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USEC. ANTIPORDA: NAKIKITA NATING PROBLEMA AY WALANG PAGTATAPUNAN ANG PUBLIKO

3:18 grity Monitoring and Enforcement **PG**
PARENTAL GUIDANCE
SUGGESTED
STRONG CAUTION
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EDC expands BINHI greening legacy with ERDB

(The Philippine Star) - August 29, 2020 - 12:00am

Over 10 years since its launch and successful implementation, Lopez-led geothermal leader Energy Development Corp. (EDC) is taking the next step to its greening legacy by partnering with the Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

BINHI is EDC's forest restoration program that aims to bridge forest gaps in its areas of operation as well as bring back to abundance its 96 flagship threatened Philippine native tree species.

ERDB has signed a memorandum of understanding with EDC to commence a five-year partnership for the in-situ conservation and propagation of the most rare and threatened among the company's BINHI native tree species.

EDC was already able to identify, locate, and collect samples of its 96 flagship species and is currently in the process of propagating them in its fully automated native tree species nurseries in Negros Oriental, in Antipolo City, and soon in its Mount Apo geothermal site in Kidapawan, North Cotabato. As of 2019, it had planted over six million of these native tree seedlings across the country with the help of its 178 committed BINHI partners.

Still, EDC recognizes the need to continuously work together with like-minded organizations and other experts in forest restoration to strengthen BINHI.

"We can't green our country on our own and the worst part is, sustaining the current condition of our environment is no longer enough," said Allan Barcena, head of EDC's Corporate Social Responsibility-Public Relations team that has been spearheading the company's BINHI program.

This realization has led EDC and the rest of the Lopez Group to embark on a new mission of forging collaborative pathways for a decarbonized and regenerative future.

For EDC, this entails enhancing the environment and the lives of the residents in its partner communities as it provides uninterrupted supply of 100 percent clean, renewable, cost-competitive power to its customers.

"Being able to save the last remaining species in our BINHI list and even propagate them for our future generations through this partnership with ERDB makes it our next necessary step towards regeneration," Barcena said.

Among the native species included in this in-situ propagation and conservation initiative include Mindanao Narek, Calades Narig, Malayakal, Pinulog, Palawan Narig, Narig Laot, Kanining Peneras, Cagayan Narek, Pianga, Mapilig and Samar Gisok.

Both parties will explore the best ways to save the species from extinction, do related research, draft propagation protocols based on what they will learn from this project, and even provide guidance to local government units and stakeholders in those in-situ areas to enable them to protect the species.

This project coincides with EDC's current engagement as the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) as its only local partner in the Philippines.

Botanic Gardens Conservation International, The IUCN's secretariat and the world's largest plant conservation network, has selected EDC to be a part of its Global Tree Assessment program to help update the status of 800 Philippine endemic tree species. To date, EDC has already assessed 200 species and the IUCN has updated and published 89 of them in their Red List.

EDC's 1,499 megawatt total installed capacity generates 42 percent of the country's total renewable energy, with its 1,204-MW geothermal portfolio accounting for 62 percent of the country's total installed geothermal capacity and putting the Philippines on the map as the world's thirdlargest geothermal producer.

Binhi program ng DENR, EDC tuloy kahit may pandemic



August 29, 2020 @ 5:00 PM 13 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Tiniyak ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na magpapatuloy ang kanilang pagtatambal sa EDC para sa Binhi program na pagtanim ng mga puno sa mga nakakalbo nating kagubatan sa kabila ng coronavirus disease 2019 o COVID-19 pandemic.

Ayon sa DENR, ang Binhi ay ang nationwide greening program ng EDC na may layuning mabigyan ng rehabilitasyon ang mga nakakalbong kagubatan at maisalba ang Philippine native tree species sa buong bansa.

Sinabi pa ng DENR na kabilang sa rehabilitasyon ay ang pagtanim ng mga puno sa ating mga kabundukan at kagubatan.

Sa ilalim ng MOU, magtutulungan ang ERDB at EDC upang masiguro ang paglago o pagpapadami ng Philippine native trees sa bansa.

Sa pamamagitan ng print screen ng virtual video conference na ginanap noong Agosto 20, 2020, ipinakikita nina DENR Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB) Director Henry Adornado, Assistant Vice President at Head for the Corporate Social Responsibility and Public Relations ng Energy Development Corporation (EDC) Atty. Allan Barcena at Assistant Vice President at Head of the Corporate Support Function Group ng EDC Ms. Regina Victoria Pascual ang Memorandum of Understanding na kanilang nilagdaan para sa Binhi In-Situ Conservation and Propagation Project.

Pangunahing layunin ng BINHI na mapalitan ang mga naputol na puno sa pamamagitan ng pagtanim nito sa buong bansa. **Santi Celario**

SMC continues P1-B dredging of Tullahan River to

August 30, 2020

TITLE: ease flooding

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SMC continues P1-B dredging of Tullahan River to ease flooding

Published August 30, 2020, 5:00 AM

by [James A. Loyola](#)

Even though its hands are full with business recovery efforts and humanitarian activities during the pandemic, San Miguel Corporation has continued to pursue its P1 billion initiative to dredge the Tullahan-Tinajeros river system.

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,” said SMC President and chief operating officer Ramon S. Ang.

Ang said the company has been removing 600 tons of solid waste on a daily basis and these are transported to disposal sites designated and approved by the DENR.

“We’re just starting with phase one of the project, covering a 5.25-kilometer 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.

Ang noted that other government units that continue to provide invaluable support to the initiative include the Department of Public Works and Highways (PDWH), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA), 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 is 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.

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

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 expect 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.

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Ang reported that accumulated silt and debris as well as illegal structures have 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.

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.

"With the approval of the national government and the DENR, we hope to further expand the dredging and cleaning programs in many key rivers in the province of Bulacan," he said. Ang also addressed claims made by groups opposing the airport's construction that it would "worsen" the flooding situation.

"On the contrary, the airport project and its flood mitigation component will be the long-term and sustainable solution to the perennial flooding in Bulacan. It will not make sense for us to build an airport here if we do not address these issues. We will do everything to ensure this huge investment in our country will benefit millions of Filipinos and the country for many generations," he said.

Ang emphasized that there is no one solution to flooding, rather, it has to be a combination of many solutions.

Apart from the Tullahan cleanup, San Miguel also recently kicked off a massive mangrove planting initiative that will see 190,000 mangroves planted over 76 hectares of coastal lands in Bulacan and all over Central Luzon.

The pilot site in Hagonoy is currently being planted with 25,000 mangroves over a 10-hectare area. SMC is also planning to seed 100,000 mud crabs in the mangrove forest to help the mangroves grow and provide locals a new source of livelihood.

Ang expressed confidence that with the Tullahan river cleanup and continuous maintenance, time will come when the river system will again be conducive to marine and plant life. It may even be used as an alternative means of transport. "Keeping the Tullahan river clean will involve a more conscious and coordinated effort among many stakeholders, including the local government units and residents. Under the strong leadership of President Duterte, I have no doubt that we can bring the revival of the Tullahan River and the long-term solution to the flooding problem into reality." Ang said.

Cleaning metro rivers one day at a time

Published 6 hours ago on August 30, 2020 01:00 AM

By **TDI**



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 and dredged materials are then loaded into the hopper barges and pulled by the tugboat to the staging area where materials are transferred to dump trucks that go to disposal sites designated and approved by the DENR. PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF SMC

San Miguel Corporation (SMC) continues to be at the forefront of saving the environment despite the dangers posed by the spread of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) as it kicked off an initiative to dredge the Tullahan-Tinajeros river system.

The company's P1-B initiative to dig up the Tullahan-Tinajeros river system has yielded 2,150 truckloads of silt and garbage as of 25 August — part of a wide-ranging plan to address flooding in Bulacan and many parts of Central Luzon.

It was initially launched in February and SMC — together with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) — but it only fully commenced in June after the enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) was eased.

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'Monkey business' in the Philippines

By [Jonathan L. Mayuga](#)

August 30, 2020



A long-tailed macaque is a common site at the Raja Sikatuna Protected Landscape in Bohol province.

The coronavirus pandemic and the need for a vaccine against it have revived the interest in monkey farming because of the expected increase in demand for live monkeys for use in medical research.

The interest in the revival of monkey farms in the Philippines began as early as March last year when the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Biodiversity Management Bureau (DENR-BMB) received an application appealing to renew a wildlife collector's permit for the gathering or harvesting of monkeys in the wild.

Harvesting in the wild for parent-breeders is allowed by the DENR-BMB, although on a case-to-case basis, commonly for the purpose of commercial breeding and trading of progenies.

Data from the DENR-BMB further revealed that, guided by international wildlife treaties, the Philippines resumed trading monkeys with the export of a total of 700 captive-bred monkeys last year.

Being controversial, the plan to allow harvesting for breeding and, eventually, export of the primate for scientific research was strongly opposed by animal rights groups.

DENR Assistant Secretary Ricardo L. Calderon explained that monkeys are often used for scientific research, particularly in the production of life-saving drugs or vaccines, inevitably creating a market demand for live monkey specimens.

Monkeys are being used to test drugs or vaccines for clinical trials before they are tested in humans.

In defense of monkeys

Last April, the Action for Primates (AP), an international not-for-profit organization that has started a campaign on behalf of nonhuman primates, expressed concern that the DENR is considering allowing the capture of wild long-tailed macaques for research purposes as a way of addressing human-primate conflict.

The appeal was later echoed by the Philippine Animal Welfare Society.

Through veterinary doctor Nedim C. Buyukmihci, Emeritus professor of Veterinary Medicine at the School of Veterinary Medicine, University of California-Davis, AP appealed to the DENR to refuse any application to use macaques for research.

"The capture and removal of wild primates from their native habitats and social and family groups is, by its very nature, extremely cruel and inflicts great suffering and distress on the animals, as well as resulting in injuries and even death," Buyukmihci said in his April 7 letter addressed to Calderon, who is also the concurrent director of DENR-BMB.

Buyukmihci argued that there is very little likelihood that free-living monkeys could transmit any disease to human beings.

On the contrary, he explained that monkeys would likely become ill from contact with human beings, rather than humans from the monkeys.

The group reiterated its appeal to the DENR in another letter on May 21.

In July, the group, in a statement, again urged the DENR to deny the application for harvesting of monkeys from the wild.

It cited the upgrading of the conservation status of the long-tailed macaque from "near threatened" to "vulnerable" on the Red List of threatened species of the International Union for Conservation of Nature due to the global decline of the primate in the wild.

Conservation strategy

The DENR-BMB considers wildlife farming as a conservation strategy. By allowing wildlife farms to operate, it believes it does not only save the species from extinction through captive-breeding, but it also reduces the demand for animals caught from the wild.

By allowing wildlife farms to operate, poaching of commercially viable species in the wild is hoped to be reduced because there will now be a legal source of wildlife products and byproducts.

Hence, buyers will no longer choose to buy from illegal sources to avoid trouble with the law.

Calderon is expecting that the business on farming of monkeys will thrive with the market created by the Covid-19 pandemic for their use in scientific research.

Among other animals, the Philippines has been allowing the operation of crocodile farms for their skin and meat and other byproducts.

Likewise, several ostrich farms currently exist in the country. Ostrich farming for meat, egg, oil and other products is starting to gain traction because of its profitability.

Suitable alternative

The DENR-BMB is not alone in justifying the harvesting of animals for captive-breeding although doubts are cast on how wildlife farming is being done or regulated to prevent "wildlife laundering."

Sought for reaction, Juan Carlos T. Gonzalez, a member of the board of trustees of the Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation Inc., explained via Messenger on August 18 that with the various environmental laws in place in the country, such as Republic Act (RA) 9147, or the Wildlife Act, and RA 11038, or the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System (Enipas), came the increase in population of certain wildlife species.

He cited the case of monkeys, which he said come in harems or multi-male troops that cause human-wildlife conflict.

"To balance the population, wildlife services balance this through culls or harvest by legal hunting," he explained. But because there's the Wildlife Act, such practices are not allowed.

"So harvesting for farming would be a suitable alternative to reduce human-macaque conflict," he said.

Wildlife 'laundering'

Emerson Y. Sy, a consultant at the international nongovernment organization Traffic, said wildlife farming will only work if regulations are properly implemented.

He told the BusinessMirror on August 18 via Messenger that such is not the case in the Philippines. "Many wildlife farms here are using their legal status to acquire additional smuggled wildlife and engage in wildlife laundering," he said.

He cited a study he co-authored and was published in Philippine Journal of Systematic Biology. The report was titled "Endangered by Trade: Seizure analysis of the critically endangered Philippine Forest Turtle *Siebenrockiella leytensis* from 2004-2018."

"Based on an online survey, we estimated that an additional 1,200 Philippine forest turtles were smuggled and illegally sold in China in 2015," the report said.

"Majority of the 74 live individuals exported legally from the Philippines were likely sourced illegally from the wild and declared fraudulently as captive-bred by exporters to obtain CITES permits," the report added. CITES stands for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

In response to this, the DENR-BMB is battling for continuous registration of threatened, non-threatened and exotic wildlife to prevent illegal wildlife trade, including wildlife laundering that makes use of dubious wildlife permits and other documents.

Non-threatened list

As far as the DENR is concerned, however, the population of the country's native monkeys remain stable and the species is on the "non-threatened" list.

"Perhaps the population of macaque are on the decline in other parts of the world, but not here in the Philippines. You can even see them sometimes in troops on the roadside," Calderon said.

He said harvesting in the wild is allowed as a way of addressing human-animal conflict, assuring that harvesting is done in the most humane manner possible.

Careful evaluation; breeding for trade

Nevertheless, Calderon said that applications for harvesting monkeys or any animal from the wild are "carefully evaluated and assessed."

He said the application to harvest monkeys filed last year is still under evaluation with the DENR's scientific body, the Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau, being consulted every step of the way.

It is now under evaluation by the National Wildlife Management Committee as required under RA 9147.

Harvesting is allowed only for the purpose of breeding. Only the offsprings of these wild-caught animals in the duly authorized breeding facilities are allowed to be traded under the Wildlife Act.

Monkey farming

According to Theresa Tenazas, OIC of the Wildlife Bureau at the DENR-BMB, two wildlife facilities are currently duly authorized to engage in the commercial breeding of long-tailed macaque.

The two monkey farms keep a little over 2,000 monkeys, with only the progenies allowed to be traded as mandated by law.

Wildlife farms in the Philippines are authorized to breed and sell progenies upon the issuance of a Wildlife Farm Permit by the concerned DENR Regional Office, in accordance with Section 5 of the DENR Administrative Order 2004-55, or Streamlining/Procedural Guidelines pursuant to the Joint DENR-DA-PCSD Implementing Rules and Regulations of RA 9147.

Export policy

On top of RA 9147, the Philippines applies strict domestic measures in the trade in specimens of CITES-listed species, such as monkeys.

As stated in the CITES Notification 2010/038, the export of wild-caught specimens for commercial purposes is prohibited, Tenazas said.

"Only the specimens bred in captivity by breeders authorized and registered by the DENR may be exported," she pointed out.

She explained that this restriction has been in effect since February 15, 1994.

Tenazas provided the BusinessMirror with copies of the notification, including the RA 9147 and its implementing rules and regulations.

The Philippines used to export monkeys in the past, but due to the coronavirus scare and pressures from animal-rights groups, it stopped.

"In the past years, the exportation of live monkeys were stopped due to the clamor of animal groups against the use of laboratory specimens," Tenazas told the BusinessMirror via e-mail on August 16.

Based on the CITES trade database, the first shipment of monkeys was in 1977. There was no clear record on when the export of monkeys by authorized farms has stopped.

It was only in 2019 that the monkey-breeding facility was able to export about 700 head of long-tailed macaque, she said.

Will the rush in research for vaccines and medicines against Covid-19 and other zoonotic diseases help revive the monkey business in the country? It remains to be seen.

Image Credits: [DENR-CIS](#)

Rescued PHL eagle 'Makilala-Hiraya' finds its new home

By [Jonathan L. Mayuga](#)

August 30, 2020



Philippine eagle 'Makilala-Hiraya'

Despite the gloom brought by Covid-19 pandemic, a bright spot in wildlife biodiversity shone last June when a young Philippine eagle was rescued and released back into the wild a month later.

The majestic Philippine eagle, an apex predator, rarely settles for less when hunting for prey.

The same goes in finding a suitable territory where it will reign supreme.

Finding a home

Such was the consideration in finding a new home for the three- to four-year-old female Philippine eagle that was rescued in Barangay Kisante in Makilala, North Cotabato, near the Mount Apo Natural Park.

A suitable home was found, courtesy of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) together with the local government of Makilala. It brought renewed hope for the eagle's survival.

Named Makilala-Hiraya, the eagle's first name was given by its rescuers, after the town where it was found, while the second name, which means "the fruit of one's hopes, dreams and aspirations," was from the employees of Energy Development Corp. (EDC).

Having recovered from its injuries and ready to brave the wild once more, Makilala-Hiraya was released last month in her new home in the Mount Apo Geothermal Reservation in North Cotabato under the protection of the EDC.

The energy company accepted PEF's proposal to release Makilala-Hiraya at a site within its geothermal reservation.

Protecting 'the eagle'

Committed to protect Makilala-Hiraya, EDC, together with PEF, has trained 20 forest rangers who will monitor the eagle in her new home in Mount Apo Geothermal Reservation.

EDC will help monitor the young female eagle in the next six months, to make sure that she is able to survive.

A survivor

The young eagle was being mobbed by a flock of crows when it was found and rescued by DENR-Kidapawan personnel who took temporary custody of the injured bird of prey before turning it was over to the PEF for rehabilitation.

According to PEF, it is necessary to secure the bird's release and ensure its continued safety in the wild so that it can find a mate, nest and contribute to the continued survival of the critically endangered Philippine eagle.

"Releasing this reduced eagle is important in keeping the wild population thriving. Protecting the existing wild population is as significant as breeding the eagle in captivity to add new birds to our forests. There is also an opportunity to discover the other Philippine eagles in the area by monitoring this eagle after its release." said Dr. Jayson Ibanez, PEF director for Research and Conservation, in statement.

A continuous commitment

EDC's commitment to monitor Makilala-Hiraya is a continuous commitment not only to environmental conservation but also to going beyond sustainability, having been a partner of PEF for nearly two decades now, said Atty. Allan Barcena, EDC's head of corporate social responsibility and public relations.

Sought for comment via e-mail, Barcena added that "adopting" Makilala-Hiraya, in a way, brings pride for men and women of EDC, as the Philippine eagle remains in the brink of extinction.

It is listed as a critically endangered species, as there are approximately only around 400 pairs of this monkey-eating eagle left in the wild.

For the EDC helping save a Philippine eagle is like saving the species one eagle at a time.

"This opportunity to save our national bird doesn't only bring pride for us in EDC," Barcena said. "It likewise brings us closer to our mission of achieving a regenerative future, a path that we and the rest of the Lopez group have chosen because it is the only way to create lasting value for our stakeholders and for our planet," he added.

Adopt-an-eagle program

EDC has earlier adopted another Philippine eagle named "Geothermica" in 2012 through PEF's Adopt-an-Eagle program.

Geothermica is one of two pairs sent by the government to Singapore as part of its conservation and protection efforts.

The protection of the bird remains a priority for the company's biodiversity conservation and monitoring program (BCMP).

"EDC fully supports the protection and conservation of the Philippine eagle. We continue to work with the [PEF] and our local governments toward protecting them and their natural habitat by increasing and maintaining forest cover," he said.

Lush forest

The 701-hectare protected geothermal reservation surrounding EDC's 108-megawatt Mount Apo Geothermal Project (MAGP) is an ideal home for the Philippine eagle.

It is well-maintained, with lush forest that is home to 39 species of mammals and 165 species of birds, enough for a pair of Philippine eagle to thrive in.

Fortunately, the territory is a geothermal reservation that is protected against destructive human activities, including mining, quarrying, logging, poaching or hunting.

High hopes

DENR Assistant Secretary Ricardo Calderon, in a recent BusinessMirror interview, said conservation efforts of the Philippine eagle is paying off.

He attributed this to the strong partnership between the DENR, the PEF and various private institutions. "Lately, there are more reported sightings of the Philippine eagle. Just last month, we released [into the wild] a rescued Philippine eagle. These are good signs," Calderon said.

More importantly, Calderon said the partnership with various institutions, including the private sector, paved the way for the expansion of forest cover in the Philippines, and the strong protection of biodiversity that includes prey for apex predators like the Philippine eagle.

"We can say that because of our expanding forest, there are more areas where the Philippine eagle can thrive," he said.

Sustainable development

EDC is one of the world's largest geothermal producers and the country's leading renewable-energy company.

For over 40 years, it has been implementing comprehensive environmental management programs that help enhance the ecosystem and corporate social responsibility programs that ensure inclusive growth for its partner communities.

It is a subsidiary of First Gen Corp., the country's largest clean-energy company, with a portfolio that included natural gas, geothermal, solar, wind and hydro.

EDC's 1,499MW total installed capacity generates 42 percent of the country's total renewable energy, with its 1,204MW geothermal portfolio accounting for 62 percent of the country's total installed geothermal capacity, and putting the country on the map as the world's third-largest geothermal producer.

Image Credits: [Philippine Eagle Foundation](#)



10 ibon na 8-taon sa Singapore nasa `Pinas na

By Abante Tonite — Last updated Aug 29, 2020

NEWS



Photo courtesy of Department of Environment and Natural Resources



Naibalik na sa Pilipinas ang 10 Luzon bleeding-hearts, mga ibon na nasa near-threatened category na sumailalim sa 8-taong conservation breeding program sa Singapore.

Ad Asia Banner – below 1st paragraph

Ayon sa Department of Foreign Affairs na dumating na sa Maynila ang 10 bleeding-hearts matapos ang walong taong partnership ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Ailon Zoo at ang Jurong Bird Park sa Singapore. Bukod tanging sa Pilipinas lang makikita ang nasabing ibon.

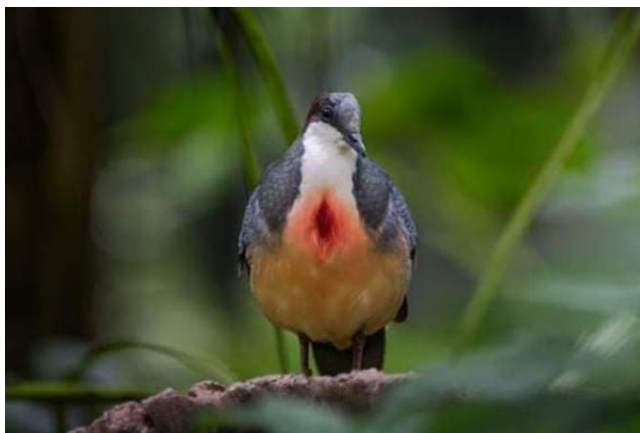
Si Philippine Ambassador to Singapore Joseph del Mar Yap ang tumanggap ng mga ibon sa isang symbolic handover sa Singapore.

Napagalaman bago dinala sa bansa ang mga ibon, na-quarantine sila ng isang buwan sa Singapore para matiyak ang kanilang maayos na kalusugan at ngayon isasailalim sila ulit sa isang buwan na quarantine sa pangangalaga ng DENR. (Riz Dominguez)

10 near-threatened doves, naibalik na sa Pilipinas matapos ang conservation breeding sa Singapore

Jekki Pascual, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Aug 29 2020 09:36 AM



Matapos sumailalim sa conservation breeding program sa Singapore ay naiwi na sa bansa ang 10 Luzon bleeding-hearts, mga ibong nasa near-threatened category. *Larawan mula sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources*

MAYNILA - Naibalik na sa Pilipinas ang 10 Luzon bleeding-hearts, mga ibon na nasa near-threatened category na sumailalim sa 8-taong conservation breeding program sa Singapore.

Inanunsyo ng Department of Foreign Affairs na dumating na sa Maynila ang 10 bleeding-hearts matapos ang walong taong partnership ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Avilon Zoo at ang Jurong Bird Park sa Singapore.

Bukod tanging sa Pilipinas lang makikita ang nasabing ibon.

Si Philippine Ambassador to Singapore Joseph del Mar Yap ang tumanggap ng mga ibon sa isang symbolic handover sa Singapore.

Bago inilipad sa bansa ang mga ibon, na-quarantine sila ng isang buwan sa Singapore para matiyak ang kanilang maayos na kalusugan at ngayon isasailalim sila ulit sa isang buwan na quarantine sa pangangalaga ng DENR. Ibalalik din sila sa kagubatan sa isang protected area sa Luzon.

Noong 2012, dalawang pares ng Luzon bleeding-hearts ang ipinadala sa Jurong Bird Park para sa conservation efforts. At matapos ang walong taon, naging matagumpay ang programa kung saan may 60 ibon ang na-breed o nabuhay mula sa orihinal na dalawang pares.

Ang bleeding-hearts ay nasa near-threatened na kategorya ng mga hayop. Ibig sabihin nito, malapit na silang maubos dahil sa pagkasira ng kanilang tahanan sa bundok.

Dahil rin sa kakaibang kulay nila, kung saan may pulang kulay sa gitna o sa may bandang puso, hinuhuli sila para maging pet kaya nauubos sila sa kagubatan. Bukod tanging sa Pilipinas lang makikita ang nasabing ibon.

Source: https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/08/29/20/10-near-threatened-doves-naibalik-na-sa-pilipinas-matapos-ang-conservation-breeding-sa-singapore?fbclid=IwAR2yFr_RTynqj4R26WM3hax2UYUvefx0Hh01so4mYpSekrYhoLoid9isdRc



Rare Philippine doves Luzon Bleeding-hearts repatriated from Singapore

Published August 29, 2020 6:35pm

Rare Philippine doves called Luzon Bleeding-hearts were repatriated last week from Singapore after eight years.

According to GMA reporter JP Soriano, these rare doves were repatriated after a conservation breeding agreement with Singapore in 2012.

Last week, Philippine Ambassador to Singapore Joseph del Mar Yap attended the handover at Jurong Bird Park in Singapore.

According to Soriano, the Luzon Bleeding-heart dove species are ground-dwellers found in Central and Southern Luzon and on Polillo Island. – **Kaela Malig/RC, GMA News**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/scitech/content/753452/rare-philippine-doves-luzon-bleeding-hearts-repatriated-from-singapore/story/>

Dolphin napadpad sa dalampasigan sa Maguindanao nailigtas

By [Bombo Garry Fuerzas](#)

-August 29, 2020 | 4:49 AM

CENTRAL MINDANAO- Nailigtas ang isang dolphin na sugatan na napadpad sa dalampasigan sa lalawigan ng Maguindanao.

Ayon kay Brgy Magsaysay Parang Maguindanao Brgy Chairman Antonio Gimenez na napansin ng mga residente ang sugatang dolphin malapit sa pantalan.

Agad itong sinagip ng mga bantay dagat volunteers ng Barangay Magsaysay sa bayan ng Parang at tumawag sila sa DENR para maisalba ang naghihinalong dolphin.

Nagpadala ng mga experts mula sa Ministry of Agriculture ang Fisheries sa BARMM at sinuri ang dolphin.

Hinala ni Kapitan Gimenez na tumama sa propeller ang isang uri ng mellon headed na dolphin habang sumusunod sa mga malalaking bangka sa bahagi ng Yllana bay o kaya ay sa Moro gulf.

Nagagalak naman si Parang Mayor Cahar Ibay sa ipinakitang pagmamalasakit at proteksyon ng mga residente sa mga katulad nitong gentle giant fish na nakikita sa mga karagatan sa lalawigan ng Maguindanao.

Congresswoman promotes bamboo-framed face shield

posted August 29, 2020 at 08:50 pm

by [Manila Standard Business](#)

The bamboo-framed face shield developed by the Department of Science and Technology-Forest Products Research and Development Institute has caught the attention of a lawmaker who is an advocate of using Filipino-made products.



Rep. Ann Hofer wears the bamboo-framed face shield during the Working Group Caucus of the 11th ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) last 14 August 2020.

Rep. Ann KHofer of the 2nd District of Zamboanga Sibugay and chairperson of the House committee on foreign affairs used the bamboo-framed face shield during the Working Group Caucus of the 11th ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly on Aug. 14, 2020.

Wearing the bamboo-framed face shield during the meeting, Hofer facilitated the discussion on “Mitigating Risks and Strengthening Economic Resilience in the Period of Pandemic.”

She was joined in the video conference by international delegates from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam, thus enabling her to showcase our very own innovation to combat the spread of COVID-19 disease.

“We are thankful to the support given by the members of the House of Representatives to this initiative,” said DOST-FPRDI director Romulo Aggangan.

Aggangan said a number of representatives have either commended or signified interest in adopting the bamboo-framed face shield including Ilocos Sur 1st District Rep. Deogracias Victor Savellano, Marikina 2nd District Rep. Stella Luz Quimbo and Manila 4th District Rep. Edward Maceda.

DOST-FPRDI pioneered the production of bamboo-framed face shield in the country. Bamboo is a perennial, woody-stemmed grass widely used in making handicrafts and furniture.

The bamboo-framed face shield is one of DOST-FPRDI’s initiatives in response to the need for more personal protective equipment amid the COVID-19 outbreak.

Since April, the institute has distributed face shields for free to various public and private frontline agencies around the country.

DOST-FPRDI has also provided training and technical assistance to the local government of Cabuyao, Laguna in its mass production of the said face shields.



“With the support of our partners in the Congress, we believe that more Filipinos will be able to use and benefit from DOST-FPRDI technologies. We will continue to find ways to help combat the global pandemic through R&D,” said Aggangan.

Source: <https://manilastandard.net/mobile/article/332729>

Worms in Hinatuan Mining to prove successful mine

TITLE: rehabilitation

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August 30, 2020

DATE

Worms in Hinatuan Mining to prove successful mine rehabilitation

By [BMPlus](#) August 29, 2020



Earl John A. Gascon, Forester at HMC, says the nematodes are like our friendly army of soil engineers that will lead the way to a successful mine rehabilitation

Hinatuan Mining Corp. (HMC) has been invited to France for a poster presentation on a study on the presence of nematodes to prove the healthy condition of the soil in the rehabilitated area at the mine site.

Nematodes are microscopic wormlike organisms abundant in the upper soil layers that are a major component of the soil's ecosystem. At the mine site, nematodes are like "soil engineers" – the miners' partners in the restoration of the virility of the soil.

"Despite huge economic contributions, mining is often linked to soil degradation and one of the biggest challenges for miners is to prove the success of our rehabilitation programs in bringing back life in the mined-out areas," explains Manuel A. Torres, Mine Environmental Protection and Enhancement manager at HMC. HMC spends at least P80 Million pesos yearly for rehabilitation programs.

The study by Dr. Joey Genevieve T. Martinez, DSc., *Associate Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences (CSM) at the Mindanao State University – Iligan Institute of Technology (MSU-IIT)* is to be presented at the International Congress on Nematology in Paris. He used the soil environment at HMC for his academic research to prove that nematodes are ecological indicators of soil condition.

Current indicators of a successful mine rehabilitation are above ground such as vegetation. The study evaluated the effects of mining practices using soil nematodes as bio-indicators.

Some of the results of the study that will be presented to the Conference in Paris, to be attended by nematologists and scientists from all over the world, indicate that the chemical, physical and biological properties of the soil found in the 'undisturbed areas' at the mine site are similar to the soil found in the rehabilitated areas.

"In simpler terms this means that the condition of the soil in the rehabilitated are somewhat similar to the areas that have not been mined and this is a proud statement that says a lot about the efficiency of our rehabilitation program," says Torres.

Engr. Francis Arañes, Jr., HMC Resident Mine Manager, says that the mining company is grateful to Dr. Martinez for choosing HMC to be the focus for his research.

Worms in Hinatuan Mining to prove successful mine
rehabilitation

TITLE :

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Rosemarie Macawile, a resident of HMC's host barangay – Talavera – and a landscaping aide at the mine site, shows of the healthy soil at HMC's rehabilitated area.

“The study underscores HMC’s successful mine rehabilitation programs and brings the mining company’s name to an international stage within the scientific community” Arañes beams.

The Philippines is a country well-endowed with mineral resources and mining companies such as HMC – subsidiary of Nickel Asia Corp. (NAC) – are mandated by law to conduct rehab programs that will establish a sustainable agricultural life for the communities after the mine life.

Earl John A. Gascon, HMC’s dedicated company forester is excited to see the growth of various plants and crops all over the mine’s rehabilitation area but even more proud to share with the communities around the mine site the news about the study on the nematodes.

“As a forester, I see this as HMC’s legacy. The nematodes, our friendly army of soil engineers, will lead the way in soil rehab so the people in the mining community will enjoy the virility of the mined-out lands for AgroForest and Farming, for many, many years,” exclaims Gascon.

Plastic makes perfect

Published 4 hours ago on August 30, 2020 02:30 AM

By [Elmer Recuerdo](#)



PLASTIC bottles can be more than just pieces of trash, like this fence made out of recycled materials in Saint Bernard, Southern Leyte. PHOTOGRAPH BY ELMER RECUERDO FOR THE DAILY TRIBUNE

Waste management is a perennial problem of every local government unit.

A town in Southern Leyte found an ingenious way to turn trash into something more useful: A quarantine facility for coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) patients and suspected cases.

Discarded plastic bottles in Saint Bernard town, a fourth-class municipality with a population of about 50,000, will be used to build a quarantine facility under the P10-million project of Kapit Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan-Comprehensive Integrated Delivery of Social Services (KALAHY-CIDSS), a poverty alleviation program of the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

Residents have been helping gather plastic bottles. The materials are then pieced together to form rectangular blocks, painted and erected as perimeter fences of the facility.

The recycled materials are also turned into ecobricks, plastic bottles packed with used plastic to a set density, for pathways as well as floor matting.

Ecobricks, experts said, are durable and will never break down, making it an ideal building material. They are already being used in developing countries to construct furniture and even buildings. In the United Kingdom, they are used to build playgrounds.

“The use of recycled plastic bottles as alternative materials for perimeter fence and ecobricks is not only environment friendly but has been a tested technology,” Municipal Engineer Ceilito Bulagsac said.

Saint Bernard Mayor Manuel Calapre said the use of ecobricks and recycled plastic bottles is part of the town’s Ecological Solid Waste Management program. It also serves as the community’s contribution required by the KALAHY-CIDSS program.

The construction of the quarantine facility started 18 August and is expected to be finished in October. It will have eight units that can accommodate six people each.

Calapre said the quarantine facility will be a big help since they are expecting more locally stranded individuals when Eastern Visayas' 14-day moratorium on their entry ends on 10 September.

As of 19 August, Saint Bernard has two active COVID-19 cases, four recoveries, one suspected case and 206 persons under monitoring.

"We are thankful to Kalahi-CIDSS for not only helping us build a quarantine facility but for also educating the community. This is a technology that we can use in the future," Calapre said.

3 kelot arestado sa ‘hot logs’

@Balitang Probinsiya | August 29, 2020

NUEVA ECIJA—Tatlong lalaki ang dinakip ng pulisya nang makumpiskahan kamakalawa ng mga “hot logs” o mga kahoy na illegal na pinutol sa kabundukan ng bayan ng Gabaldon.

Nakilala ang mga suspek na sina Crisanto Nunez, John Marc Vicencio at Christian Lanosa, pawang nakatira sa naturang bayan.

Ayon sa ulat, may nag-tip sa pulisya na namumutol ng puno ang mga suspek kaya agad rumesponde ang mga awtoridad at dinakip ang tatlong illegal loggers.

Napag-alaman na nakakumpiska ang mga awtoridad ng 16 piraso ng pinutol na punong kahoy sa pag-iingat ng mga suspek.

Nakapiit na ang mga suspek na nahaharap sa kasong paglabag sa PD 705 o Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines.

New quarantine classification to be announced Monday

August 29, 2020



President Rodrigo Duterte is expected to announce on Monday the new quarantine classification for the different regions in the country.

Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque disclosed that the upcoming meeting of President Duterte with the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) will take place at Malacañang.

The University of the Philippines (UP) OCTA Research Team reported that the recent modified enhanced community quarantine (MECQ) in the National Capital Region (NCR) from August 4 to 18 has brought about a positive impact.

"We had a very good gain after 2-week MECQ... We did the numbers, and we did a modelling recently, and R-value, 'yung reproduction natin (our reproduction) has decreased, from a high [number] few months ago, 1.17-1.18, now down to 0.95," Dr. Rodrigo Angelo Ong of UP OCTA Research explained.

"So the R-value means that if it's more than 1, if the R is more than 1, it's still being transmitted in the community. If it's less than 1, it is no longer transmitted, there's somewhat a control in the transmission of the virus in the community. So currently, the R-value is less than 1," he added.

The NCR may remain under general community quarantine (GCQ) as long as there is strict implementation of protocols, according to the group's recommendation.

"Maintaining GCQ for at least another 2 weeks would be beneficial to really get the benefits of the downward trend that we gained a few weeks ago during the MECQ... We can maintain GCQ, but of course in a higher level pa rin of, sabihin na lang natin (let's just say) vigilance, and lower our complacency," Ong advised.

Latest forecast of the group show that the COVID-19 cases in the country may reach up to 330,000 to 375,000 by September 30. Experts reminded that the increase may be prevented with strict compliance to health protocols. – Report from Mela Lesmoras



In his budget message titled Reset, Rebound and Recover: Investing for Resiliency and Sustainability, President Rodrigo Duterte said the proposed 2021 budget is a “crucial tool” for the administration to support, pro-actively and aggressively, all current and future government actions to recover the economy and address the needs of the sectors that are particularly vulnerable to devastating health and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

STAR/ File

Duterte: 2021 budget crucial to recovery

[Christina Mendez](#) (The Philippine Star) - August 30, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — President Duterte vowed to get the country back on its feet as he appealed to Congress to approve next year’s proposed P4.506-trillion budget, which is higher by 9.9 percent than the 2020 national budget and is equivalent to 21.8 percent of the country’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

In his budget message titled Reset, Rebound and Recover: Investing for Resiliency and Sustainability, Duterte said the proposed 2021 budget is a “crucial tool” for the administration to support, pro-actively and aggressively, all current and future government actions to recover the economy and address the needs of the sectors that are particularly vulnerable to devastating health and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Duterte said there is a need to shift priorities and realign the spending policies.

“The entire budget is focused on containing the spread and mitigate the effects of the virus; funding a vaccine; restarting the economy and to be able to create jobs and attract investments, and transitioning to the post-crisis recovery environment,” he said.

As he leads the country in the fight against COVID-19, Duterte said the government will remain focused on poverty alleviation, sustaining a stable economy, assuring an educated and health workforce, defending our shores and maintaining peace and order.

“Life continues and government continues to serve,” he said.

Duterte said the government will prioritize the social services sector and fund health-related COVID-19 programs to address the continuing pandemic, without losing sight of the equally challenging task of resuscitating the economy.

Among the priorities, Duterte pushed for support for doctors, nurses, and other health professionals. A total of P16.6-billion is allotted for their deployment in disadvantaged communities, national and private hospitals during the pandemic.

Some P283-million is set aside under the Department of Science and Technology to support the initial funding for the establishment of the Virology Science and Technology Institute to undertake studies on novel, emerging and re-emerging viruses affecting humans, plants and animals.

Some P 7.7-billion is allocated to cover the National Immunization Program while P3.7 billion is set aside under the Department of Social Welfare and Development’s supplementary feeding program.

“My task and yours, at this moment of our history, is to get us back on the road. We have been able to withstand thus far the virulent onslaught of the coronavirus, but there efforts must be sustained as we move forward to fully address the impact of the pandemic and accelerate economic recovery,” he said.

For the past four years, Duterte said the Philippines has been moving forward as a nation to ensure a comfortable life for every Filipino. “We did not, however, foresee the coronavirus disease 2019. We could not have known of a global pandemic that would emerge in the first quarter of the year, quickly sweep through the world, cut across borders and reach our shores,” he said.

House deliberation

The House of Representatives is set to start next week deliberations on the proposed P4.5-trillion national budget for 2021.

ACT-CIS party-list Rep. Eric Yap, chair of the appropriations committee, bared that their panel has set only seven days of hearings starting on Sept. 7 to scrutinize the record-high budget that is expected to provide funds for response measures to the coronavirus pandemic.

“We will conduct daily hearings and we are targeting to finish them on Sept. 15 to allow ample time for plenary deliberations and meet the House leadership’s target of passing the budget by end of September,” he revealed.

Before the hearings, the House leadership will first meet on Sept.4 with the executive branch’s Development Budget Coordinating Committee, composed of Budget Secretary Wendel Avisado, Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III, National Economic and Development Authority chief Karl Chua and Bangko Sentral Gov. Benjamin Diokno.

Once approved by the panel, the budget bill will then be submitted to the House for debate and deliberations prior to second and third readings.

Speaker Alan Peter Cayetano said the chamber is targeting the passage of the budget bill by end of September to allow the Senate to deliberate and pass it in October, which would allow the President to sign next year’s budget for the first time in November

“We hope that, for the first time, if I’m not mistaken, in history, we can sign the budget maybe late November or mid-November as a sign of unity by our country,” he said.

Despite this target, the House leadership vowed to closely examine the proposed budgets of agencies in a transparent manner.

“That’s where vigilance is needed. If the project is good, we will approve it even if there is an opportunity for corruption. We just have to be on guard so that the opportunity for corruption disappears,” he said.

Deputy Speaker and 1-Pacman party-list Rep. Mikee Romero assured the public that the Congress will also monitor implementation of projects even after passage of the budget.

“We in Congress will closely watch how well and how fast the departments spend the budgets by checking their absorptive capacity. Citizens nationwide should see more classrooms, school buildings, bridges, roads, and other key infrastructure built left and right in the coming months,” he stressed.

He cited the importance of increased spending next year for economic recovery from recession caused by the pandemic.

Infrastructure projects will remain a top priority of the Duterte administration next year, taking about 25 percent of the proposed P4.5-trillion national budget for 2021.

In the National Expenditure Program submitted to the House last Tuesday, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) allotted P1.1 trillion to the flagship “Build, Build, Build” program of President Duterte, which amounts to about one-fourth of the record-high national budget.

The proposed budget for infrastructure programs on the final year of the administration showed an increase of P111 billion from this year’s P989 billion for “Build, Build, Build” projects.

The NEP also allocates P203 billion for the Universal Health Care program that will be used for patients and frontliners in the coronavirus pandemic and for purchase of vaccine.

But another lawmaker argued that the P4.5-trillion proposed budget will not be enough to enable the nation to recover from economic recession caused by the pandemic.

House assistant minority leader and Marikina Rep. Stella Quimbo said the budget should be at least P4.9 trillion next year to have a stimulus program that would allow the economy to immediately bounce back from recession.

“The P4.506-trillion proposed budget is not enough for the economy to recover. The percent increase in GAA (General Appropriations Act) will not suffice. The increase in the budget should be 18 percent if it will serve as platform for economic stimulus,” she explained in a statement.

She stressed that the P406-billion increase in the national budget from this year would suffice only to address the impact of the pandemic.

“Because the funding for Bayanihan 2 is not enough for a stimulus program, the entire P406-billion increase in the GAA should be entirely for COVID-19 response and recovery programs,” she pointed out.

For instance, Quimbo explained that the proposed P27.5-billion budget for the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) is too small to address the unemployment problem caused by the pandemic.

“The proposed budget of DOLE is small considering the 27 million jobless Filipinos, including displaced workers due to the pandemic. DOLE is expected to provide unemployment assistance but the budget for TUPAD (Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Displaced Workers) is enough only for one assistance to 2 million displaced workers,” the legislator lamented.

Quimbo further argued that wage subsidies amounting to as much as P55 billion would be needed to preserve existing jobs by helping companies comply with health protocols.

She also questioned the measly P4.4-billion budget of the Department of Trade and Industry, which would suffice to help only 145,000 out of the millions of affected families.

Quimbo believed that the 2021 budget must include sufficient funds for connectivity - not only for roads - but more importantly for internet connectivity for public schools, noting that only 25 percent of all public schools have internet access.

For these reasons, Quimbo reiterated the call for passage of the proposed COVID-19 Unemployment Reduction Economic Stimulus Act (CURES) and Accelerated Recovery and Investments Stimulus for the Economy Act (ARISE), which will provide P1.5 trillion and P1.3 trillion in funds, respectively, for various economic recovery programs.

“Under ARISE, we have a comprehensive plan to address the economic crisis. ARISE proposes P1.3 trillion over three years. Special attention is given to our small businesses who are most in need of resources in order to stay afloat, with P60 billion allocated for MSME loans and assistance under DTI (Department of Trade and Industry) and SBC (Small Business Corp.),” she explained.

Lastly, she said Congress has to ensure that every single peso is used wisely towards economic recovery.

“We in the minority will need and will use a bigger than usual magnifying lens to scrutinize the GAA 2021. Every peso should count towards saving lives, saving jobs, while minimizing leakages due to corruption. That is the task ahead and the challenge before us,” she said.

3.6K new Covid-19 cases; tally reaches 213K: DOH

By Joyce Ann L. Rocamora August 29, 2020, 6:05 pm



MANILA – The Department of Health (DOH) on Saturday logged 3,637 new confirmed cases out of the total tests done by 102 laboratories nationwide, bringing the total tally to 213,131.

Of this number, 74,611 are active cases, 135,101 are recoveries, while 3,419 are fatalities.

About 655 recoveries and 94 deaths were newly reported.

Most of the active cases or 91.3 percent have mild symptoms, 6.7 percent are asymptomatic, 0.8 percent are severe, while 1.1 percent are in critical condition.

In its latest case bulletin, the agency at least 3,063 of the new cases occurred from August 16 to August 29.

The top regions with cases in the recent two weeks were Metro Manila with 1,648, Region 4-A with 560, and Region 3 with 222.

The new deaths, on the other hand, were from Metro Manila with 54, Region 4A with 16, Region 3 with 14, Region 6 with four, Region 9 with three, and Region 7 with one. The DOH has yet to identify the area where one of the fatalities was logged.

Some 50 duplicates were also removed from the total case count, of which 16 were recovered cases.

The DOH said 12 cases were previously reported as recovered but after final validation were nine deaths and three active cases.

To date, about 50 percent of the beds dedicated to Covid-19 patients are in use, including 28 percent of the total 2,100 mechanical ventilators.

The Health department said the 49 percent of the 1,700 ICU beds are occupied, including around 48 percent of the 13,100 isolation beds and 50 percent of the 5,300 ward beds.

Since the Covid-19 pandemic struck the Philippines, a total of 2,353,506 individuals have so far been tested in 84 licensed RT-PCR and 28 licensed GeneXpert laboratories. **(PNA)**

Clinical trials ng lagundi para sa COVID-19 symptoms aprubado na ng FDA

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Aug 29 2020 05:25 PM | Updated as of Aug 29 2020 08:31 PM

MAYNILA - Aprubado na ng Food and Drug Administration ang pagsasagawa ng clinical trials sa herbal medicine na lagundi bilang supplemental treatment laban sa sintomas ng coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

Sinabi ito ni Department of Science and Technology (DoST) chief Fortunato Dela Peña. Layon aniya nito na matugunan ang mga sintomas gaya ng ubo, lagnat o kaya pananakit ng lalamunan.

"Ang hangad natin diyan ay ma-address 'yung mga symptoms katulad ng ubo, lagnat, at iyang mga sore throat kasi malaking bagay kung giginhawa ang ating mga pasyente na may cases diyan sa mga symptoms na iyan," ani Dela Peña.

Pangangasiwaan aniya ng mga eksperto mula sa Philippine General Hospital ang medical research.

Magiging kalahok naman sa human trial ang mga coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) patient na may mild symptoms sa Quezon Institution Quarantine Center, Sta. Ana Hospital at PNP-NCR Community Quarantine Center.

"Titingnan din natin kung bababa ba ang probability na magpo-progress sila into moderate and severe cases," ani Dela Peña.

Samantala, posible umanong makita na sa susunod na dalawang buwan ang mga inisyal na resulta ng pag-aaral sa isinasagawang clinical trial tungkol sa virgin coconut oil (VCO), na may "anti-viral property."

Hinihintay naman ng DOST ang pag-apruba ng FDA na isailalim sa clinical trials ang tawa-tawa.

-- Ulat ni Michael Delizo, ABS-CBN News

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/08/29/20/clinical-trials-ng-lagundi-para-sa-covid-19-symptoms-aprubado-na-ng-fda?fbclid=IwAR2Z0rG6m0kD8wc9L-1cA7po2KijWE6Y7oV-u7ljthJHVjBak3URuSDXRBA>

ELEKSYONG 22 MALAPIT NA; SIRAAN AT GIMIK SIMULA NA RIN



August 28, 2020 @ 4:38 PM 2 days ago

Palapit nang palapit ang halalang presidensyal sa Mayo 2022.

Kung pinag-aagawan ang posisyong Presidente, maaga ang pagpaparamdam ng mga gustong makasikwat nito.

At dahil may posisyong pang Bise-Presidente at senador, mas lalong marami ang magpaparamdam at maninikwat na kandidato.

Maaga silang kikilos sa paniniwalang daig ng maagap ang masipag.

Kasi nga naman, mga Bro, kung late kang magparamdam at maunahan ka ng iba, malamang na sa kangkungan o basurahan ka populutin.

Para sa mga nagtitipid na magparamdam at saka lang sila kikilos sa mga huling araw, malamang na sa pagmamadali nila, kung matinik sila ay malalim.

PAGREREHISTRO

Magsisimula na ang halalan dahil sa pagsisimula ng pagpaparehistro ng mga botante sa Commission on Elections sa darating na Setyembre 1, 2020.

Sa darating na Martes na 'yan, mga Bro.

Ang mga kapitan ng barangay ay very busy na nga sa kanilang panawagan sa mga hindi pa nakarehistro na pumunta ang mga ito sa Comelec sa kani-kanilang bayan o lungsod.

Malinaw na pinagdadala ang mga gustong bumoto sa 2022 ng mga sumusunod na pagkakilanlan sa kanila: Student ID o library card; employee's ID; Postal ID; Senior Citizen's ID; BIR ID; Driver's License; NBI clearance; Passport; SSS o GSIS ID; I.B.P. ID at P.R.C. ID.

Maaari ring magdala sila ng birth certificate o marriage contract o court order o certificate of no marriage kung may problema sila sa rekord dahil sa mga problema sa relasyon.

Pero kailangan na rin silang magdala at magsuot ng face mask at face shield at sumunod sa mga patakaran sa social distancing at iba pa.

Para maiwasan ang siksikan, gaya ng nakaraang mga pagpaparehistro, maaaring ganapin ang okasyon hindi lang sa mga opisina ng Comelec kundi sa mga simbahan, kapilya, eskwela o gymnasium na walang taong biktima ng coronavirus disease-19.

AYUDA RITO, PAKAIN DOON

Ayon sa ating Uzi, mga Bro, hindi talaga maiiwasang sumawsaw ang mga politiko sa mga araw ng pagpaparehistro.

Nariryan ang mga nagpapadala ng mga tauhan, sasakyan at pera para sunduin ang mga gustong magparehistro.

At nariryan din ang katakot-takot na pagpapakain at pagiging mabait at maka-Diyos habang isinasagawa ang rehistro.

Siyempre pa, ang pagiging maalalahanin sa mga botante at sa mga taga-Comelec, eh, malaking bagay para sa mga gustong kumandidato, lalo na ang mga lokal.

Sina konsehal, vice mayor, mayor, bokal, vice governor, governor at kongresman.

Itong mga pambansang kandidato, may unti-unting pagpapadala na rin ng ayuda sa mga loyal nilang campaign leaders na lokal, nakaupo man o hindi.

PAMUMULITIKA, SIRAAN AT GIMIK

Ang totoo, nagsimula na ang pagpaparami ng mga kasapian ng mga partido.

Meron diyang nananalakay sa ibang partido habang ang iba, kusang lumilipat.

Lalo na sa alam nilang winner sa darating na halalan.

Ang winner na may pera pa ang pinaglalawayan ng nakarami sa mga politiko.

Meron namang ginagawang pahulaan kung kapwa babae ang mga pinakamatinding mag-away sa posisyong Pangulo.

Akalain mo bang nagiging madasalin din ang mga tao ngayon.

At nakapangingilabot-isipin na may mga politikong umaasa at nananalangin na kumilos ang coronavirus disease-19 laban sa kanilang mga kalaban.

At kung hindi nila makita ang kanilang mga kalaban kahit sa isang araw lang, may mga politikong tumatakbo sa korte para palabasin ang kanilang kalaban at malaman kung maysakit o buhay o patay na sa COVID-19 o iba pang dahilan.

‘Yung iba, wala nang makitang mabuti sa kanilang mga kalaban kundi kademonyohan at pawang may mga sungay ang bawat kalaban nila at sila lang ang mga anghel na hulog ng langit.

Anak ng tokwang mga politikong ire!

MAGKANO BA?

Alam ba ninyong napakahalaga ngayon ang salitang “magkano ba” sa pulitikang darating?

Kasi naman, marami ang may gustong kumandidato ngunit binangkrap sila ng COVID-19.

May mga nalugi sa negosyo habang ang iba’y hindi makapagnakaw sa bilyon-bilyong pinakakawalan ng administrasyon ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte para ayudahan ang mga biktima ng COVID-19 at ibangon ang ekonomiya ng mahal kong Pinas.

Kita naman ninyo, gaya ng nagaganap sa PhilHealth, dinidiskaril mismo ni Pang. Digong ang mga korap at mandarambong.

Tatandaan na kumikita ang mga malalaking politiko sa bilyones na pondo sa mga pambansang pagawaing bayan at ayuda.

Ngunit takot silang malista ang kanilang ngalan sa mga posibleng imbestigahan ng mga pulis, National Bureau of Investigation at iba pang taga-imbestiga ng pamahalaan sa mga korap at mandarambong.

Matindi ang seryosong banta ni Pang. Digong na kanyang ipalilitis at ipakukulong ang mga korap at mandarambong.

MGA DAPAT ISIPIN

Kaya naman, sa rehistro ngayon, sana, isaisip ng mga magpaparehistrong botante ang mga magagandang gusto nilang gawin gaya ng pagluluklok sa pwesto ng mga karapat-dapat.

At hindi sila padadala sa sundo, pakain at iba pang gimik ng mga politiko ngayong mga araw ng pagpaparehistro.

Sana ang darating na pulitika ay nakatuon sa pagbangon ng ating buong bansa mula sa nakamamatay na sakit at nakasisira sa buhay ng lahat ng mamamayan.

Bayanihan 2: Strengthening our health response against COVID-19

Published August 29, 2020, 3:47 PM

by [Senator Sonny Angara](#)

BETTER DAYS



Senator Sonny Angara

As this goes to print, the tally of COVID-19 cases in the country is most likely to have breached the 200,000 mark — a little more than three weeks after surpassing the 100,000 mark earlier this month. More than 130,000 have recovered, yes, but there are still more than 61,000 active cases. One should not also discount that more than 3,000 Filipinos have already died due to the virus. We clearly have much more to do to fight this pandemic. This is why it's important that the Bayanihan to Recover As One Act—or Bayanihan 2, which we sponsored and defended—is now awaiting the President's signature.

The measure has up to P140 billion in regular appropriations—P40.5 billion of this will be allocated for programs and expenses that will be used in the medical frontlines that define our war against COVID-19.

For instance, there is a need to procure 6 million N95 face masks, 8.5 million gowns, 1 million head covers, and 2 million coveralls—three months' worth of supplies for our health care workers and indigent persons in danger. Under Bayanihan 2, P3 billion will be made available to the Department of Health for this. Equipment such as PPEs made in the Philippines will be preferred, subject to price and quality standards, and with the help of incentives and fiscal policies.

To help our healthcare workers (HCWs), the frontline soldiers in this war, Bayanihan 2 appropriates P13.5 billion for the Department of Health's (DOH) continuous employment and hiring of emergency human resources for health (HRH). Such appropriation shall cover the hiring of an additional 4,228 HRH personnel and the extension of service of 5,143 others. It also includes fund augmentation for operation of DOH hospitals; the special risk – allowance for at least 89,551 public HCWs; and the hazard-duty pay for 66,249 private HCWs. Due to concerns of how some HCWs are treated, accommodation, transportation, and meals for them will also be provided under Bayanihan 2. Mandatory testing of public and private HCWs will also be done every 15 days.

The measure also retains the compensation provided in Bayanihan 1 for HCWs who have been infected by, or have died because of, COVID-19. The addition is that under Bayanihan 2, compensation will also be given to HCWs who are considered “mild” COVID-19 cases. With the appropriations under Bayanihan 2, compensation will be given to 5,171 HCWs who have been infected, and 44 who have died, as well as an estimated 9,000 who could be infected by COVID-19 from August to December.

Bayanihan 2 also responds to the need for more quarantine facilities. P4.5 billion will be used by the DOH for building temporary medical isolation and quarantine facilities, field hospitals, and the expansion of hospital capacities around the country. Dormitories for frontliners will also be included as well as support and funding for the upgrading of existing biosafety laboratories, and capital outlay support for COVID-19 related medical and laboratory equipment. Another P4.5 billion will be used by the Department of National Defense's Office of Civil Defense for building and maintaining isolation facilities. This will include hotel billings, food, and transportation used for our COVID-19 response. The estimate is that we have up to 128,000 COVID-19 patients with mild symptoms, as well as suspected cases. This recognition of the need for more facilities also makes it a goal to increase the bed capacity for COVID-19 cases—20% for private hospitals, and 30% for government hospitals.



Bayanihan 2: Strengthening our health response against

August 30, 2020

TITLE: COVID-19

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DATE

Meanwhile, Philhealth is directed to reimburse all due funds to district, provincial, and city hospitals. Government financial institutions are also implored to prioritize in their lending and credit line services hospitals and healthcare institutions that are having cashflow or liquidity issues due to the pandemic.

P5 billion will be allocated for the Department of the Interior and Local Government to hire at least 50,000 contact tracers, and for the creation of a national online electronic application system for contact tracing.

Finally, there will be a P10-billion standby fund with the Inter-Agency Task Force for COVID-19 testing and the procurement of medicines and possible vaccines. We expect up to 4 million beneficiaries for testing.

We need to act swiftly and decisively, if we want to recover faster from this pandemic. With proper implementation of the Bayanihan 2 Act, our country should be able to get back on its feet, sooner rather than later.

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Senator Sonny Angara has been in public service for 16 years—9 years as Representative of the Lone District of Aurora, and 7 as Senator. He has authored and sponsored more than 200 laws. He is currently serving his second term in the Senate.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2020/08/29/bayanihan-2-strengthening-our-health-response-against-covid-19/>

Locsin nixes SCS push with UN

Says PH could lose gains of sea award by raising issue with world body

posted August 30, 2020 at 01:20 am

by [PNA](#)

The Philippines could lose the gains it achieved in the international arbitral ruling on the South China Sea should it push raising the issue before the United Nations General Assembly next month, Foreign Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. said.

Locsin underscored that Manila already won the award and that bringing the claims to the international body risked its reopening.

This is amid the escalating tensions in the region in the wake of the trade war between the United States and China, as the US said Friday it will ban Chinese companies taking part in any Chinese developments in the South China Sea—and Locsin said the Philippines should follow suit.

Meanwhile, an American warship sailed near the disputed Paracel Islands in the South China Sea, the US Navy said, in what military and diplomatic analysts say is a challenge to Beijing's claims on the resource-rich waterway and prompting a warning from the Chinese military.

The Thursday operation came a day after China fired ballistic missiles into the sea as part of ongoing live-fire exercises, inflaming already high tensions between Washington and Beijing.

The Chinese military on Friday said the US had "repeatedly provoked trouble in the South China Sea", urging it to "immediately stop such provocative actions".

At the same time, the US Defense Department said Chinese test launches of ballistic missiles in the South China Sea were threatening peace and security in the region.

"When you win something, you do not appeal your victory... Because once you throw it to the United Nations, I'm afraid China has the numbers there and it's about numbers. It's not about law," Locsin said in a CNN Philippines interview Friday night.

"What if it reopens? The question is, was it a violation of Philippine sovereignty? Our ruling already defined what's ours. But if that is the question I'm going to bring up again to another court, they may reopen it. I'm even afraid that some of our neighbors may want to bring it up just precisely to lose it. I trust no one in this world," he said.

Locsin believes Manila would fail to garner support from most UN member states like it did in the past when it would propose for the ruling's inclusion or mention in resolutions.

"I was in the United Nations. I can tell you from the major blocks of developing countries, let's call them that, small countries like the Non-Aligned Movement, they always vote against the inclusion of our Arbitral Award in any resolution by those large voting bodies. We are always rejected; they always go with China," he said.

"Believe me, the smaller the country, the more insular its character—in that sense, similar to us—the more likely they will not vote with us because they need all the help they can get," he added.

The South China Sea, where the Spratly Islands are located, is contested by the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei, Taiwan, and China, which claims almost 80 percent of the waters under its so-called "nine-dash line."

In a 2016 arbitral ruling, the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague invalidated China's vast claims over the waterway as illegal.

The US regularly conducts "freedom of navigation operations" in the area to challenge Chinese territorial claims. The US Navy's Pacific Fleet said in a statement the USS Mustin, a guided-missile destroyer, sailed Thursday "in the vicinity of the Paracel Islands to ensure critical shipping lanes in the area remain free and open."

The Chinese military on Friday accused the US ship of entering "China's territorial waters" near the islands "without authorisation." Chinese forces tracked the warship and then warned it to leave, said military spokesman Li Huamin.

In recent years, China has aggressively pursued its territorial claims in the South China Sea, building small shoals and reefs into military bases with airstrips and port facilities.

Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia and Taiwan also have competing claims in the South China Sea, through which international trade worth trillions of dollars passes a year.

Tensions have risen this week in the area near the Paracel Islands—called Xisha by Beijing—where the Chinese military has been conducting exercises.

Beijing on Tuesday accused Washington of flying a U-2 spy plane into a no-fly zone to disrupt the drills—which included the ballistic missile launches.

The Pentagon then accused China of destabilizing the region and using the military for “unlawful maritime claims” in a statement criticizing the exercises and the use of ballistic missiles in the drills.

Confirming reports that Beijing’s forces launched as many as four ballistic missiles during military exercises around the Paracel islands, the Pentagon said the move called into question China’s 2002 commitment to avoiding provocative activities.

China’s “actions, including missile tests, further destabilize the situation in the South China Sea,” the Pentagon said in a statement.

“Such exercises also violate PRC commitments under the 2002 Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea to avoid activities that would complicate or escalate disputes and affect peace and stability,” it said, referring to China by the initials of its official name, the People’s Republic of China.

Over the past decade China has built up military installations on several disputed reefs and outcroppings in the South China Sea to assert its sovereignty over much of the region against territorial claims by Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, Taiwan and Indonesia.

The Pentagon said the Chinese military’s August 23-29 military exercises near the Paracels -- which it calls Xisha - - were “the latest in a long string of PRC actions to assert unlawful maritime claims and disadvantage its Southeast Asian neighbors.”

It said the United States had urged China in July to reduce its “militarization and coercion” in the region. Instead, “The PRC chose to escalate its exercise activities by firing ballistic missiles,” it said.

Earlier Thursday Beijing blasted Washington over its blacklisting of two dozen state-owned Chinese companies involved in building and supplying China’s South China Sea bases.

“The US’s words grossly interfere in China’s internal affairs... it is wholly tyrannical logic and power politics,” said foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian.

“China will take firm measures to uphold the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese companies and individuals,” he said.

In a related development US Defense Secretary Mark Esper accused China of “destabilizing” the Pacific region Friday on a whistle-stop trip to the tiny island nation of Palau.

The visit, which lasted barely three hours, comes as Washington attempts to counter Beijing’s efforts to gain influence in the sparsely populated but strategically important Pacific island nations.

Esper said the United States and Palau shared values of freedom “where all countries respect the rules and norms for peace and prosperity of all nations”.

“This is especially important today, as we continue to work alongside our allies and partners to protect that international system that is under threat from China and its ongoing destabilizing activities in the region,” he said.

Beijing has enjoyed recent success in the Pacific, persuading the Solomon Islands and Kiribati last year to switch diplomatic allegiance from Taiwan to China.

That left Palau as one of Taiwan’s four remaining allies in the Pacific and only 15 worldwide.

The nation of 22,000, which lies about 1,500 kilometers east of the Philippines, has retained strong ties to Taiwan and the United States under Palau President Tommy Remengesau, despite pressure from China to switch.

Remengesau said China had employed “aggressive moves” in the region but he understood why it had won over some island nations.

“It’s no secret that they are loaning money and putting money into the economies of many Pacific island nations,” he told reporters.

“That has an impact on how people view the relationship with those who help them.”

China effectively banned its tourists from visiting Palau in 2018, severing a major income stream in a move seen as retribution over ties with Taiwan, which Beijing sees as part of its territory to be brought back into the fold.

Esper said he and Remengesau had discussed the need to respect “sovereignty of nations of all sizes”.

While Palau is an independent nation, it has no military and the US is responsible for its defense under an agreement with Washington.

Under the deal, the US military has access to the islands, although it currently has no troops stationed there.

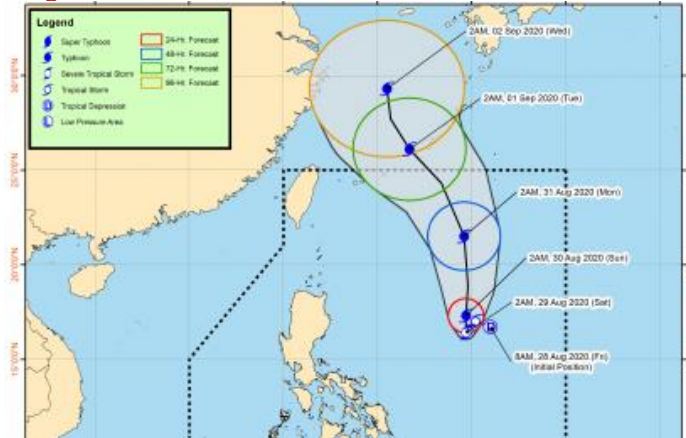
A US military radar facility was planned but construction was suspended because of the COVID-19 pandemic, with Palau keen to retain its virus-free status.

Remengesau welcomed US efforts to boost its military presence in Indo-Pacific region.

“It gives us those of us in Palau a great sense of security and a sense of stability heading into the future,” he said. With AFP

'Julian' now severe tropical storm, unlikely to hit PH landmass

By Raymond Carl Dela Cruz August 29, 2020, 10:05 am



SEVERE TS JULIAN. The track of Severe Tropical Storm Julian on Saturday (Aug. 29, 2020). The PAGASA said "Julian" is less likely to cause high-impact weather over the country and will leave the Philippine area of responsibility on Monday (Aug. 31, 2020). (Photo courtesy of PAGASA)

MANILA – Tropical Depression Julian has intensified into a severe tropical storm and is almost stationary over the Philippine Sea.

In its severe weather bulletin on Saturday, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said "Julian" was last tracked 850 km. east of Tuguegarao City, Cagayan and will likely remain out of the country's landmass as it moves northward until it exits the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR) on Monday.

"Julian" has maximum sustained winds of up to 95 kph near the center and gustiness of up to 115 kph.

The bureau said "Julian" is "less likely" to cause a high impact on the country's weather while the raising of tropical cyclone wind signals also remains unlikely.

"Julian" will bring cloudy skies with scattered rain showers and thunderstorms over the Bicol Region and the provinces of Quezon, Aurora, Isabela, and Cagayan.

Metro Manila and the rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rain showers brought by the southwest monsoon and localized thunderstorms.

Winds in Northern Luzon will be moderate to strong, headed southwest to west, causing moderate to rough coastal waters.

In the Visayas and the rest of Luzon, winds will be light to moderate, headed southwest to west, with slight to moderate coastal waters.

In Mindanao, winds will be light to moderate and headed south to southwest, resulting in slight to moderate coastal waters.

The temperature in Metro Manila will range from 26°C to 32°C; Baguio City, 16°C to 25°C; Metro Cebu, 25°C to 34°C; and Metro Davao, 24°C to 34°C. (PNA)

Cabangan, Zambales niyanig ng lindol

By Ulat ng Bandera at Radyo Inquirer August 29, 2020 - 01:16 PM



Tumama ang magnitude 3.2 na lindol sa Zambales, ayon sa Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology.

Naitala ang episentro ng lindol sa layong anim na kilometro hilagang-silangan ng Cabangan ganap na 11:15 ng umaga.

May lalim itong 29 kilometro at tectonic ang pinagmulan.

Hindi naman nagdulot ng pinsala ang lindol na tumama sa kalupaan.

Wala ring inaasahang aftershocks matapos ang pagyanig.

Source: https://bandera.inquirer.net/262835/cabangan-zambales-niyanig-ng-lindol?utm_term=Autofeed&utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR3CTBRIBMRtrIeL8TSVhk1kBeI4aBT3AcDtDVK1V2qKp4zz94vbKmr_6rw#Echobox=1598679106

Criminal networks in plastic waste trade

Saturday, 29 Aug 2020



Illegal trade: Plastic waste believed to be imported from foreign countries found dumped at Bukit Teh near Machang Bubok in Bukit Mertajam on March 3, 2020.

A NEW Interpol report on global plastic waste management has found an alarming increase in the trade of illegal plastic waste worldwide since 2018.

Interpol has highlighted the infiltration of criminal networks in the plastic waste trade through the illegal re-routing of shipments and unauthorised waste management methods.

The scale of plastic waste mismanagement is far-reaching, involving at least 52 out of the 257 trade routes analysed by Interpol.

For decades, China was an easy destination for plastic waste, receiving half of the world's total volume. Following its move to restrict plastic waste imports in 2018, the re-routing of shipments has overwhelmed alternative countries, opening the door for opportunistic crime.

Developing Asian countries, especially those with limited waste management and enforcement capacities, are increasingly targeted.

In May 2020, Malaysia initiated the costly and extensive process of repatriating 3,737 metric tonnes of plastic waste (equivalent to 150 shipping containers) to 13 countries of origin.

International measures on globally traded plastic waste are set to be imposed from 2021 under the Basel Convention. Nevertheless, Interpol has highlighted the need to increase enforcement, as criminals have been known to be able to exploit the changes in regulations to their advantage over the last few years.

Global plastic pollution is one of the most pervasive environmental threats to the planet today, and its correct regulation and management is of critical importance to environmental security worldwide, said the chairperson of Interpol's Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Committee Advisory Board, Calum MacDonald, who is also executive director of the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency.

WWF recognises the need for countries including Malaysia to enhance cooperation between law enforcement authorities locally and internationally to address how criminal networks use vulnerabilities in global shipping routes to traffic everything from illegal plastic waste to wildlife products.

According to Jazlyn Lee, South-East Asia Regional EPR Coordinator for WWF, "Waste crime is a rising threat with roots in a more fundamental problem – the inability to manage plastic use and production."

The impacts of plastic pollution on marine ecosystems and the environment as a whole are already far-reaching and now the criminal implications of waste crime are exacerbating the problem.

In order to address cross boundary waste crime, there is an urgent need for countries to develop a National Action Plan, strengthen governance framework and transparency to effectively manage local waste, and shift towards a circular economy model.

A circular economy model can be achieved by reducing or eliminating problematic and unnecessary single-use plastic items, and increasing recyclability and recycled content in packaging by adopting an extended producer responsibility system on a national level.

Following Interpol's call for enhanced international and inter-agency law enforcement cooperation, WWF has outlined further recommendations for an international response by governments:

- a) Accelerate negotiations for a global legally binding agreement with clear national action plans and regulations, including support for waste management in low-income countries;
- b) Reinforce existing mechanisms such as phasing out single-use plastics, improving domestic recycling capacity in developed markets and addressing gaps in waste management in developing economies;
- c) Innovate and scale up environmentally sound alternatives to plastic; and
- d) Invest in research and capacity building for enhanced monitoring and enforcement on plastic waste.

Almost two million people around the world have signed a WWF petition urging their governments to establish a legally binding global treaty to address marine plastic pollution, and 133 countries have already voiced their support for exploring the option of a global agreement.

WWF MALAYSIA



Dying mother dolphin struggles to save baby in Mauritius lagoon after oil spill

Published August 29, 2020 4:37pm

By KATHARINE HOURELD, Reuters

NAIROBI—The baby dolphin rolled over on its side, floating on the surface. Its mother repeatedly nudged its head above the oily waves in a lagoon in Mauritius, where environmentalists are demanding an investigation into the deaths of dozens of dolphins following an oil spill.

The footage—obtained by Reuters from a fisherman who tried to help rescue the dolphins on Friday, Aug. 28—showed the last desperate moments of the mother and her calf before they both died.

At least 40 dolphins have been found dead in Mauritius—38 who washed ashore, as well as the mother and her baby—since Aug. 24, when a Japanese ship was scuttled after running aground in July and leaking oil.

The death toll may rise: Yasfeer Heenaye, the 31-year-old fisherman who filmed the mother and baby, said he saw nearly 200 dolphins inside the reef Friday morning, 25-30 of them dead.

He said some appeared to be injured and others were just floating. Fishermen were trying to herd the dolphins out of the lagoon into the open seas.

"There was a mother and her baby. ...He was very tired, he didn't swim well. But the mum stayed alongside him, she didn't leave her baby to go with the group. All the way she stayed with him. She was trying to protect him ...to push the baby to get back with the group."

But the baby wallowed on its side and died in front of them, floating on the waves, he said.

"When I was seeing this, there was tears in my eyes. I am a parent of a little daughter, it is very difficult for me to see the mother struggle and try her best to save her baby," Heenaye said.

A short while later, the mother had convulsions and died too, said another witness, Reuben Pillay. —

Reuters

Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/scitech/content/753440/dying-mother-dolphin-struggles-to-save-baby-in-mauritius-lagoon-after-oil-spill/story/?utm_source=GMAnews&utm_medium=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR0zmGq0L8EjG_VgFaJBMylbN0Y5GIdD_Cb5-a1CSe_v-TKx0EbiyxF4_CE

Greenland is melting, islands have disappeared

By [Fr. Shay Cullen, SSC](#)

August 30, 2020

I loathe the cold and love the warm. Who doesn't? I grew up in Ireland where spring and winter were always very cold. In the 1950s, central heating was rare. We stayed warm by burning coal in open grates and used kerosene oil in a heater. Many nights, we children huddled around the coal fire or heater trying to stay warm doing our homework. We suffered painful chilblains, itching and swelling of the toes because of the cold.

We burnt coal and oil, fossil fuels and never knew we were adding carbon dioxide to the atmosphere and warming up the planet. Our family's contribution to global warming was minuscule, but with millions of homes, factories and furnaces, trains and tractors, power stations, and ships and vehicles all over the world burning these fuels, the carbon dioxide accumulated over the past 200 years, and the planet has got steadily warmer.

Many people refuse to believe the truth of science and continue to burn coal and oil in power stations and vehicles. This pumps more carbon dioxide into the atmosphere that continues to create a thick warm blanket around the earth. The sun beats down and makes the planet like a hot oven or a greenhouse from which the heat cannot escape because of the greenhouse gases. We are, you could say, cooking ourselves to death like lobsters in the cooking pot.

In recent years, scorching heat waves have killed thousands of people. In 2019 alone, 1,500 people died in France from the heat and many more elsewhere. The warm weather is enticing more people to go out of their safe homes to visit the cooler beaches, resorts and parks, and they are getting infected with coronavirus.

Plants, birds and nature are responding as the climate gradually warms and changes and more species are in danger of extinction. We humans are destroying nature and changing the planet with our irresponsible lifestyles. We must change to renewable energy sources more quickly and save the planet and ourselves and the next generation.

In the Philippines, where I have been living since 1996, I can really feel and notice how the climate has changed since I first arrived. There are higher temperatures, stronger and more frequent typhoons, landslides, loss of harvests, less water resources, and spread of diseases. The deforestation of the past 50 years has left only about 3 percent of the original rain forest. Trees are still being felled by irresponsible mining, palm oil plantations and illegal loggers. That is accelerating global warming.

Filipino heroes defending nature and the environment are being killed, with 46 of them murdered in recent years. The Indigenous Peoples, who are suffering from land-grabbing, are branded as subversive criminals and many are killed as they defend their environments and ancestral lands. The multinational corporations are in cahoots with local and national elite politicians. They are behind the environmental injustice and destruction.

Hundreds of Aeta Indigenous People were evacuated recently in San Marcelino, Zambales, because of military action against suspected communist rebels. At Preda Foundation, we responded and hurried to bring food relief packs to 177 people. Eighty of them are members of our Aeta organic farmers association from whom we buy mangoes at high Fair Trade prices and share cash bonus and implement community projects with them. They plant thousands of mango tree saplings annually.

The melting of the ice caps and Greenland is raising sea levels that are sinking islands and will flood coastal communities in the future. Low-lying Manila will be inundated also in the future. Inhabitants of the Carteret Islands of Papua New Guinea were evacuated and transferred to Bougainville Island. The same is happening in Micronesia and the Solomon Islands once Pacific Ocean paradises have become the watery graves of departed communities.

The rapid melting of Greenland, however, is like ice cream in a microwave. The extremely rapid melting there is causing concern around the world. "What we're seeing in Greenland is exceptional. It's a wake-up call," Penn State climatologist Luke Trusel said.

In the latest heatwave in July 2020, it was estimated that as much as 12 billion tons of ice melted in Greenland. This August 2020 more than 60 percent of Greenland's surface ice was calculated to be melting in temperatures of 25 to 30 degrees Fahrenheit. So, we can expect that many more low-lying atolls and islands are due to meet a watery end.

The global warming is melting the permafrost in Canada and Siberia and that has already released millions of tons of methane gas into the atmosphere. Methane is a deadlier greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide. It has a global warming potential (GWP) 84 times greater than carbon dioxide. Add to this the methane released by billions of cattle in the world and we have a disaster in the making. The most shocking truth is that this warming is almost irreversible. Climate activists are trying to hold it below a two-degree increase. Sea levels will reach unprecedented heights by the end of the century, wiping out beach property and inundating low-lying cities.

It's not all gloom and doom, however. We can't reverse the trend and damage at present, but we could halt them. Some say, "" Let's go vegetarian and save the planet." We can pressure governments to replace coal- and oil- burning plants with renewable energy power sources like solar and wind, geothermal and wave to generate electricity.

The introduction of electric cars can be accelerated if governments will provide tax breaks and, for a set time, provide free recharging stations for electric car owners. We can plant millions of trees to absorb the carbon dioxide. Here at the Preda Foundation, we plant mango tree saplings with the Aeta indigenous people in Zambales every year. In 2019 we planted 3,968 mango trees. This year, we will plant 2,000 as our budget and donations allow.

We can all do something good to save the planet and reduce global warming. We can recycle plastic, plant trees and flowers; eat less meat and more vegetables. Make our next vehicle electric and urge governments to change to renewable energy sources. We can save the planet and the low-lying islands for the next generation if we all work together.