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IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service

After success in Cebu City, Cimatu to look into
TITLE: Bacolod's COVID-19 situation

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After success in Cebu City, Cimatu to look into Bacolod's COVID-19 situation

Published August 26, 2020, 11:47 AM
by [Glazyl Masculino](#)

BACOLOD CITY – Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, who was tasked by President Duterte to help in bringing down the incidence of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in Cebu City, will be arriving here on Thursday with two other Cabinet officials to assess the city's own response to the coronavirus crisis.



Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, chief coronavirus disease (COVID-19) response implementor in the Viayas (NTF AGAINST COVID-19 / File photo / MANILA BULLETIN)

Cimatu will be joined by the national government's Chief Implementer of its COVID-19 response Carlito Galvez, and Presidential Assistant for the Visayas Michael Lloyd Dino.

This was after President Duterte responded to the urgent appeal for help issued by Bacolod City Mayor Evelio Leonardia on Tuesday for the Department of Health to send to his city an augmentation team of 150 nurses, 20 doctors, and 30 medical technologists as an "emergency stop-gap measure" before the city's health care system bogs down for lack of medical personnel in hospitals.

Leonardia made an appeal to the President because he was alarmed that, last August 23, Bacolod hospitals were already refusing admission to new COVID-19 patients, saying they have already reached full capacity, or that there were no more doctors and nurses to care for new patients.

He even stated in his appeal that patients have already died in their homes for failing to avail of emergency hospital services, stressing that these patients could have been given help had there been enough medical personnel in these hospitals.

The mayor said Senator Christopher "Bong" Go informed him that the three Cabinet officials will determine what immediate assistance the national government could give to the city to help stem the spread of COVID-19.

The group visited Iloilo City on Wednesday before proceeding to Bacolod, where they will hold separate meetings with officials of the city and those of the province.

Cimatu will also be bringing with him retired Gen. Mel Feliciano, his deputy in the Cebu mission.

Leonardia said Galvez has already promised to deploy here nurses and doctors from Region 7.

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He will also arrange with DOH Region 6 to bring in more medical personnel to help fill the gap in the city's need for more doctors and nurses, the mayor added.

Galvez also told the local chief executive that he will also put in place, through DOH-6, arrangements with certain Bacolod hotels to serve as "bend-down" facilities to take in recovering COVID patients who will be discharged earlier from hospitals, so that hospital beds can be freed to admit new critically-ill COVID patients.

Galvez also assured Leonardia that he will "deploy five High-Flow Nasal Cannula" at the Corazon Locsin Montelibano Memorial Regional Hospital here, and facilitate that the said hospital will have stocks of Remdesivir, an antiviral drug now used for seriously-ill COVID patients.

He said he will come to Bacolod next week.

Also, Leonardia said that Gen. Robert Ancan, of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Visayas Command Center in Cebu, in a follow-up call promised to field, as soon as possible, a medical team composed of army doctors, nurses, and support health workers to augment the dwindling number of medical health workers here who are stricken with COVID-19 themselves or have resigned.

Ancan also assured the mayor of further medical equipment support after an evaluation. For his part, Dino promised the mayor that the national government "will go all the way" and give "full support" to help Bacolod City.

After Cebu, Cimatu to help Bacolod manage rising number of COVID-19 patients

By: [Carla Gomez](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[Inquirer Visayas](#) / 04:32 PM August 26, 2020

BACOLOD CITY — After helping Cebu City bring down its coronavirus cases, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu is headed to Bacolod to help the city manage the number of patients that have overwhelmed all its hospitals and medical personnel.

Bacolod Mayor Evelio Leonardia said Senator Christopher “Bong” Go informed him that Cimatu would arrive in the city on Thursday, August 27.

Cimatu will be accompanied by retired General Mel Feliciano and Presidential Assistant for the Visayas Michael Dino.

“We want to assure you that the national government is here to help you. We will support you all the way,” said Dino in a statement.

Leonardia on Tuesday sent an “emergency and urgent appeal” to President Duterte to deploy an augmentation team of 150 nurses, 20 doctors, and 30 medical technologists from the Department of Health (DOH) to Bacolod as an “emergency stop-gap measure” before the city healthcare system bogs down due to a surge in COVID-19 cases.

The mayor said the recent spike in local transmissions in Bacolod has filled up the 149 COVID-19 beds in the seven hospitals of the city.

“The situation has worsened because many of the medical staff in these hospitals had tested positive for the virus and had to go on quarantine/isolation and they have not yet reported back to work, while several others have resigned or have gone on absent without leave (AWOL). Most of the personnel are nurses,” said Leonardia in a letter to the president.

“An augmentation team can alternate with the staff that are still on duty at these hospitals or fill up the gap for those who are still in on quarantine,” he added.

Since Sunday, Bacolod hospitals have turned down COVID-19 patients or those with symptoms of the virus since they were filled beyond capacity and that there were no more doctors and nurses to take care of new patients.

Leonardia said some patients died in their homes for failing to avail of emergency hospital services.

As of August 24, Bacolod has 749 cases of COVID-19.

Source: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1327437/after-cebu-cimatu-to-help-bacolod-manage-rising-number-of-covid-19-patients>

Vice-mayor thanks Duterte for answering Bacolod's appeal



HELP HAS ARRIVED. Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu and Presidential Assistant for the Visayas Secretary Michael Lloyd Dino along with other national government officials arrive in Bacolod City Wednesday, August 26. Prior to Bacolod, they also went to Iloilo City where they met with Regional Inter-agency Task Force of Region 6 and local chief executives. (Opav Photo)

[MERLINDA A. PEDROSA](#)

August 26, 2020

BACOLOD City Vice Mayor El Cid Familiaran, chairman of Bacolod City Inter-Agency Task Force against coronavirus disease (Covid-19), has expressed gratitude to President Rodrigo Duterte for answering the urgent appeal of Mayor Evelio Leonardia to send an augmentation team of doctors, nurses, and medical technologists from Department of Health (DOH) to Bacolod.

Leonardia said Tuesday, August 25, that the augmentation team is needed as an emergency stop-gap measure before the city's health care system bogs down due to coronavirus disease (Covid-19) pandemic.

"It's a good news for all of us, we need the help of the National Government. Secretary Roy Cimatu will come here with other Cabinet officials to assess the Covid-19 situation here," Familiaran said.

Leonardia made the emergency and urgent appeal to Duterte to send to Bacolod, through the DOH, an augmentation team of 150 nurses, 20 doctors, and 30 medical technologists.

Senator Bong Go informed the mayor that three Cabinet officials are arriving to meet with Bacolod City officials Thursday, August 27, to assess the Covid-19 situation and to determine what immediate assistance the National Government can give to the city to help stem the spread of Covid-19.

Go, in a text message, told Leonardia that the contingent will be led by Presidential Assistant for the Visayas Secretary Michael Lloyd Dino and Environment Secretary Cimatu, who was also sent by Duterte to Cebu on a special mission to help them at the height of the Covid crisis there.

They will be joined by General Mel Feliciano, partner of Cimatu in the Cebu mission.

The group first visited Iloilo City on Wednesday before proceeding to Bacolod where they will hold separate meetings with officials of the City and those of the province.

Dino promised the mayor that the National Government "will go all the way" and give "full support" to help Bacolod City.

General Robert Ancan, of the AFP Visayas Command Center in Cebu, in a follow-up call to Leonardia, also promised to field, as soon as possible, a medical team composed of Army doctors, nurses, and support health workers to augment the dwindling number of medical health workers here who are stricken with Covid-19 themselves or have resigned.

Vice-mayor thanks Duterte for answering Bacolod's

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Ancan further assured the mayor of further medical equipment support after an evaluation.

In another phone call to Leonardia, Secretary Carlito Galvez Jr. of the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (Opapp), who is also the chief implementer of the National Task Force on Covid-19, promised to catch up with the Thursday meeting of city officials with Dino.

However, if he cannot make it, Galvez assured the mayor that he will come to Bacolod next week.

Galvez also promised Leonardia "to deploy Region 7 nurses and doctors there (Bacolod)" and that he will also arrange with DOH-Western Visayas to bring in more medical personnel to help fill the gap in the City's need for more doctors and nurses.

He will also put in place, through DOH-Western Visayas, arrangements with certain Bacolod hotels to serve as "bend-down" facilities to take in recovering Covid patients who will be discharged earlier from hospitals, so that hospital beds can be freed to admit new critically-ill Covid patients.

Galvez also assured Leonardia that he will "deploy 5 High-Flow Nasal Cannula" to the Corazon Locsin Montelibano Memorial Regional Hospital and facilitate that the said hospital will have stocks of Remdesivir, an antiviral drug now used for seriously-ill Covid patients.

Leonardia made an urgent appeal because he was alarmed by the fact that last August 23, Bacolod hospitals had refused admission to new Covid patients, saying they have already reached full capacity or that there are no more doctors and nurses to take care of new Covid patients.

"Our need for medical staff to fill up the gap in our hospitals is great, Mr. President. Patients have already died in their homes for failing to avail of emergency hospital services," the mayor said.

These patients could have been given help had there been enough medical personnel in these hospitals, he added in his appeal.

Oceana warns against 'ecologically destructive' Toledo reclamation project

By: Rosalie O. Abatayo - Multimedia Reporter - CDN Digital|August 26,2020 - 08:41 AM



DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu (third from the left) is flanked by officials from Toledo City, and Cebu PENRO as they inspect the area in Brgy. Poblacion, Toledo City where the planned 11-hectare reclamation area will be formed. (Photo courtesy of Toledo City PIO)

CEBU CITY, Philippines — International environment group Oceana has branded the looming reclamation project in Toledo City as ill-advised and ecologically destructive.

The reclamation would cover 11-hectares off the coasts in the city's Barangay Poblacion that directly faces the Tañon Strait Protected Seascape, a biodiversity-rich body of water between Negros and Cebu islands.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, in a recent visit to the city, located west of Cebu City, reportedly gave the go-signal for the project to proceed.

Toledo City Public Information office John Roseller Layan, in a separate interview, said the city only needs to complete the remaining documentary requirement for the project before it would start to roll.

“Basically, the concept of this [project] is like that of SRP (South Road Properties of Cebu City) to make Toledo City a commercial hub in the midwest of the province of Cebu,” Layan told CDN Digital.

Layan added that during Cimatu's visit, the latter saw that “there was nothing to protect” in the location as it is only occupied by rocks.

“Nagconduct na pod mi og study as per the local government unit. Sa time ni [former mayor John Henry Osmeña], nagpasawom gyud siya ug nakita nga puro ra man gyud siya bato. Sama pod na sa gipabug-atan ni Sec. Cimatu sa pagtan-aw niya sa documentation,” Layan said.

(The local government unit already conducted a study [on the viability of the reclamation project.] During the administration of former mayor John Henry Osmeña, he commissioned a team of divers and saw the area only has rocks. Sec. Cimatu raised the same observation after going over some documentation.)

The development, however, did not sit well with the environment group who warned that the project “will put the health and well-being of their poor coastal communities in jeopardy.”

“Why the apparent rush to proceed with the project at this time when the priority should be to stop the spread of COVID19 infection and help the people recover from the socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic? Toledo City is home to poor fisherfolks dependent on the Tañon Strait for their food and livelihood. Ironically, the local government seemed to be preoccupied with an ecologically destructive project that will put the health and well-being of their poor coastal communities in jeopardy,” Oceana said in an emailed statement.

Oceana warns against 'ecologically destructive'

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Oceana Vice President Gloria Estenzo-Ramos explained that the dumping and filling of the coast of Toledo City would destroy the protected seascape of Tañon Strait that is an important migration corridor and habitat for marine mammals.

Tañon Strait is the largest protected seascape under the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System (E-NIPAS) Act of 2018.



Hammerhead sharks are some of the endangered species found in the Tañon Strait between Cebu and Negros islands. | Contributed photo/ OCEANA Philippines

Estenzo-Ramos said the project should not be allowed as it will destroy fishing grounds and marine habitats and displace fisherfolks which may result in failure to meet food security and resiliency that “should be a priority amid the pandemic and climate crisis we face.”

“This will also endanger the livelihood of small artisanal fisherfolks dependent on the rich fisheries resources of this narrow body of water between Negros and Cebu for their livelihood,” she said.

Oceana claimed that the proposed project is inconsistent with the approved Tañon Strait Protected Seascape management plan.

Ramos added that apart from a comprehensive Environmental Impact Study and participatory process, an Environmental Compliance Certificate, an area clearance, and the authority to reclaim from the Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA) are required in addition to the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) approval.

The group cited President Duterte’s Executive Order No. 74 which directs for a cumulative impact assessment and hydrodynamic modeling, among other requirements for such project, and the requirement set by the Climate Change Act that local governments and all government agencies integrate climate impacts in all its policies and programs.

According to Oceana, a project that will destroy fishing grounds and marine habitats and displace fisherfolks can not provide food security and resiliency that should be a priority amid the pandemic and climate crisis we face.

When the project was first introduced in 2015, Oceana sent a letter of interrogatories to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), National Economic Development Authority (NEDA), Department of Justice (DOJ), and Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) on the mandates of Toledo City and government agencies to protect the environment under various environmental laws.

Oceana conducted an underwater assessment at the proposed area targeted for reclamation and found rare species of seagrass and marine creatures. According to Oceana, the PRA, then, declared that their office has not received any application to reclaim nor has it rendered an approval of the project. / dcb

Source: <https://cebudailynews.inquirer.net/336064/oceana-warns-against-ecologically-destructive-toledo-reclamation-project>

DENR-EMB rolls out online monitoring system for waste management compliance

[CHARLENE A. CAYABYAB](#)

August 26, 2020

CLARK FREEPORT -- The Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB) has rolled out its enhanced online monitoring system to efficiently track compliance of local government units (LGUs) to the country's solid waste management law.

EMB Director William Cuñado said the agency is tapping 307 environmental monitoring and enforcement officers (Enmos) assigned all over the country to use the new system of reporting which, he said, is "simpler and faster than the previous method."

"This pandemic allowed us to focus our efforts on upgrading our online systems to continuously serve our clients and perform our mandated tasks despite the lockdowns," Cuñado said.

Unlike the previous system where monitoring reports reached EMB offices days after the incident, the new online system provides real-time reporting, allowing for quick response by concerned local government units (LGUs), which are primarily responsible for the enforcement of Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

"With the newly improved system, we can quickly post, share and keep track of reports and complaints more efficiently," Cuñado said. "Our counterparts in LGUs can immediately view the report and act on it."

Since 2017, Enmos have been deployed nationwide to assist LGUs, particularly barangays, in establishing an effective solid waste management program and strengthen the enforcement of other environmental laws and regulations.

This is in line with the implementation of the Solid Waste Enforcement and Education Program or Sweep, which supports DENR's strategy to develop systems and mechanisms for improved monitoring and enforcement of environmental laws through a strengthened partnership with LGUs and other stakeholders.

Meanwhile, Cuñado said the ongoing community quarantine has allowed EMB to fully shift to online processing of clearances and permits.

"The system, which was originally developed as an internal document tracking system, has now largely evolved and will include in the loop, LGUs and other stakeholders to better serve its clients and the public, especially in these uncertain times," Cuñado said.

Nestlé Philippines partners with Plastic Credit

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

[INQUIRER.net BrandRoom](https://www.inquirer.net/BrandRoom) / 10:29 AM August 26, 2020

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.

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.



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.

“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 CEO 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,” Ms. Medved-Po explained.

Nestlé Philippines partners with Plastic Credit

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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

Mr. 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,” Mr. Marzouki said.

ADVT

COVID won't halt P1-B river rehab

In just over two months, we have extracted close to 20,000 cubic meters of silt and garbage.

Published 4 hours ago on August 27, 2020 03:00 AM

By **TDI**



For the ongoing P1-billion Tullahan Tinajeros cleanup project, San Miguel Corp uses a 50-ton excavator or backhoe placed on top of a customized barge to dredge deeper at higher volumes. Dredged materials are then loaded into hopper barges. / PHOTOGRAPH courtesy of SMC

San Miguel Corp. (SMC) said it will not let up on the P1-B initiative to dredge the Tullahan-Tinajeros river system despite the huge effect of the pandemic on its finances. As of 25 August, some 2,150 truckloads of silt and garbage were removed from the waterways.

The initiative, part of a wide-ranging plan to address flooding in Bulacan and many parts of Central Luzon, was launched in February together with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) but only fully commenced in June after the enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) was eased.

“In just over two months, we have extracted close to 20,000 cubic meters of silt and garbage. That is equivalent to 2,150 truckloads of debris. We thank the DENR for its commitment to the initiative and for making this possible,” SMC president and chief operating officer Ramon Ang said.

And said the company has been removing 600 tons of solid waste on a daily basis that go to disposal sites designated and approved by the DENR.

“We’re just starting with phase one of the project, covering a 5.25-kilometer (km) stretch of river system from Navotas to Malabon City. We have a long way to go, but we are fully committed to this long-term project that will benefit so many people and our environment,” he added.

He said other government units that continue to provide invaluable support to the initiative include the Department of Public Works and Highways, Department of the Interior and Local Government, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority and the local governments of Malabon and Navotas.

Ultimate goal

While the project aims to clean Tullahan as part of the Manila Bay rehabilitation project, Ang said its larger objective is to form part of an initiative to solve perennial flooding problem in low-lying provinces, including, but not limited to, Bulacan.

The province is where SMC is set to build the country’s largest and most modern world-class international airport, with groundbreaking set for October this year.

“We committed to the people of Bulacan that we would help solve flooding in their area. Dredging the Tullahan is a major component of our flood mitigation strategies. Essentially, it will clean up and deepen the river system, increasing its capacity to handle heavy rains and allowing for floodwaters to flow more freely and drain into the Manila Bay,” Ang said.

Source: https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/08/27/covid-wont-halt-p1-b-river-rehab/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=covid-wont-halt-p1-b-river-rehab

SMC's P1-billion CSR program continues in time of pandemic

posted August 26, 2020 at 10:30 pm

by [Manila Standard](#)

Amid the coronavirus pandemic, San Miguel Corporation's P1-b initiative to dredge the Tullahan-Tinajeros river system has yielded 2,150 truckloads of silt and garbage as of August 25, the company said in a statement Wednesday.



CLEANUP PROJECT. For its ongoing P1-billion Tullahan Tinajeros cleanup project, San Miguel Corporation uses a 50-ton excavator or backhoe placed on top of a customized barge to dredge deeper at higher volumes. Dredged materials are then loaded into the hopper barges and pulled by the tugboat (second photo) to the staging area where materials are transferred to dump trucks that go to disposal sites designated and approved by the DENR.

The initiative, part of a wide-ranging plan to address flooding in Bulacan and parts of Central Luzon, was launched in February with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources but only fully commenced in June after the enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) was eased.

"In just over two months, we have extracted close to 20,000 cubic meters of silt and garbage. That is equivalent to 2,150 truckloads of debris. We thank the DENR for its commitment to the initiative and for making this possible," said SMC president and chief operating officer Ramon Ang.

Ang said the company had been removing 600 tons of solid waste on a daily basis that go to disposal sites designated and approved by the DENR.

"We're just starting with phase one of the project, covering a 5.25 km. stretch of river system from Navotas to Malabon City. We have a long way to go, but we are fully committed to this long-term project that will benefit so many people and our environment," he added.

He said other government units that continue to provide invaluable support to the initiative include the Department of Public Works and Highways, Department of Interior and Local Government, Metro Manila Development Authority, and the local governments of Malabon and Navotas.

While the project aims to clean Tullahan as part the Manila Bay rehabilitation project, Ang said its larger objective was to form part of a much-larger initiative to solve perennial flooding problem in low-lying provinces, including, but not limited to, Bulacan.

The province is where SMC is set to build the country's largest and most modern world-class international airport, with groundbreaking set for October this year.

"We committed to the people of Bulacan that we would help solve flooding in their area. Dredging the Tullahan is a major component of our flood mitigation strategies. Essentially, it will clean up and deepen the river system, increasing its capacity to handle heavy rains and allowing for floodwaters to flow more freely and drain into to the Manila Bay," Ang said.

Ang explained that the Tullahan River was also a spillway for water coming from Angat and Ipo Dams going to the Manila Bay, hence the need to maintain its depth.

SMC's P1-billion CSR program continues in time of

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The first phase of the dredging is divided into five sectors: Sector 1 from Manila Bay to Tonsuya Bridge; Sector 2 from Tonsuya Bridge to Lambingan Bridge; Sector 3 from Lambingan Bridge to Tinajeros Bridge; Sector 4 from Tinajeros Bridge to Tullahan Bridge, and Sector 5 from Tullahan Bridge up to Potrero.

Ang said that from these first five sectors alone, they expected to dredge a target volume of around 1 million cubic meters.

To hasten dredging operations, SMC acquired larger excavators and a fleet of barges, tugboats, cranes, and dump trucks, specifically for the project.

Ang reported that accumulated silt and debris as well as illegal structures had reduced the Tullahan River's depth to only one to two meters in many areas, causing heavy floods in surrounding areas in recent years.

"Based on studies by the DPWH, we will need to deepen the river by five meters. Some parts have gone to as low as one to two meters. The accumulation of silt and trash that has caused this is also the primary reason for the heavy incidence of floods in the low-lying areas beside the river, including Bulacan province," Ang said.

Ang said that with the help of expert foreign consultants, the company was able to identify the rivers, creeks, tributaries, and bodies of water that are in need of cleaning, dredging, and widening to further address flooding in Bulacan.


SMC: Tullahan rehab 600 toneladang basura kada araw

By Abante Tonite — Last updated Aug 27, 2020

NEWS



Umabot sa 2,150 trak ng basura ang nakuha ng San Miguel Corporation (SM) sa ginawa nitong paglilinis para sa rehabilitasyon ng Tullahan-Tinajeros river system noong Agosto 25.

 Ad Asia Banner – below 1st paragraph

Ang paglilinis sa Tullahan-Tinajeros river system ay bahagi ng proyekto ng SMC para malunasan ang pagbaha sa Central Luzon. Inilunsad ito ng SMC noong Pebrero kasama ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ngunit Hunyo na lamang nasimulan matapos na lumuwag ang community quarantine.

Sabi ni SMC president at chief operating officer Ramon S. Ang, umpisa pa lamang ito ng proyekto

“We’re just starting with phase one of the project covering a 5.25-kilometer stretch of a river system from Navotas to Malabon City. We have a long way to go but we are fully committed to this,” ayon kay Ang.

Aniya, umaabot sa 600 toneladang basura ang tinatangal ng kompanya sa ilog araw-araw na dinadala sa mga lugar na tinutukoy ng DENR.

Paliwanang ni Ang, sa Tullahan River bumabagsak ang tubig mula sa Angat at Ipo dam kaya’t kailangang parating pangalagaan ito at hindi magbara para hindi kaagad nagbabaha. (Eileen Mencias)

Panukalang pagtanim ng 2 puno kada graduating
student, magulang pasado sa Kamara

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Panukalang pagtanim ng 2 puno kada graduating student, magulang pasado sa Kamara

By [James Relativo](#) (Philstar.com) - August 26, 2020 - 7:21pm



MANILA, Philippines — Dalawang panukalang batas para sa "reforestation" efforts ng gobyerno ang sabay na pinalusot ng House of the Representatives, bagay na mag-oobliga sa mga estudyante't mga magulang na magtanim nang mas maraming puno.

Miyerkules nang kumpirmahin ng Kamara ang pagpasa sa House Bills 6930 at 6931, para itakda ang mga sumusunod na "civic duties" para sa environmental protection at preservation.

With 222-0-0 votes, House approves on third and final reading HB 6930, requiring parents to plant two trees for every child born to them.

— House of Representatives of the Philippines (@HouseofRepsPH) [August 26, 2020](#)

Voting 224-0-0, House approves on third and final reading HB 6931, requiring all graduating senior high school and college students to plant two trees each as a civic duty for environment protection and preservation.

— House of Representatives of the Philippines (@HouseofRepsPH) [August 26, 2020](#)

Sa botong 222-0-0, oobligahing magtanim ng dalawang puno ang mga magulang sa kada isang anak na palalaki. Ibig sabihin, anim na puno ang dapat nilang itanim kung tatlo ang kanilang magiging supling.

Oras na maging batas, kikilalanin 'yan bilang "Family Tree Planting Act" ng gobyerno.

Ganito rin naman halos ang nilalaman ng kahalintulad na panukalang batas na HB 6931, na mas tumutugon naman sa responsibilidad ng kabataan sa pagtanim ng puno.

"Voting 224-0-0, House approves on third and final reading HB 6931, requiring all graduating senior high school and college students to plant two trees each as a civic duty for environment protection and preservation," wika ng Kamara sa Twitter.

Panukalang pagtanim ng 2 puno kada graduating

August 27, 2020

TITLE: student, magulang pasado sa Kamara

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Kikilalanin naman itong "Graduation Legacy For Reforestation Act" kung tuluyang maisasabatas.

Kung papasa rin sa Senado at mapipirmahan ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte, hindi ito ang unang dalawang batas na mag-oobliga sa mga mamamayang Pilipino na magtanim ng puno bilang bahagi ng kanilang responsibilidad.

Sa Section 8 ng [Republic Act 10176](#), inuutusan ng estado ang sumusunod: "All able-bodied citizens of the Philippines, who are at least twelve (12) years of age, shall be required to plant one (1) tree every year."

Isyu ng 'invasive trees'

Ikinatuwa ng maraming netizens ang pagkakapasa ng HB 6930 at 6931. Gayunpaman, may ilang agam-agam ang mga nabanggit hinggil sa magiging epekto nito sa aktwal.

"Please stop planting invasive species for these projects. You're doing more harm to our environment though you have good intentions," wika ng commenter na si Prince Jowert Ramil Huerta sa comments section ng The STAR.

Ayon sa United States Department of Agriculture, tumutukoy ang mga "[invasive plants](#)" sa mga halamang hindi natural na matatagpuan sa isang ecosystem. Dahil diyan, nakapagdudulot ito ng masamang epekto sa kalikasan, ekonomiya at minsan kalusugan ng tao.

Ilan sa mga kinikilala bilang invasive alien species (IAS) sa Pilipinas ay ang punong "mahogany," dahilan para [i-ban ito ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources](#) (DENR) sa kanilang reforestation projects.

Mungkahi naman ng netizen na si Jheff Roderick Villacarlos sa paskil ng News5, dapat magpatupad nang mas mahihigpit na polisiya ang mga mambabatas upang mapigilan ang ilegal na pagputol ng puno. Pangamba kasi niya, maaaring tanim nang tanim ang publiko ngunit papayagan naman ang walang habas na pagtrotroso. — **James Relativo at may mga ulat mula sa News5 at The STAR**

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2020/08/26/2038052/panukalang-pagtanim-ng-2-puno-kada-graduating-student-magulang-pasado-sa-kamara/amp/>

House OKs bills requiring parents, graduating high school and college students to plant trees

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

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 06:53 PM August 26, 2020

MANILA, Philippines — The House of Representatives approved on final reading Wednesday two bills which seek to require parents as well as graduating senior high school and college students to plant trees.

With 222 affirmative votes, no negative votes and no abstention, the lower chamber approved House Bill No. 6930 or the Family Tree Planting Act.

Under the measure, all parents residing in the country—whether legally married or now—shall be required to plant two trees for every child born to them.

“These trees shall be planted within the premises of their own home or in an area to be designated by the Barangay Council where they reside, with the approval of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources,” the bill states.

“The planted species should be appropriate to the location, climate and topography of the area, with preference for the planting of indigenous species and fruit-bearing trees,” it adds.

To ensure compliance, the Local Civil Registry where the birth of the child shall be registered, is ordered to only release the Certificate of Live Birth of the child upon the presentation of the parents’ sworn statement of compliance to the measure.

Planting of the trees must also be done within 30 days after the child’s birth, the bill states. Lawmakers likewise approved House Bill No. 6931 or the “Graduation Legacy for Reforestation Act”, which requires graduating senior high school and college students to plant two trees each “as a civic duty for environment protection and preservation.”

The measure was approved with 224 affirmative votes, no negative votes, and no abstention. Under the measure, the planting of trees shall be added among the requirements for the students’ graduation.

“The Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the concerned local government units shall determine the appropriate tree planting sites within the local government’s respective areas, in coordination with schools, colleges, and universities,” the bill states.

Similar to the Family Tree Planting Act, the measure also requires the species of trees to be planted to be appropriate for the location and climate and topography of the area, with preference for the planting of indigenous species.

JE

Source: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1327507/house-oks-bills-requiring-parents-graduating-high-school-and-college-students-to-plant-trees>

House OKs 2 bills requiring tree planting for every childbirth, graduation

Published August 26, 2020 7:14pm

The House of Representatives on Wednesday approved on third and final reading two measures involving the planting of trees as a requirement for every childbirth and for graduating senior high school and college students.

Voting 222-0, the chamber approved House Bill 6930, or the proposed "Family Tree Planting Act."

Under this measure, all parents residing in the Philippines whether legally married or not are required to plant two trees for every child born to them within the premises of their own home or in a designated area of the barangay they reside in.

The planting of trees will be made a requirement for the release of the birth certificate of the child, and must be done within 30 days after the child's birth.

Meanwhile, the chamber also approved, with a vote of 224-0, House Bill 6931, or the proposed "Graduation Legacy for Reforestation Act."

This measure makes it a requirement for all graduating senior high school and college students to plant two trees each "as a civic duty for environment protection and preservation."

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the concerned local government units are tasked under the measure to determine the appropriate tree planting sites within the respective LGU's area, in coordination with schools, colleges and universities.

The species of trees to be planted should fit the location, climate, and topography of the area, with preference for indigenous species.

Following the approval in the House, the measures will be sent to the Senate for its own deliberation and consideration. — **BM, GMA News**

Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/753036/house-oks-2-bills-requiring-tree-planting-for-every-childbirth-graduation/story/?utm_source=GMANews&utm_medium=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR0-bYJ0rqtNkdG60vvmMrCWHOurzKn6hOBhoxhly1I76rjY3kDUIDB-Q

Pagtatanim ng puno ng estudyante at magulang, required na

ni [Thea Janica Teh](#) | August 26, 2020



Inaprubahan na ng House of Representative ang House Bill 6930 at 6931 sa third at final reading nitong Miyerkules. Ito ay inire-require sa mga magulang at graduating high school at college student na magtanim ng tig-2 puno.

Sa botong 222-0-0, inaprubahan na ang House Bill 6930 o “Family Tree Planting Act” na nagmamandato sa mga magulang na magtanim ng dalawang puno sa kada anak nito.

Ang mga puno ay maaaring itanim sa kanilang mga bakuran o lugar na inilaan ng Barangay Council para rito na inaprubahan ng Department of Environment and natural Resources (DENR).

Samantala, sa botong 224-0-0, naipasa na rin ang HB 6931 na naglalayong makapagtanim ng tig-2 puno ang mga graduating na senior high school at college students.

Family of otters, including 3 pups, spotted in Tawi-

Tawi island

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August 27, 2020

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Family of otters, including 3 pups, spotted in Tawi-Tawi island

Published August 26, 2020, 1:44 PM

by [Nonoy Lacson](#)

ZAMBOANGA CITY – A romp of smooth-coated otters (*Lutrogaleperspicillata*) surprised island residents of Taganak in Tawi-Tawi when the marine mammals emerged from their den accompanied by three pups on Sunday morning.



A romp of smooth-coated otters (*Lutrogaleperspicillata*) surprised island residents of Taganak in Tawi-Tawi when the marine mammals emerged from their den accompanied by three pups on Sunday morning, August 23, 2020. (Photo via Nonoy Lacson / MANILA BULLETIN)

Taganak Mayor Mohd Faizal Jamalul said Wednesday that island residents were caught by surprise last Sunday when the three pups joined the otter bore and sow in exploring the area outside of their den.

Jamalul said the pair of adult otters was first seen by the people of Taganak in May this year. Jamalul immediately asked the people of the island to help take care of the otters, and avoid close contact with them as they could get very protective with their pups.

Taganak residents first reported the sighting of two otters playing in their shoreline in May this year, stirring a lot of interest as it was the first time that they these animals were seen in the island.

According to Jamalul, residents living near the shoreline reported to his office that they heard sounds of newly-born animals coming from the den of the otters.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Region 9 Executive Director Crisanta Marlene P. Rodriguez said she received the same report from personnel manning the Turtle Islands Wildlife Sanctuary (TIWS) Protected Area.

Rodriguez said TIWS Superintendent Minda Bairula informed her on Monday that local residents of the island had spotted the otters with their pups frolicking in the sand on Sunday morning.

Rodriguez said the smooth-coated otters could only be found in Malaysia and Indonesia, and it was surprising to learn that they have now reached Taganak Island.

Malaysia is located a few miles away from the coast of Taganak, an island municipality bordering the country, and Malaysia and Indonesia.

Rodriguez said that was the first time that the otters, locally known as “Hanjing Laut”, were seen outside their normal area of distribution.

Family of otters, including 3 pups, spotted in Tawi-

August 27, 2020

TITLE: Tawi island

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According to Rodriguez the TIWS head it was only on Sunday that some local residents spotted the baby otters coming out from the den.

With the help of personnel from the Philippine National Police Taganak Municipal Station, they were able to document through video the parent-otters and the pups playing along the shoreline, TIWS reported.

The municipal government of Taganak and TIWS officials agreed to record the biology, habits and the behavior of the otters.

Jamalul said his office and the TIWS will closely coordinate with the DENR-9, which is also consulting with experts from the Biodiversity Management Bureau and the International Union on the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Otter Specialist Group.

Taganak Island is part of the Turtle Islands Wildlife Sanctuary which is Southeast Asia's largest marine turtle sanctuary and a declared protected area under Republic Act 11038 (Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System Law).

Samal LGU calls for the protection of long-tailed macaques

Published August 26, 2020 11:17pm

The residents of Barangay Anonang on Samal island have the rare opportunity of living near a group of Philippine long-tailed macaques and the local government is calling for the conservation of these animals, according to JP Soriano's report on "24 Oras" on Wednesday.

The long-tailed macaques have been living among the residents of Barangay Anonang that they are given names and among them is the naughty one, Bugoy, and the shy one is called Gibol. The residents also regularly give food to the macaques.

City Environment and Natural Resources Office-Island Garden City of Samal officer-in-charge Edward Sisor said the residents should regulate the time that they spend with the animals.

"Siguro i-regulate lang natin. May time na 'di natin sila pinapakain so mayroon tayong mga area na nagdidisiplina ng ganitong klase. Okay din kasi magbe-blend ang tourism at marerespeto rin ang nature at wildlife," Sisor said.

The Samal government said to protect the monkeys that live in the wild, the residents should refrain from maltreating the animals.

A resident also suggested that the local government should formulate a legislation that seeks to protect the macaques for the future generation.

"We have to create a legislation na maprotektahan siya para maabutan pa ng susunod na henerasyon," he said. -- **Ma. Angelica Garcia/BAP, GMA News**

Endangered green sea turtle found dead in Bohol town

By: [Leo Udtohan](#) - Correspondent / [@leoudtohanINQ](#)

[Inquirer Visayas](#) / 05:48 PM August 26, 2020



A dead green sea turtle was found at the shoreline of Garcia Hernandez town in Bohol province Wednesday noon, August 26, 2020.
(Photo courtesy of John Brian Galendez)

TAGBILARAN CITY — A green sea turtle was found dead by residents of Sitio Camarus, Barangay West-Lungsodaan in Garcia Hernandez town on Wednesday noon.

The sea turtle has a length of 71 centimeters and a width of 63 centimeters.

It was buried by the residents at the shoreline.

Classified as endangered, green turtles are threatened by overharvesting of their eggs, hunting of adults, being caught in fishing gear, and loss of nesting beach sites.

Last month, seven sea turtles were found dead in Bohol.

A report by the National Museum of the Philippines (NMP) said two of the seven turtles (a leatherback turtle in Talibon and green sea turtle in Maribojoc town) had three pieces of plastic bags, a meter long of nylon fishing line, unraveled threads of nylon rope, candy wrapper, part of a biscuit wrapper, and several shorter strands of thin nylon lines inside their intestines.

The necropsy procedures on the leatherback turtle and the green sea turtle were conducted by Dr. Jo Marie Acebes, senior museum researcher of NMP in Tagbilaran, and volunteers from non-profit society Balyena.org.ph.

It was conducted at the laboratory of the College of Arts and Sciences of the Holy Name University, with assistance from their faculty and staff, the Bohol Environment Management Office (BEMO) and DENR-CENRO Tagbilaran and Cortes.

“Although the plastics found inside two of the animals cannot be directly linked to their strandings and eventual deaths, it certainly affected the overall health of the animals. These events are stark reminders of how plastic trash and other non-biodegradable garbage in the seas are harming marine life in this sea with one of the highest biodiversity in our country,” a portion of Acebes’ report read.

Acebes raised concerns over the many reports of strandings of these endangered species in a month.

“This is the highest number of strandings within a short period in the province. Several stretches of beaches of Bohol are known nesting sites for green and hawksbill turtles,” Acebes said.

LZB



sea turtle found dead on the shoreline of Garcia Hernandez town in Bohol province. PHOTO BY LEO UDTOHAN

Green sea turtle found dead in Bohol

Published August 27, 2020 12:32am

By LEO UDTOHAN

TAGBILARAN CITY- A green sea turtle was found dead in Barangay West-Lungsodaan in Garcia Hernandez town on Wednesday.

Residents of Sitio Camarus noticed the dead green sea turtle in the shoreline on Wednesday noon. "It smells bad since it's decomposing," said resident John Brian Galendez who went to the site.

The incident was immediately brought to the attention of the local government of Garcia Hernandez.

The sea turtle measured 71 cm in length and 63 cm in width and was buried along the village shorelines.

The latest find raises concern as last month, seven sea turtles were found dead in Bohol in separate occasions.

In a report by the National Museum of the Philippines (NMP), an autopsy was conducted on two of the seven turtles.

Inside the intestines of the leatherback turtle that was discovered in Talibon and in the green sea turtle that was found in Maribojoc town were three pieces of plastic bags, a meter long of nylon fishing line, unraveled threads of nylon rope, candy wrapper, part of a biscuit wrapper and several shorter strands of thin nylon lines.

The necropsy procedures on the leatherback turtle and the green sea turtle were conducted by Dr. Jo Marie Acebes, senior museum researcher of NMP in Tagbilaran and volunteers from non-profit society Balyena.org.ph at the laboratory of the College of Arts and Sciences of Holy Name University, with assistance from their faculty and staff, the Bohol Environment Management Office (BEMO) and DENR-CENRO Tagbilaran and Cortes.

"Although the plastics found inside two of the animals cannot be directly linked to their strandings and eventual deaths, it certainly affected the overall health of the animals. These events are stark reminders of how plastic trash and other non-biodegradable garbage in the seas are harming the marine life in this sea with one of the highest biodiversity in our country," a portion of Acebes' report read.

Acebes expressed concern as the strandings of endangered species were reported within a span of only one month. -- **BAP, GMA News**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/regions/753082/green-sea-turtle-found-dead-in-bohol/story/>

Why not mining?

By: [Peter Wallace](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:05 AM August 27, 2020

There's one way for government to make some money, lots of money as it tries to recover from the economic and financial collapse caused by COVID-19. The Department of Finance estimates COVID-19 will result in an outlay of some P600 billion, plunging the country into debt from both internal and external financing of about P300 billion. It will have to repay that. Health services need massive funding, and the "Build, build, build" program is at risk as funds dry up. And that number could get worse if business is not soon back on its feet. Even then, any source of money should be welcome.

There is a white knight: mining. Surigao del Norte Rep. Robert Ace Barbers recently raised the possibility of reviving mining. Till now, though, the President has opposed it, correctly recognizing that it's done great harm to the environment. It has, but—and this is what has not been recognized—it's the irresponsible, informal, often illegal, mining that's done it. The big guys, except for one or two who can be brought to heel, act responsibly and look after the environment, putting the area back into environmentally acceptable condition at the end of the mine's life.

Mines don't last forever, and current laws, rules, and regulations mandate rehabilitation, something that was not the case in the past under previous laws. During operations, proper care is prescribed, too. The rules have to be followed. The big guys have their reputation and survival at stake if they don't.

It's irresponsible mining that must be stopped. Mining is not an industry that allows for exploitation done by hand.

Mines, the large-scale ones, bring wealth to rural communities where it is most needed, develop those communities, and employ lots of people. Mines pay considerable taxes and boost our international reserves through exports. With the loss of tourists and OFW income in decline, we need all the dollars we can get.

A responsible miner builds rural roads. Yes, the company uses them, but so does the community. They are local roads they never had. A responsible miner provides scholarships for deserving students, often builds a school, establishes a clinic for all, and provides jobs for people who had none. According to the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), the mining firms' social development and management programs currently benefit more than 800 barangays (villages).

This is something we need during the pandemic, especially with the government needing to allocate funds to other poverty alleviation and public health services programs.

What's more, it creates jobs. In 2015, an estimated 236,000 Filipinos were working in mines. This had dropped to 184,000 by 2019. I'm sure the 7.3 million Filipinos unemployed as of April 2020 (a record high currently), including the estimated 4.9 million Filipinos laid off by COVID-19, would welcome getting a decent income again. And the major mining companies do pay well, as pointed out by MGB. While estimates vary, it is conservatively estimated that for every job in the industry, about four indirect jobs may be generated in the upstream and downstream sectors. As in tourism, there's a substantial multiplier effect. These jobs include the mining's forest and environmental protection and rehabilitation activities that large mining firms undertake.

In 2016, these companies paid P22.6 billion in taxes, fees, and royalties. In 2017, the excise tax was doubled to 4 percent of gross sales, so in 2018 the total government take increased to P31.3 billion. This can go up much more if policy restrictions are removed. Just three pending projects, if approved, can increase total government take by P13 billion per year and add P1.3 billion annually in social expenditures. That's money not to be sneezed at for an economy that's going to desperately need more funds to finance its anti-COVID-19 measures and social protection programs.

As a result of slower annual growth, the sector's contribution to GDP has slid from nearly 0.8 percent in 2016 to 0.5 percent in 2019. Its share would've grown steadily had mining been supported.

Only about 3 percent of Philippine land would be mined if ALL potential mines were exploited. And it would never be ALL. All of this is conditioned on mining being responsibly done. This is the key and is critical, and recent rules enforce this.

Mining is one way to give Filipinos jobs and make some money for the government.

Email: wallace_likeitis@wbf.ph

NWRB: ECC ISAMA LANG SA APLIKASYON NG CONDITIONAL WATER PERMIT



August 26, 2020 @ 8:16 AM 22 hours ago

ALINSUNOD sa panukala ng gobyerno sa pag-streamlining at pagpapabuti ng proseso sa paghahatid ng mga serbisyo tulad ng Republic Act No. 11032 o kung hindi man mas kilala bilang Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018”, iminungkahi ng National Water Resources Board (NWRB) na ‘wag obligahin ang Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) sa mga kinakailangan sa pag-file ng WPA, kundi isama bilang isa sa mga kondisyon sa Conditional Water Permit.

Ang ECC ay dapat isumite muna bago ang pag-isyu sa nangangailangan ng isang Water Permit.

Kung sakaling may mga karagdagang katanungan/ komento/mungkahi o kaya may rekomendasyon, maaaring isumite sa lsrongavilla2015@gmail.com o sa melrbalbedina@yahoo.com bago o sa mismong araw ng Agosto 28, 2020.

-ooOoo-

LEBEL NG TUBIG SA ANGAT DAM NGAYONG BUWAN NG AGOSTO

Noong ika-7 ng Agosto, nakapanayam ng inyong lingkod si **Dr. Seville David, Jr., Executive Director** ng National Water Resources Board ukol sa sitwasyon ng Angat Dam, sa Radio Veritas 846 AM station, Good Samaritan Program, tuwing 1:00 hanggang 3:00 ng hapon.

Nabanggit ni Executive Director David, noong nakaraang buwan ng Hulyo na ibinalik ng NWRB ang alokasyon nito sa Metropolitan Works and Sewerage System sa 46 cubic meters per second mula sa dating 48 cms.

Hindi ito makaaapekto sa pag-supply para sa Metro Manila.

Ang hakbang na ito ay isang estratehiko upang makatipid ng tubig at mabawasan ang pagbagsak ng antas ng tubig sa Angat reservoir hanggang sa umabot sa year-end target.

Ayon pa rin kay David, kung patuloy ang pag-ulan sa susunod na Linggo, ang alokasyon na 46 cms para sa MWSS ay mananatili pa rin hanggang katapusan ng Agosto.

Para naman sa mga irigasyon, nasa 30 cms.

NWRB: ECC isama lang sa aplikasyon ng conditional

August 27, 2020

TITLE: water permit

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DATE

Pagtitiyak ng NWRB, may sapat na tubig ngayong panahon ng tag-ulan at ngayong nagpapatuloy tayo sa pagharap sa problema ng global pandemic na ito.

Base sa Hydrological Information ng Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, nasa 182.59 meters ang level ng tubig sa Angat Dam, base sa pinakahuling ulat (Agosto 25, 2020, 8:00am).

Humigit na sa Angat Dam's Minimum Operating Water Level of 180 meters, ngunit hindi pa natin naabot ang inaasam na target goal na 212.00 meters, kaya kinakailangang ang pagtitipid upang may magamit sa panahon ng tag-init.

US-based Filipino scientist pushes for wastewater surveillance
to help monitor COVID-19 presence in communities

TITLE:

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August 27, 2020

DATE

US-based Filipino scientist pushes for wastewater surveillance to help monitor COVID-19 presence in communities

By [Paolo Barcelon, CNN Philippines](#)

Published Aug 26, 2020 9:44:50 PM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, August 26) — A US-based Filipino scientist says wastewater surveillance may help communities detect the presence of coronavirus by identifying sewage released by those who tested positive for the virus.

In an episode of ExperTalk Online aired via the Facebook page of the Science and Technology Department's television program DOSTv, Dr. Francis de los Reyes of the National Academy of Science and Technology, said this method can be compared with the use of pooled testing done on humans.

The only difference is in the sample: wastewater, as opposed to nasopharyngeal swabs, or samples taken from people's noses and mouths.

In pooled testing, swab samples are grouped to undergo one test. In wastewater surveillance, samples from a body of water like a river, stream, drainage canal, or sewage treatment plant in a nearby community are gathered.

De los Reyes said the wastewater method is like getting thousands or millions of samples at the same time. Since the signature of the virus is in the fecal material, which is in the wastewater, this can be tested to detect and quantify the level of the virus, he said.

The use of wastewater surveillance to detect virus presence was conceptualized by the veteran Professor of Civil, Construction, and Environmental Engineering and Associate Faculty of Microbiology at North Carolina State University with his team last March.

Researchers from around the world have earlier stated that evidence of the virus can be found in human waste. However, De los Reyes says there is still no evidence of COVID-19 transmission through wastewater, saying that respiratory and fecal droplets remain the primary manners of acquiring the virus.

De los Reyes said the proposal was funded by the National Science Foundation in the United States, and was approved the following month.

He said this method can be used to detect coronavirus trends in a community, which is vital to enhancing efforts of health officials, identifying infection rates and hotspots, and seeing if there are changes in the virus' sequence genome in wastewater.

Turnaround time through this method is from a day or two depending on the laboratory's capacity, De los Reyes also said.

However, De los Reyes noted there are still challenges if this method will be used.

One is the cost of sampling wastewater. The sample also has to undergo a form of polymerase chain reaction, the same kind of test used to detect the virus in humans. However, wastewater sample undergoes a digital droplet PCR test, which he said is more expensive – with machines alone already costing \$105,000 – or nearly ₱5.1 million.

Another challenge is research methodology and the correlation of human health data such as hospitalization and death rates, to data from wastewater surveillance that remain active research questions.

He noted that some sampling methods in the Philippines are also being finalized as scientists and researchers from the University of the Philippines Diliman are conducting similar wastewater monitoring tests in Metro Manila, Laguna Lake, and Davao.

Nevertheless, De los Reyes said they are willing to share and collaborate techniques and methods with the Philippine Department of Health and the Department of Science and Technology.

Data from the Johns Hopkins University put the total number of coronavirus cases at 23,925,642.

The DOH, meanwhile, recorded a total of 202,361 cases in the Philippines. 133,460 have recovered, while 3,137 succumbed to the disease.

Recycling to shield one's self from the virus

George Calvelo, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Aug 26 2020 07:48 PM

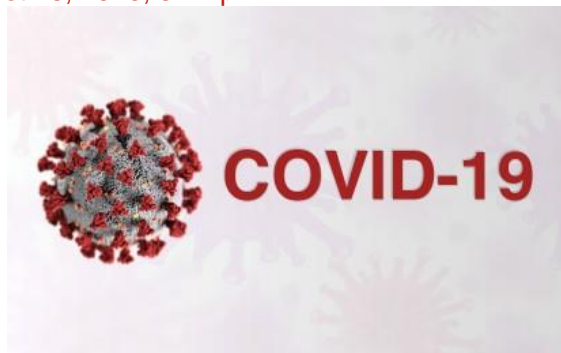


A man wearing a face mask and an improvised face shield as precaution against COVID-19 drops by a store along Juan Luna St. in Divisoria, Manila City on Wednesday. The country's total case count breached the 200,000 mark Wednesday after the Department of Health reported 5,277 additional cases.

Source: https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/multimedia/photo/08/26/20/recycling-to-shield-ones-self-from-the-virus?fbclid=IwAR24zJMvE7TXMUwvCKkPxI4owWoxfWk0o4eyDsuucxFEIjEz6te_bXnVBb0

PH logs 5.2K new Covid-19 cases; recoveries rise to 133K

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor August 26, 2020, 5:44 pm



MANILA – The Department of Health (DOH) on Wednesday reported 5,277 new coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) infections, raising the overall tally to 202,361 with 65,764 active cases.

The DOH said the additional cases reported were based on the total Covid-19 tests done by 95 out of 109 operational laboratories.

It reported that of the active cases, about 91.6 percent are mild, 6.3 percent asymptomatic, 0.9 percent severe, and 1.3 percent are critical cases.

The majority of the newly announced cases were from the National Capital Region (NCR) with 3,157 cases, Laguna with 403 cases, Negros Occidental with 304, Rizal with 237, and Cavite with 228 cases.

"Of the 5,277 reported cases today, 4,350 or 82 percent occurred within the recent 14 days (August 13 - August 26, 2020) and the top regions with cases in the recent two weeks were NCR with 2,616 cases or 60 percent, Region 4A (Calabarzon) with 868 cases or 20 percent and Region 6 (Western Visayas) with 220 cases or 5 percent," the DOH said in its Covid-19 case bulletin.

The department also reported 1,131 new recoveries and 99 deaths, bringing the total number of recoveries to 133,460 and the number of deaths to 3,137.

"Of the 99 deaths, 77 occurred in August which is 78 percent, 18 in July which is 18 percent, one in June which is 3 percent, and one in May which is 1 percent. And the deaths were from NCR with 61 or 62 percent, Region 4A (Calabarzon) with 14 or 14 percent, Region 3 (Central Luzon) with 12 or 12 percent, Region 7 (Central Visayas) with six or 6 percent, Region 6 (Western Visayas) with two or 2 percent, Region 2 (Cagayan Valley) with one or 1 percent, Region 10 (Northern Mindanao) with one or 1 percent, and Cordillera Administrative Region with one or 1 percent," the DOH said.

It added that some 80 duplicates were removed from the total case count, including the previously reported 58 recovered cases.

"Moreover, there were nine cases that were previously reported as recovered but after final validation, they were deaths," the DOH said.

As of Tuesday, the 83 licensed reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) laboratories and 27 licensed GeneXpert laboratories have conducted a total of 2,245,872 tests nationwide.

The DOH said it has a 19,600 total bed capacity dedicated to Covid-19 patients.

Occupied are about 52 percent of 1,600 intensive care unit beds; 49 percent of 12,800 isolation beds; and 51 percent of 5,200 ward beds.

About 28 percent of 2,100 ventilators are in use. **(PNA)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1113481>



Workers at Sasha Collections shop in Taytay, Rizal try on reusable personal protective equipment that are set to be delivered to the provinces yesterday. The government has said it will prioritize purchasing PPEs from local manufacturers.

Michael Varcas

P2.5 billion allotted for COVID-19 vaccine, P2.7 billion for PPEs

[Delon Porcalla](#) (The Philippine Star) - August 27, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The Duterte administration has earmarked P2.5 billion for the procurement of vaccines for COVID-19 and has set aside another P2.7 billion as “provision” for personal protective equipment (PPE) for all hospitals and laboratory centers.

The amounts are contained in the P4.5-trillion proposed national budget for 2021 that Budget Secretary Wendel Avisado submitted to the House of Representatives for its approval, which also includes P283.5 million for the establishment of a virology center.

“The fiscal year 2021 National Expenditure Program (NEP) is based on the sound fiscal policy of spending within means, on the right priorities, and with measurable results under a regime of transparent, accountable and participatory governance,” Avisado told House leaders.

At the same time, the national government also gave the Department of Health funds for diagnostic or testing kits, in the amount of P1 billion for the purchase of 861,720 GeneXpert cartridges to be used in machines for COVID-19 testing.

A separate fund of P6.1 billion is also allotted for the “upgrading of equipment, laboratories and isolation facilities in the different regions” as part of the government’s efforts in responding to the pandemic, according to Avisado.

Other health-related COVID-19 response in the proposed national budget are P71.4 billion for the National Health Insurance Program, P17.3 billion for Medical Assistance to Indigent Patients and P16.6 billion for Human Resources for Health Program. – **Janvic Mateo, Edu Punay, Rhodina Villanueva, Paolo Romero**

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2020/08/27/2038101/p25-billion-allotted-covid-19-vaccine-p27-billion-ppes>



The budget department said the national government's debt stock may rise to P10.16 trillion by December from P7.73 trillion in the same period last year.

STAR/ File

Government debt to breach P10 trillion by yearend

[Mary Grace Padin](#) (The Philippine Star) - August 27, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The country's outstanding debt may reach more than P10 trillion by December and further swell to nearly P12 trillion next year as the government ramps up its borrowings amid the coronavirus pandemic, according to the Department of Budget and Management.

The budget department said the national government's debt stock may rise to P10.16 trillion by December from P7.73 trillion in the same period last year.

The figure is programmed to rise further to P11.98 trillion by the end of 2021.

The government is borrowing more to bridge the deficit in its budget, which is expected to widen to P1.82 trillion or 9.6 percent of this year's gross domestic product (GDP) due to higher spending driven by coronavirus response efforts amid weaker revenue generation.

The budget shortfall is expected to slightly ease to P1.75 trillion or 8.5 percent of GDP in 2021, but still higher than the original program of 3.2 percent.

For 2020, the country is programmed to borrow P3 trillion from domestic and external sources. Another P3.03 trillion is in the borrowing program for 2021.

Economic managers earlier expressed confidence the government's debt would be kept within the 60-percent internationally recommended threshold.

'Di nakapagtataka na prayoridad ni PDU30 ang

TITLE: kalusugan at PhilHealth

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August 27, 2020

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'DI NAKAPAGTATAKA NA PRAYORIDAD NI PDU30 ANG KALUSUGAN AT PHILHEALTH



August 26, 2020 @ 7:38 PM 11 hours ago

Sa mga unang taon pa lang ng kanyang panunungkulan, sinasabi na ni Pangulong Digong na katulad siya ng mga lolo at lola na may dala-dala na siyang sakit ng mga senior citizen.

Ito'y dahil isa na rin siyang senior citizen sa edad na 71 nang ibinoto siya bilang Presidente noong halalang 2016 at siya pa nga ang pinaka-senior sa lahat ng mga naupong Pangulo ng mahal kong Pinas.

Edad 60 ang simula ng pagiging senior citizen at talaga namang mula rito, nagsisimula at dumarami na ang nararamdamang sakit ng mga ito.

Ngayon ay sumasabog ang anomalya sa PhilHealth na haligi ng mamamayang Filipino para kapitan kung sila'y nagkakasakit.

Pero paano ngayon makakapitan at masasandalan ngmamamayan ang PhilHealth kung inaanay ito mula sa ugat at puno hanggang sa mga sanga at dahon nito sa matagal nang panahon?

At ang mga anay ay walang iba kundi ang mga korap at mandarambong sa ahensya, kasabwat ang mga pribadong tao, ospital, pasyente at ninong at ninang nila sa gobyerno mismo at nasa labas ng PhilHealth.

KASUHAN, IKULONG SILANG LAHAT

Sa pagkakaalam ng ating Uzi, hindi pinabubuwig ang PhilHealth at dedma rin si Pang. Digong sa panawagang isapribado ito gaya ng gusto ng iba.

Ang kitang-kita kasi na problema ay korapsyon at pandarambong sa ahensya na umuubos sa napakalaking pondo nito hanggang sa sasabihin ng mga korap at mandarambong na sa susunod na taon ay magsimula nang mabangkrap ang ahensya.

At gusto pa nilang buhusan ito ng pamahalaan ng dambuhalang pondo o itaas ang premium o bayarin dito para hindi ito mabangkrap.

Pero paano mo bubuhusan ng pondo at paano ka papayag na magtaas ang ahensya ng singilin nito sa mga miyembro kung sinasalakay ng mga korap at mandarambong ang pondo nito?

‘Di nakapagtataka na prayoridad ni PDU30 ang

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Ang ultimo remedyo ni Pang. Digong ay kasuhan at ikulong ang lahat ng mga korap at mandarambong sa ahensya.

Kung titingnan ninyo kasi ang mga kasong panalo ang pamahalaan, ipinasasauli ang lahat nang nakokorap at nadarambong na salapi at gamit ng pamahalaan.

Kung makasuhan, makulong at mapatunayang nagkasala ang mga halang ang kaluluwa sa ahensya, mga Bro, aba, double blade ang tatama sa kanila dahil uutusan silang magsauli ng kanilang mga ninenok sa PhilHealth.

HAGIP ANG PNOY OFFICIALS

Batay sa imbestigasyon ng Senate Blue Ribbon Committee na pinamumuan ni Senador Richard Gordon Senado sa PhilHealth mga scam at imbestigasyon din ni Anak-Kalusugan Partylist Representative Mike Defensor, kasama sa mga dapat kasuhan ang mga matataas na opisyal noon ni ex-Pangulong Benigno Aquino III.

Si Sen. Gordon ang nagpangalan kina dating Department of Budget and Management Secretary Butch Abad, ex-Health Secretary at ngayo’y Iloilo Congresswoman Janette Garin at dating PhilHealth President at Chief Executive Officer Alexander Padilla kabilang sa mga nagpasimula ng bilyon-bilyong iskam sa nasabing ahensya.

Taong 2015 umano nang kunin ni Garin ang P10.6 bilyong premium para sa mga senior citizen sa PhilHealth para gamitin sa pagtatayo ng mga barangay health station at lumalabas na naglabas ang DBM ni Abad ng P9.4B, kasama na ang P5.4B para sa nasabing mga istasyon.

Hindi umano inubos ang P5.4B para sa mga istasyon dahil 15 porsyento lang ang naitayo mula sa dapat buong programa.

Ginamit umano ang malaking bahagi ng pondo para sa nalalapit umanong halalang presidential na kabilang sa mga kandidatong naglaban-laban ay sina Pang. Digong, dating Sen. Mar Roxas na kakampi nina Garin at Abad na kapwa opisyal ni PNoy.

Ayon kay Gordon, dito umano nagsimulang bumansot sa pananalapi ang PhilHealth.

P153B NAISKAM SA CASE RATE SYSTEM NI PNOY

Ayon kay Cong. Defensor, sa case rate system umano nadale nang husto ang pondo ng PhilHealth at sumama pa ang kalagayan ng ahensya dahil sa ibang pandaraya.

Tantiya ni Defensor, nawala sa PhilHealth ang P102B sa sobrang pagbabayad o overpayment dahil sa case rate system at P51.2B naman ang nawala sa ibang pandaraya.

Nagsimula umano ang case rate system isang taong o 2011 makaraang umupo si PNoy sa Malakanyang at lumala ito noong 2013 na nagpatuloy hanggang sa 2017 nba panahon na ni PDigong.

Sa case rate system, kahit konting ubo lang ang sakit na maaaring nagkakahalaga lang ng P5,000, pwede nilang palalain ang sakit sa rekord upang umabot ito sa P40,000 dahil may maksimum na makukubra ang mga ospital at mga kasabwat nila sa PhilHealth.

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Iba rin ang mga pandaraya gaya ng nakagawiang maniobra ng mga taga-PhilHealth mismo kaya dinedemanda naman sila ng mga ospital dahil ginagamit ang mga ospital na claimant kahit hindi.

Ngayon namang may imbestigasyon, sinasabi ni Morales na may nadatnan itong nasa P10B scam nang maupo ito nitong nakaraang taon at iba pang nasa P10B ang magaganap kung hindi ito magagawan ng paraan.

Anak ng tokwa, pati ang P30B inilaan ng pamahalaang Duterte laban sa coronavirus disease-19 ay sinasabing iniiskam na rin umano.

Inilabas ang P30B para sa mga ospital na may mga kasong COVID-19 at may claim sa PhilHealth para sa tatlong buwan.

Ginagamit ang Interim Reimbursement Mechanism para maka-claim nang mabilis ang mga ospital na nagkaroon ng pasyente sa COVID-19 lalo’t kinarga ng PhilHealth ang gastos para sa mga mamamayang tinamaan ng virus.

WALISIN ANG CASE RATE SYSTEM AT IRM

Ayon kay Defensor, kung magagawa lang ng pamahalaan na burahin ang case rate system at IRM, malaking kabawasan sa mga iskam ang magaganap.

Kung mabubura ang mga sistemang ito na pinagmumulan ng mga iskam, sinasabi ngayon ng mga mambabatas na maaaring aprubahan nila ang kahilingang mabuhusan muli nila ng nasa P145B ang PhilHealth upang hindi ito mabangkrap.

At nang maipagpatuloy ng ahensya ang trabaho nitong tiyakin ang maayos na insurance sa kalusugan ng mga mamamayan.

No DFA reply to China sally

Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Zhao Lijian in a media briefing last Saturday claimed that the Philippines ‘infringes on China’s sovereignty and security’ through these actions.

Published 6 hours ago on August 27, 2020 12:35 AM

By [Gabbie Parlade](#)



Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. on Wednesday said he has yet to consider a reply to China’s retort to the Philippines’ diplomatic protest on the two countries’ claims over several islets and water territories.

Locsin said China also enjoys its freedom to air its side on the issue.

“Now the question is, do I protest, a reaction to it. As I said, I believe that everyone is free to say what they want, on any issue,” he said.

His statement came after China told the Philippines to stop sending military aircrafts to patrol the Spratlys island and the reefs that China is also claiming.

China has been sending the patrol radio warnings for each flight.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian in a media briefing last Saturday claimed that the Philippines “infringes on China’s sovereignty and security” through these actions.

The Philippines earlier sent China a letter of protest over the Chinese Coast Guard’s confiscation of the equipment of Filipino fishermen at the Bajo de Masinloc. The Chinese claimed the waters as theirs as part of their Huangyan Dao territory.

Filipino fishermen lack naval protection in the waters being contested by the other countries, including China. Foreign shipping vessels have crossed over to the Philippine territories in the past while local fishermen had been caught in foreign waters, too.

At other times, they just co-exist in the fishing waters without any incident.

Locsin also stated that one of the factors for the Philippines’ reaction is the country’s lack of a strong military force. He stated that the Philippines’ focus is on the “facts” stated in the tribunal award, referring to the 2016 decision by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) that ruled China’s nine-dash line claim and accompanying claims to historic rights have no validity under international law.

It was not recognized by China.

“When you lack the military power to do something about your territory, all you have is precision in the head. That’s something very rare in the law, precision about the facts, that’s always correct, and then find our progress, until something happens,” he said.

Despite this, he said that assistance will be requested from the United States only when an explicit attack is initiated by China.

“As I said before, until something happens that is beyond incursion, in fact, is an attack on, say a Philippine naval vessel in which case, then I call up Washington DC,” he said.

Locsin explained that even with the ongoing dispute, the Philippines will not be turning its back on any economic opportunities given by other countries, especially with China.

“I will not turn against the economic opportunities offered by China. In fact, it offered the most prospects for mutual problems,” he said.



In an interview on ANC yesterday, Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. said the Philippines will patrol the Spratlys “because it is ours.”

AFP/Ted Aljibe

Philippines won't stop patrolling Spratlys – Locsin

[Pia Lee-Brago](#) (The Philippine Star) - August 27, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Rejecting China's call to stop “illegal provocations” in the West Philippine Sea, Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. said the Philippines will not cease patrolling the Spratly Islands.

In an interview on ANC yesterday, Locsin said the Philippines will patrol the Spratlys “because it is ours.”

He reminded China that “it lost the arbitral award” in 2016, which invalidated its nine-dash-line territorial claim over nearly the entire South China Sea.

“They can call it illegal provocations, you can't change their minds. They already lost the arbitral award. They wouldn't accept it. But if that is their choice, it's a free world. I wouldn't stop anyone from talking,” he said.

China has claimed that the Philippines infringes on its security and sovereignty by sending military aircraft over the islands.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian's issued the statement after the Philippines lodged last week a diplomatic protest against China over the illegal confiscation by the Chinese Coast Guard of fishing devices of Filipino fishermen off Bajo de Masinloc in May.

The Philippines objected to China's continuing illicit issuances of radio challenges against Philippine aircraft conducting regular maritime patrols in the West Philippine Sea.

In a landmark ruling on July 12, 2016, the Hague-based Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) found no legal basis for China to claim historic rights to a “nine-dash line” in the South China Sea, and Beijing had breached the sovereign rights of the Philippines.

China, however, has opposed and refused to honor the tribunal ruling.

Sovereignty markers

Asserting the country's absolute sovereignty over the area, the Philippine Navy announced yesterday the completed construction of the so-called sovereignty markers in 11 uninhabited islands in the northernmost tip of Luzon.

Naval Forces Northern Luzon public affairs officer Lt. Jaypee Abuan said the structures were put up on Babuyan Island Group and Batanes Group of Islands.

The sovereign markers in Batanes were placed on the islands of Ali, Dinem, Siayam and Misanga in Itbayat and Vohos and Duquey in Sabtang.

In Cagayan, the structures were put up on the islands of Pinon, Pamoctan and Balintang in Calayan and Palau and Don Hermanas in Sta. Ana.

“The sovereign marker symbolizes the assertion of our country’s absolute sovereignty over the said uninhabited islands and over the surrounding territorial waters,” Abuan said.

Meanwhile, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) has gotten a “flat no” from the Department of Foreign Affairs on its request to have its own attaché in Beijing.

PCG Commodore Armand Balilo said they respect the decision of Locsin when he rejected their request, but said the coast guard “will look for alternative solutions and will continue to find ways to further secure the country’s maritime domain.” – **Michael Punongbayan, Robertzon Ramirez**

Magnitude 4.6 earthquake jolts Davao Occidental

By [Arlie O. Calalo](#)

August 26, 2020

A magnitude 4.6 earthquake rocked Davao Occidental late Wednesday morning, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said.

The epicenter was recorded at 133 kilometers east Sarangani, Davao Occidental at 10:54 a.m.

It was tectonic in origin with a depth of 82 kilometers, Phivolcs chief Undersecretary Renato Solidum told *The Manila Times*.

“The earthquake is offshore (undersea) Davao Occidental and deep at 82 km below,” he said.

It is not damaging and would not cause a tsunami, the Phivolcs chief said.

60% tsyansa para sa La Niña aasahan sa Setyembre – PAGASA



August 26, 2020 @ 7:18 PM 11 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Tumaas ng 60 percent ang tiyansa ng pagkakaroon ng La Niña sa Setyembre na posibleng magdulot ng tropical cyclone at malalakas na pag-ulan sa mga nalalabing buwan ng 2020 hanggang sa mga unang buwan ng 2021, ayon sa Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA).

Ayon kay PAGASA Climate Monitoring and Prediction Section chief Ana Liza Solis, inilabas na nila ang La Niña Watch noong Hulyo dahil sa kondisyon ng klima na may posibilidad na “55 percent or more” sa nasabing buwan.

Aniya, ang La Niña Watch ay posibleng maging La Niña Alert sakaling tumaas ang probability sa 70 percent pataas at kung ang mga indikasyon mula sa dagat ay lumakas hanggang sa mga susunod na buwan.

“Kapag tumaas pa sa 70 percent (ang probability) by September, maglalabas na ng La Niña Alert ang PAGASA para sa maagang action mula sa affected na sectors. (If the probability increases to 70 percent by September, a La Niña Alert will be issued by PAGASA for early action from the affected sectors),” ani Solis.

Binanggit nito na ang mga indikasyon sa karagatan at himpapawid ay naging consistent sa pagpapalakas pa ng La Niña sa mga nalalabing araw ng Setyembre hanggang Oktubre na posibleng tumagal hanggang Pebrero 2021.

“Kung di magbabago ang condition sa tropical Pacific ito ang impact sa ating ulan kaya kailangan paghandaan,” Ayon pa kay Solis.

Base sa datos ng PAGASA, maliit lang ang tiyansang mabuo ang tropical cyclones sa Enero hanggang sa Pebrero pero dahil sa La Niña ay posibleng mabuo ang isa hanggang sa tatlong cyclones sa mga nasabing buwan. *RTN/LF*

How weeds are being used to clean up oil spills

By [Nell Lewis](#), [CNN Business](#)

Updated 1347 GMT (2147 HKT) August 26, 2020



Water hyacinth forms thick mats that clog up water channels and are a breeding ground for mosquitoes.

London (CNN Business) With its succulent leaves and violet flowers, water hyacinth may look beautiful, but it is in fact deadly.

The invasive species, introduced to Africa from South America in the late 1800s, has wreaked havoc by clogging up lakes and waterways, destroying ecosystems and putting livelihoods at risk. Recent data on the plant's economic impact is lacking but in Benin, an infestation during 1999 was found to reduce the annual income of 200,000 people by about \$84 million.

That's why Green Keeper Africa, a Benin startup founded in 2014, is trying to reduce the weed's spread by ripping it out of waterways and using it to create a fibrous substance that can help mop up oil spills.



Green Keeper Africa employs women from local communities to harvest the aquatic weed.

The company has two main goals, says Geneviève Yehounme, its commercial director. "First, to take out the plant from the environment. And second, to provide an absorbent that could be used to control industrial pollution," she tells CNN Business.

Weeding out water hyacinth

The startup sources its water hyacinth from Lake Nokoué, in the southeast of the country, where the plant "is a real nuisance to local communities," says Yehounme.

"People rely mostly on fishing, and that main activity is jeopardized because of water hyacinth," she says. Thick mats of the weed impede access to fishing zones and block sunlight and oxygen from getting into the water, which depletes fish stocks.

The plant can exacerbate flooding during the rainy season, by preventing excess water from flowing into rivers and irrigation canals. It also encroaches on the mangrove forests in the area, endangering the rich and fragile ecosystem.

Green Keeper Africa harvests the hyacinth, dries the plant and breaks it down into a loose fiber marketed as GKSORB, that can be packed into bags, pillows and "socks." The products are sold in emergency spill kits that can be kept on site or in a vehicle, and are able to soak up spills of up to 58 gallons (220 liters).



The organic products can be used to soak up a range of pollutants, from motor oil to dyes and paints.

Oil and gas companies, such as Puma Energy Benin, buy the products, says Yehounme, adding that they provide an eco-friendly alternative to existing methods and work on both land and in water.

While large oil spills are usually cleaned up with methods such as booms, skimmers or vacuums, loose sorbents are useful for smaller spills especially on land, explains Miguel Patel, senior technical advisor for the International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation.

The most common type of sorbents are synthetic, he adds, but organic sorbents are beneficial because they produce waste that is less harmful to the environment.

Green Keeper Africa works with a partner to collect and dispose of the used product. Oil-soaked stacks are incinerated, with the energy produced used to power a local cement kiln.

"We don't want them [clients] to go bury the waste, so we make sure that the loop is closed from raw material to the destruction of the waste," says Yehounme.

But despite harvesting 3,900 tons of the plant each year, the startup only makes a minor dent in the water hyacinth problem. The aquatic weed reproduces so rapidly that a colony of plants can double its biomass in less than a fortnight.

Some scientists argue that finding commercial uses for the plant does not help to eradicate it.

"In our experience, utilization of an invasive plant has never contributed to its control," Arne Witt, the regional coordinator for invasive species for the Center for Agriculture and Bioscience International, tells CNN Business.

In fact, it could even contribute to the weed's spread as people will see it as something they could profit from, he warns.

"Our primary aim should be to try to remove as much of the plant as possible — any utilization should be secondary," says Witt.

Social benefits

Yehounme argues that Green Keeper Africa helps local communities by removing the weed and creating jobs.

The company employs a network of more than 1,000 people from local villages to help harvest the plant, 80% of whom are women, says Yehoumne.



The startup offers training programs to local workers, teaching them how best to harvest and compost water hyacinth.

She hopes that as demand for the product grows, so will the company's environmental and social impact.

Green Keeper Africa says it has raised more than \$171,000 in funding and its average annual sales are around \$90,000, but this is expected to rise as the company expands into other West African countries.

Expansion has been put on hold because of the pandemic, but the company plans to launch in Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire once business resumes.

Correction: An earlier version of this article incorrectly characterized the environmental benefit of using organic sorbents.

LOOK: Elephant reunites with daughter after 12 years

August 27, 2020

DATE

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LOOK: Elephant reunites with daughter after 12 years apart

INQUIRER.net / 01:28 PM August 26, 2020



Pori, right, touches trunks with her daughter Tana and one of her granddaughters for the first time in 12 years. Image: Facebook/Zoo Halle

A 39-year-old elephant has finally reunited with her daughter after spending 12 years away from each other.

The reunion took place when the elderly elephant, Pori, was returned to her former home, the Bergzoo, in Halle, Germany, last Friday, Aug. 21.

Pori also met her granddaughters Tamika, 4, and Elani, 1, for the first time, as per *Daily Mail* on Aug. 24.

Upon arrival at the zoo, Pori was placed in a closed area beside her 19-year-old daughter Tana and one of her grandchildren. Though they were kept in different enclosures, they touched trunks for the first time in years, as seen in the zoo's Facebook [post](#).

Zoo Halle
last Thursday

PORI IST DA!

Heute Nachmittag ist die afrikanische Elefantenkuh Pori (39 Jahre) wohlbehalten aus Berlin bei uns eingetroffen. Hier trifft sie nach 12 Jahren Trennung auf Tochter Tana (19 Jahre) und ihre Enkelinnen Tamika (4 Jahre) und Elani (1 Jahr). Um den Tieren die Gelegenheit zu geben, sich in Ruhe neu kennenzulernen, wird das Elefantenhaus zunächst geschlossen bleiben. Trotzdem werden die Elefanten für Euch auf der Außenanlage zu sehen sein. Tana, Tamika und Elani haben ...
[See More](#)

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LOOK: Elephant reunites with daughter after 12 years

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The animal center has decided to keep the elephant house closed, for now, to give the animals time to reacquaint with each other. However, visitors may still view the elephants in their outdoor area.

Days after her arrival, Pori was finally allowed to join Tana and her grandkids in the shared area of their habitat. The animal center posted a [video](#) of the encounter on its Facebook page and noted that it was a joyful event for the four elephants.

Pori was born wild in Zimbabwe back in 1981 and was brought to the Magdeburg Zoo in Germany in 1983, as per report. She was then transferred to Tierpark in Berlin in 1997 for breeding purposes. She gave birth to Tana in 2001.

Meanwhile, Bergzoo's director, Dr. Dennis Muller, stated that Pori's return is an "important step" in elephant care since daughters naturally stay with their mothers for life in the wild.

"In the future, all elephant herds in European zoos should be cared for in such natural family structures," he was quoted as saying. "Today we have come a great deal closer to this goal." **Ryan Arcadio /ra**

Congo elephant poacher gets 30 years forced labour

posted August 26, 2020 at 09:30 am

by [AFP](#)

A poacher in Congo-Brazzaville has been sentenced to 30 years of forced labour for killing elephants, an NGO said Tuesday.

Gerard Mombaza Mombembo, 35, from neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo, has been nicknamed "the butcher of Nouabale Ndoki", after the national park where he primarily operated.

He was found guilty of killing protected animals and hunting with military-grade weapons, as well as criminal association and attempted murder, by a court in Ouessou, capital of the heavily forested Sangha region.

"This detention is a major first in the battle against poaching and illegal smuggling of wildlife products. This creates opportunities to criminalise acts of poaching, and punish poachers even more severely," said Richard Malonga, head of WCS Congo, an NGO working with the Nouabale Ndoki park.

The park, created in 1993, is part of the Sangha Trinational that stretches across the borders with Central African Republic and Cameroon. It was given UNESCO World Heritage status in 2012.

California wildfires have burned 1.25 million acres, but firefighters say the weather is now helping

By Jason Hanna and Stella Chan, CNN

Published Aug 26, 2020 8:54:59 PM



Lower temperatures and weaker winds are helping firefighters get a handle on deadly wildfires that have afflicted California for days, fire officials said Tuesday. (FILE PHOTO)

(CNN) — Lower temperatures and weaker winds are helping firefighters get a handle on deadly wildfires that have afflicted California for days, fire officials said Tuesday.

More than 650 wildfires, many sparked by lightning, have burned more than 1.25 million acres in the Golden State since August 15. That's more than six times the size of New York City.

The fires have left seven people dead and more than 1,400 buildings destroyed, Cal Fire said.

Increased humidity and low winds have helped firefighters, many of whom had been working 24-hour shifts, Cal Fire operations section Chief Mark Brunton said Tuesday.

"The weather's really cooperating with us," said Brunton, who is helping oversee the battle against the 78,800-acre CZU Lightning Complex Fire southwest of San Jose, in San Mateo and Santa Cruz counties.

"We are steadily getting a trickle of resources in, and putting them to work," Brunton said.

Several wildfire evacuation orders and warnings were being lifted in Northern California Tuesday. Sonoma County is allowing many residents to return home, and some evacuations in Napa County were being reduced to warnings, Cal Fire said. All warnings for Santa Clara County were lifted.

Two larger fires — the 363,000-acre SCU Lightning Complex Fire largely east of San Jose, and the 352,900-acre LNU Lightning Complex Fire in the northern Bay Area — are among the state's three largest wildfires in recorded history.

Red flag warnings still are in effect for areas covering about 1.6 million in Northern California, Nevada, Oregon, and Montana.

Those warnings say conditions that would be likely to start or spread fires, such as lightning, are imminent.

As of Tuesday, 93 large fires have burned more than 1.8 million acres in 14 states, including 24 in California, 16 in Arizona, 14 in Oregon, seven in Alaska and six in Colorado, according to the National Interagency Fire Center.

Smoke from the fires have made for poor air quality. The National Weather Service issued air quality alerts in parts of California and at least seven other Western states Tuesday.

CNN's Dave Hennen and Cheri Mossburg contributed to this report.

Source: <https://cnnphilippines.com/world/2020/8/26/california-wildfires.html>