sa mga pampublikong sasakyang panlupa at pandagat pero dapat pairalin ang social distancing, pagsusuot ng face mask at face shield.

Sa pagtitipon-tipon ng mga tao, sa GCQ, hanggang 10 lang ang pinapayagan at bawal ang hindi mahalagang okasyon.

Sa MGCQ, hanggang 50 porsyento naman ng lalamnin ng isang lugar o venue ang pupwede sa mga sinehan, sports, komperensya sa trabaho at religious services.

Sa iskul, kung GCQ, skeletal force lang ang pupwede at bawal ang face to face samantalang sa MGCQ, may face to face ang mga estudyante at titser pero dapat istriktong sundin ang mga patakaran ng mga local government unit, health officer at Commission on Higher Education para sa health protocol gaya ng social distaning at pagsusuot ng face mask at face shield.

Sa trabaho, pwedeng salitan ang pagpasok ng mga obrero sa ilalim ng GCQ samantalang sa MGCQ, buo na ang pagpasok ng lahat ng obrero sa kanilang trabaho bagama't may salitan ng trabaho sa mga senior citizen.

MGA SIMBAHAN TAGAKALAT NG COVID-19

Sa sports, sa GCQ, pwede na ang mga non-contact sport, exercise at jogging sa labas ng tahanan at iba pa pero bawal ang mga manonood.

PANAWAGAN SA MGA SIMBAHAN

O hayan ang mga patakaran sa quarantine sa Pinas at karanasan at patakaran sa ibang mga bansa.

Paano ba makatulong ang mga simbahan sa pagkontrol sa COVID-19 upang hindi mahawa, magkasakit at mamamatay ang kanilang mga miyembro na ikinadadamay rin ng iba?

Sinasabing hahayaan na ng pamahalaan ang mga lider ng mga simbahan at relihiyon na magdesisyon kung ano ang gagawin ng mga ito.

Aabangan natin ang mga susunod na pangyayari na may kasamang dasal na sana'y maging ligtas ang lahat ng mananampalataya, kasama na ang ibang mamamayan, sa mga gawain ng mga ito.

LPA in Batanes likely to develop into tropical depression in 24 hrs–Pagasa

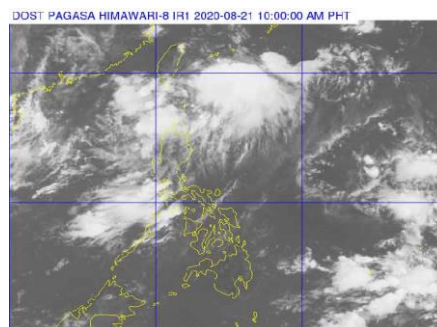


By [Arlie O. Calalo](#)

August 21, 2020

A low pressure area (LPA) was spotted in Batanes and may develop into a tropical depression in 24 hours, the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said on Friday.

In its 10 a.m. advisory, Pagasa said the LPA was 55 kilometers east of Basco and together with habagat or the southwest monsoon would bring light to moderate with at times heavy rains over Cagayan Valley, Ilocos Region, Zambales, Bataan, Cavite, Batangas, Mindoro provinces and northern Palawan.



Scattered rains and thunderstorms may prevail over the rest of Luzon, the state-run weather agency said.

Flooding and rain-induced landslides may occur during heavy or prolonged rainfall, especially in areas that are highly or very highly susceptible to these hazards, Pagasa said.

The public and Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Offices in the affected areas are advised to continue monitoring for updates.

Rains expected in northern Luzon



Published
21 hours ago
On August 21, 2020 07:43 AM
By [TDT](#)



LPA and southwest monsoon to bring intermittent rains to Metro Manila.

A low pressure area and the southwest monsoon will bring rains in northern Luzon today, weather bureau PAGASA said.

The LPA is about 310 kilometers north-northeast of Casiguran, Aurora or 210 kilometers east of Aparri, Cagayan as of 3 a.m. today.

ADVERTISEMENT

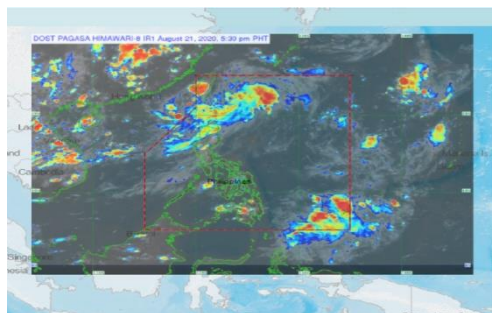
Cloudy skies with scattered rain showers and thunderstorms are expected in the Ilocos Region, Cordillera Administrative Region, Cagayan Valley and Central Luzon.

Other parts of Luzon, Metro Manila and the rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers due to localized thunderstorms.

PAGASA warns of possible flash floods or landslides due to moderate with at times heavy rains.

LPA magiging bagyo sa susunod na 24 na oras; tatawaging bagyong Igme

August 21, 2020 - 05:51 PM



Magiging ganap na bagyo sa susunod na 24 na oras ang Low Pressure Area (LPA) na binabantayan ng PAGASA.

Ang LPA ay huling namataan ng PAGASA sa layong 125 kilometers North Northeast ng Basco, Batanes.

Ayon sa PAGASA sa sandaling maging bagyo, papangalan itong Bagyong Igme.

Ito ang magiging pang-siyam na bagyo sa bansa ngayong taon, at pang-limang bagyo ngayong buwan ng Agosto.

Saglit lang mananatili sa bansa ang bagyo at agad ding lalabas ng Philippine Area of Responsibility bukas (Sabado, Aug. 22) ng gabi o kaya sa Linggo (Aug. 23) ng umaga.

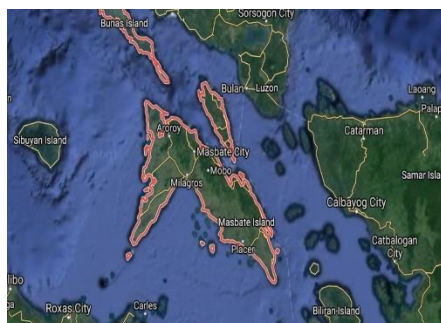
Ang LPA at Habagat ay inaasahang magdudulot ng kalat-kalat na mga pag-ulan sa Metro Manila, Ilocos Region, Cordillera Administrative Region, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon at sa lalawigan ng Rizal.

Localized thunderstorms naman ang iiral sa nalalabi pang bahagi ng bansa. (Dona Dominguez-Cargullo/RadyoINQUIRER)

Read more: <https://radyo.inquirer.net/260646/lpa-magiging-bagyo-sa-susunod-na-24-na-oras-tatawaging-bagyong-igme#ixzz6VnAbCmqP>

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Masbate muling inuga ng magnitude 3.1 na lindol



August 21, 2020 @ 5:29 PM 12 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Muling inuga ng 3.1 magnitude na lindol ang Masbate kaninang umaga Agosto 21, 2020 (Biyernes) iniulat ng Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs).

Ayon sa Phivolcs naramdaman ang pagyanig sa kanluran ng Claveria, Masbate dakong 9:53 ng umaga.

Nabatid sa Phivolcs na naramdaman ang intensity 3 na pagyanig sa Masbate City.

Habang naitala naman ang intensity 1 na lindol sa Naval, Biliran.

Sinabi pa ng Phivolcs na ang origin ng lindol ay tectonic at ang lalim sa lupa ng pagyanig ay 008 kilometro.

Wala naman iniulat na napinsala o inaasahang aftershocks sa naturang lindol. Santi Celario

August 22, 2020

TITLE: _____

PAGE 1/ _____

Magnitude 4.5 quake strikes off Claveria town in Cagayan

By: [Neil Arwin Mercado](#) - Reporter / [@NAMercadoINQ](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 11:02 PM August 21, 2020

MANILA, Philippines — A magnitude 4.5 earthquake hit waters off Cagayan on Friday night, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) reported.

Phivolcs said the tremor was recorded at 9:41 p.m., with the epicenter located 18 kilometers northwest of Claveria town in Cagayan.

The quake, which was of tectonic origin, had a depth of 26 kilometers, it added.

Phivolcs further said that Intensity II was recorded in Bacarra in Ilocos Norte while Instrumental Intensity IV was recorded in Pasuquin, Ilocos Norte, and Instrumental Intensity I, in Vigan City.

Phivolcs said no damage and aftershocks may be expected from the temblor.

Read more: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1325385/magnitude-4-5-quake-strikes-off-claveria-town-in-cagayan#ixzz6Vn8IKwqJ>

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4.5-magnitude earthquake hits Cagayan

Published August 21, 2020, 11:19 PM

by [MB Online](#)

A 4.5-magnitude earthquake struck Cagayan on Friday, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) reported.



The earthquake, which occurred at 9:41 p.m., was tectonic in origin and was traced 18 kilometers northwest of Claveria, Cagayan.

The quake had a depth of 26 km and Intensity II was felt in Bacarra, Ilocos Norte.

PHIVOLCS also recorded the following instrumental intensities: Intensity IV – Pasuquin, Ilocos Norte, Intensity I – Vigan City.

The agency is not expecting any aftershocks or damages.

313 million-year-old fossil footprints at Grand Canyon are the oldest of their kind found at park

Harmeet Kaur, CNN • Published 21st August 2020
FacebookTwitterEmail



(CNN) — Finding fossil footprints at the Grand Canyon isn't particularly unusual. The expansive stretch of red rock is home to an array of formations containing preserved remains of the past.

But a discovery made by a geology professor turned out to be a bigger deal than he could have imagined: what he stumbled upon were the oldest vertebrate fossil tracks ever found at Grand Canyon National Park -- about 313 million years old.

Geologist Allan Krill, a visiting professor [from Norway](#) at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), came across a boulder marked with set of fossil footprints while on a hike with students in 2016, according to a [news release](#) this week from the park.

Intrigued by his finding, Krill sent a photo of the tracks to colleague Stephen Rowland, a paleontologist at UNLV. Rowland and a team of colleagues documented the discovery in a paper published Wednesday in the journal [PLOS One](#).

"These are by far the oldest vertebrate tracks in Grand Canyon, which is known for its abundant fossil tracks," Rowland said in a statement. "... They are among the oldest tracks on Earth of shelled-egg-laying animals, such as reptiles, and the earliest evidence of vertebrate animals walking in sand dunes."

The boulder containing the fossil tracks was exposed after a cliff collapsed. It had been in plain sight alongside a trail, but had seemingly gone unnoticed until Krill brought it to the attention of geologists.

Researchers said the footprints show two separate animals passing on the slope of a sand dune.

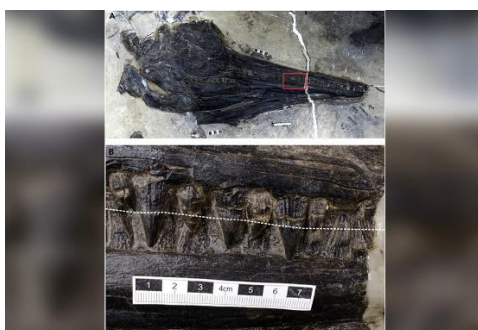
The pattern of the footprints revealed a distinctive gait that scientists did not know about in early animals. Called a lateral-sequence walk, it involves the rear leg and the front leg on one side of the animal moving together, alternating with those legs on the other side moving together.

"Living species of tetrapods, dogs and cats, for example, routinely use a lateral-sequence gait when they walk slowly," Rowland said in a statement. "The Bright Angel Trail tracks document the use of this gait very early in the history of vertebrate animals. We previously had no information about that."

Monster munch: Ancient marine reptile died after dining on fellow titan

Issam Ahmed, Agence France-Presse

Posted at Aug 21 2020 06:33 AM



THUMB/LEAD PIC ATTACHED CAPTION: Ancient apex predators are typically thought to have had large, very sharp teeth -- even though some modern predators like crocodiles use blunt teeth to consume large prey using grasping force instead of cutting. *Courtesy from study by Da-Yong Jiang, Ryosuke Motani, Andrea Tintori, Olivier Rieppel, Cheng Ji, Min Zhou, Xue Wang, Hao Lu, and Zhi-Guang*

WASHINGTON - More than 230 million years ago, a giant, dolphin-like marine reptile known as an ichthyosaur devoured its final meal -- a creature almost its own size -- then died a short time later.

Inside its belly was the body of a lizard-like aquatic reptile called a thalattosaur, shorn of its head and long tail but undigested.

Paleontologists digging in a quarry in southwestern China were surprised to discover the remains in 2010: it's almost unheard of to find the stomach contents of marine fossils.

A decade on, in a paper published in *iScience* Thursday, researchers concluded that rather than feeding on much smaller cephalopods like squid, the five-meter (16-foot) long ichthyosaur was probably a megapredator.

What's more, this particular specimen might have died while ingesting its prey, literally biting off more than it could chew.

"The most likely cause of death is the neck breakage, which likely prevented the predator from breathing," co-author Ryosuke Motani, a paleobiologist at the University of California, Davis told AFP.

The ichthyosaur may have sustained injuries while fighting the thalattosaur, he added, or while trying to swallow it -- or both.

But, Motani cautioned: "The interpretation of the death process involves speculation, because nobody was there filming it for us."

Monster munch: Ancient marine reptile died after dining on fellow titan

CROCODILE-LIKE TEETH

The team are a bit more confident that the thalattosaur, which was slightly smaller than its foe at four meters in length, met a violent end, rather than being scavenged after dying of natural causes.

"There are no signs of rotting of the prey -- if it was a rotten carcass, you would not expect to see the fingers still attached to the body," said Motani.

The thalattosaur's disconnected tail was found 20 meters (65 feet) away, leading the team to believe it was ripped off and left behind by the ichthyosaur.

The ichthyosaur's stomach contents didn't show signs of advanced digestion by acid, meaning it likely perished soon after its final meal.

"At first, we just didn't believe it, but after spending several years visiting the dig site and looking at the same specimens, we finally were able to swallow what we were seeing," added Motani.

Because the discovery of stomach contents in marine fossils is so rare, scientists generally rely on tooth and jaw shapes to discern what they may have eaten.

Ancient apex predators are typically thought to have had large, very sharp teeth -- even though some modern predators like crocodiles use blunt teeth to consume large prey using grasping force instead of cutting.

Ichthyosaurs have blunt teeth, but because there was no direct evidence of large prey consumption, researchers previously thought they must feed on small prey.

"Now, we can seriously consider that (Ichthyosaurs) were eating big animals, even when they had grasping teeth," added Motani.

These events took place after the end of the Permian period, some 250 million years ago, when land vertebrates started moving back to the sea following a mass extinction event.

The fact that predators arose shortly afterwards in the Middle Triassic was a sign that ecosystems were bouncing back, said Motani.

Read More: [ichthyosaur](#) [thalattosaur](#) [reptile](#) [ancient marine reptile](#) [megapredator](#) [cephalopods](#) [paleontology updates](#)

Extreme poverty afflicts 100M — World Bank



Published 20 hours ago On August 21, 2020 09:14 AM

By [TDT](#)



CREDITORS urged to cut poor countries some slack. W. Commons

The coronavirus pandemic may have driven as many as 100 million people back into extreme poverty, World Bank President David Malpass warned Thursday.

The Washington-based development lender previously estimated that 60 million people would fall into extreme poverty due to COVID-19, but the new estimate puts the deterioration at 70 to 100 million, and he said “that number could go higher” if the pandemic worsens or drags on.

The situation makes it “imperative” that creditors reduce the amount of debt held by poor countries at risk, going beyond the commitment to suspend debt payments, Malpass said in an interview with *AFP*.

Even so, more countries will be obliged to restructure their debt.

“The debt vulnerabilities are high, and the imperative of getting light at the end of the tunnel so that new investors can come in is substantial,” Malpass said.

Advanced economies in the Group of 20 already have committed to suspending debt payments from the poorest nations through the end of the year, and there is growing support for extending that moratorium into next year amid a pandemic that’s killed nearly 800,000 people and sickened more than 25 million worldwide.

But Malpass said that will not be enough, since the economic downturn means those countries, which already are struggling to provide a safety net for their citizens, will not be in a better position to deal with the payments.

The amount of debt reduction needed will depend on the situation in each country, he said, but the policy “makes a lot of sense.”

“So I think the awareness of this will be gradually, more and more apparent” especially “for the countries with the highest vulnerability to the debt situation.”

The World Bank has committed to deploying \$160 billion in funding to 100 countries through June 2021 in an effort to address the immediate emergency, and about \$21 billion had been released through the end of June.

Extreme poverty afflicts 100M — World Bank



MALPASS

But even so, extreme poverty, defined as earning less than \$1.90 a day, continues to rise.

Malpass said the deterioration is due to a combination of the destruction of jobs during the pandemic as well as supply issues that make access to food more difficult.

“All of this contributes to pushing people back into extreme poverty the longer the economic crisis persists.”

Newly-installed World Bank Chief Economist Carmen Reinhart has called the economic crisis a “pandemic depression,” but Malpass was less concerned with terminology.

“We can start calling it a depression. Our focus is on how do we help countries be resilient in working out on the other side.”

Malpass said he has been “frustrated” by the slow progress among private creditors in providing comparable debt suspension terms for poor countries.

While the Institute for International Finance has set up a framework to waive debt service payments, as of mid-July member banks had not received any applications.

Having a clear view of the size of each country’s debt and the collateral involved also are key to being able to help the debtor nations, Malpass said.

China is a major creditor in many of these countries, and the government has been “participating in the transparency process,” but he said more needs to be done to understand the terms of loans in nations like Angola, where there are liens on the country’s oil output.

Governments in advanced economies so far have been “generous” in their support of developing nations, even while they take on heavy spending programs in their own countries, Malpass said.

“But the bigger problem is that their economies are weak,” Malpass said of the wealthy nations.

“The most important thing the advanced economies do for the developing countries is supply markets... start growing, and start reopening markets.”

p/jd

WHO hopes end to pandemic in 'less than two years'

Agence France-Presse
Posted at Aug 22 2020 04:20 AM

GENEVA - The World Health Organization said Friday it hopes the planet will be rid of the coronavirus pandemic in less than two years -- faster than it took for the Spanish flu.

"We hope to finish this pandemic before less than two years," Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told reporters from the WHO's headquarters in Geneva, insisting that it should be possible to tame the novel coronavirus faster than the deadly 1918 pandemic.

Compared to back then, the world today is at a disadvantage due to its "globalization, closeness, connectedness", which has allowed the novel coronavirus to spread around the world at lightning speed, Tedros acknowledged.

But the world also now has the advantage of far better technology, he said.

By "utilizing the available tools to the maximum and hoping that we can have additional tools like vaccines, I think we can finish it in a shorter time than the 1918 flu."

The COVID-19 pandemic has to date killed nearly 800,000 people and infected close to 23 million worldwide, according to a tally from official sources compiled by AFP.

But the deadliest pandemic in modern history, Spanish flu, killed as many as 50 million victims and infected around 500 million around the world between February 1918 and April 2020.

Five times more people died of it than did in World War I. The first victims were recorded in the United States, before it spread to Europe and then around the world.

That pandemic came in three waves, with the deadliest second wave beginning in the latter half of 1918.

"It took three waves for the disease to infect most of the susceptible individuals," WHO emergencies chief Michael Ryan told journalists.

After that, the flu virus behind the pandemic evolved into a far less deadly seasonal bug, which returned for decades.

"Very often, a pandemic virus settles into a seasonal pattern over time," Ryan said.

He warned though that so far, "this virus is not displaying a similar wave-like pattern. Clearly, when the disease is not under control, it jumps straight back up."