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DENR

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DENR to showcase Boracay wetlands rehab in World Wetlands Day celebration

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by [Faith Argosino](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is set to showcase the rehabilitation of the world-famous Boracay Island during the celebration of the World Wetlands Day 2022 on Feb. 2.

“The celebration will focus on the department’s plan to save wetlands from further degradation,” DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu said in a statement.



Photo: DENR

“Wetlands are among our country’s natural assets, and thus we have made them part of our ongoing rehabilitation of Boracay Island. Showcasing their importance through wetlands recovery and restoration in the island is an effective means of spreading awareness to the public,” he added.

Through the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB), Cimatu said they will hold the activity at the Boracay Wetland Conservation Park in Barangay Balabag, Boracay Island.

During the event, Energy Development Corp. (EDC), an adopter of the DENR’s “Adopt-a-Wetland Program,” will hand over the completed project for Wetland No. 2 to the department after more than three years of restoration.



Photo: DENR



Aside from EDC, the DENR also formed partnerships with other private entities such as Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc., Boracay Tubi System Inc., and JG Summit Olefins Corp to conserve wetlands.

This year's theme is "Wetlands Action for People and Nature," emphasizing the need to maintain and assure the sustainable use of wetlands for humans, animals, and the environment.

"By restoring the 'Wetlands of Boracay,' we do not only conserve their ecological functions in the island but also add to the diversification of Boracay's tourism attraction sites," Cimatú said.



DENR chief: Wetlands among our country's 'natural assets'

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA FEBRUARY 1, 2022

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy A. Cimatu has underscored the need to protect the country's wetlands, which can be considered among the country's natural assets.

"Wetlands are among our country's natural assets and thus we have made them part of our ongoing rehabilitation of Boracay Island. We believe that showcasing their importance through wetlands recovery and restoration in the island is an effective means of spreading awareness to the public," Cimatu said in a news statement as the Philippines join the world in celebrating World Wetlands Day 2022.

With the theme "Wetlands Action for People and Nature," this year's World Wetlands Day highlights the importance of concerted actions in conserving and ensuring the sustainable use of wetlands for human beings, the environment, and all living creatures that depend on it.

The DENR, through the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB), will celebrate the gains made in the rehabilitation of Boracay wetlands during the local celebration.

This year's celebration focuses on the concrete actions for wetlands to save them from further degradation, said Cimatu.

"By restoring the 'Wetlands of Boracay,' we do not only conserve their ecological functions in the island but also add up to the diversification of Boracay's tourism attraction sites," he added.

The DENR will lead the local celebration at the Boracay Wetland Conservation Park, formerly Wetland No. 2, in Barangay Balabag, Boracay Island on Wednesday, February 2.

The event will showcase the partnership in wetland conservation with private companies such as Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc., Boracay Tubi System Inc., Energy Development Corp. (EDC), and J.G. Summit Olefins Corp.

During the main event, the EDC, an adopter of the DENR's "Adopt-a-Wetland Program," will be turning over the completed project for Wetland No. 2 to the DENR after more than three years of rehabilitation.

DENR-BMB OIC Director Natividad Bernardino said this year's theme also serves as a "clarion call for Filipinos to act for the welfare of the country's wetlands."

"We need to invest financial, human, and political capital to save our wetlands from disappearing and restore those we have degraded. It is also an appeal to re-strategize and capitalize on nature-based solutions such as wetland conservation, which provides sound and sustainable benefits for human beings, the environment, and all creatures on the planet," Bernardino said.

World Wetlands Day is celebrated annually to raise global awareness on the vital role of wetlands for people and our planet.

The date also marks the anniversary of the Convention on Wetlands, which was adopted as an international treaty in 1971.



Presidential Proclamation No. 74, Series of 1999, also declares February 2 of every year as National Wetlands Day in recognition of the immense importance of wetlands to the welfare of the Filipino people and the protection of global biodiversity.

This year's celebration is particularly significant because it will be the first time that it will be celebrated as a United Nations International Day through a resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly on August 30, 2021.



Boracay wetlands take spotlight in World Wetlands Day 2022 in PH

January 31, 2022, 1:36 pm



Famous Boracay Island (Photo courtesy of Aklan - Our Province)

MANILA – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources—through the Biodiversity Management Bureau (DENR-BMB)—will celebrate the gains made in the rehabilitation of Boracay wetlands during the local observance of the World Wetlands Day 2022 on February 2.

Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said this year's celebration focuses on our concrete actions for wetlands to save them from further degradation.

"Wetlands are among our country's natural assets and thus we have made them part of our ongoing rehabilitation of Boracay Island. We believe that showcasing their importance through wetlands recovery and restoration in the island is an effective means of spreading awareness to the public," Cimatu said in a news release on Monday.

"By restoring the 'Wetlands of Boracay,' we do not only conserve their ecological functions in the island but also add up to the diversification of Boracay's tourism attraction sites," he added.

The DENR will lead the Philippines' World Wetlands Day celebration at the Boracay Wetland Conservation Park, formerly Wetland No. 2, in Barangay Balabag, Boracay Island.

The event will showcase the partnership in wetland conservation with private companies such as Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc., Boracay Tubi System Inc., Energy Development Corp. (EDC), and J.G. Summit Olefins Corp.

During the main event, the EDC, an adopter of the DENR's "Adopt-a-Wetland Program," will be turning over the completed project for Wetland No. 2 to the DENR after more than three years of rehabilitation.

With the theme "Wetlands Action for People and Nature," this year's World Wetlands Day highlights the importance of concerted actions in conserving and ensuring the sustainable use of wetlands for human beings, the environment, and all living creatures that depend on it.

DENR-BMB officer-in-charge Director Natividad Bernardino said this year's theme also serves as a "clarion call for Filipinos to act for the welfare of the country's wetlands."



"We need to invest financial, human, and political capital to save our wetlands from disappearing and restore those we have degraded. It is also an appeal to re-strategize and capitalize on nature-based solutions such as wetland conservation, which provides sound and sustainable benefits for human beings, the environment, and all creatures on the planet," Bernardino said.

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DENR establishes regional hubs for typhoon-hit areas

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA JANUARY 31, 2022

TO fast track the government's recovery and rehabilitation programs in typhoon-ravaged areas, Task Force (TF) Build Back Better (BBB) Chief Roy A. Cimatu has ordered the creation of regional BBB TFs (RTFBBBs), which will be chaired by the 16 regional executive directors of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) within their respective jurisdictions.

The TF BBB was created through Executive Order 120 issued by President Rodrigo Duterte on November 18, 2020. The TF aims to expedite and lead the preparation, implementation and monitoring of post-disaster rehabilitation and recovery program for typhoon-ravaged areas.

"The creation of RTFBBBs is in response to the intention of EO 120 for government entities to work with a clear unity of command and in a sustained and cohesive form in relation to current and future post-typhoon recovery and rehabilitation efforts," Cimatu, who also heads the DENR, was quoted in a statement as saying.

The DENR chief said he made his plans known during the DENR Expanded Executive Committee Conference held last January 18.

The national TFBBB is co-chaired by the secretary of the Department of Public Works and Highways with 26 national government agencies as its members tasked to assist the task force. The DENR heads the Intensified Environment and Natural Resources Management, which is one of the six key result areas (KRAs) of the TF BBB.

KRAs

OTHER TF BBB KRAs include the following: "better and resilient infrastructure" under the DPWH; "stronger shelter and resilient settlement" given to the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development; "improved systems and essential services" through the Department of National Defense-Office of Civil Defense; "restored sustainable livelihood" under the responsibility of the Department of Trade and Industry; and, "strengthened governance through broad-based citizen" through the Department of the Interior and Local Government.

Last January 17, Cimatu issued DENR Special Order (SO) 2022-32 to provide the mechanism by which the RTFBBBs will "organize and convene" in coordination with the RTFBBB-member line government agencies "as may be applicable."

Cimatu said the creation of RTFBBBs draws inspiration and lessons learned from the success made in the first three focus areas of TF BBB in rehabilitating the Marikina, Cagayan and Bicol river basins after they were ravaged by typhoons Rolly and Ulysses in 2020.

Some of the RTFBBB's tasks are to identify rehabilitation and recovery measures in typhoon-affected areas and formulation of the KRA implementation plans, budgetary requirements and funding proposal for the areas in their respective regions.

Priority

IDENTIFIED as a priority for the implementation of the order are areas that bore the brunt of Typhoon Odette in December 2021.

Beginning with those hardest-hit by Typhoon Odette, the DENR regional executive directors for Caraga, Regions 6, 7, 8, 10 and Mimaropa as chairpersons of the Regional TFBBB in their respective regions shall, in coordination with the concerned regional line agencies and local



government units, conduct damage assessment and identify appropriate interventions for recovery and rehabilitation.

Cimatu's order underscores the urgency for a clear mechanism on how to have a "total response" at the regional level based on the mandate of EO 120, including the need to strengthen the link between the national and local levels to efficiently respond to the demands and realities in typhoon's post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation phase as shown in Odette's aftermath, according to DENR Undersecretary and TFBBB Secretariat head Analiza Rebuelta-Teh.

With the mechanisms in place, RTFBBB can link directly with concerned TFBBB member national agencies "in case their regional members are not responsive" through the concerned DENR undersecretaries and assistant secretaries who have been designated as focal persons responsible for coordination with the concerned agencies as head of each of the six TFBBB KRAs concerned lead as per DENR SO 2020-470, Teh added.



DENR bubuo ng regional task force sa rehabilitasyon ng nasalanta ng bagyo



January 31, 2022 @ 6:01 PM 12 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Upang mapabilis ang rehabilitasyon ng mga lugar na tinamaan ng bagyo, nag-utos si Environment Sec. Roy Cimatu ng paglikha ng mga regional task forces sa bansa na magpapadali sa mga programa ng gobyerno sa pagbawi at rehabilitasyon sa mga lugar na sinalanta ng bagyo.

Ayon sa DENR, tinaguriang Regional Build Back Better Task Forces (RTFBBBs), ang bawat rehiyon ng bansa sa labas ng Metro Manila ay magkakaroon ng kanya-kanyang sarili at ito ay pamumunuan ng mga regional director ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Kaugnay nito ipinaliwanag ni Cimatu na ang paglikha ng RTFBBBs ay higit sa pagpapabilis ng paghahanda, pagpapatupad, at pagsubaybay sa post-disaster rehabilitation and recovery program sa mga lugar na tatamaan lalo na ng mga bagyo tulad ng nagdaang Bagyong “Odette” na sumira sa mga rehiyon ng Visayas at ibang bahagi ng Luzon at Mindanao.

“Ang paglikha ng RTFBBB ay bilang tugon sa intensyon ng EO 120 para sa mga entidad ng gobyerno na magtrabaho nang may malinaw na pagkakaisa ng command at sa isang sustained at cohesive form na may kaugnayan sa kasalukuyan at hinaharap na mga pagsisikap sa pagbawi at rehabilitasyon pagkatapos ng bagyo,” sabi ni Cimatu na namumuno sa Task Force Build Back Better (TFBBB) sa ilalim ng Executive Order 120 na inisyu ni Pangulong Duterte noong Nobyembre 18, 2020.

Samantala, ang pambansang TFBBB ay co-chaired ng kalihim ng Department of Public Works and Highways kasama ang 26 na ahensya ng pambansang pamahalaan bilang mga miyembro nito na naatasang tumulong sa task force. Kaugnay nito pinamumunuan ng DENR ang Intensified Environment and Natural Resources Management, na isa sa anim na key result areas (KRAs) ng TFBBB.

Kabilang sa iba pang TFBBB KRA ang Better and Resilient Infrastructure na pinamumunuan ng DPWH; Mas Matibay na Shelter at Resilient Settlement (Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development); Pinahusay na Sistema at Mahahalagang Serbisyo (Department of National Defense-Office of Civil Defense); Ibinalik ang Sustainable Livelihood (Department of Trade and Industry); at Pinalakas na Pamamahala sa Pamamagitan ng Malawak na Nakabatay sa Mamamayan (Department of Interior and Local Government).

Kaugnay nito tinukoy bilang prayoridad sa pagpapatupad ng kautusan ang mga lugar na dinanas ng Bagyong Odette noong Disyembre 2021.



“Simula sa mga halos hindi tinamaan ng Bagyong Odette, ang DENR regional executive directors para sa Caraga, Regions 6, 7, 8, 10, at MIMAROPA bilang mga chairperson ng Regional TFBBB sa kani-kanilang mga rehiyon ay dapat, sa pakikipag-ugnayan sa mga kinauukulang regional line agencies. at mga local government units, magsagawa ng damage assessment at tukuyin ang mga angkop na interbensyon para sa pagbawi at rehabilitasyon,” sabi ni Cimat. **(Santi Celario)**



DENR to seek removal of illegal occupants from over 100 protected areas

January 31, 2022 | 11:01 pm



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS, ARIUS1998

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said it is hoping to remove illegal occupants from over 100 protected areas.

“We have taken for granted these protected areas. The perennial problem of illegal occupants is the reason why these areas are polluted and destroyed,” Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said in a statement.

Republic Act No. 11038 or the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 2018 added 94 areas to the list of locations under special government protection, bringing the number of such sites to 107.

Public lands within these protected areas are classified as national parks under the 1987 Philippine Constitution.

He said the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape will be one of the priority sites.

The department said it is planning on private security personnel to turn away illegal occupants and may tap the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police for overall security.

The law prohibits “occupying or dwelling in any public land within a protected area without clearance from the concerned Protected Area Management Board.”

Violators are liable for fines of between P200,000 and P1 million or imprisonment of one to six years.

“We are expediting the complete demarcation of all legislated protected areas to set their final boundaries, along with the creation of the Protected Area Management Office or PAMO,” Director Natividad Y. Bernardino of the DENR’s Biodiversity Management Bureau said.

Ms. Bernardino said a current program on Protected Area Development and Management covers measures to conserve biodiversity within and adjacent to protected areas. — **Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson**

Source: <https://www.bworldonline.com/denr-to-seek-removal-of-illegal-occupants-from-over-100-protected-areas/>



Sustaining Protected Areas Remains a Top Priority

by  Village Connect 3 days ago



Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will continue to make the preservation of the country's protected areas a top priority this year by focusing on efforts to address the illegal occupation on these areas.

"We have taken for granted these protected areas. The perennial problem of illegal occupants is the reason why these areas are polluted and destroyed," Cimatu said during the annual Expanded Executive Committee Conference with the DENR officials on January 18.

The DENR is also taking into consideration the hiring of security personnel or "blue guards" to prevent individuals from illegally occupying the protected areas through its field offices with the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) overseeing its administration and management at a national level.

With the enactment of Republic Act (RA) 11038 or the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System (ENIPAS) Act of 2018, 94 protected areas were added to the roster of legislated protected areas, bringing the total number to 107.

The public lands within these legislated protected areas are classified as national parks under the 1987 Philippine Constitution.

"We are studying the possibility of hiring blue guards in these areas to secure them from illegal occupants," Cimatu said, adding that the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape will be one of the priority sites.

The DENR is also looking into tapping the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police to reinforce security in the protected areas.

Under the law, *"occupying or dwelling in any public land within a protected area without clearance from the concerned Protected Area Management Board is strictly prohibited."*

The violators of the NIPAS Act, as amended, will be fined P200,000 to P1 million or imprisoned for one year but not more than six years, or both.

Meanwhile, BMB OIC Director Natividad Bernardino said measures are continuously being implemented to effectively manage the country's protected areas.

"We are expediting the complete demarcation of all legislated protected areas to set their final boundaries, along with the creation of the Protected Area Management Office or PAMO," Bernardino said.



The demarcation of protected areas is pursuant to the provisions of the ENIPAS Act and guided by DENR Administrative Order No. 2015-10, as supplemented by BMB Technical Bulletin No. 2019-01.

Bernardino said the DENR-BMB also has an existing program on Protected Area Development and Management which covers the in-situ measures to conserve biodiversity within and adjacent to protected areas.



Cimatu elated over DENR achievements becoming part of PRRD's environmental legacy

Published on: January 31, 2022

By DENR

QUEZON CITY -- Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said the milestones and achievements made by the agency will be a significant part of the Duterte administration's legacy on the conservation and protection of the environment.

In the DENR's Expanded Executive Committee Conference held last January 18, Cimatu praised the employees for rising to the challenge and meeting the expectations of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte.

Cimatu said that being tasked by President Duterte to head three important inter-agency bodies—the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force, Manila Bay Task Force, and Task Force Build Back Better (TFBBB)—to facilitate the government's restoration and rehabilitation efforts through whole-of-government and society approach, "bespeaks of his high regard for our competence and capabilities."

"Indeed, I look forward to the pleasure of submitting to the Supreme Court at the end of my term a report on our compliance with the Writ of Continuing Mandamus for the cleanup and restoration of the water quality of Manila Bay," he said, noting that it is only during the Duterte administration that the concerned agencies have substantial compliance with the writ issued in December 2008.

Cimatu led the DENR conference via onsite and online platforms aimed at shaping the direction of the environment and natural resource sector for 2022.

"We managed to accomplish so much in so short a time despite the distractions caused by the pandemic and natural disasters. I believe we could have accomplished more, and we will certainly do so," Cimatu said, as he called on the DENR workforce to "push harder in the months ahead."

The DENR chief also noted that the rehabilitation efforts in Boracay Island are expected to be completed by mid-2022 which included the restoration of wetlands, clearing of 25+5 easement, and upgrading of the island's drainage and sewerage system.

Moreover, Cimatu underscored the DENR's performance as the head of the TFBBB, which was created in November 2020, to strengthen rehabilitation and recovery efforts in the Marikina River, Cagayan River, and Bicol River after being adversely affected by two destructive typhoons.



"We have responded not only to disaster and rehabilitation and recovery work but have also put in place measures to prevent or mitigate a repeat of those disasters in these three priority areas," Cimatu said.

He added that TFBBB is now working on a template to guide government agencies on what to do in the aftermath of every typhoon.

"We already started studying the cases of Siargao Island, Surigao, Leyte, Cebu, Bohol, Negros, and Palawan, all devastated by typhoon Odette," Cimatu said.

Cimatu likewise cited the closure of some 335 illegally operating dumpsites nationwide in line with the enforcement of the two-decade old Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

"Another accomplishment worth noting is the completion of the closure of all the 335 illegally operating dumpsites," Cimatu said, stressing that running after illegal dumpsites was a feat "past administrations failed to do for over one and a half decades despite the command of the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000."

"Let us work and push harder as we keep score of our successes so that at the end of this administration's term, we shall be able to report our milestones and legacies that will forever be etched in the environment and natural resources sector," he said. (DENR)



DENR seizes illegally cut lumber, chainsaw



ZAMBOANGA. Personnel of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, together with policemen, seize illegally-cut lumber and undocumented chainsaw in Binoni village, Salug, Zamboanga del Norte. (SunStar Zamboanga)

January 31, 2022

PERSONNEL of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), together with policemen, have seized illegally cut lumber and undocumented chainsaw in Salug, Zamboanga del Norte, an official said Monday, January 31, 2022.

Dionisio Rago, chief of DENR's Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro)-Liloy, said the illegally cut lumber with an estimated volume of 537.23 board feet and chainsaw were seized last week by joint policemen and Cenro-Liloy personnel in Binoni village, Salug.

Rago said the apprehension came after his office received a report regarding an illegal tree cutting activity in Binoni, Salug.

Two people were arrested and placed under investigation, according to Rago.

The confiscated forest product was deposited at Binoni village Hall, while the chainsaw is under the custody of Cenro-Liloy for safekeeping and as exhibit in the conduct of investigation.

The DENR-Zamboanga Peninsula reminded everyone that under Republic act 9175, or the "Chainsaw Act of 2002," anyone found guilty of the actual unlawful use of chainsaw may face imprisonment from six to eight years and/or be fined from P30,000 to P50,000. (SunStar Zamboanga)



Aboitiz strengthens efforts on wetland protection and rehabilitation

Friday, January 28, 2022 Journal Online



The rehabilitation of Boracay Wetland No. 4, now called the “Balabag Wetland Park”, was made possible through the partnership of Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc., Aboitiz Foundation, Inc., and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Committed to living out its #OneAboitizSustainability Framework, the Aboitiz Group completed its efforts in the wetland protection and rehabilitation of the Boracay Wetland No. 4. Conceived as a joint project with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Aboitiz is ready to turn over the newly rehabilitated one-hectare lagoon of Wetland No. 4, named “Balabag Wetland Park” this year.

As a linear urban park, the Balabag Wetland Park will feature recreational activities using low-impact eco-tourism designs; educational advocacies by generating awareness on the importance of wetlands; and experiential opportunities by allowing the local community, students, and even tourists to participate in safeguarding its sustainability through clean up drives, regular maintenance, and protection initiatives. These will be made possible through partnerships with the Department of Tourism (DOT), the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA), and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).

Philippine wetlands are a vital ecosystem for the biodiversity of aquatic species and also serve as sanctuaries for migratory birds. Wetlands support the communities around them with livelihood opportunities and food security, and they also act as carbon storage and flood catchments during typhoons and heavy rains. However, due to human activity, wetlands are disappearing at a rate three times faster than forest lands, leaving countries like the Philippines even more vulnerable to the effects of the ongoing climate crisis.



With landscaped walkways and clean lagoons rich in biodiversity, the Balabag Wetland park entices the public to enjoy a leisurely walk through nature



[Aboitiz strongly advocates for the rehabilitation](#) of the country's wetlands as a means of protecting and preserving Philippine biodiversity. "The Aboitiz Group fully supports the mission of the DENR and the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force to rehabilitate the island, in order to ensure its sustainability and prevent further degradation of its rich ecosystem. With the government's support, the Boracay that we are co-creating and leaving to our children is a community that is safe, empowered, and sustainable," said Sabin M. Aboitiz, President and chief executive officer (CEO) of the Aboitiz Group.

Director Natividad Y. Bernardino, Officer-in-Charge of the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB), enthusiastically thanked the Aboitiz Group for the invaluable partnership. "The DENR, through its Biodiversity Management Bureau, expresses its appreciation to Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc. and Aboitiz Foundation, Inc. for rehabilitating Boracay's Wetland No. 4 under the Bureau's 'Adopt-A-Wetland' program. Wetland No. 4 has been transformed into what is called now the 'Balabag Wetland Park', and has now become one of the island's tourist attractions and an icon of Boracay's successful rehabilitation," Bernardino said.

Since the Balabag Wetland Park's adoption by Aboitiz in 2018, several improvements have already been made: aerators have been installed to improve water quality; 3D signages were constructed for tourists and locals to use as social media post backdrops; a community centre has been completed which serves as an open activity area; perimeter landscaping and pavements have been completed, allowing for leisurely walks in nature; and a parking area is made available for visitors who wish to go to the park.

About Aboitiz Equity Ventures

[Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc. \(AEV\)](#) is the public holding company of the Aboitiz Group with major investments in power, banking and financial services, food, infrastructure, and land. Today, AEV is recognized as one of the best-managed companies in the Philippines and in the region, consistently cited for its commitment to good corporate governance and corporate social responsibility. With five generations of Aboitiz Group business success behind it, AEV continues to drive change for a better world by advancing business and communities.

The Aboitiz Group is a member of the Global Compact Network Philippines Board of Trustees and helps champion the Philippines' sustainability initiatives on an international level through policies, advocacies, and initiatives that align with the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC). The company has also launched its #OneAboitizSustainability Framework which aims to transform its life-essential businesses into having improved sustainable practices and positively impact the environment and society. To know more about the #OneAboitizSustainability programs, please visit <https://sustainability.aboitiz.com/>.



'Over-regulated': Mining sector says PH's stringent rules discourage investment

JAN 31, 2022, 4:59 PM

Rose De La Cruz
Columnist

CoMP vice president for communications Rocky Dimaculangan said numerous moratoriums and shutdowns ordered on the industry over the past nine years damaged the country's reputation as an investment destination and it would take time to regain investors' confidence in the Philippines.

The Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (CoMP) claimed that the mining industry is overly-regulated and that strictures laid down in the past nine years would discourage foreign investors into the sector and it would take time for miners to recover their investments.

CoMP vice president for communications Rocky Dimaculangan said numerous moratoriums and shutdowns ordered on the industry over the past nine years damaged the country's reputation as an investment destination and it would take time to regain investors' confidence in the Philippines.

On December 23, the government lifted the four-year ban on open-pit mining, rescinding an order issued by the late Environment Secretary Regina Lopez, an anti-mining advocate.

In April last year, President Duterte lifted the nine-year moratorium on granting new mining permits.

"Foreign investment in mining allows the government access to capital and technology that are meant to benefit the nation and its people over the long term. Some exploration and mining projects require huge capital, which the government does not have, and Filipino investors may not be willing or able to provide," Dimaculangan told Business World.

"It also takes time for a mining project to reach operational status. Apart from having to prove its financial capability to operate a large-scale mine, and we're talking about hundreds of millions to billions of dollars here, a project must undertake such steps as an environmental impact assessment, and secure a social license to operate, which in our experience is the more challenging one to get. That's why the government's recent mining policy pronouncements are indeed most welcome developments," he added.

Mindanao mines

Three copper-gold projects are in the pipeline for Mindanao: Silangan, Tampakan and King King, which are expected to bring in close to \$5 billion in total capital investment over several years, according to CoMP.



Mining's gross domestic product contribution is expected to increase from 0.6 percent to 1.5 percent a year, while enhancing National Government revenue by P12 billion, LGU revenue by P1.5 billion, exports by \$2 billion, and social expenditures by close to P800 million a year.

"You can imagine what yearly expenditures of almost P800 million per year can do to the development of those far-flung yet highly mineralized areas that don't see much development at all. Also, royalties to indigenous tribes of a little over P600 million a year. It is no wonder that the indigenous people in such areas have been clamoring for the start of development of these projects," he said.

"We hope the next administration will continue policies that will help stabilize business and investment policies. Our country has a lot of catching up to do in terms of investment attractiveness compared to other mining jurisdictions all over the world," he added.

Critics on open pit mining

After the ban on open-pit mining was lifted, various environmental groups criticized declared their opposition, citing the impact on the environment, changes to the landform, and the risk of acid leaks and deteriorating water quality.

As regards sustainability, the chamber said sufficient laws in place to assure that mining does not unduly damage the environment.

"We believe that the regulatory environment governing mining is adequate. The Philippines already has among the strictest mining laws, rules and regulations in the world that impose on exploration and mining companies many social, economic, and environmental limitations and conditions. Where we can explore and mine is already well-defined. We need to secure a social license before we can explore and mine. We have to contend with voluminous environmental requirements and reports from inception to termination — and beyond — of our mining projects," Dimaculangan said.

Regulatory framework

"In the last nine years, our government has done a thorough review of the regulatory framework of the mining industry and has put in place additional rules and regulations to enhance the industry's productivity while increasing the protection for the environment and the benefits to host communities," he added.

Dimaculangan said the chamber adopted the Climate Change Protocol in 2017, one of the eight protocols of the Towards Sustainable Mining (TSM) initiative.

"TSM is a set of tools and indicators to drive environmental and social performance and ensure that key mining risks are managed responsibly at members' facilities. The program was established in 2004 by the Mining Association of Canada and its main objective is to enable mining companies to meet society's needs for minerals and metal products in the most socially, economically, and environmentally responsible way," he said.

The CoMP said it undertook a thorough "Filipinization" process for TSM from 2018 to 2020 to ensure the program is responsive to Philippine conditions.

Apart from Canada and the Philippines, TSM is currently being implemented in Argentina, Australia, Botswana, Brazil, Colombia, Finland, Norway, and Spain.



DENR also issued a memorandum authorizing large-scale mining companies to realign their mandated social development funds, equivalent to 1.5 percent of operating costs, to support affected communities quarantined due to the pandemic.

“Consequently, large-scale mining companies spent over P380 million on PPEs, disinfectant, and medical supplies, as well as food assistance and supplies for social amelioration measures. This benefitted 297,491 frontliners and 1,099,090 households and families living in host communities and beyond,” he said.

Source: https://opinyon.net/national/over-regulated-mining-sector-says-ph-s-stringent-rules-discourage-investment?fbclid=IwAR0grpQx8tXTIludHJbqODulNQFNyfhx5oujYZ2BamH8MtQ6Xsu7z3yn_M



Youth groups join hands to plant trees



YOUTH FOR THE ENVIRONMENT. Araw-ACI President President Renato Tayag Jr., Youth President Chito Arceo Jr., Executive Director Minerva Arceo, and 3K President Wilson Gonzales, Adviser and Arayat councilorable Blady “Tita SB” Sigua, and other members led the tree planting activity at the Mt. Arayat recently. (Princess Clea Arcellaz)

PRINCESS CLEA ARCELLAZ

January 31, 2022

TWO Kapampangan youth groups, Arayat-based Kabataan Para sa Kalinisan at Kaunlaran (3K) and the Angeles Watershed Advocacy Council Inc. (Araw-ACI), have joined hands to further their advocacy of preserving the environment.

The partnership between the two groups was marked by a tree planting activity held at the Mt. Arayat on Friday, January 28, 2022.

3K president Wilson Gonzales said their partnership with Araw-ACI will boost their advocacy of reforesting Mt. Arayat, a historical landmark of their town.

The group, which was organized in 2014, has around 60 members from Arayat town.

“Ang misyon namin sa 3K ay mahikayat ang kabataan para sa kalinisan at pagmamahal sa kalikasan at ang partnership namin with Araw-ACI ay malaking malaking tulong para mas makatulong at mapalawig sa iisang adbokasiya namin para sa kalikasan,” Gonzales said.

Araw-ACI Youth president Chito Arceo Jr., meanwhile, stressed the importance on the need for the youth to take part in preserving the environment as early as now.

“Kaming kabataan ang tagapagmana ng mundo at bilang tagapagmana, ayaw natin manahin ang patay na mundo at kung hindi tayo kikilos ngayon, wala na rin tayong maipapamana sa susunod na henerasyon,” he said.

Arceo, who also represented the country in the recently concluded Climate Change Conference of the Parties held in Scotland, added that youth can start their journey in environmental preservation by joining groups and forums on social media.

Araw-ACI President Renato “Abong” Tayag Jr., for his part, takes hope in participation and interest of youth in saving the environment.

“ ”



“Masaya kaming nakakakita sa mga kabataan na nakikiisa sa adbokasiya natin at kung magagawa nila ito regularly at maiturnover nila sa susunod na henerasyon, baka mas maganda pa ang makita nilang kalikasan kaysa sa atin,” he said.

Meanwhile, some 200 various seedlings such as guyabano, langka and mahogany were planted during the tree planting activity.

Aside from the youth, some barangay officials and aspiring councilor Blady “Tita SB” Sigua also participated in the said event.



How Recyclers are Helping Win the War Against Plastic Waste

Garbage is definitely the smelliest challenge facing the planet.

by [Village Connect](#) about 12 hours ago



PET (Polyethylene terephthalate) bottles are durable, lightweight and don't biologically react to food or drinks, making them ideal food containers. Unfortunately, much of the world's PET bottles are used only once before being discarded, turning them into pervasive pollutants in landfills, rivers and oceans. (Gregg Yan / PEMSEA)

In one of the pioneering **analyses of plastics**, the world's scientists calculated that humanity has produced 8.3 billion metric tons of plastic, 75% or 6.3 billion metric tons of which has become plastic waste. Along with discarded metal, rubber, paper and glass, the vast majority of plastics lie in landfills or float silently in our rivers, lakes and oceans.

There's so much plastic lying around that scientists are proposing this era to officially be termed the **Anthropocene**, an epoch completely dominated by humans marked on the fossil record not by fossilized bones, but plastic.

Though humanity's ability to produce waste still outstrips its ability to manage it, Pinoy waste pickers and junkshops are helping turn the tide in their own way. **Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA)**, a regional organization which pushes for integrated solutions to coastal and marine problems, including marine plastic pollution, talks with three of them.

THE PICKER: SHERWIN SALAZAR



I'm not ashamed to be called a mangangalakal", says waste picker Sherwin Salazar. "I'm proud of it, because I was able to provide honorably for my family. If you put in the hours and effort, you can make a surprising amount of money. Yesterday I made PHP1200, even more than a call center agent." (Gregg Yan / PEMSEA)

"The best time to hunt for scrap is right after homeowners leave their garbage out, but before government collection trucks arrive, usually between 10PM to 7AM. The sooner you can pick through garbage for good finds, the better," shares Sherwin Salazar, a 38-year old mangangalakal or waste picker.

We're outside a bustling junkshop in Dasmariñas City in Cavite where he had just sold over a thousand Pesos worth of . . . junk.



Sherwin is a master of the trade, having been a waste picker for 25 years. His parents separated early, so he learned to fend for himself. While other kids dreamed of the latest toys or videogames, Sherwin 'hunted for treasure' in Cavite's garbage dumps.

"I was still in school when I started pawing through old lots, dumps and river banks in a never-ending search for bakal, bote, plastik, at dyaryo (scrap metal, bottles, plastic, and newspapers). I used a big old sack that weighed so much," he recalls. "Since I worked hard, I was taken in by a junkshop, where I earned around PHP100 daily. I was just 12 then."

Eventually, Sherwin traded his sack for a wooden *kariton* or pushcart. "I was so happy to get rid of that heavy old sack," he laughs. With his slow but huge *kariton*, he could cover a bigger area, collecting heavier and more valuable scrap.

One day, he noticed a *mambobote* or bottle picker using a pedicab to haul heaps of bottles, prompting him to ask his boss if they could invest in one. "I couldn't be prouder when I got that shiny new pedicab," he says. Instead of collecting from rivers and nearby dumps, he could finally visit villages to get the best items like broken washing machines, air conditioners and other appliances.

Today Sherwin still collects scrap, but with a motorized tricycle which brings him to nearby cities like Tagaytay.

"Most Pilipinos think pangangalakal is nothing more than a dirty job, but it's far better than working in other jobs like construction. You become your own boss and control your time so if you put in the hours and effort, you can make a surprising amount of money. These days I make anything from PHP1000 to PHP1500 daily. Yesterday I made PHP1200, even more than a call center agent."

The garbage of others – plus his own grit – allowed Sherwin to raise a family. *"I'm not ashamed to be called a mangangalakal or basurero. I'm proud of it, because I was able to provide honorably for my family, while putting my children through school and bringing them to nice places. The life of a waste picker is definitely dirty, but if you meet life's challenges head-on and ask for a little help from above, then it's really rewarding."*

THE JUNKSHOP OWNER: ARLES GOZAR



"The garbage of others provides a good life for many people like us", explains junkshop owner Arles Gozar. "By employing people even part-time, my tiny junkshop helps provide for them and their families. In our own small way, we're doing what we can to help keep our country clean." (Gregg Yan / PEMSEA)

"Trash is cash," explains Arles Gozar, who runs the Angela Mae Junkshop in Dasmariñas. "I employ anywhere from nine to 15 people part-time to help pick and pack garbage that waste pickers or mangangalakal bring here."



Looking like Santa Claus without a beard, the burly Arles is clad in a tight-fitting red rash-guard and colorful board-shorts. Behind him is his crew, expertly hacking apart old electric fans, exhaust fans, air conditioners and other items for usable parts. Every few minutes, a new picker brings in choice pickings in exchange for cash.

Most valuable of all is *tanso* or copper, sold at PHP355 per kilogramme (KG), followed by *sibak* or hard plastic (PHP15/KG), *bakal* or scrap metal (PHP14/KG), *yero* or corrugated iron sheets (PHP11/KG), *bote* or plastic bottles (PHP10/KG), *lata* or tin cans (PHP8/KG) and *karton* or cardboard (PHP4/KG).

While we were chatting, a small kid of about 10 brought in a cardboard box full of scrap paper. He got PHP4, enough perhaps to buy himself a bit of candy.

"Many people in this area don't have jobs. By employing people even part-time, my tiny junkshop helps provide for them and their families. The garbage of others provides a good life for our family – I can even help my relatives from the province when they're down and out, because we have a little extra."

Junkshops like Arles' provide a vital solution in the world's quest to minimize waste – by recycling, upcycling or otherwise making use of items which would otherwise be bound for landfills and dumpsites, trash is reduced. Less trash means less garbage flowing down rivers whenever a dumpsite floods.

Junkshops are part of the solution to pollution. *"We're of course business owners first, but in our own small way, we're doing what we can to help keep our country clean,"* notes Arles.

RECYCLING TO SURVIVE: MIGUEL SABAÑO



At 57 and too old to work in construction, recycler Miguel Sabaño whiles away the hours ripping out endless threads from discarded vehicle tires. Once cleaned, the tubes and tires sell for PHP20/KG, enough for about half a kilogramme of rice. "It's not a lot, but having rice today spells the difference between life and death for some people." (Gregg Yan / PEMSEA)

Like many people living in a shantytown called *Tulay Kwatro* at the northern tip of Kawit in Cavite, **Miguel Sabaño**, now 57, once relied on nearby brackish-water fishponds for food and livelihood. This changed when some of Cavite's fishponds were converted into offshore gambling centers. Miguel and many others found themselves unemployed.

"Now all we have are these scrap rubber tires," he laments. Making use of their time when no better jobs like construction arise, Miguel and the residents of his community while away the hours ripping out endless rows of polyester or nylon threads which give motorcycle tires and inner tubes their pliable structure. They use an array of tools – rusty pliers, converted nail cutters, even their bare hands to tear and pluck off threads, which form tiny piles by their feet.

Once cleaned, the tubes and tires sell for PHP20/KG, enough for about half a kilogramme of rice. A long day's work might yield two kilogrammes of processed rubber. *"It's not a lot, but having rice today spells the difference between life and death for some people,"* he says quietly.



Being large and durable, rubber tires take anywhere from 50 to 100 years to decompose naturally. Instead of being dumped into landfills, they can be shredded and turned into chips, powder, cement or fuel. Used tires can also be turned into tables, chairs, garbage bins, plant pots, sandals and other useful products, providing further income for communities which can find creative uses for them.

While reducing waste, recycling provides livelihood opportunities for some of the world's poorest communities.

PEMSEA'S PROJECT ASEANO

The country's ingenious waste pickers, recyclers and junkshops play a key role in combatting waste.

"Supporting waste pickers and recycling facilities converts a significant portion of waste which would otherwise be dumped in landfills or in our rivers and seas, into useful products. These cottage industries also support the lives and livelihoods of thousands of Filipinos," explains **Thomas Bell**, who manages PEMSEA's **Project ASEANO**.



Rubber tires can be recycled into tables, chairs, plant pots or garbage bins. Once cleaned, they can also be ground into rubber chips, powder, cement or fuel. (Gregg Yan / PEMSEA)

Project ASEANO aims to develop and promote sound and sustainable measures to reduce the impacts of plastic pollution and their implications on socioeconomic development and the environment. The project focuses on the city or municipal level, with Cavite's Imus River as one of two project sites.

According to the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), Cavite generated an average of 1514 tons of waste daily in 2018, 22% or 333 tons of which could still be recycled. The Imus River traverses the highest waste-generating cities in Cavite – Bacoor, Dasmariñas and Imus – making it a conveyor belt for plastics flowing out to Manila Bay.

Funded by the Norwegian Development Program to Combat Marine Litter and Microplastics, ASEANO is led by the Norwegian Institute for Water Research (NIVA) and the Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS) Indonesia in close collaboration with the PEMSEA Resource Facility and ASEAN Secretariat under the purview of the endorsing ASEAN sectoral body, the ASEAN Working Group on Coastal and Marine Environment (AWGCME).

The results of the project will be synthesized into an LGU training manual, toolkit and best practices handbook of policy, monitoring tools and technologies for plastics management that can be used as a reference by LGUs in Cavite, the rest of the Philippines, plus the entire ASEAN region.

To decisively address plastic waste management, we need to include waste pickers and recyclers as major stakeholders," concludes PEMSEA executive director **Aimee Gonzales**. *"They are our frontliners in the war against waste."*

Source: <https://www.villageconnect.com.ph/how-recyclers-are-helping-win-the-war-against-plastic-waste/8586>

Thai fishing crews fear five-year recovery after oil spill

By PITCHA DANGPRASITH with LISA MARTIN, Agence France-Presse

Published January 31, 2022 6:30pm



This handout from the Royal Thai Navy taken and released on January 26, 2022 shows an aerial view of part of an crude oil spill caused by a leak from an undersea pipeline owned by Star Petroleum Refining Public Company Limited in the Gulf of Thailand, near Rayong. Handout/ Royal Thai Navy/ AFP

RAONG, Thailand — The nightly armada of bobbing green lights from squid boats has all but disappeared near the site of an oil spill in the Gulf of Thailand, as devastated local crews brace for lost income and damaged fish stocks.

The Thai navy is scrambling to clean up [Tuesday night's spill from a pipeline that leaked at least 60 tonnes of crude oil](#) 20 kilometers off the coast of Rayong province.

Authorities have declared Mae Ram Phueng Beach a disaster zone and closed it to swimmers as crews in yellow plastic protective suits begin the clean-up.

Rayong resorts and seafood restaurants say the spill is a "nail in the coffin" for their businesses after the tourism industry's continued pandemic downturn.

For long-time fishermen who have been asked to halt their catches for at least a month in exchange for emergency payments, there is a feeling of déjà vu.

They recall the long road to environmental and economic recovery after another pipeline leak in the same area in 2013.

Initial compensation for that accident was around \$900, but fisherman Tuem 46, says it is no substitute for regular work.

"I don't want compensation. I want a healthy sea that I can work in for my livelihood," he told AFP.

"The sea can give us money every day. The sea was good in the past few years. I do not know how many years before it becomes good again."

Five-year recovery

Tuem usually makes around \$30 a day from a 7-10 kilogram haul but he says now he will struggle to cover the cost of petrol to retrieve his fishing nets.

"The impact is immediate and clear. I do not know what to do," he said.



AFP joined a group of fishermen on a boat trip Sunday—their fishing haul amounted to about 10 percent of their usual catch and many fish were dead.

Burapha University marine scientist Thanomsak Boonphakdee, who was taking water samples at the beach over the weekend, says it will take a long time to fully assess environmental damage from the disaster.

The marine life took at least five years to recover from the 2013 incident, he said.

"Crabs, small fish and shrimp are the [creatures] that will be affected most," he told AFP.

A dozen ships are spraying dispersant chemicals and so far more than 80,000 liters has been doused over the affected area.

Star Petroleum Refining Public Company Limited, the operator of the pipeline and whose major shareholder is US giant Chevron, said it was trying to minimize the slick's ecological impact using booms.

But satellite imagery shows the slick had already spread to an area of 51 square kilometers on Sunday, local media reported.

There are also fears a national park on the island of Ko Samet will be affected and Thai authorities Sunday deployed absorbent material to Ao Prao beach as a precaution.

Transparency calls

Natural Resources and Environment Minister Varawut Silpa-archa urged oil companies in Thailand to ramp up prevention measures and boost inspections and maintenance programs on land and sea.

"I do not want this kind of accident to happen again. The expense of spending money to solve a major disaster after it happened, can not compare with companies increasing the inspections," he told reporters in Rayong.

Greenpeace, which has called on the Thai government to set up an independent investigation into the spill, said incidents are becoming far too common.

Between 1974 and present day there have been 240 oil spill incidents in Thailand, the environmental group said.

"The oil spill will affect marine life and could be fatal for fish, shrimps, shellfish," Greenpeace warned.

Another fisherwoman, Nid, 62, lamented it was heartbreaking to see another disaster after seeing the area's recovery in recent years.

"We are just small insects who have no voice to be heard," she told AFP. — **AFP**

Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/topstories/world/820193/thai-fishing-crews-fear-five-year-recovery-after-oil-spill/story/?utm_source=GMANews&utm_medium=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR2pBIAgxhrZJwpnCQeov0hro8_x7pT3wl6cbW47MSvvZqAD5nuBxNC-s60

01 FEBRUARY 2022, TUESDAY



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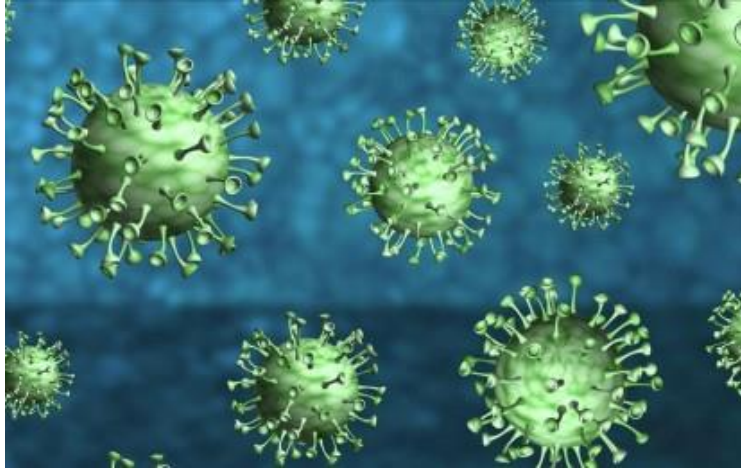
COVID- 19

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



PH may move out from alert levels in coming months

By Kris Crismundo [January 31, 2022, 5:47 pm](#)



MANILA – Presidential Adviser for Entrepreneurship Joey Concepcion said Monday the country may move out from the alert level system around March or April this year as part of its “exit plan” from the pandemic.

Concepcion said the private sector will be coming up with a plan to ensure safe reopening of the economy despite the ongoing coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic.

“The idea is to reach a point wherein there are no more alert levels,” he said during the Laging Handa public briefing. “I think we will eventually get there. I think by March, sometime that period, or maybe April, we will be ready to move out from alert levels.”

He said that in the past 22 months of being in a pandemic, both businesses and consumers have embraced basic protocols such as wearing of face masks, sanitizing, physical distancing, and isolation when symptoms are present.

“We have to revive these sectors that have been closed for the past 22 months,” Concepcion added.

During the press briefing of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Chua said the proposal of the private sector is a “very good idea”, and the government commits to study this recommendation.

Although Chua agreed that the country should begin a paradigm shift from pandemic to a more endemic mindset, the current alert level system should be retained as “we are not yet fully out of the pandemic”.

“For the time being since we are not yet fully out of the pandemic, this is something that I think we should presently retain: I think we have proven the alert level system works by prioritizing or managing the risk at the sources of highest risk and allowing the rest of the people to move around safely and go back to work,” he said.

Earlier, the Concepcion and OCTA Research Fellow Fr. Nicanor Austriaco proposed to the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF) and the National Task Force Against Covid-19 (NTF) to begin the government’s exit plan from the pandemic.



“It is time for the national government to transition our people from a pandemic to an endemic mindset,” they said in a letter to IATF and NTF.

Concepcion also highlighted the critical role of Covid-19 vaccines, including booster shots, to provide protection for Filipinos against the infection.

He added the private sector is doing its part on vaccination campaigns by inoculating workers and their household members, and by also giving booster shots.

The private sector also donated some of the Covid-19 vaccines it purchased for local government units in need of the jabs.

“We have to realize that we have to move on,” he said. **(PNA)**



VCO trials vs COVID-19 yield positive results, says DOST

[Rainier Allan Ronda](#) - The Philippine Star February 1, 2022 | 12:00am



In a virtual presentation of the results of the Department of Science and Technology Food and Nutrition Research Institute tests, DOST Secretary Fortunato dela Peña said the expanded clinical trials on VCO in Valenzuela City mirrored the results of the 2020 clinical tests in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

STAR / File

MANILA, Philippines — The expanded clinical trials on virgin coconut oil (VCO) as a functional food against COVID-19 has provided more proof supporting claims it hastens the recovery of mild to moderate coronavirus patients.

In a virtual presentation of the results of the Department of Science and Technology Food and Nutrition Research Institute (DOST-FNRI) tests, DOST Secretary Fortunato dela Peña said the expanded clinical trials on VCO in Valenzuela City mirrored the results of the 2020 clinical tests in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

“Both VCO clinical trials by DOST-FNRI confirmed that VCO hastens the resolution of COVID-19 signs and symptoms,” Dela Peña said.

“VCO can be an effective adjunctive therapy in managing COVID-19 signs and symptoms, whether mixed in nutritious meals or taken separately,” he said.

The expanded trials involved 77 COVID-positive participants divided into two groups: the VCO Group with 39 members given 0.6 milligram VCO on vials or medicine cups per 50 kilograms body weight, and the remaining 38 participants in the Control Group given 1.2 mg per 50 kg body weight.

The results showed that 18 percent of the VCO Group showed decreasing symptoms at Day 2 of the trials. At Day 14, all patients in the group had “total resolution of signs and symptoms.” On the other hand, the Control Group showed that 10.5 percent experienced some relief from their signs and symptoms at Day 2, and all patients had no signs and symptoms of COVID-19 at Day 28 of their monitoring.

“These studies are one of DOST-FNRI’s collaborative contribution on R&D in providing science based practical solutions to helping address and manage COVID-19 and its impact on nutrition, health, livelihood, the economy and overall well-being,” Dela Peña said.

“Results of this study can help boost the VCO industry and upgrade the livelihood of coconut farmers and related enterprises,” the DOST chief said.

The positive results of the expansion clinical trials is another science-based evidence to boost ongoing efforts of the DOST to help the VCO Producers and Traders Association of the Philippines Inc. apply with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to add indications of mild COVID-19 to VCO intake.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/business/2022/02/01/2157655/vco-trials-vs-covid-19-yield-positive-results-says-dost>



#OneDENR

**Covid-19
Situation and Response**



DOH COVID-19 CASE BULLETIN # 688

ENERO 31, 2022

Para sa kumpletong detalye at impormasyon,
bisitahin lamang ang aming pampublikong site:
<https://ncovtracker.doh.gov.ph/>

PORSYENTO NG AKTIBONG KASO

5.4%

TOTAL NG AKTIBONG KASO
190,818

PORSYENTO NG GUMALING

93.1%

TOTAL NG GUMALING
3,315,381

PORSYENTO NG NAMATAY

1.52%

TOTAL NG NAMATAY
54,003

MGA BAGONG KASO **14,546**

MGA BAGONG GUMALING **26,500**

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY **112**

KABUANG BILANG NG KASO **3,560,202**

MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING ENERO 29
DATOS NGAYONG ENERO 31
AYON SA REPORTS NOONG ENERO 29

28.4%

PORSYENTO NG MGA
NAGPOSITIBO

52,013

BILANG NG
TINEST

HALOS
97.4%
ANG MILD AT
ASYMPTOMATIC
NA KASO!

ALAMIN
ANG TAMANG
IMPORMASYON

KABUANG PILIPINAS
PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION
PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

KALAGAYAN NG MGA
AKTIBONG KASO

ICU BEDS (4.0K TOTAL BEDS)	46% Utilized
ISOLATION BEDS (21.1K TOTAL BEDS)	46% Utilized
WARD BEDS (15.4K TOTAL BEDS)	48% Utilized
VENTILATORS (3.1K TOTAL VENTILATORS)	25% Utilized

ICU BEDS (1.4K TOTAL BEDS)	38% Utilized
ISOLATION BEDS (5.2K TOTAL BEDS)	35% Utilized
WARD BEDS (3.9K TOTAL BEDS)	41% Utilized
VENTILATORS (1.1K TOTAL VENTILATORS)	26% Utilized

8,239 Asymptomatic
177,584 Mild
3,126 Moderate
1,540 Severe
329 Critical

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bit.ly/DOHHospitalHotlines

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• 02-886-505-00 • 0919-977-3333

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KonsultaMD
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MedCheck
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VIBER: Kira Kontra COVID by DOH
MESSENGER: Department of Health PH
KONTRACOVDPH: kontracovid.ph

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[OfficialDOHgov](https://www.facebook.com/OfficialDOHgov)

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01 FEBRUARY 2022, TUESDAY



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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



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