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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR, SFFI AT PRC NAGTANIM NG 60K PUNO SA ARBOR DAY

July 1, 2021 Rannie Lao



NAGSANIB puwersa ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Society of Filipino Foresters, Inc. (SFFI) at Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) sa pagtatanim ng mahigit sa 60,000 tree seedlings sa ginanap na tree-planting activity sa buong bansa noong Hunyo 25 kasabay ng pagdiriwang ng Philippine Arbor Day.

Ang pangunahing programa ay ginanap sa 2,695-hectare La Mesa Watershed kung saan ay umabot sa 1,000 seedlings ang itinanim na kinabibilangan ng indigenous tree species.

Magkakasabay na ginanap ang tree-planting activities sa iba't-ibang lugar na tinukoy ng DENR 17 regional offices kung saan ay naging katuwang ang SFFI chapters at PRC-accredited professional organizations sa buong bansa.

Pinuri naman ni DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu ang pakikipag-ugnayan ng SFFI at PRC sa DENR sa greening program na tinawag pa nitong “a great leap forward to further enrich the world-class status of the Filipino professional as an advocate of climate change adaptation and resiliency.”

Sinabi pa ni Cimatu na ang SFFI-PRC initiative “clearly raises the Filipino professional’s standards of excellence and quality of service with PRC’s push to promote the principles of sustainability as an advocacy among the Filipino professionals.”

“As advocates of green sustainability, our Filipino professionals will play a crucial role in environmental work in a post-pandemic world as climate change will still be upon us long after COVID-19 will have been globally contained,” saad ni Cimatu.

Si DENR forester at SFFI National Capital Region president Joey Austria ang nanguna sa mga nakilahok mula sa DENR.

Ipinaliwanag naman ni SFFI national president at forester Tommy Valdez na ang Carbon-Neutral Program (CNP) ay layuning makapagtanim at makapagpatubo ang bawat Filipino ng 100 puno upang matanggal ang carbon footprints at maging “carbon neutral.”

Ang CNP ay batay sa pag-aaral na ginawa ng DENR Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB) at ng World Bank.

Ayon sa pag-aaral ng ERDB, ang bawat puno ay kayang makapag-sequester ng 15 kilograms ng carbon kada taon.

Samantala, sa pag-aaral naman ng World Bank, lumalabas na ang bawat Filipino ay responsable sa “emission” ng 1.2 metric tons ng carbon dioxide bawat taon.



“Requiring Filipinos to plant 100 trees each can render the whole country carbon neutral consistent with ERDB and WB studies,” sabi ni Valdez.

Ang monitoring at validation ng planting at pagpapalaki sa puno na kasama sa CNP ay tututukan ng DENR regional offices at SFFI provincial chapters sa pakikipagtulungan na rin ng PRC.

Nagpahayag din ng suporta ang PRC at participating organizations sa SFFI Carbon-Neutral Program (CNP) upang ang bawat Filipino ay makapagtanim at makapagpalaki ng 100 puno bawat isa upang matanggal ang carbon footprints at maging carbon neutral. BENEDICT ABAYGAR, JR.



DENR naglunsad ng kampanya para maalagaan mga watershed sa bansa

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jul 01 2021 10:53 AM

MAYNILA - Inilunsad ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) nitong Miyerkoles ng isang malawakang kampanya para mapangalagaan ang mga watershed sa bansa, kung saan nasa higit 100 na umano ang itinuturing na nasa kritikal na kondisyon.

Katuwang ng ahensya ang JICA o Japan International Cooperation Agency, iba't-ibang local government units at mga pribadong sektor sa "Save Our Watersheds" na layuning paigtingin ang kaalaman ng bawat mamamayan sa kahalagahan ng watershed sa buhay ng tao at kalikasan.

Batay sa datos ng DENR, nasa 130 na watersheds ang nasa kritikal na sitwasyon ngayon at nangangailangan ng agarang rehabilitasyon at proteksyon.

Ayon kay Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, kailangang maiangat ang antas ng kaalaman ng bawat isa sa kahalagahan ng watershed upang maagapan ang sitwasyon sa 130 critical watersheds.

Binigyang diin din ng kalihim na mahalaga ang papel ng mga puno para maprotektahan ang mga ito.

"Climate change greatly contributes to watershed degradation while human activities are still largely connected to the country's watershed... The watershed can do so [many] things, if you have lot of rain it will prevent flooding possibly, if there are no rains or there are no typhoons the water in the watershed that has the reservoir will now become small streams, small creeks that will run in the river then will go to what we need," paliwanag ni Cimatu sa event.

Bahagi ng kampanya ang pagpapaigting sa mga rehabilitation programs at projects tulad ng forest land management project, national greening program, integrated natural resources environment management project, build back better at iba pang local government initiatives.

Giit din ni Cimatu para mas palakasin ang inilunsad na kampanya babalankas sila ng executive order at paaaprubahan kay Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte.

"We are now formulating national directives in the form of an executive order which will be endorsed for the president's approval. This will pave the way for the establishment of institutional mechanisms for the collaborative and whole society efforts in conserving our watersheds."

Nagpasalamat naman ang isang environmental group sa kagawaran.

"Sa level ng organization napakarami ang benefits na matatanggap natin sa program kasi sa socio-economic life ng mga tao doon sa forest land sa watershed, itong mga component ng project na dumating sa area ay nakaka-uplift ng living condition ng mga tao," ani James Bantasan, pinuno ng watershed development advocates of Nueva Vizcaya.

Umaasa rin ang DENR na matapos maipatupad ang kampanya magkakaroon ng mas malalim na kaalaman ang mamamayan para mapangalagaan ang mga watershed sa bansa.

- Raya Capulong, ABS-CBN News

Source: https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/07/01/21/denr-naglunsad-ng-kampanya-para-maalagaan-mga-watershed-sa-bansa?fbclid=IwAR0cMbJzyjnDTkxrWuVdKQfHT3EXRjhwWQ6rRAGoXHi_Isa3zT7hXpIh6vU



DENR cracks down on illegal wildlife trade

[Elizabeth Marcelo](#) (The Philippine Star) - July 2, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has intensified its crackdown against illegal wildlife trade, citing the arrest of 31 traders from March 2020 to May this year.

The DENR said the arrest of the illegal traders was part of its enhanced enforcement of Republic Act 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2001.

“While we admit that the 20-year-old RA 9147 needs to be amended, we at the DENR are doing our best to equip our indefatigable wildlife enforcers who never ceased in apprehending illegal wildlife traders and poachers during the COVID-19 pandemic,” Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said.

He said the DENR’s Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) continues to strengthen the capacity of its wildlife enforcers with training and seminars on various areas of wildlife law enforcement, including lectures on national and international laws, monitoring of seaports and airports and cross-collaborative efforts with other law enforcement agencies.

DENR Undersecretary for special concerns and BMB director Edilberto Leonardo expressed support for pending bills in Congress to amend RA 9147.

“Illegal wildlife trade is considered a transnational crime. The current law... no longer impedes perpetrators in engaging in this act. The technology brought about by the internet also serves as a new platform for these culprits, which a 20-year-old law cannot penalize severely,” Leonardo said.

He said the bills pending at the Senate and the House of Representatives seek to address large-scale, transnational and organized wildlife trafficking, recalibrate penalties and provide administrative adjudication.



DENR admits illegal wildlife trade persists, bares arrest of 31 suspects

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA JULY 1, 2021



A monkey and a white-breasted sea eagle are among the rescued wildlife sheltered at the NWRRC.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said illegal wildlife trade (IWT) persists amid the pandemic, but local authorities are not taking it sitting down.

From March 2020 to May 2021, Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said 31 wildlife traders were arrested by authorities.

The arrest of illegal wildlife traders and poachers is “a testament to the DENR’s effective enforcement of Republic Act [RA] 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2001,” Cimatu said in a news statement.

“While we admit that the 20-year-old RA 9147 needs to be amended, we at the DENR are doing our best to equip our indefatigable wildlife enforcers who never ceased in apprehending illegal wildlife traders and poachers during the Covid-19 pandemic,” Cimatu said.

According to Cimatu, the DENR’s Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) continues to strengthen the capacity of its wildlife enforcers with training activities and seminars on various areas of wildlife law enforcement, intensifying the monitoring of seaports and airports, and buttressing cross-collaborative efforts with other law-enforcement agencies.

DENR Undersecretary for Special Concerns and concurrent BMB Director Edilberto Leonardo also expressed the support of the BMB to amend RA 9147.

“Illegal wildlife trade is considered a transnational crime. The current law that exists no longer impedes perpetrators in engaging in this act,” Leonardo said.

“The technology brought about by the Internet also serves as a new platform for these culprits, which a 20-year-old law cannot penalize severely,” he pointed out.

Several bills were filed in Congress, resulting in a substitute House Bill titled “An Act Providing for the Conservation and Protection of Wildlife Resources and their Habitats, and Appropriating Funds Therefore, Repealing for this Purpose Republic Act 9147 or the “Wildlife Resources Conservation And Protection Act.”



The bill, sponsored by Occidental Mindoro Rep. Josephine Ramirez-Sato and 15 other representatives, was approved at the House Committee on Appropriations last May 26.

Its salient features include defining and penalizing the crime on wildlife trafficking; calibrating and upgrading the penalties in general, especially the penalty for illegal acts such as killing or destroying wildlife species, trading or attempting to trade wildlife, collecting, hunting, or possessing wildlife and transporting of wildlife.

The measure also contains provisions “that each and separate distinct count of violation shall be prosecuted and penalized separately, regardless of intent, unity or connections of the acts resulting into the violation.”

“We also hope that the House Bill empowers us to penalize culprits based on the number of specimens involved in every illegal act and the circumstances surrounding each proven violation,” Leonardo said.

Counterpart Senate Bills 2078 and 2079 also known as the proposed Revised Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2021 were also filed by Senator Juan Miguel Zubiri and Senator Cynthia S. Villar, respectively.

The Senate Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Climate Change held a public hearing on both bills last June 30.

The proposed bills hope to address and end the large-scale, transnational, and organized crime of wildlife trafficking, the re-calibration of penalties, and provision of administrative adjudication.



DENR, nakaaresto ng 31 illegal wildlife traders simula nang magkaroon ng pandemya

By [RadyoMaN Manila](#) -Jul. 1, 2021 at 3:16pm



Abot sa 31 wildlife traders ang hinuli ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) simula Marso 2020 hanggang Mayo 2021 kahit na may limitasyon dahil sa pandemya.

Gayunman, hindi pa rin ito sapat ayon kay Secretary Roy Cimatu.

Aniya, kahit patuloy ang pagpapalakas sa kapasidad ng wildlife enforcers, nagbabago na rin ang panahon at ang teknolohiya.

Bagama't patuloy ang mga training at seminar sa iba't ibang bahagi ng wildlife law enforcement kabilang na rito ang national at international laws, paghihigpit sa pag-monitor sa seaports at airports at pakikipag-ugnayan sa iba pang law enforcement agencies, mahalagang maipasa na ang ilang panukalang batas na mag-aamyenda sa Republic Act 9147 o ang Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2001.



DENR steps up patrols vs. illegal fishing in Sarangani Bay

By Richelyn Gubalani July 1, 2021, 4:58 pm



GENERAL SANTOS CITY – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Region 12 has stepped up its enforcement patrols against illegal fishing and other related activities within the declared marine protected areas (MPAs) in parts of the Sarangani Bay.

Joy Oloquin, area superintendent of the Sarangani Bay Protected Seascape (SBPS), said Thursday the move aims to stop the continuing breaches in portions of the MPAs that could potentially affect the thriving marine resources.

She said their fishery law enforcement teams have apprehended a number of fishermen these past weeks who were found fishing illegally in the area.

Among those confiscated were motorized boats, spear guns, compressors, and assorted fish that were caught through prohibited methods, she said.

“Spearfishing is not allowed and the recent apprehensions showed that some people are still doing it,” Oloquin said in an interview.

She said their office, in coordination with the local government units (LGUs), has been continually educating stakeholders regarding the prohibited acts in the bay based on the existing laws.

Sarangani Bay, which covers 215,950 hectares, is the only declared protected seascape in Region 12 (Soccsksargen) through Presidential Proclamation No. 756 signed on March 5, 1996 by then President Fidel Ramos.

Oloquin urged concerned residents to help protect the bay and its resources by reporting breaches and illegal activities to authorities.

“Many people are depending on its (Sarangani Bay) resources for their livelihood so we really need to protect it from destructive activities,” she said.

The DENR and LGUs have been continually working to protect and conserve the coral reefs in the MPAs, which are also considered fish sanctuaries.

Among the focal areas in Sarangani’s six coastal municipalities are Barangay Kawas in Alabel; Lot and Pananggalon Reef in Poblacion, Malapatan; Colon and Kamanga in Maasim; Glan Padidu marine sanctuary in Glan; and Tuka Reef in Kiamba.



A briefer from the Sarangani Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office said the use of any fishing or harvesting gear and practices or any of their variations that destroy coral reefs, seagrass beds, or other marine life and their associated habitats are prohibited in the MPAs.

“Mere possession of such gears within the protected areas shall be prima facie evidence of their use,” it said.

Also prohibited are dumping, throwing, using, or causing to be dumped into or placed in the protected area of any toxic chemical, noxious or poisonous substance or nonbiodegradable material, untreated sewage or animal waste products or products whether in liquid, solid, or gas state, including pesticides and other hazardous substances. **(PNA)**



Cops, PCG seize P250-M endangered clams in Palawan

By Raymond Carl Dela Cruz [July 1, 2021, 4:42 pm](#)



'TAKLOBO' SEIZED. Maritime law enforcers inspect several giant clams, locally known as "taklobo", after an operation in Palawan on June 28, 2021. The Philippine Coast Guard said about 15 tons of fossilized "taklobo", worth about PHP250 million, were seized during the operation. *(Photo courtesy of PCG)*

MANILA – Authorities seized about 15 tons of fossilized giant clam shells, known locally as "taklobo", in a joint maritime law enforcement operation in Palawan earlier this week.

In a Facebook post on Thursday, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) said the giant clam shells, valued at about PHP250 million, were found at the King's Paradise Island Resort in Barangay Panitian in the town of Sofronio Española on Monday.

"The suspects were identified as Eulogio Josos Togonon, Totong Josos, Nonoy Guliman, and Vilmor Pajardo – all residents of Barangay Iraray, Sofronio Espaniola, Palawan. However, only Togonon was apprehended during the operations," the PCG said.

The local government of Barangay Panitian took custody of the confiscated giant clam shells while the arrested suspect was brought to the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD) for inquest proceedings and filing of charges.

It said the suspect was informed that he violated Section 27 of Republic Act (RA) 9147 or the "Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act".

The joint law enforcement operation was undertaken by the PCG Intelligence Group - Palawan, PCG Station Brooke's Point, DF-332, Naval Intelligence and Security Group - West, PCSD, and the Philippine National Police - Maritime Group.

According to the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, the selling of giant clams (*Tridacna gigas*) is prohibited under RA 10654 or "An Act to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing" that amended RA 8550 or "The Philippine Fisheries of 1998".

The giant clam is considered one of the most endangered clam species in the world. It fills the role of filter feeders that clean pollutants from the water as they ingest algae or plankton. **(PNA)**



P250M taklobo nasabat sa Palawan — PCG

ni [Ronalyne Seminiano Reonico](#) | July 1, 2021



Photo: Philippine Coast Guard

Nasabat ng Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) ang tinatayang aabot sa 150 tons ng fossilized giant clam shells o mas kilala sa tawag na taklobo na nagkakahalagang P250 million sa Sofronio Espaniola, Palawan.

Ayon sa PCG, nakumpiska nila ang mga naturang taklobo sa King's Paradise Island Resort, Barangay Panitian noong June 28.

Naaresto ng awtoridad ang suspek na si Eulogio Josos Togonon sa isinagawang operasyon ng ahensiya sa tulong ng Intelligence Group – Palawan, PCG Station Brooke's Point, DF-332, Naval Intelligence and Security Group - West, PCSD, and PNP - Maritime Group.

Kinilala naman ng PCG ang iba pang suspek na sina Totong Josos, Nonoy Guliman, at Vilmor Pajardo na mga residente ng Barangay Iraray.

Samantala, nasa kustodiya na ng Barangay Panitian ang mga nakumpiskang taklobo at dinala naman sa Palawan Council for Sustainable Development ang suspek para sa inquest proceedings at upang harapin ang kasong paglabag sa Section 27 ng Republic Act 9147 o ang "Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act".



P250 million giant clams recovered in Palawan

[Robertzon Ramirez](#) (The Philippine Star) - July 2, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — At least 150 tons of fossilized giant clams, locally known as taklobo, worth P250 million were seized in Sofronio Espaniola, Palawan on Monday, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) reported yesterday.

The PCG said it conducted the operation with other law enforcement agencies in Barangay Panitian.

The giant clams were reportedly in the possession of Eulogio Togonon, Totong Josos, Nonoy Guliman and Vilmor Pajardo, all residents of Barangay Iraray.

Only Togonon was apprehended.

The PCG said the seized giant clams were placed under the custody of barangay officials in Panitian.

Togonon was brought to the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development for inquest proceedings and filing of charges.

Togonon faces charges for violation of Republic Act 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act.



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TIGNAN: Nasabat sa King's Paradise Island Resort, Barangay Panitian, Sofronio Espaniola, Palawan nitong Lunes, Hunyo 28 sa isang joint law enforcement operation ng Philippine Coast Guard-Intelligence Group, Naval Intelligence and Security Group, Palawan Council for Sustainable Development, at PNP-Maritime Group ang humigit-kumulang na 150 tons ng fossilized giant clam shells o taklobo na tinatayang nagkakahalaga ng P250 milyon.

Nahuli na operasyon si Eulogio Josos Togonon subalit patuloy pa rin na hinahanap ang tatlo pa nitong kasamahan na sina Totong Josos, Nonoy Guliman, at Vilmor Pajardo na mga residente ng Barangay Iraray, Sofronio Espaniola, Palawan.

Ipinagbabawal ang pangongolekta, pagbenta at pagluwas ng mga giant clams ito ay alinsunod sa Batas Republika Blg. 8550 o ang Philippine Fisheries Code.

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BOC seizes tarantulas, centipedes in unclaimed parcel

By Ferdinand Patinio July 1, 2021, 4:09 pm



'CREEPY' PACKAGE. Customs personnel uncover a total of 44 arthropods in small plastic cases from an unclaimed package at the PHLPost Central Mail Exchange Center (CMEC) in Pasay City on Wednesday (June 30, 2021). These include 25 tarantulas, 12 spiderlings, five centipedes, and two ornithoctonus black spiders worth PHP500,000. *(Photo courtesy of BOC)*

MANILA – The Bureau of Customs-Port of Ninoy Aquino International Airport (BOC-NAIA) seized an unclaimed and overstaying parcel which was found to contain 44 wildlife species worth PHP500,000 in PHLPost Central Mail Exchange Center (CMEC) in Pasay City.

In a statement Thursday, Port of NAIA District Collector Carmelita Talusan said the parcel from Thailand was consigned to a certain Aldwin Capucae in Pasay City, Metro Manila, and was declared to contain plastic teaching materials.

The failure of the claimant to get the parcel within the reglementary period led to the abandonment of the package, resulting in the discovery of the 44 arthropods on Wednesday.

These include 25 tarantulas, 12 spiderlings, five centipedes, and two ornithoctonus black spiders.

In an uncontrolled environment, these animals may have direct and indirect effects on human health, especially, the fact that these arthropods bite when threatened by external factors like the presence of predators or humans.

Other species can also secrete venom through a bite, producing extreme pain to the unfortunate recipient, and can be fatal to humans.

The seized wildlife species were turned over to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

A warrant of seizure and detention has been recommended by the examiner against the parcel, and further investigation is underway against the claimant for the possible filing of charges in violation of Republic Act 9147 known as the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act, and RA 10863 known as the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act Section 117 in relation to Section 1113 and 1400, and all other related rules and regulations. **(PNA)**



PH adopts E-vehicle tech in ‘low carbon cities’

posted July 01, 2021 at 03:44 pm

The Philippines is adopting low carbon, energy efficient electric or E-vehicle technology in “low carbon cities” under a Global Environment Facility (GEF)-7 project in order to cut greenhouse gas (GHG) emission and reduce air pollution.



Dream of green, low carbon city with less pollution-emitting electric vehicles

As mobile transportation accounts for a sizable chunk of GHG emissions and air pollution, the government is pursuing the “Accelerating Adoption and Scale up of Electric Mobility for Low-Carbon City Development.”

It is funded by GEF with a \$4.28 million grant with a counterpart from the Philippine government of \$46.725 million.

Being GEF’s Operational Focal Point (OFP), DENR is optimistic that the new project will be successful given collaborations on the development of a viable business model for EVs.

“It is a welcome development that we are one of 17 developing countries to deploy E vehicles at scale in support of air improved quality and reduced fossil fuel dependency,” said DENR Undersecretary Analiza R. Teh during an inception workshop.

Teh said it important to develop a green transport technology that benefits the mass of people (like E jeepneys, E buses). The Department of Energy (DOE) is being eyed to lead the implementation the project with support from the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

“We need to ensure that our project fits within a broader low (GHG) emission transport strategy that has public transport at its heart,” she said.

Both regulations and incentives will be established for the envisioned E Vehicle industry to become a reality, Teh said.

“We can look at possibilities regarding emission regulations and incentives. We have to look at investing in charging (E vehicle charging stations like gasoline stations) infrastructure,” she said. “We can look at opportunities for a future with limited auto pollution and clean energy alternatives.”

The upcoming e-mobility project is expected to identify pilot cities to demonstrate the E vehicle industry’s viability. This so-called GEF child project is part of the United Nations Global E-Mobility Programme under which Pasig City receives support as one of the demonstration sites.

In selecting pilot cities, the four-year project will gather data and statistics on commuters’ profile, traffic jams, workers, previous deployment of 3-wheelers, and renewable energy generation.



“It is envisioned to have charging infrastructure and renewable energy installations in selected pilot cities (estimated 300 chargers supplied by PV (photovoltaic or solar energy) installations approximately 15 megawatt) mostly targeting locations with large transport flows. Deployed infrastructure will be for private cars and the 2&3 wheelers (private and commercial light transport),” according to a project briefer.

The project’s first component will put up policies and institutional framework for the integration of the E-mobility program planning at local levels. Along with this is the integration in local planning for renewable energy and energy storage (batteries) in cities adopted.

It will also set up an accounting system for GHG emissions in the transportation sector. It will also come up with a master plan on EV (electric vehicle) charging (of batteries) infrastructure.

The second component is the development of business models for E-mobility. It will involve the private companies which are expected to venture in the new E vehicle industry. The GEF program will also extend financing to private companies. Therefore, they will be oriented regarding business models and creditworthiness.

The project will also explore other financing options for the entire EV-LCC program. There will be climate smart capital investment plans.

The third component involves deployment of the E vehicle technology eco-investments and infrastructure. This also includes renewable energy, energy storage, and deployment of two-three-wheeler vehicles. The entire energy technology system will tap both the public and private sectors.

The last component of the project is its scale up. Under this, more partnerships with the private sector investors will be put together.

“Co-financing from the private sector will be solidified through the PPG (project preparation grant) phase through further consultations and analysis of which companies best align with project components. DFIs (development financing institutions) such as the International Finance Corporation (IFC) are engaged in supporting (investment options).”



Samar's Best ENGP implementers feted



SAMAR. Domingo Algordo (front row, 2nd from left), head of the family who won Cenro-Catbalogan's Best ENGP Nursery Award receives a cash prize of P20,000 from the Provincial government of Samar and Iraya Energy Corporation. (Photo from DENR-Eastern Visayas)

[RONALD O. REYES](#)

July 01, 2021

OFFICIALS of the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (Penro) in Samar have recognized the “exemplary performance” of the Enhanced National Greening Program (ENGP) implementers in the province as part of its lined-up activities for Philippine Environment Month this June.

The awardees were selected based on the location of nursery, mode of propagation, quality and survival rate of seedlings, timeliness on the accomplishment of targets, and resourcefulness from January to June 2021.

“This is to motivate, challenge, and boost the morale of our ENGP implementers,” said Samar provincial environment officer Angelito Villanueva.

The ENGP awards and recognition was opened to the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro) in Catbalogan and Sta. Rita.

For Cenro-Catbalogan, the family of Domingo Algordo received P20,000 for winning first place in the Best ENGP Nursery category.

The second place went to the family of Jessie Balantino who won P15,000, while the third place was the family of Marsha Doquidoc who won P10,000.

The winning families produced seedlings of cacao, langka, toog, narra, kulipapa, and bayog.

“I am thankful to the government for directly providing us with livelihood opportunities especially in this time of Covid-19 pandemic,” said Algordo after receiving the cash prize during the recently held recognition ceremony.

The Best ENGP Nursery Awards for beneficiaries of CENRO Sta. Rita was awarded to the family of Jorgie Padit, first place;

Lilia Lamban, second place; and Gilda Abayan, third place.

Cenro-Sta. Rita awardees produced seedlings of coffee, cacao, langka, igot, caimito, pili, rambutan, and guyabano.



They also received the same amount of cash prizes from the provincial government of Samar and Iraya Energy Corporation.

Certificates of recognition were also given to the assisting people's organizations of the family beneficiaries.

The Outstanding NGP Extension Officers of Cenro-Catbalogan, Cenro-Sta. Rita, and Penro-Samar were also recognized and awarded with a plaque of recognition and a cash prize of P2,500 each.

"Seeing the families engaged, secured and willing to embrace the goals of ENGP makes me feel so accomplished," said Juileta Diaz, Outstanding Extension Officer of Cenro-Catbalogan.

"We hike for two hours to our NGP sites and sometimes voluntarily provide for the community's needs like kilos of rice just to win their trust and cooperation," she added.

Meanwhile, Eastern Visayas regional environment executive Director Tirso Parian, hoped that Penro-Samar's strategy will be carried on for the succeeding activities under the ENGP.

"This is a laudable initiative from Penro-Samar. Our partners and performing workforce need to be recognized for their efforts, and I'm grateful that the local government unit and our partner industries are helping us in this endeavor," Parian said.

Penro-Samar has contracted 364 families to undertake ENGP activities from 2021-2023.

This year, these families are set to produce over 2.5 million seedlings and establish a total of 2,495 hectares NGP plantation in Samar province.

The DENR is adopting the "Family Approach" as one of the modes in engaging Filipino families with the NGP. (SunStar Philippines)

Malaybalay agroforestry now produces high-quality Arabica coffee, jobs for IPs

posted July 01, 2021 at 06:40 pm

by [Manila Standard](#)

An 80-hectare agroforestry area in Brgy, Dalwangan, Malaybalay City, Bukidnon has become a high-quality Arabica coffee producer while equally protecting the Mt. Kitanglad Range Natural Park (MKRNP) and giving jobs to Indigenous People (IP).



Bukidnon coffee

The Indigenous People's Organization (IPO) of Inhandig Tribal Multipurpose Cooperative (ITPMC) has established a sustainable livelihood planting superior quality coffee.

They now sell their coffee beans to the Hineleban Foundation. Their high-grade Arabica coffee commands a price three times compared to regular buying rate.

The IPs in Brgy. Dalwangan, Malaybalay City has taken advantage of livelihood opportunities in a project of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) called "Integrated Natural Resources Environmental Management" or INREMP.

The Inhandig IPs was awarded by INREMP 50 hectares of agroforestry area and 30 hectares of Community Tree Plantation (CTP) to develop and manage. These areas are located in the foothills of the PA (Protected Area) Mt. Kitanglad Range Natural Park (MKRNP).

The IPO was provided by INREMP with an all-weather plastic dryer amounting to 300,000 to enable the quality drying of the coffee beans. The plastic dryer also reduces drying time in order to produce high quality and a longer shelf life coffee.

In addition, the all-weather dryer allows the people's organization to dry the harvested coffee beans anytime—even during the rainy or wet season. With this, their production and sales will also increase.

The Inhandig tribal group planted different varieties of coffee over the INREMP-awarded agroforestry area. This is in addition to their existing coffee plantations.



Bukidnon coffee plantation



Ground coffee is also being produced and directly sold to local buyers within the community.

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) of Bukidnon has offered the IP Inhanding a synergistic assistance to promote their coffee products through online marketing.

Given the right motivation, skills and knowledge coupled with good links and networks with business service providers the ITMPC is confident that they will have a bright future from their coffee beans.

INREMP is a foreign-funded project of the DENR. It promotes the production of high-value crops. At the same time, INREMP works on the protection and development of natural forests while generating livelihood for upland communities. The project reduces and reverses degradation of watersheds caused by forest denudation and unsustainable farming.

INREMP has three subproject types, namely: 1) Natural Resource Management (NRM), 2) Rural Infrastructure (RI), and 3) Livelihood Enhancement Support (LES-1). Fortunately, ITPMC has been a partner of INREMP to implement and manage two of these subprojects (NRM and LES).



Pena: Community Pan-tree

[ROX PENA](#) July 01, 2021

WITH a handful of food items in a bamboo cart, Ana Patricia Non started a community pantry at Maginhawa Street, Teachers Village in Quezon City on April 14, 2021. Soon after, hundreds of community pantries were set up all over the country, taking inspiration from what Ms. Non has started. It has become a movement of sort. I call this the miracle of the multiplication of the bread in modern times.

Donations from a community pantry will provide food on the table for a day or two. How can we give something that will last a little longer? There is a way but it requires a little effort from the beneficiaries. I'm thinking of giving seedlings or seeds so that people can grow their own food.

The place will be called "community pan-tree." It has a similar set-up except that instead of food, the carts will have seedlings of vegetables and fruit bearing trees. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has already conducted a community pan-tree last April 22, 2021 during Earth Day, 2021 with the slogan "Magtanim ayon sa kakayahan, umani ayon sa pangangailangan."

Suggested veggies are pechay, okra, eggplants and tomatoes because they are easy to grow. They can even be grown in pots or repurposed plastic containers for those who do not have space. I recommend also grafted calamansi which will provide a supply of natural Vitamin C all year round. Fast growing fruit trees like papaya would be good to have as it can be eaten green (for tinola). Jackfruit, avocado and mango seedlings can given too for the post-pandemic future.

During the strict lockdown last year, it was very difficult to go to the market. Backyard vegetable gardens and fruit trees were a major source of food. Now that things have eased up, backyard farming is still recommended as it provides fresh, organic and free source of food. Prices of vegetables are going up so it's a practical thing to do as well.

Other than vegetable and fruit trees, seedlings for native forest trees and ornamental plants can also be donated at the community pan-tree. Planting trees now is a gift, a legacy, for the future generations. Trees give off oxygen, provide shade and clean the air of Carbon Dioxide. It is a home for birds and other species too.

I am emphasizing here the donation of native trees like balacat, betis, dapdap, dao, narra and calumpit. These endemic and native species are well suited to our local conditions. They provide shelter and food for native birds, butterflies, and other wildlife. Our cities, town and villages were even named after them. They are also endangered. Did you know that our national tree, narra, is listed as among the endangered native trees by the DENR?

It's rainy season, the best time to plant trees. Last June 25 was Arbor Day, a day for tree planting. By the way, the planting of at least one tree for all able-bodied Filipino citizens 12 years old and above is actually required based on Republic Act 10176, the Arbor Day Act of 2012.



BARMM lawmaker files bill requiring students to plant trees

By Noel Punzalan July 1, 2021, 12:13 pm



BTA-BARMM Member Rasul Ismael (Photo from Ismael's FB page)

COTABATO CITY – A lawmaker in the Bangsamoro Transition Authority - Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BTA-BARMM) has filed a bill requiring students to plant trees in the region.

In an interview Thursday, BTA Member Rasul Ismael said he filed Parliament Bill No.106 or the 'BARMM Tree Planting Act' that aims to protect forests and address climate change in the BARMM by obliging students in grade six to grade 12, and graduating college students from both public and private schools, to plant at least two trees every year.

"The proposed measure necessitates students to plant trees as part of their enrollment and graduation requirements," he said.

Ismael said proper implementation of the measure will result in the planting of at least 22 million new trees every year.

"Even with a survival rate of only 10 percent, this would mean an additional 110,000 trees for the youth to enjoy when they assume the mantle of leadership in the future," he said.

He noted that the Ministry of Basic, Higher, and Technical Education (MBHTE), Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Energy (MENRE), and pertinent local government units will determine appropriate sites for the proposed tree planting activities.

Other BARMM offices involved in the undertaking would be the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Agrarian Reform (MAFAR); Ministry of Interior and Local Government; Ministry of Science and Technology; and the Ministry of Indigenous People's Affairs.

"The MENRE and MAFAR are responsible for maintaining the seedling bank needed to execute this act," Ismael said.

Based on the June 2020 data provided by the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority, the BARMM's forest cover is at 45 percent or 299,195 hectares of the region's total land area of 1,293,552 hectares.

The BARMM covers the cities of Cotabato, Lamitan, and Marawi; the provinces of Maguindanao, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, Lanao del Sur, and Basilan; and also the 63 villages in North Cotabato province.

A total log ban has been in effect in the region since 2011. **(PNA)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1145570>



6 inaresto sa illegal quarrying sa Batangas

By [Ludy Bermudo](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon) - July 2, 2021 - 12:00am



Kinilala ang mga naaresto na sina Rodel Marinduque, Francis Dacuya, Claudio Tamayo, Roger Betonia, Sonny Marinduque, at Jovencio Malabanan.

MANILA, Philippines — Anim na indibiduwal ang naaresto ng National Bureau of Investigation's Environmental Crime Division (NBI-EnCD) sa sinasabing illegal quarrying operations sa Lian, Batangas.

Kinilala ang mga naaresto na sina Rodel Marinduque, Francis Dacuya, Claudio Tamayo, Roger Betonia, Sonny Marinduque, at Jovencio Malabanan.

Ayon kay NBI Officer-in-Charge Director Eric B. Distor, hiniling ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Environment Protection and Enforcement Task Force (DENR-EPETF) ang naturang operasyon.

"The existence of illegal quarrying activities within the area despite issuance of a cease and desist order (CDO)."

"The list revealed that there is no existing permit issued within the area of Lian, Batangas, thus, making the quarrying operation in the target area unlawful and illegal".

Pawang naisalang na sa inquest proceedings sa Department of Justice (DOJ) sa paglabag sa Republic Act No. 7942 (Philippine Mining Act of 1995).

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/probinsiya/2021/07/02/2109573/6-inaresto-sa-illegal-quarrying-sa-batangas/amp/>



6 timbog sa illegal quarrying sa Batangas

[Ludy Bermudo](#) (Pang-masa) - July 2, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Anim na indibiduwal ang dinampot ng mga ahente ng National Bureau of Investigation- Environmental Crime Division (NBI-EnCD) sa isinagawang pagsalakay sa illegal quarrying operations, sa Lian, Batangas.

Kinilala ni NBI Officer-in-Charge Director Eric B. Distor ang mga suspek na sina Rodel Marinduque, Francis Dacuya, Claudio Tamayo, Roger Betonia, Sonny Marinduque, at Jovencio Malabanan, na pawang naisalang na sa inquest proceedings sa Department of Justice (DOJ) sa paglabag sa Republic Act No. 7942 (Philippine Mining Act of 1995).

Nag-ugat ang pagsalakay nang humingi ng tulong ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Environment Protection and Enforcement Task Force (DENR-EPETF) kaugnay sa quarrying site na walang permit.

Inalam ng NBI ang lugar at natukoy na may nagaganap na quarrying sa kabila ng cease and desist order na inisyu ng DENR.

Nagsagawa ng verification ang NBI sa Provincial Government Environment and Natural Resources Office (PGENRO) ng Batangas at nakumpirma na wala itong inisyung permit para magkaroon doon ng pagmimina.



SMC rids Tullahan of 300K metric tons of silt, garbage

July 1, 2021, 7:41 pm



(File photo)

MANILA – San Miguel Corporation (SMC) marked a successful first year in its PHP1-billion initiative to revive the Tullahan-Tinajeros River System, with clean-up output breaching the 300,000-metric ton level to date.

The continuous silt and solid waste extraction from the tributary is also seen to prevent major flooding in the cities of Navotas, Malabon, and Valenzuela during the rainy season.

SMC president and chief operating officer Ramon S. Ang said despite pandemic limitations, there has been no let-up in the company's river clean-up operations and is now geared towards deepening and widening parts of the river to complement the government's flood mitigation measures.

The project is part of SMC's sustainability initiatives and in support of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' (DENR) Manila Bay Rehabilitation project.

"We have been successful so far mainly because of the guidance of the DENR and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), as well as the support of our local governments and other stakeholders. Our learnings from the Tullahan project will allow us to work even more efficiently and effectively in our other major river rehabilitation projects," Ang said in a media release on Thursday.

Following the completion of sections that include Barangay Bangkulasi and Tanong in Navotas City, the clean-up team is currently operating in Barangay Longos in Malabon City.

The project team has also started cleaning and widening the river section between Marulas, Valenzuela, and Potrero, Malabon last April to help mitigate flooding in the area.

"Even during the rainy season, our dredging teams will continue their operations to ensure that the Tullahan river will have a greater capacity to receive floodwaters from adjacent areas, particularly during typhoon season," Ang added.

As of June 28, a total of 301,695 metric tons of silt and solid waste have been removed from the first 11.5-kilometer section of the river from Manila Bay in Navotas to Potrero in Malabon and Valenzuela cities. For this section, the target dredging output is one million metric tons.

"For this section, we expect to get the job done in three to four years. With added equipment and personnel, our operations have improved significantly and we are happy to see the immediate results in the reduction of major flooding," Ang said.



A study published by scientific publication OurWorldinData.org last May named the Tullahan River as one of the top Philippine rivers polluting the oceans with plastic wastes.

OurWorldinData.org is a collaborative effort between researchers at the University of Oxford and UK-based non-profit, Global Change Data Lab.

The study named seven Philippine rivers --Pasig River, Tullahan River, Meycauayan River, Pampanga River, Libmanan River, Rio Grande de Mindanao, and Agno River.

“The recent report that the Tullahan and the Pasig rivers are the major sources of plastic that end up in the ocean gives our efforts a greater sense of urgency and importance. Apart from flood prevention, our other goal is to be able to reduce the amount of waste that ends up in the Manila Bay via these tributaries, and are now threatening marine life and traditional fishing grounds,” Ang said.

Meanwhile, SMC is also working with DENR and DPWH to finalize the permits and dredging plans needed to commence the five-year program to dredge the 27-kilometer Pasig River.

The Pasig River program, which was launched recently to support the government’s earlier efforts to revive the river, aims to extract 50,000 metric tons of solid waste monthly or 600,000 metric tons annually.

Given the enormity of the task, SMC has since doubled its original budget for the project of PHP1 billion, to PHP2 billion.

Ang said aside from similar equipment used in the Tullahan River dredging, the company has invested in special equipment for the Pasig River.

These include a cutter suction dredger, 800-metric ton hopper barges, 45-ton backhoes on a special barge, and a weed harvester to remove any floating garbage and water hyacinths.

SMC is also planning to undertake a river channel improvement program for tributaries belonging to the Marilao-Meycauayan-Obando River System in Bulacan, the future site of the New Manila International Airport. *(PR)*



One year later, SMC rids Tullahan of 300K metric tons of silt and garbage

July 1, 2021 4 min read

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These include a cutter suction dredger; large, 800-metric ton hopper barges, 45-ton backhoes on a special barge, and a weed harvester to remove any floating garbage and water hyacinths.

Source: https://maharika.tv/2021/07/01/one-year-later-smc-rids-tullahan-of-300k-metric-tons-of-silt-and-garbage/?fbclid=IwAR0G0-qQDXzOFKZF_EwV5kgtoCPAcETI3WNvZKcL2P3NQRs6G6vwVvF3qGM



300,000 metric tons of silt, garbage removed from Tullahan River

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Jul 1, 2021 9:50:17 PM



(FILE PHOTO)

Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, July 1) — Tons of debris were removed from the Tullahan River as part of a cleanup project headed by San Miguel Corporation (SMC).

A statement from one of the country's largest and most diversified conglomerates released on Thursday said as of June 28, a total of 301,695 metric tons of silt and solid waste have been removed from the first 11.5-kilometer section of the river from Manila Bay in Navotas to Potrero in Malabon and Valenzuela cities. For this section, the target dredging output is 1 million metric tons.

In [February](#), the company said it would extend the project to further support current flood mitigation measures.

It has also deployed more equipment for the cleanup efforts.

According to SMC, following completion of sections that include Barangay Bangkulasi and Tanong in Navotas City, the cleanup team is currently operating in Barangay Longos in Malabon City.

SMC president Ramon S. Ang said despite the restrictions brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, they have not paused the clean up operations and are now working on deepening and widening parts of the river to complement government's flood mitigation measures.

"Even during the rainy season, our dredging teams will continue their operations to ensure that the Tullahan river will have greater capacity to receive flood waters from adjacent areas, particularly during typhoon season," Ang added.



'Whole-of-society' approach needed to address concerns on solid waste management – DOST chief

Published July 1, 2021, 6:41 PM

by [Charissa Luci-Atienza](#)

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) remains at the forefront in providing technologies, programs, and projects to address the issues and concerns on the environment, including solid waste management.



DOST's virtual presser on single-use plastics. The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) discusses its actions and initiatives towards prohibiting the use of non-environmentally accepted products (NEAP). (Photo from DOST-PCIEERD)

This was stressed by DOST Secretary Fortunato “Boy” T. de la Peña in a virtual press conference on Thursday, July 1, even as he cited the need to adopt a “whole-of-society and science-based” approach in addressing the phase-out of non-environmentally acceptable products (NEAPs) such as plastic straws and stirrers.

“DOST maintains an equal consideration of all sectors in the implementation of its projects and believes in a whole-of-society approach in addressing environmental concerns, particularly solid waste management. We believe in having all-hands-on-deck in a science-based approach in our phase-out of non-environmentally acceptable products or NEAPs with utmost consideration to environmental protection, sustainable development, economic viability, and social acceptability,” he said.

He made the statement three days after Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary Benny Antiporda bared that the DOST had written a letter to Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu seeking a change in approach as far as the NEAP list is concerned.

“We are in constant collaboration with our partners in government, academe, and industry in providing appropriate technologies, programs, and projects that will address the phase out of NEAPs and we are willing to partner with stakeholders who will be one in our mission of protecting the environment,” de la Peña said.

The NEAP list is one of the key provisions of the Republic Act (RA) No.9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000. The law mandates the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC), chaired by the DENR, to prepare a list of NEAPs within a year after the law's effectivity and to update the list annually.

The DOST is one of the agency members of the Commission.



De la Peña noted that over the past 11 years, DOST provided P532 million worth of assistance to support 146 projects that seek to address environmental challenges.

“These projects have been implemented in various parts of the country and the technologies that have been generated by these projects have been adopted at various levels.”

During the press conference, DOST Undersecretary for Research and Development Dr. Rowena Cristina Guevara cited the availability of technologies and services on solid waste management that can be adopted by stakeholders.

“Through the local technologies we generate from research and development, we make change happen in our environment,” she said.

DOST-Philippine Council for Industry, Energy, and Emerging Technology Research and Development (PCIEERD) Executive Director Dr. Enrico C. Paringit noted the importance of having a “harmonized pursuit” as far as the environmental protection through research, development, and innovations is concerned.

He said the DOST “has 10 existing partnerships” with the DENR which range from mining to climate change adaptation.

“Our collaborations span government, industry, and the academe as we ensure that our key stakeholders are one with us in pursuing innovative ways to address environmental concerns, particularly NEAP,” he said.

DOST’s Industrial Technology Development Institute Director Dr. Annabelle Briones, who also joined the press conference, assured the public that they consider economic viability, social acceptance, and environmental soundness in the conduct of research projects on solid waste management.

“For research projects on solid waste management, we shall address not only environmental protection but also economic growth and social well-being of the current and future generations,” she said.

De la Peña asked anew their fellow government workers to join the DOST in finding innovative solutions that will help the country address the concerns on solid waste management and in the pursuit of a circular economy.

“We urge for a wider adoption of technologies on the NEAPs which have been developed by our researchers,” he said.

“Meanwhile, we are also continuously looking out for more innovative ways that will provide environmentally sustainable alternatives to NEAP for our citizens.”



DOST to look into life cycle of single-use plastics, alternatives in PH

Published July 1, 2021, 11:59 PM

by [Charissa Luci-Atienza](#)

The Department of Science and Technology is expected to conduct a life cycle assessment of single-use plastics and their alternatives in the country.



Assorted wastes were recovered during a river clean-up and brand audit at the Panigan-Tamugan Watershed in Baguio District, Davao City last September 26. (Photo courtesy of Interface Development Interventions/ MANILA BULLETIN)

During a virtual presser on Thursday, July 1, DOST Undersecretary for Research and Development Rowena Cristina L. Guevara said a new research and development (R&D) initiative on the “end of life cycle analysis of single use plastics” will be conducted to “look into the economic and life cycle assessment of specific single-use plastic vis-à-vis its alternatives to help in the crafting of responsive policies to manage environmental implications from the use of such materials.”

The initiative will be implemented by DOST- Industrial Technology Development Institute (ITDI), headed by Dr. Annabelle V. Briones.

Briones disclosed that their Institute, with the support of DOST-Philippine Council for Industry, Energy, and Emerging Technology Research and Development (PCIEERD), is starting a life cycle assessment (LCA) of non-environmentally acceptable products (NEAPs) and their alternatives.

“Considering the recommendation of the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) evaluating plastic spoons, forks, knives, and plastic bags with less than 15 microns thickness, DOST-ITDI, with the support of DOST-PCIEERD, is now commencing a life cycle assessment (LCA) of these materials and their alternatives,” she said.

“Aside from LCA, DOST-ITDI researchers shall also consider the potential economic impact of regulating or banning these single-use plastics. Effects on hygiene on the use of these materials shall also be evaluated to ensure no detrimental impacts on human health,’ she added.

Briones explained that life cycle assessment is one of the tools identified as a possible basis for NFAP declaration



“The results in the conduct of a life cycle assessment of products/packaging materials and their alternatives could help policymakers on future actions pertaining to materials that may be declared as non-environmentally acceptable products under RA (Republic Act) 9003. Moreover, the outcome may benefit different stakeholders to make necessary modifications in their importation, manufacture, processing, distribution, sale, and post-consumer activities,” she said.

The NEAP list is one of the key provisions of the Republic Act (RA) No.9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000. The law mandates the NSWMC, chaired by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), to prepare a list of NEAPs within a year after the law’s effectivity and to update the list annually.

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“In implementing the Economic and Life Cycle Analysis (ELCA) of Single-Use Plastics in the Philippines, the DOST-ITDI research team shall utilize the mixed methods research for investigating processes and systems as health care and the environment in general. Quantitative methodologies shall be used to address research questions about causality, generalizability, or magnitude of effects,” Briones said.

“On the other hand, qualitative methods shall explore why or how a phenomenon occurs, develop a theory, or describe the nature of an individual’s experience,” she added.

She said DOST-ITDI ensures the management of the three legs of sustainable development in the conduct of its ELCA.

“The study on the Economic and Life Cycle Analysis (ELCA) of Single-Use Plastics in the Philippines shall address environmental protection and economic growth, and social well-being of the current and future generations,” Briones said.



Lesser known and unappreciated seagrass struggles for attention, conservation

By [Gaea Katreena Cabico](#)(Philstar.com) - July 1, 2021 - 12:53pm



Photo taken on March 20, 2021 shows seagrass along Sabang Beach in Puerto Galera.

But the future of seagrass 'much brighter' now, says expert

MANILA, Philippines — Miguel Fortes' involvement in seagrass research began in the early 1980s, on an island in Germany where seagrasses used to thrive. One day, a colleague ran toward him excitedly, with seagrass in hand.

"I told myself, we have a lot of this plant in the Philippines, but nobody ever bothered to study it," said Fortes, a coastal ecologist and retired professor from the University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute.

Three decades later, seagrass remains the least studied among coastal habitats despite providing a plethora of highly valuable ecosystem services and nature-based solutions to tackle the impacts of climate change.

In the Philippines, there are many unknowns about the status of seagrass unlike coral reefs and mangroves that more researchers focus on. In his studies, Fortes said the seagrass ecosystem has been a focus of scientific inquiry only in the last 30 years, and as an object of conservation in the last 15 years.

This incomplete picture makes it difficult for conservation groups to raise awareness of their importance, especially to coastal communities, and for policymakers to develop strategies to manage seagrass meadows.

'Less attractive ecosystem'



Coastal ecologist Miguel Fortes poses for a photo with seagrass on February 23, 2014.



Seagrasses are marine flowering plants that are found in shallow waters. They improve water quality, support rich marine biodiversity, and provide food and livelihood to people.

For a country like the Philippines that is vulnerable to climate-related impacts, seagrass meadows provide opportunities to mitigate climate change.

They are highly efficient carbon sinks, sequestering carbon from the atmosphere up to 35 times faster than tropical rainforests. This ecosystem can also help protect coastal areas by reducing wave energy.

The Philippines has one of the highest seagrass species diversity in the world, with 18 known species across the archipelago.

According to a World Bank study, there were 27,000 square kilometers of seagrass meadows in the country in 2015. An initial study of the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority in 2016 had a much lower figure of 4,700 square kilometers.

"Our efforts to validate and monitor on the ground are ongoing but definitely there's a decline," said Criselda Castor, senior ecosystems management specialist at the Biodiversity Management Bureau.

BMB is an agency under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Coastal developments, nutrient run-off, unregulated fishing and boating activities, and climate change are among the main threats to seagrass meadows.

These highlight the need for urgent conservation attention but seagrass remains an overlooked ecosystem.

Fortes, whose works serve as foundation for seagrass research in the Philippines, said the lack of interest in seagrass is rooted in the perception that the ocean should be viewed as a deep-water mass, with deep-sea fisheries and navigation as the main uses.

"Viewing the shallow portion with coral reefs and the fringing mangroves as important for tourism and fisheries was a recent development. Seagrass? It has never been comparatively that visible, since the less attractive ecosystem is sandwiched between the other two 'more important' habitats," Fortes said.

"Hence, with this sad scenario, we cannot expect capacity to be built, much less management policies to be developed specific for seagrass," he added.

Lack of appreciation

Mapping seagrass meadows is an important step in any initiative to protect these habitats as it gives researchers an idea how big and how healthy the meadows are.

The Berkeley, California-based nonprofit Seacology is spearheading the Philippine Seagrass Project, which aims to promote awareness of and conservation of seagrass species in local waters.

It also mapped seagrass meadows in Puerto Galera in Oriental Mindoro. The data gathered will be incorporated in a mobile application that can be downloaded for free.

"You have to know where they are so you can protect them. For [coastal communities], it's vague. [They ask:] 'Where are seagrasses? Are the green ones we're seeing seagrasses?'"

there's a lack of knowledge and people do not realize how important they are," said Ferdie Marcelo, Seacology field representative in the Philippines.

Marcelo and Fortes, in a 2018 study, said a possible solution to the lack of appreciation for seagrass is conducting an economic valuation to list how it benefits communities.

"The economic benefits of seagrasses have to be emphasized to the grassroots, the actual users. They can't connect [seagrasses] to their income. There has to be a connection so they will see the need to protect the seagrass," Marcelo said.

BMB's Castor said the valuation of seagrasses is "in the pipeline." In an emailed response, DENR's Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB) said it is currently implementing a valuation of goods and services of coastal ecosystems in Batangas.

Managing seagrass meadows



Members of the Philippine Seagrass Project team prepare for the surveying and mapping of seagrasses in Puerto Galera on Mindoro island.
Philippine Seagrass Project/Ferdie Marcelo

The Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Management Program (CMEMP) was established through an administrative order in 2016. The program is meant to comprehensively manage and effectively reduce the drivers of degradation of coastal and marine ecosystems such as seagrass meadows.

Under the CMEMP, the department is conducting habitat assessment and monitoring to establish trends on the condition of seagrasses, and capacity building on how to assess seagrass beds. The program also has a maintenance and protection component.

For its part, the ERDB has ongoing efforts to assess the blue carbon sequestration potential of seagrass, the productivity of seagrass, and the carrying capacity of popular coastal tourist destinations.

Castor said the government is "trying" to craft management policies specific to seagrass. In the meantime, BMB is lobbying for the inclusion of neglected but important ecosystem in the design of Marine Protected Areas.

It is also pushing to incorporate seagrass in legislative measures such as the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act.

Bright future

The future of seagrass research and conservation is "much brighter now," Fortes said, thanks to emerging interest and expertise in the last decade. But more needs to be done—by policymakers, scientists, and communities—to conserve seagrass meadows.



One way to encourage more students and scientists to study seagrass is for educators to stress that coral reefs, mangroves, and seagrass are one natural continuum that needs collective understanding, protection, and support, Fortes said.

“[They need] to emphasize the application of seagrass knowledge in solving common issues—pollution, food shortage, climate change, coastal degradation, and ineffective conservation laws,” he said.

The scientist said policymakers should think outside the box and “look at the forest, not just the trees.”

In an article published in the journal *Ocean and Coastal Management* in 2018, Fortes said there were very few efforts to link seagrass science, policy and practice on the ground due to inadequate interaction among primary stakeholders.

“Key is constant dialogue with stakeholders and for the ‘educated’ to go down from their pedestal and offer service direct to the communities that need it most,” he said.



Rising seas, flooding may put 1.54M people in Manila City at risk by 2030 — report

By [Gaea Katreena Cabico](#)(Philstar.com) - July 1, 2021 - 5:59pm



Motorists brave heavy flood at a portion of the España Boulevard in Manila on September 23, 2020.

MANILA, Philippines — Sea level rise and coastal inundation threaten to consume the City of Manila by 2030, affecting a large majority of the Philippine capital’s 1.78 million people, according to a new report from an environmental organization.

According to an analysis by Greenpeace East Asia, a total of 1.54 million people living in the City of Manila and 37.29 square kilometers (km²) of land area could potentially be affected by extreme sea level rise and coastal flooding in 2030 if greenhouse gas emissions continue to increase at the current rate.

[In 30 years, rising seas will threaten Philippine cities, towns home to 6.8 million](#)

Rising sea level and any subsequent flooding could also put US\$ 39.23 billion (P1.9 trillion) of the city’s gross domestic product at risk.

“The potential flood areas, should sea levels rise, include highly populated areas as well as commercial and cultural areas in the city center, high-density residential areas further from the city center, industrial areas, as well as places of government agencies,” the report read.

Landmarks and tourist destinations such as Binondo, Intramuros, Malacañan Palace, and the Jose Rizal National Monument in Luneta Park could potentially be inundated.



A geographical illustration of areas in the City of Manila that could potentially be flooded if the city experiences sea-level rise and coastal flooding in 2030, under the business as usual scenario.

Greenpeace



Manila, one of the most congested cities in the world, is especially vulnerable to flooding events compounded by sea level rise.

Studies suggested that sea level in Manila Bay is rising by 13.24 millimeters per year, and Metro Manila is sinking by a rate of 10 centimeters annually as a consequence of rapid extraction of groundwater due to population growth and urbanization.

The Greenpeace report also analyzed the impacts of sea level rise and coastal flooding on other economic centers in Asia that are located on or close to the coast such as Hong Kong, Taipei, Seoul, Tokyo, Jakarta and Bangkok.

Across the seven cities, including Manila, a total of 15 million individuals live on vulnerable land.

The analysis is one of the first of its kind to use high spatial resolution data to suggest areas of each city that could potentially face inundation. It also takes into account land area, population, and GDP.

The scenario used in the report is business as usual greenhouse gas emissions projections.

City	Impacted area in km ²	Impacted GDP (PPP) in US\$ billion	Impacted population in millions
Bangkok	1512.94	512.28	10.45
Hong Kong	27.36	2.24	0.09
Tokyo	79.28	68.19	0.83
Jakarta	109.38	68.20	1.80
Seoul	16.52	4.69	0.13
Taipei	46.93	29.64	0.43
Manila	37.29	39.24	1.54

Climate action

Lea Guerrero, Greenpeace country director, said the data presented in the report should spur the government to prioritize climate action, which includes strategies to curb greenhouse gas emission.

“The climate emergency is already here, and we need to strengthen disaster management planning and enable communities to cope with climate impacts,” Guerrero said.

“This includes updated infrastructure, establishing early warning systems, decentralizing climate information to enable more people to plan for climate impacts, and strengthening community-based disaster risk reduction,” she added.

As an archipelagic nation in the Pacific, the Philippines is among the countries most impacted by climate-related catastrophes.

The climate crisis is exacerbating the country’s exposure to more frequent and extreme weather changes, rising temperatures, heavier rainfall and sea level rise.

Under the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement, global warming must be limited well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels while pursuing efforts for a tougher ceiling of 1.5°C.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/07/01/2109512/rising-seas-flooding-may-put-154m-people-manila-city-risk-2030-report/amp/>

Climate Action Themed Pop-Up Participative Solar Art

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



Liter of Light, a Filipino-born global grassroots solar lighting movement, the Embassy of Italy in Manila and the Philippine Italian Association (PIA) are organizing a Day of Climate Action on July 3-4 on 5th Avenue in front of the Philippine Stock Exchange in Bonifacio Global City.

Coinciding with the International Day of Cooperation, July 4, the Day of Climate Action invites members from the private sector, organizations, individuals, and residents of Bonifacio Global City to join the initiative and show their commitment to taking action for climate change.

The Day of Climate Action is being done in partnership with Philippine Italian Association, Management Association of the Philippines, Galleria Duemila, Rotary Club of Makati Business District 3830 and Philippines AirAsia, Italian Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines, Archipelago for you.

There will be socially distant workshops at the tented area of My Street High Street to raise funds to provide clean and sustainable source of energy communities who have been affected by lack of tourist due to the pandemic.

At 6:30pm on July 4, Liter of Light will unveil a huge woven participative solar artwork on 5th Avenue in Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City. The artwork, built using 1,500 hand-built solar lights assembled from the safety of home for Liter of Light's "Light It Forward" Challenge, features a symbol for the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (UN SDG) #13: Climate Action.

The artwork is the latest in a series of pop-up artworks that Liter of Light has built across Metro Manila to pay tribute and call for action in achieving the UN SDGs in the lead-up to the global climate change conference (COP26) which will be held in Glasgow, Scotland, this November. Liter of Light will be participating at COP26, as well as the special Pre-COP26 program organized for youth climate change advocates, Youth4Climate: Driving Ambition, hosted by conference co-host Italy in September 2021.

PUBLIC ART HAS DISAPPEARED

"More than ever, youth want to be empowered to be part of creating climate solutions," says Illac Diaz, Founder and Executive Director of Liter of Light. "We have been given an opportunity to activate Filipino youth through our engagement at the Pre-COP26 and COP-26 meetings. Through these artworks, we are making a strong statement to raise awareness on climate action by giving people an opportunity to contribute to real solutions and have a tangible impact, even at a time when public art has disappeared and people are confined to their homes."



"The Embassy of Italy joins the Light it forward campaign to build up awareness on the greatest challenge of our time – climate change – and bring attention to the pre-COP26 and COP26 events that will take place later this year," announces Mr. Eugeniu Rotaru, Deputy Head of Mission of the Italian Embassy in Manila. "The importance of these meetings in Milan and Glasgow cannot be overstated: they will have to update the global framework on climate change that was agreed in 2015, in Paris, and set the basis for protecting our Planet and future generations in the spirit of ambition, sustainability and solidarity. We believe that campaigns such as "Light it forward" are crucial for building momentum to Milan and Glasgow and show to the world the commitment of ordinary citizens, ordinary Filipinos, to a brighter, cleaner future."

"Light it Forward campaign will be moving Italy during the PreCOP26 event in Milan this coming September and the Italian community in the Philippines is united in giving its endorsement" adds Alessandro Milani, general manager of the Philippine Italian Association. "As PIA, we are very happy to endorse this campaign that is able, through public art, to bring people together for the defense of the environment and the purpose of giving the right to access clean electrical power to those who are more in need. For this we warmly invite everyone to join the Light it Forward Challenge, in time for our Day of Climate Action"

Liter of Light began its Light It Forward campaign (www.lightitforward.ph) in July 2020 with building messages of hope to pay tribute to medical frontliners. In the past year, its grassroots campaign has grown to mobilize thousands of youth from across Metro Manila to take action for energy poverty and the 13 million Filipinos still without light, making an impact from the safety of home and giving these communities a new means of livelihood even in the middle of a global health pandemic.

The Philippines' geography is one of the main factors for being most at risk from the effects of the climate crisis. The Philippines is hit by an average of 20 typhoons every year, with the intensity of these storms increasing exponentially in recent years, making it one of the most countries most vulnerable to climate change. Many youth are nervous about the future, with billions of pesos in economic losses, and over thousands of lives already lost due to the effects of climate change.

Through large-scale participative solar artworks that the organization will unveil at landmarks throughout Metro Manila, Liter of Light is showing how grassroots actions can amplify the voices of our youth to take action on the SDGs.

About the Light It Forward Challenge:

Everyone who participates in the LIGHT IT FORWARD campaign receives a kit that they will use to build a solar light, which takes less than 30 minutes to assemble. Liter of Light has created online videos to guide participants on how to assemble the devices. Challenge participants are asked to dedicate their light to an essential worker or frontline that has impacted them during the COVID-19 pandemic. After recording their solar light building, each participant must challenge their friends to build a light.

The campaign is part of a broader strategy for Liter of Light, a UN FCCC "Momentum for Change" Awardee and the Philippine private sector representative to the upcoming World EXPO, which will take place in Dubai from October 2021 to March 2022.

[<https://tinyurl.com/yxfv2e7b>] The organization will use its platform to shine a light on how Filipino malasakit is paving a way for a brighter future in a tangible, measurable way.



To learn more about Liter of Light and its Light It Forward campaign, visit:

www.lightitforward.ph

Instagram: @literoflight

Facebook: www.facebook.com/aliteroflight

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmkj2sShWG4O5xGdq15gB7A/>

Source: <https://www.villageconnect.com.ph/climate-action-themed-pop-up-participative-solar-art/7366>



Climate financing for Philippines hits \$878 million in 2020

[Louise Maureen Simeon](#) (The Philippine Star) - July 2, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Climate financing in the Philippines committed by multilateral development banks (MDBs) reached \$878 million in 2020, in line with global efforts to reduce carbon emissions and achieve targets under the Paris Agreement.

Based on the 2020 Joint Report on MDBs' Climate Finance, total climate finance for the country amounted to \$878 million last year, 48 percent lower than the \$1.69 billion committed in 2019.

This as most financing was instead focused on COVID-19 response. Last year's climate financing, however, was still significantly higher than the average of \$492 million annually from 2015 to 2018.

The Philippines also secured the third largest financing in East Asia and the Pacific region after China's \$2.36 billion and Indonesia's \$1.7 billion.

This financing mostly came from the Asian Development Bank, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the World Bank.

MDB climate financing refers to the financial resources committed by MDBs to development operations and components which enable activities that mitigate climate change and support adaptation to climate change.

"The 2020 financing helped play a key role in supporting countries to embed green and climate-focused solutions as part of their recoveries from the impact of COVID-19," the report said.

Globally, MDBs committed a total of \$66 billion in climate financing, of which \$38 billion went to low-and middle-income economies.

Of this, nearly \$50 billion was associated with climate change mitigation investments that aim to reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions and slow down global warming.

The remaining \$16 billion was allocated for climate change adaptation finance to help countries build resilience to the mounting impacts of climate change, including worsening droughts and more extreme weather events, from flooding to rising sea levels.

By region, the European Union got the bulk at \$26.37 billion. By country, France received the largest at \$4.9 billion, followed by India at \$3.5 billion and Italy at \$3.4 billion.

Spain and Germany completed the top five with \$3.3 billion and \$3.2 billion, respectively.

According to the report, accelerating the transition to low-carbon and climate-resilient economies through climate finance is a key element of the MDBs' effort.

This is also to align their activities with the objectives of the 2015 Paris Agreement to keep global warming well below two degrees Celsius.

Since the Paris Agreement, MDBs have jointly committed a total of \$257 billion in climate finance globally, of which \$186 billion was directed at low and middle-income economies like the Philippines.



“The MDBs will continue to improve their tracking and reporting of climate finance in the context of their commitments to ensure consistent financial flows to the countries’ long-term, low-carbon and climate-resilient development pathways, as established in the Paris Agreement,” the report said.



Mayor Binay is new GCoM board member; to represent Southeast Asia

By: [John Eric Mendoza](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)
[INQUIRER.net](#) / 06:47 PM July 01, 2021



(FILE) Makati Mayor Abby Binay. PHOTO from Abby Binay Facebook

MANILA, Philippines — Makati Mayor Abby Binay was appointed as Board of mayors and leaders to represent Southeast Asia in the Global Covenant of Mayors (GCoM) mayoral board, the organization announced on Thursday.

Binay, as a board member, is tasked to take the region toward ambitious emissions reduction goals and serve as a critical voice toward meeting the goals of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change's (UNFCCC) Climate Champions' Race to Resilience campaign.

"It is a great honor to be selected to join the board of the Global Covenant of Mayors," Binay was quoted as saying.

"I look forward to being a champion for mayors in Southeast Asia and around the world, as we work together to implement actionable solutions for a more resilient and sustainable future," said the local chief executive, who is also a graduate of human ecology and law.

Binay will lead the Cities Race to Resilience campaign during a side event at Asia Pacific Climate Week on July 8, to encourage cities globally to join the campaign and commit to undertaking risk and vulnerability assessments and concrete resilience actions.

GCoM leads the largest global alliance for city climate leadership, representing more than 10,500 cities and local governments from 142 countries.

JPV

Source: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1454265/mayor-binay-is-new-gcom-board-member-to-represent-southeast-asia>



Mga plastik na kutsara, tinidor at iba pa, bawal na ulit sa Quezon City

ni [Lolet Abania](#) | July 1, 2021



Muling ipapatupad ng gobyerno ng Quezon City ang pababawal sa single-use na mga plastik at iba pang disposables.

Batay sa City Ordinance No. 2876-2019, lahat ng hotels at restaurants sa Quezon City ay hindi na papayagang mamigay para sa kanilang dine-in customers ng mga disposables simula sa Huwebes, July 1, 2021.

Kabilang sa ipinagbabawal ay plastik na kutsara at tinidor, kutsilyo, plastic/paper cups, plato, plastik/paper straws, coffee stirrers, soap sachets, shampoo sachets, condiment cups na may lids, ketchup/soy sauce packets, at ibang katulad na plastik at disposable materials.

Nasa nakasaad na anunsiyo ng Quezon City government na kanilang nai-post sa social media, ang mga hindi susunod sa ordinansa ay maaaring mapatawan ng penalties na 1st offense: P1,000 fine; 2nd offense: P3,000 fine at revocation ng environmental clearance at issuance ng cease and desist order; 3rd offense: P5,000 fine at revocation ng business permit at issuance ng closure order.

Matatandaang ibinalik ng QC government ang pagbabawal ng paggamit ng mga plastic bags nitong Marso matapos na pansamantalang i-lift ito noong May, 2020 sa pamamagitan ng pag-isyu ng Localized Guidelines ng lungsod para sa Modified Enhanced Community Quarantine (MECQ).



Kesa raw pagmultahin, dahil pandemya... Magtatapon ng basura sa mga kanal, paglilinisin na lang

ni [Lolet Abania](#) | July 1, 2021



Plano ng mga mayor ng National Capital Region (NCR) na i-review at pag-isahin na lamang ang magiging parusa sa sinumang may kaugnayan sa maling pagtatapon ng basura na nagpapabara sa mga kanal, estero at iba pang waterways.

Sa Laging Handa public briefing ngayong Huwebes, sinabi ni Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chairperson Benhur Abalos na napag-isa na ng mga mayors ang iba't ibang ordinances hinggil sa tamang pagtatapon ng basura sa nasabing rehiyon, subalit wala pang nabuong parusa para rito.

“Ngayon po ay na-harmonize namin ang kani-kanyang ordinansa... Dapat ma-review ang parusa rito sa pagtatapon. Likewise, i-harmonize,” ani Abalos.

Ayon kay Abalos, kailangang sumailalim sa community service ang mga lalabag at kinokonsidera na itong parusa sa halip na pagmultahin dahil sa pandemya na labis na nakaapekto sa maraming Pilipino sa pinansiyal na aspeto.

Nitong Lunes, nag-install ang MMDA ng isang trash trap sa isa sa mga tributaries ng Estero de Tripa de Gallina malapit sa Tramo Bridge sa Pasay City.

Paliwanag ng MMDA, ang trash trap ay makatutulong para hindi ma-damage ang mga pumping stations dulot ng mga basura na napupunta rito.

Sinabi ni Abalos na umabot sa dalawang truckloads ng basura ang nakolekta sa lugar nang araw na iyon.

Source: <https://www.bulgaronline.com/post/kesa-raw-pagmultahin-dahil-pandemya-magtatapon-ng-basura-sa-mga-kanal-paglilinisin-na-lang>

Shipyard companies can continue to operate in Tayud, Consolacion until case is resolved

By: Mae Fhel Gom-os - CDN Digital Multi-Media Reporter | July 01, 2021 - 11:23 PM



Consolacion Mayor Joannes Alegado. | Mae Fhel Gom-os

CEBU CITY, Philippines — The shipyards and shipping companies operating in Barangay Tayud, Consolacion can continue to operate until the case they filed against Mayor Joannes Alegado and the head of the town's Business Permit and Licensing Office (BPLO) shall have been decided by the court.

This after Alegado and the shipyards and shipping companies agreed on Thursday, July 1, to maintain the status quo prior to the proposed reclamation project in Barangay Tayud.

The companies which filed a case against Alegado and the town's BPLO head Judith Pepito on June 29, 2021, include the Philippine Rigid Corporation, Fortune Shipworks Inc., Nagasaki Shipyard Inc., PKS Shipping Inc., and Uni-Orient Pearl Ventures Inc.

They filed a petition for certiorari and prohibition with an extremely urgent application for the issuance of an ex-parte 72-hour temporary restraining order, a 20-day TRO, and a writ of preliminary injunction, and or status quo ante order.

However, Alegado, in an interview, said the shipyard owners cannot compel the local government unit (LGU) to issue them business permits because they have not complied with the requirements that were asked of them.

Alegado was referring to the tenurial instrument from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), though he said it is not a basic requirement since it is not explicitly stated in the ordinance.

"It is very important because tenurial would reflect the ownership of the land. You could not give a business permit if you do not own the area you are operating. It just follows. It's not part of the basic requirement but it is stated also in our ordinance that the LGU could also ask for other necessary documents. So it is very necessary to look for the ownership, the foreshore areas are of course a public domain and this is owned by the government," he added.

The shipping and shipyard companies in the town though, are still allowed to operate although without a business permit.

Alegado said that as the local chief executive, he emphasized its intention to the shipyard owners that they will use the area for the planned reclamation project.

"Because the LGU could not afford to lose the employment of so many employees that they are employing now. So, with that, I believe there's some sort of a win-win solution though they may operate without a business permit, to that effect, we will not be able to affect them in



“We could not stop development and progress in Consolacion and we could not just stop our dreams because the shipyards will continue to operate from that area,” he added.

He also shared that they are not being strict or have plans of stripping the shipyard operators, who have been operating for 50 years, of their rights.

“We’re not trying to be strict here, and we are not trying to strip off the Tayud shippers of their rights. It’s just that their time has ended, and we have to move on. There are so many options, they could relocate to other areas, and there are so many parts of Cebu or within the Visayas that could accept them,” said Alegado.

He said they have endorsed the shipping companies to other LGUs who could probably accommodate them.

Alegado said that people from the ground are excited about the planned reclamation project believing that this will also answer most of the problems of the town such as traffic congestion.

Alegado said that the proposed reclamation project will be multi-faceted with commercial, institutional, and industrial components.

He said that Consolacion is a very small place with 70 percent of the town found in the mountainous areas which are for agricultural and residential purposes. So other developments would be placed in future reclamation areas.

Alegado also claimed that with the completion of the reclamation project, traffic in the town will ease up because tourism, commercial, and industrial activities will be concentrated there. The mayor is also planning to put up a school and hospital in the reclaimed area.

He also hopes that the shipyard owners will understand the stand of the LGU and that they will cooperate and participate in the proposed development.

“As a good gesture and as a true gesture of being kind to them, they could operate and we never intended to put them into closure gyud. Wala gyud na, no plans, whatsoever. It’s just that amo lang sang gihangyo na this time around pagamita napod ang katawhan sa Consolacion kay diha naman sila, nakapahimos na sila...” he said.

“With that, I believe we have agreed ourselves that we cannot give them the business permit but we will still allow them to operate,” Alegado added. /rcg



Bulkang Taal itinaas sa Alert Level 3; Phivolcs inirekomenda mga paglikas

(Philstar.com) - July 1, 2021 - 4:35pm



A man clears ash from the roof of his truck, before a plume of steam rising from the Taal volcano, at a fishing harbour in Laurel on January 17, 2020.

AFP/Ed Jones, File

MANILA, Philippines — Tuluyan nang itinaas ng Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Siesmology sa Alert Level 3 ang estado ng Bulkang Taal ngayong araw, bagay na nangangahulugan na raw ng "magmatic unrest."

Nangyayari ito isang araw matapos kumpirmahin ng Phivolcs na ["sulfur dioxide" mula Taal ang dahilan sa likod ng volcanic smog \(vog\) na nagpapalabo sa kapaligiran at hangin ng Metro Manila.](#)

"This serves as notice for the raising of the alert status of Taal from Alert Level 2 (increasing unrest) to Alert Level 3 (magmatic unrest). At 1516H (3:16 PM) PST, Taal Volcano Main Crater generated a short-lived dark phreatomagmatic plume 1 kilometer-high with no accompanying volcanic earthquake," [wika ng state volcanologists, Huwebes.](#)

"This means that there is magmatic intrusion at the Main Crater that may further drive succeeding eruptions."

BULKANG RAISING ng TAAL Alert Level
01 Hulyo 2021 [#TaalVolcanohttps://t.co/roMPP0BP0Z pic.twitter.com/rY4ZdaqcAU](#)
— PHIVOLCS-DOST (@phivolcs_dost) [July 1, 2021](#)

Dahil dito, mariing inirerekomenda ng Phivolcs ang agarang evacuation ng mga residente mula sa Agoncillo at Laurel, Batangas dahil sa banta ng "pyroclastic density currents" at volcanic tsunami."

"So far, inalis na po previously ang mga community sa volcano island. We are coordinating with Phivolcs po and the RDRRMC CALABARZON for developments," wika ni Mark Timbal, spokesperson ng NDRRMC kanina.

Tinitiyak pa naman ngayon nina Timbal kung gumugulong na sa ngayon ang mga evacuation. Ipinaalala naman ngayon sa publiko na Permanent Danger Zone ang kabuuang Taal Volcano Island. Pinagbabawalan din ngayon ang pagpasok ngayon sa high-risk areas gaya ng dalawang lugar na nabanggit sa itaas.



"In addition, communities around the Taal Lake shore are advised to take precautionary measures and be vigilant of possible lakewater disturbances related to the ongoing unrest," patuloy ng Phivolcs.

Ngayong Alert Level 3 ang Bulkang Taal, [posible na ang "hazardous eruption" nito sa loob ng ilang araw o linggo](#).

Huling beses na umabot sa Alert Level 4 ang bulkan ay noong Enero 2020, kung saan libu-libo ang lumikas. Umabot din hanggang sa Kamaynilaan ang peligrong ashfall ng naturang volcano. — James Relativo



Taal Volcano records more eruptions, upwelling activities Thursday night

By CONSUELO MARQUEZ, GMA News

Published July 2, 2021 12:25am

Taal Volcano on Thursday night had four more phreatomagmatic eruptions as well as upwelling activities on Thursday evening, Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) has said.

In its update, state volcanologists said the short phreatomagmatic bursts lasted two minutes each and generated short jetted plumes that rose 200 meters above the main crater lake.

"These events occurred at 6:26 PM, 7:21 PM, 7:41 PM and 8:20 PM. Upwelling of the Main Crater Lake that began at 8:07 PM tonight is ongoing," PHIVOLCS said.

Earlier, PHIVOLCS raised Taal Volcano's alert level from 2 to 3 after it erupted and gave rise to a kilometer-high phreatomagmatic plume at past 3 p.m.

Authorities immediately conducted evacuations among residents living near danger zones.

PHIVOLCS, likewise, advised that high-risk barangays of Bilibinwang and Banyaga in Agoncillo and Boso-boso, Gulod and eastern Bugaan East in Laurel, Batangas must be evacuated "due to the possible hazards of pyroclastic density currents and volcanic tsunami should stronger eruptions subsequently occur."

Entry into Agoncillo and Laurel towns in Batangas must also be banned amid the Taal Volcano unrest, PHIVOLCS added. —**NB, GMA News**

Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/793750/taal-volcano-records-more-eruptions-upwelling-activities-thursday-night/story/?just_in&fbclid=IwAR1QEeWtCQwsPuJjAYUxFdG9nZVf-fbMaYulTQ9wBmXSG1fCdI7pMiNhgp0



Taal's phreatomagmatic eruption unlikely to cause widespread ashfall – Phivolcs

By: [Gabriel Pabico Lalu](#) - Reporter / [@GabrielLaluINO](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 08:22 PM July 01, 2021



IN A VOG Taal Lake becomes a hazy memory of fish pens as sulfur dioxide emissions from Taal Volcano blanket the volcano island and the towns overlooking it. According to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs), the country's second most active volcano spewed 14,326 tons of gas emissions on Monday, forcing residents of Talisay town in Batangas to stay indoors. —LYNRILLON

MANILA, Philippines — Taal Volcano's emission of "dark phreatomagmatic plume" on Thursday may cause ashfall but only over areas closest to it and not expected to reach as far as Metro Manila.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said that in the event ashfall ensue, it would only be on towns southwest of the restive volcano such as areas near the Balayan Bay like San Luis, Taal, Agoncillo, Lemery, and Calaca.

"Masyadong mababa 'yong pagputok kanina, kung meron mang ash fall 'yon ay baka bahagya lang at mainly sa crater, at baka doon mapupuntang kaunti sa southwest. Dapat by this time, kung meron mang umabot sa mainland ay naramdaman na 'yon," Phivolcs director and Undersecretary Renato Solidum said in a press briefing.

"Pero mainly 'yong larawan kanina, makikita mo na ang concentration ng mga maiitim na particles ay doon lamang sa crater," he added.

Earlier Thursday, Taal Volcano belched a kilometer-high dark phreatomagmatic plume leading people to fear that scenarios of its January 2020 explosion would happen all over again. More than a year ago, Taal erupted and caused ashfall that affected areas as far as Metro Manila as well as towns in Central Luzon.

But Solidum still noted it is important to wear masks to protect people from inhaling volcanic dust if in case ashfall incidents occur. He, however, also reminded the public not to rush in buying N95 masks as these should be left for people in areas that may be affected by ashfall.

"Importante po 'yan na pag-ingatan at mag-mask po tayo kung sakaling may mga pagbagsak ng abo o di kaya'y asupre. Pero syempre in general, talagang nasa paligi ng bulkan ang may problema sa kasalukuyan, ng volcanic smog or vog, nangyayari po 'yan since Saturday dyan sa Taal Volcano island," Solidum explained.

"Kung malayo naman po ang atin (lugar) sa lugar na binabagsakan ng abo, ay ipaubaya po natin ang paggamit ng N95 lalong-lalo na doon sa naapektuhang lugar at mga nagreresponde sa eruption," he added.



Solidum then said they have no estimates yet on the amount of ash spewed by Taal on Thursday because the eruption happened quickly and lasted for just five minutes. He also noted the ash was contained in a small area.

He further clarified that volcanic smog or vog — fog with the sulfur dioxide released by Taal — may only be seen in areas near the volcano and not as far as Metro Manila.

“Ang volcanic smog ay fog na may mga sulfur dioxide dahil nag-mix ang gas sa moist na nasa hangin. Ibig sabihin kapag smog ang gagamitin nating term, ay parang hovering above ground lang ‘yan,” Solidum said.

“Kapag matayog ang pag-itsa ng gas, at ‘yong volcanic plume ay napadpad, hindi na po vog ‘yon or smog, kung hindi plume, or cloud. So ang nangyari po ay pwede pong nasa ere po ‘yan at dadaan, pero hindi ‘yan mararamdaman ng mga tao sa baba,” he added.

A Phivolcs bulletin released earlier Thursday explained that Alert Level 3 was raised over Taal because of the occurrence of magmatic intrusion at the main crater, which can possibly lead to more eruptions.

Phivolcs has advised the evacuation of residents from high-risk barangays of Agoncillo and Laurel in Batangas.

KGA

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On the **ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE REPORT AND MANAGEMENT PLAN (EPRMP)** of the proposed **6X135 MW CIRCULATING FLUIDIZED BED COAL-FIRED POWER PLANT EXPANSION PROJECT** of the **FDC MISAMIS POWER CORP.** located in **PHIVIDEC INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, BARANGAYS TAMBOBONG AND BALACANAS, MUNICIPALITY OF VILLANUEVA, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL.**

Notice is hereby given to all parties who wish to give their opinion regarding the implementation of the proposed **6X135 MW CIRCULATING FLUIDIZED BED COAL-FIRED POWER PLANT EXPANSION PROJECT** to attend the Public Hearing scheduled on:

Date	Time	Zoom Details
16 July 2021 (Friday)	9:00 AM <i>Registration starts at 8:30 AM</i>	https://zoom.us/j/95968089150?pwd=dGNar3lnVDFvSjNjQTdVUWF6L29SUT09 Meeting ID: 959 6808 9150 Passcode: 8M32hc

The Public Hearing is being conducted in connection with the review of the EPRMP of the aforementioned project by the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The following is the project information:

Project Name	6x135 MW Circulating Fluidized Bed Coal-Fired Power Plant Expansion Project
Project Location	Phividec Industrial Estate, Barangays Tambobong and Balacanas, Villanueva, Misamis Oriental
Project Capacity	Total Capacity: 810 MW
Project Type	Coal-Fired Power Plant
Proponent	FDC Misamis Power Corp.

All interested parties who wish to attend or participate in this Public Hearing should preferably confirm their attendance/participation and may give their opinion(s) in a concise position paper to the **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION (EIAMD)** of this Office through email at eia@emb.gov.ph, three (3) days before the Public Hearing schedule. Those who will not be able to register or submit written positions may be given the opportunity to share their issues on the day of the hearing itself.

The project's EPRMP and Executive Summary for the Public are downloadable on our website: (*kindly access the Notice of Public Hearing/ Consultation link found in our website*) while copies will be available in the following offices:

- **EMB Region X**
DENR 10 Compound, Macabalan, Cagayan De Oro City
- **Villanueva Municipal Hall**
Municipality of Villanueva, Province of Misamis Oriental

For more details, please contact the EIAMD Division at this Office at telephone number 8920-2240 to 41 and look for the project case handlers **Engr. Dexter Tabada** and **Engr. Carlo Vic Arida, EnP.**



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Visayas Avenue, Diliman, 1100 Quezon City
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DENR ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
No. 2021 - 17

JUN 21 2021

SUBJECT : GUIDELINES FOR THE AFFIRMATION OF COMMUNITY RESOURCE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK (CRMF) AND APPROVAL OF FIVE-YEAR WORK PLAN (FYWP) OF THE HOLDERS OF COMMUNITY-BASED FOREST MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT (CBFMA)

Pursuant to DENR Administrative Orders (DAO) No. 2004-29 entitled "Revised Rules and Regulations for the Implementation of Executive Order 263, Otherwise known as the Community-Based Forest Management Strategy" and DAO No. 2016-07 entitled "DENR Manual of Authorities on Technical Matters", and Republic Act No. 11032 "An Act Promoting Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Delivery of Government Services, Amending for the Purpose Republic Act No. 9485, Otherwise known as the Anti-Red Tape Act of 2007, and for Other Purposes" and other pertinent law, rules and regulations, the following are the guidelines for the affirmation of Community Resource Management Framework (CRMF) and approval of Five-Year Work Plan (FYWP) of the holders of Community-Based Forest Management Agreement (CBFMA).

Section 1. Basic Policy

It is the policy of the state to sustainably manage the country's forest resources, promote the socio-economic upliftment of forest communities, and enhance active participation in CBFM activities. Further to this, it shall ensure that requirements and procedures are simplified and streamlined to reduce the turnaround time of the delivery of government services.

Section 2. Objective

The objective of this guidelines is to streamline the affirmation of CRMF and approval of FYWP.

Section 3. Definition of Terms

For the purpose of this Order, the following terms shall be used in, and understood to mean as follows:

- 3.1 **Community Resource Management Framework (CRMF)** - is a strategic plan of the community on how to manage and benefit from the forest resources on a sustainable basis. It describes the community's long-term vision, aspirations, commitments and strategies for the protection, rehabilitation, development and utilization of the forest resources. It also embodies the proposed mitigating measures on potential negative impacts of the strategies/activities to the environment. The CRMF is a document prepared by the community with the assistance of DENR, LGU and other stakeholders within the CBFMA area.
- 3.2 **Five Year Work Plan (FYWP)** - contains the detailed strategies, activities and targets for five (5) years on protection, rehabilitation, development and resource utilization, organizational strengthening, financing, marketing and enterprise development, among others. The FYWP shall be consistent with the CRMF.

Section 4. Affirmation of CRMF

The CBFMA holder shall submit the PO-ratified CRMF together with the minutes of the consultation and ratification to the CENRO/Implementing PENRO. The CENRO, within five (5) working days, shall review the same for recommendation and endorsement to the supervising PENRO or he/she shall return the CRMF to the CBFMA holder in writing to inform them of any deficiency. The PENRO, within five (5) working days, shall review the same for recommendation and endorsement to the Regional Executive Director (RED) for affirmation or he/she shall return the CRMF to PENRO/CENRO to notify the CBFMA holder in writing of any deficiency.

Further, for the implementing PENRO, within five (5) working days after the submission of the CBFMA holder, he/she shall directly endorse the CRMF to the RED for affirmation or he/she shall return the CRMF to the CBFMA holder if there is any deficiency. The RED, within ten (10) working days, shall review the same, for affirmation or he/she shall return the CRMF to PENRO/CENRO to notify the CBFMA holder in writing to inform them of any deficiency (see Flowchart in Annex A).

The affirmation of the CRMF by the RED remains as a manifestation of the commitment of the DENR to support the CBFMA holder in its implementation. The CRMF shall contain detailed plan of activities for the first five (5) years, which shall serve as the first FYWP of the CBFMA. Thus, if the RED has affirmed the CRMF, the first FYWP is deemed approved.

Section 5. Approval of FYWP

With the approval of the first FYWP with the affirmed CRMF as stated in Section 4 hereof, this provision is intended for the FYWP on the 6th year onwards.

The CBFMA holder shall submit the PO-ratified FYWP to the CENRO/Implementing PENRO. The CENRO, within five (5) working days, shall review the same for recommendation and endorsement to the supervising PENRO or he/she shall return the CRMF to the CBFMA holder in writing to inform them of any deficiency. The PENRO, within five (5) working days, shall review the same for his/her approval, or he/she shall return the FYWP to the concerned CENRO to notify the CBFMA holder in writing to inform them of any deficiency (see Flowchart in Annex B).

In case of the implementing PENRO, he/she shall directly approve the FYWP or he/she shall return to the CBFMA holder the FYWP if there is any deficiency.

The FYWP should be consistent with the affirmed CRMF of the CBFM holder. Hence, no FYWP shall be approved without the affirmed CRMF. For those CBFM holders whose CBFMA has validity of less than ten (10) years, they may prepare their FYWP covering the remaining years of their CBFMA.

Section 6. Database and Monitoring and Evaluation

A copy of the affirmed CRMF and approved FYWP shall be provided to the concerned municipal LGU, DENR Regional Office, PENRO and CENRO for their reference, records and as basis of their support and assistance. The concerned personnel from the different DENR field offices shall update the Enhance Forest Information System (FIS) and other related CBFMA database. Further, the CRMF and FYWP shall be the basis of regular monitoring and evaluation of the CBFMA holders.

Section 7. Repealing Clause

Provisions of the DENR Administrative Order No. 2016-07 dated 19 May 2016 particularly the related provisions in Item 1 (Approval of Plans) of page 26 (Forestry Related - Management/Operational Plans), other Administrative Orders, Memorandum Circulars and official issuances not consistent herewith are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

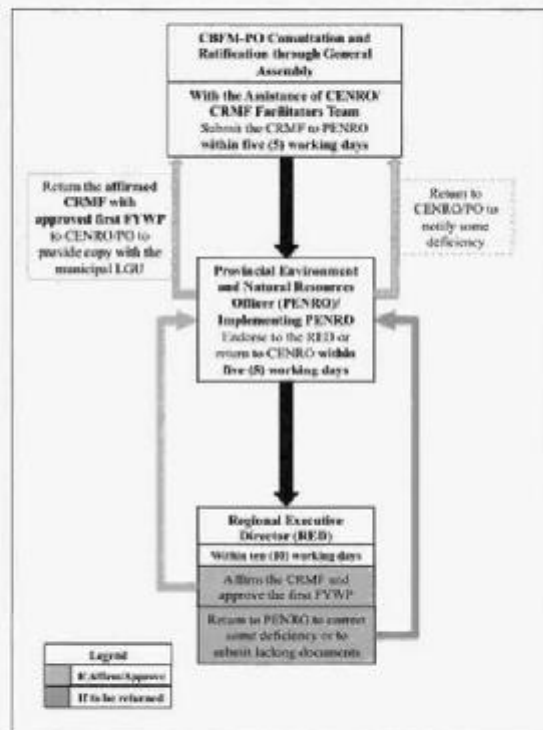
Section 8. Effectivity

This Order shall take effect within fifteen (15) days after its publication in newspaper of general circulation and upon acknowledgement of receipt of a copy thereof by the Office of the National Administrative Register (ONAR) of the UP Law Center.

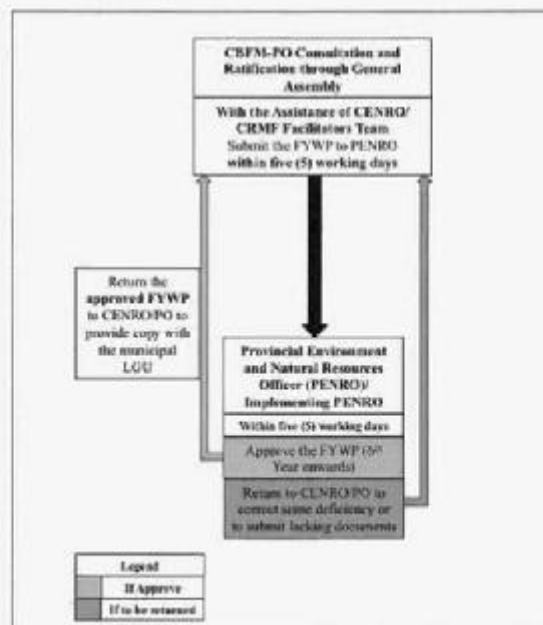
ROY A. CIMATU
Secretary



Annex A. Flowchart of the Affirmation of Community Resources Management Framework (CRMF) and Approval of 1st FYWP



Annex B. Flowchart of the Approval Five-Year Work Plan (FYWP) from 6th Year onwards



02 JULY 2021, FRIDAY



DENR

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Lowest single-day COVID-19 recoveries sa halos 1 buwan naitala ng DOH

(Philstar.com) - July 1, 2021 - 4:00pm



Passengers of EDSA carousel bus in Monumento, Caloocan take the bus for free for the last time as Bayanihan 2 which provided funds for the carousel and subsidized the fare of frontliners expired on June 30, 2021.

MANILA, Philippines — Nakapagtala ang Department of Health (DOH) ng 5,795 bagong infection ng coronavirus disease (COVID-19), Huwebes, kung kaya nasa 1,418,337 na sumatutal ang nahahawaan nito sa bansa.

Batay sa mga bagong nakalap na datos ng Kagawaran ng Kalusugan, narito ang bagong mga pasok na datos para araw na ito:

- **Lahat ng kaso:** 1,418,337
- **Nagpapagaling pa:** 51,567, o 3.6% ng total infections
- **Kagagaling lang:** 2,859, dahilan para maging 1,341,973 na lahat ng gumagaling
- **Kamamatay lang:** 135, na siyang nag-aakyat sa total local death toll sa 24,797

Pilipinas 'low-risk area' na raw; quarantine ng bakunado pinaluwag

- Ngayong araw naitala ang pinakamaliit na bilang ng single-day COVID-19 recoveries (2,859) sa nakaraang 27 araw. Huling mas malala ang datos diyan noong ika-4 ng Hunyo.
- [Itinuturing nang "low-risk area" ang Pilipinas para sa COVID-19](#) ngayong nakapagtala ng -9% growth rate ang mga kaso sa nakaraang linggo, ani Dr. Alethea De Guzman, officer in charge ng DOH Epidemiology Bureau, kanina.
- [Umabot na sa 19,000 ang inililikas ng Department of Foreign Affairs mula sa United Arab Emirates nitong Hunyo](#), matapos tumulak pauwi ng Pilipinas ang nasa 347 Pinoy mula sa Dubao nitong ika-30 ng Hunyo mula sa isang special chartered flight. Kasalukuyang may travel ban ang mga biyahero mula UAE papuntang 'Pinas hanggang ika-15 ng Hulyo dahil sa mas nakahahawang Delta variant ng COVID-19.
- Dadaan na lang sa [pitong araw na quarantine booking ang mga "fully-vaccinated" na biyaherong magmumula sa mga bansang nasa "green list"](#) na nais pumasok ng Pilipinas, ayon kay Immigration Commissioner Jaime Morente ngayong araw. Ang mga unvaccinated travellers ay kinakailangan pa ring sumailalim sa 14-day quarantine.
- Nananatiling ang COVID-19 pandemic at mga umiiral na lockdown restrictions sa bansa sa mga [pinakamalaking dahilan kung bakit hindi makapasok ng trabaho ang mga manggagawang "employed" sa ngayon](#), pagbabahagi ng Philippine Statistics Authority sa ulat nito kaugnay ng unemployment rate.



- Umabot na sa 181.52 milyon ang tinatamaan ng COVID-19 sa buong daigdig, ayon sa huling datos ng [World Health Organization](#). Sa bilang na 'yan, patay na ang 3.93 milyong katao.

—James Relativo



PH now low-risk: Covid attack rate dips

posted July 02, 2021 at 01:10 am

by [Willie Casas and Joel E. Zurbano](#)

The Philippines is now classified as a low-risk area for COVID-19 after the national case growth rate and average daily attack rate (ADAR) decreased, the Department of Health said Thursday.

“Because we have a negative two-week growth rate and we see that our ADAR is at moderate risk at 5.42, the risk classification nationally is already at low risk,” DOH Epidemiology Bureau director Dr. Alethea De Guzman said in an online forum.

De Guzman said DOH data showed that the Philippines’ case growth rate fell to negative 9 percent during June 13 to 26 from 15 percent from May 30 to June 12.

The national utilization rates of hospital and intensive care unit beds were also in the safe zone at 46.51 percent and 55.24 percent, respectively.

The country averaged 5,772 new cases daily from June 24 to 30, which is only slightly higher than its average of 5,638 daily new infections from June 17 to 23.

The DOH flagged four regions as high-risk areas over their high ADAR and health care utilization rate, even as national COVID-19 figures have improved.

De Guzman said cases are plateauing in NCR Plus (Metro Manila, Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna, and Rizal), slowly declining in Mindanao, and slightly increasing in the rest of Luzon and the Visayas.

She said, however, that the decline in cases is “thin” or “very slow,” especially in Metro Manila.

“Now the challenge is while we open up our economy, we have these safeguards,” De Guzman said.

“If we maintain our efforts now... the decline in cases will continue and may even accelerate.”

De Guzman urged local governments to ensure they are ready to handle any surge that the Delta variant of the coronavirus might bring.

The country has detected 17 cases of the highly transmissible Delta coronavirus variant so far, all of them from Filipinos returning from abroad.

Laguna province is the only area still classified as high-risk for COVID-19 in NCR Plus, the DOH said.

De Guzman said cases in Laguna grew by 6 percent during June 13 to 26 while its average daily attack rate (ADAR) was high at 8.24 cases per 100,000 population.

Laguna’s hospital bed occupancy rate was in the safe zone at 59.09 percent as of June 29 but its intensive care unit (ICU) bed utilization rate was in the moderate risk category at 66.67 percent.

“Laguna is a big area, so we need to identify... more specific reasons why it can’t sustain the decrease in cases,” De Guzman said.

“This is the only area in NCR Plus where we are still seeing an increase in cases,” she added.

De Guzman said in some areas outside NCR Plus, the public’s adherence to COVID-19 protocols has waned over time after the government eased lockdown levels.

“One major factor is the lax compliance or adherence to minimum health standards -- that is wearing of a face mask and a face shield and observing physical distancing,” she said.

The DOH considers Caraga, Western Visayas, Davao Region and Soccsksargen as areas “high-risk” for COVID-19 spread.



Indoor gatherings and other social events also drove up COVID-19 infections in some regions, De Guzman added.

“Maintaining physical distancing and ensuring adequate ventilation in these settings are hard to maintain,” De Guzman said.

The Philippines logged 5,795 new COVID-19 cases on Thursday, bringing the total cases to 1,418,337.

The DOH reported 135 new fatalities for a total death toll of 24,797.

The DOH also reported 2,859 new recoveries, bringing the total recoveries to 1,341,973.

Active cases rose to 51,567, of which 91 percent were mild, 3.8 percent were asymptomatic, 1.5 percent were critical, 2.1 percent were severe, and 1.56 percent were moderate.

Meanwhile, Ninoy Aquino International Airport district collector Carmelita Talusan on Thursday assured the public there will be no delay in the Customs processing of COVID-19 vaccines.

“The Bureau of Customs will continue to increase its efforts in monitoring and ensuring the smooth flow of COVID-19 vaccine (shipments) and all other essential goods in support of the government’s social protection program,” said Talusan.

To date, Customs NAIA facilitated and cleared 28 shipments or more than 17.4 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines, which arrived in the country between February and June.

Of the total cleared shipments of vaccines, 12 million are Sinovac brand, 2.556 million are AstraZeneca, 2.478 million are Pfizer, 249,600 are Moderna, and 180,000 are Sputnik V from China, United Kingdom, United States, and Russia.

Since the start of the pandemic, the agency also cleared 15,937 shipments of face masks, face shields, test kits, and various medical equipment.



MMDA says NCR 'ready' to shift to MGCQ

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Jul 1, 2021 3:47:59 PM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, July 1) — Metro Manila, once the country's pandemic epicenter, is "ready" to loosen coronavirus quarantine restrictions, but local city executives need to consider the presence of a new variant.

"Handa naman kami," Metropolitan Manila Development Authority chairman Benhur Abalos said when asked on his reaction to Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Karl Kendrick Chua's statement that the capital has an "opening" to shift to modified general community quarantine.

"Pero pag-uusapan namin nang husto ito, ang preparasyon dito, dahil we have a new variant," he said in a virtual briefing Thursday.

[Translation: We are ready...But we have to discuss this carefully and prepare since we have a new variant.]

The Philippines already recorded 17 cases of the Delta variant, the DOH said on June 21. The Delta coronavirus variant, first identified in India in February, is believed to be 60% more contagious than the Alpha variant and can cause severe symptoms.

Earlier this week, President Rodrigo Duterte approved the new quarantine status proposed by the pandemic task force, with Metro Manila, Rizal and Bulacan remaining under general community quarantine "with some restrictions" until July 15.

During the briefing, Abalos reported that Metro Manila has been seeing "good" figures regarding its COVID-19 cases.

So far, the capital region already administered 4.3 million vaccine doses. By end-September, Abalos sees hitting 14.5 million doses.

Metro Manila has a population of 14 million.

The official also claimed that the national government and Metro Manila mayors were "successful" in balancing the health of the public and the economy in the country's ongoing fight against COVID-19.

Source: <https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2021/7/1/MMDA-says-NCR--ready--to-shift-to-MGCQ-.html>



Deadly 'Delta' alarms WHO

'More deaths if seniors don't get jab'; ban on Indonesia travelers eyed'

posted July 02, 2021 at 01:40 am

by [Willie Casas](#)

The World Health Organization (WHO) on Thursday urged the Philippines to speed up its vaccination of seniors before the more transmissible Delta variant of the coronavirus becomes dominant, warning that failure to do so could mean more deaths among the elderly.

The warning came as the government is considering a travel ban on Indonesia, which has detected the Delta variant and is experiencing a surge in COVID-19 cases.

As of June 29, only 8.5 percent of the 8.2 million senior citizens have been fully vaccinated, while 28 percent have received their first dose, said Dr. Rabindra Abeyasinghe, WHO representative to the Philippines.

Citing government data, Abeyasinghe said elderly patients made up 60 percent of COVID-19 deaths in the Philippines.

"We have no guarantee that we can indefinitely hold the Delta variant out... How long we can hold this is a matter of time... We have a unique window," he said.

"Before that happens, we need to try to vaccinate as many of our senior citizens as possible. If we fail to do that, it is likely that we are going to see a lot of deaths happening among the senior citizenry," he added.

Health Secretary Francisco Duque III, meanwhile, said experts are studying a possible ban on travelers from Indonesia over the threat of the Delta variant that first emerged in India.

The government extended until July 15 a temporary ban on travelers from seven countries: the United Arab Emirates, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Oman, Nepal, and Bangladesh due to the Delta variant.

A former government advisor, Dr. Tony Leachon had urged authorities to extend the ban to Indonesia.

Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said, however, that tightening border controls is better than expanding the travel ban because the Delta variant has already been detected in over 90 countries.

On the other hand, Duque said the government's list of "green countries" or nations whose citizens can undergo a shorter quarantine period upon arrival in the Philippines, is "dynamic" and will still be expanded.

Duque said the United States was not included in the initial list despite its high vaccination rate due to the transmission of the Delta variant there, which now accounts for 30 percent of its reported cases.

"We have to be very careful. It's easy to relax. That's the easiest thing to do, it's the sweetest thing to do. But the challenge is to keep off those variants from entering our communities," Duque added.

The Philippines has detected 17 cases of the Delta variant as of June 17, and all were from Filipinos returning from overseas.



In Indonesia, President Joko Widodo said his government would impose emergency restrictions to battle an alarming surge in COVID-19 infections and to avoid a collapse of its health care system.

Widodo said the new restrictions, starting Friday, would last more than two weeks in the capital Jakarta and across hard-hit Java, as well as on the holiday island Bali, after infections surged to record levels.

New daily cases are topping 21,000 per day in Southeast Asia's worst-hit nation, and authorities have warned about the spread of highly infectious variants.

"This situation has forced us to take stricter steps... I have decided to impose emergency restrictions," Widodo said in a nationwide address Thursday.

Widodo, better known as Jokowi, did not give details of the measures, which would end July 20.

But a document from senior minister Luhut Pandjaitan's office said they include ordering all non-essential employees to work from home, while classes would only be held online.

Shopping malls and mosques across the Muslim-majority country would also be shuttered in a bid to bring new daily cases to below 10,000, it said.

Elsewhere in the world:

* The Bangladesh army and police patrolled empty streets on Thursday as a strict week-long COVID-19 lockdown began, with people confined to their homes except for emergencies and to buy essentials. The government has said the South Asian nation of 168 million people is seeing an "alarming and dangerous" rise in cases, blamed largely on the highly infectious Delta variant. Hospitals are struggling, particularly in areas bordering India where the strain was first detected. Some rural towns have recorded infection rates of 70 percent.

* An EU-wide Covid certificate for easier travel comes into force on Thursday, just in time for Europe's busy summer vacation period, but the more-infectious Delta variant is already threatening to curtail its use. The EU document -- essentially a QR code made available in digital form on smart phones or hard copy -- shows whether the bearer is vaccinated with one of the EU's approved jabs (from BioNTech/Pfizer, AstraZeneca, Moderna or Johnson & Johnson), has recovered from an infection, or has a recent negative COVID test. Under EU law, the certificate is meant to do away with the need for quarantines or further testing when traveling between the EU's 27 countries or four associated European nations (Iceland, Norway, Switzerland and Liechtenstein).

* Britain's startling rise in Delta infections -- it now has a rolling two-week infection rate more than seven times that of the EU -- is generating deep concern on the continent. At an EU summit last week, German Chancellor Angela Merkel criticized southern EU countries -- desperate for tourist cash -- for allowing in Britons with few, if any, COVID checks. This week, Portugal, Spain and Malta all abruptly increased restrictions for travelers from Britain, emphasizing full vaccination for entry. With AFP

02 JULY 2021, FRIDAY



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