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Villar bats for solid waste management; asks LGUs to properly use composting facilities from DENR

By OSCV Published on March 1, 2021

PASAY CITY, Mar. 1 -- Citing the World Health Organization (WHO) warning that serious health risks will further demoralize communities already traumatized by Covid-19, Sen. Cynthia Villar urged Local Government Units (LGUs) to properly use the composting facilities from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

She also mentioned the remark of the International Solid Waste Association that "Waste Management is one of the most important sanitary barriers to prevent transmission of diseases".

Villar, chairperson of the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, sent her video message as a special guest during the ceremonial turn-over of solid waste management equipment to the cities and municipalities of Laguna province.

"To bring about a substantial reduction of the solid wastes, we generate, we should compose the biodegradable wastes, and we recycle those wastes that are suitable to organic fertilizer which farmers can use for free and help in improving the degradation of the soil in the Philippine which is at 38% at present level.

She also told the DENR about the importance of the essence of time when it comes to protecting the environment.

"To the DENR and the PITC (Philippine International Trading Corp.), I hope no more problem in the distribution of these equipment to the remaining 6 provinces and Metro Manila LGUs. Let us not tolerate delays, but should act swiftly," said Villar, referring to the distribution of the remaining solid waste management equipment.

Based on DENR records, Villar said the LGUs in Pampanga received the first batch of equipment. She said, Laguna was lucky enough as it came next.

The 30 composting facilities given to Laguna LGUs were included in the procurement of 178 biodegradable waste shredders and composters that will be distributed to the LGUs comprising the Manila Bay watershed. They will be used for the further clean-up and rehabilitation of Manila Bay.

The Manila Bay watershed covers 16 cities and one municipality in Metro Manila and 8 provinces-- Bulacan, Pampanga, Bataan, Nueva Ecija and Tarlac in Region 3, and the provinces of Cavite, Rizal and Laguna in Region 4-A.

Aside from being part of the Manila Bay clean-up strategy, Villar said these composting facilities will help LGUs to comply with the provisions of RA 9003 or the Ecological Solid Wastes Management Act.

"The law mandates the segregation, composting, and recycling of wastes," said Villar as she thanked the DENR, represented by Usec. Benny Antiporda and DENR- Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) Director William Cuñado, and (Philippine International Trading) PITC President Dave Almarines, for distributing the equipment.



Villar bats for solid waste management; asks LGUs to properly use composting facilities from DENR

Villar, a long-time advocate of proper waste management, had established their own composting centers in her hometown in Las Pinas City. She said kitchen and garden wastes collected from households in the city were brought to the composting facility.

At present, Villar said Las Pinas have 80 composters utilized by over 80,000 households producing monthly 60 tons of organic fertilizer given for free to farmers and urban gardeners.

The senator disclosed that the biodegradable wastes processed in the composting facility make up around 50% of the total garbage generated by the city.

As a congresswoman from 2001 to 2010, Villar embarked on saving the Las Piñas-Zapote River from wastes. Her efforts were recognized by the United Nations (UN) as "Water for Life Best Water Management Practices in 2011." (OSCV)



Informal settlers sa Nueva Ecija bibigyan ng trabaho

By [Christian Ryan Sta. Ana](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon)

- March 1, 2021 - 12:00am

Kasunduan ng DENR, DTI at LGU nilagdaan

CABIAO, Nueva Ecija, Philippines — Nilagdaan na ang isang kasunduan sa pagitan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) at pamahalaang lokal ng Cabiao na naglalayong pagkalooban ng trabahong pangkabuhayan ang mga informal settlers na binigyan ng libreng pabahay sa tatlong barangay sa bayang ito.

Ayon kay Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer-Cabanatuan City (CENRO), Jimmy Aberin, ang programa ay isa lamang sa mga pangunahing proyekto na patuloy na inilulunsad sa ilalim ng Manila Bay Project Livelihood Support Program na naglalayong bigyan ng marangal na trabaho ang mga apektadong pamilya sa pamamagitan ng mga pagsasanay kung saan isa sa mga ito ang pagpapatubo at pagpaparami ng mga kabute (cultured-mushroom production).

Dagdag pa ni Cenro Aberin, hihikayatin ang mga kababaihan sa mga mapipiling barangay na sumailalim sa mga pagsasanay para sa produksyon ng mushroom chips kung saan aagapay naman ang pamahalaang lokal ng Cabiao at DTI sa pamamagitan ng Negosyo Center para sa merkado ng mga produkto.

Sa katatapos na pagsasanay kamakalawa, sinabi ni Mariqueen Andrea Arcia, ecosystem management specialist (EMS), na nilahukan ng 20 kababaihan mula sa mga barangay mula sa Sta. Rita. San Antonio at Entablado ang sumailalim sa pagsasanay para sa mushroom production.

Isinasaad pa sa kasunduan na ang LGU ng Cabiao ang mangangasiwa sa imbentaryo at pabahay para sa mga informal settlers at mga pamilyang naninirahan sa mga daluyan ng tubig sa tatlong barangay na nabanggit.

Ang DTI naman ang titiyak na ang produksyon at pagproseso ng kabute ay potensyal na magiging pangkabuhayan sa bayang ito.

Samantala, trabaho ng DENR na matiyak na magiging tuluy-tuloy ang implementasyon ng proyekto para sa mga informal settlers.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/probinsiya/2021/03/01/2081080/informal-settlers-sa-nueva-ecija-bibigyan-ng-trabaho/amp/>

CCC cites value of breaking gender barriers for inclusive development this Women's Month

By Jimmyley E. Guzman Published on March 1, 2021



PASIG CITY, March 1 (PIA) -- The Climate Change Commission (CCC) today emphasized that this year's observance of National Women's Month in March highlights women's participation in battling the COVID-19 pandemic and climate crisis, as well as discusses gender issues exacerbated by these crises.

Anchored on the theme, "Women can make change amidst the climate crisis and COVID-19," the month-long celebration aims to highlight the empowerment of women as active contributors to and claimholders of climate-resilient development, the CCC said in joining the celebration.

"The Climate Change Commission wholeheartedly adopts this year's theme as a good reminder and a timely call to action: 'Na laban sa krisis sa klima at pandemya, kaya ni Juana'. A more gender-equitable world is a safer and greener world. As the United Nations reminds us with this global celebration, achieving gender equality is an enabler not just for climate action, but all the other SDGs," said Climate Change Commissioner Rachel Herrera in her message for the opening program of the National Women's Month celebration of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources this morning.

Women commonly face higher risks and greater burdens from the impacts of climate change and the pandemic in situations of poverty. Moreover, women's unequal participation in decision-making processes compound inequalities and often prevent women from fully contributing to planning, policy-making and implementation.

In her message, Herrera also highlighted the role of gender equality in driving progress on climate and sustainability, and outlined three key areas of action to achieve this: ensuring the equal participation of women, ensuring enablers for laws and policies promoting gender equality in terms of financial resources and capacity, and strengthening convergence among bodies working on climate and gender.

"I'd like to point out that there is mounting evidence of the link between gender equality and environmental outcomes. May mga studies na po na [nagsasabing] that when gender inequality is high, we expect higher environmental degradation," she said.

CCC cites value of breaking gender barriers for inclusive development this Women's Month

The program also saw the launch of Mga Kwentong KLIMA-likasan Tungo sa Katatagan: A Recognition Awards on Climate and Disaster Resiliency, led by the DENR Gender Development Office and Climate Change Service. The competition, which will run from March to May 2021, aims to showcase the important contributions and initiatives of men and women working on the environment, climate change, and disaster risk reduction sectors.

“Pagka pinapakita ang climate change, ang tungkol sa kababaihan, parang laging gloomy. So gusto po nating baguhin ‘yung narrative (When we talk about climate change and women, it always seems to be gloomy. We want to change the narrative),” said Atty. Analiza Rebuelta-Teh, Undersecretary for Finance, Information System, and Climate Change, and Chairperson of the DENR National Gender and Development Focal Point System.

“We want to participate in the global good stories movement. In this movement, we share the common belief that we can change the story of the world by changing the storyline,” Teh said.

“We aim to spot and highlight the good stories and in doing so, encourage more to pursue good stories of behavior change in the environment, care for the Earth, and addressing impacts of climate change in their communities,” she added.

“We know there are pockets of good stories and narratives at different levels. As we seek them out, let’s document them, let’s publicize them, and let’s create more ripples of hope,” she emphasized.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) recognizes the critical role of women in response to climate change due to their local knowledge of and leadership in areas like sustainable resource management or leading sustainable practices at the household and community level. Women’s participation at the political level has resulted in greater responsiveness to citizen’s needs, often increasing cooperation across party and ethnic lines and delivering more sustainable peace. At the local level, women’s inclusion at the leadership level has led to improved outcomes of climate-related projects and policies. Likewise, if policies or projects are implemented without women’s meaningful participation, it can increase existing inequalities and decrease effectiveness.

March of every year is declared as National Women’s Month through the following issuances: Proclamation No. 227 s.1998 provides for the observance of the month of March as Women’s Role in History Month; Republic Act 6949 s.1990 declares March 8 of every year as International Women’s Day; and Proclamation No. 224 s.1988 declaring the first week of March each year as Women’s Week and March 8 as Women’s Rights and International Peace Day.

Through this celebration, the CCC calls on the Filipinos to find innovative ways of reimagining and rebuilding systems that work for everyone, regardless of gender and age, in pursuit of sustainable and inclusive development. (PIA NCR)



DENR-12, pinag-aaralan ang moratorium o close season sa panghuhuli ng Parrot fish sa Sarangani bay



WATCH | DENR: Huwang manghuli ng Parrot Fish!

DENR-12, pinag-aaralan ang moratorium o close season sa panghuhuli ng Parrot fish sa Sarangani bay



Thousands of mangroves planted in Sarangani Bay area

By Richelyn Gubalani March 1, 2021, 5:53 pm



DOLPHINS. Photo shows dolphins that thrive along the 215,950-hectare Sarangani Bay, which is home to various marine mammals and other species. Over 500 biking enthusiasts and local stakeholders joined a massive mangrove planting on Sunday (Feb. 28, 2021) along the bay's coastal communities to mark the upcoming 25th anniversary of its declaration as a protected seascape. *(Photo courtesy of DENR-12)*

GENERAL SANTOS CITY – Stakeholders here and neighboring areas have planted thousands of mangrove propagules on Sunday in the coastal communities of Sarangani Bay in line with the upcoming 25th anniversary of its declaration as a protected seascape.

Ma. Elvira Lumayag, head of the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office here, said Monday the massive mangrove planting coincided with the launching of the week-long celebration of the Sarangani Bay Protected Seascape (SBPS).

Dubbed “bike and plant,” she said over 500 biking enthusiasts braved the sweltering heat to join other stakeholders in planting various species of propagules in mangrove forests in Alabel, Malapatan, and Glan towns.

She said they launched the activity to help bring awareness on the importance of Sarangani Bay to the area and the protection as well as conservation of its ecosystem.

Sarangani Bay, which covers 215,950 hectares, is the only declared protected seascape in Region 12 (Soccsksargen).

“The SBPS is abundant in various species of fish, corals, mangroves, seagrasses, and marine mammals. It is rich in biodiversity so we need to safeguard it,” Lumayag told reporters.

The mangrove planting marked the opening of the SBPS Week 2021, which will run until March 5.

The bay was declared a protected seascape through Presidential Proclamation No. 756 signed on March 5, 1996 by then President Fidel Ramos.

In line with the celebration, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Region 12 opened on Monday an exhibit featuring the SBPS at the city hall lobby here.



Thousands of mangroves planted in Sarangani Bay area

Joy Ologuin, SBPS area superintendent, said the exhibit is aimed to showcase various products, programs, and activities of local government units within the Sarangani Bay.

On March 5, the last day of the celebration, she said they will hold a simultaneous coastal clean-up that will be participated in by all 68 coastal barangays within the protected seascape.

Allan Marcilla, head of the City Environment and Natural Resources Office, said they will plant this week additional mangrove propagules in the coastal barangays here.

He said the move is also in line with the local government's continuing expansion and rehabilitation of mangrove forests in the area.

"Mangroves provide huge benefits to our communities, mainly as natural defense to high tides and storm surges and they can also prevent coastal erosion, siltation, and flooding," he said.

They would also allow various wildlife species and marine life to thrive in the city's coastal areas, he said. **(PNA)**



More than 100 mangroves planted in Palawan

Published March 1, 2021, 1:24 PM

by [Richa Noriega](#)

More than 100 mangrove propagules were planted in Cuyo, Palawan to help stabilize the coastline and prevent erosions from waves and storms.



Philippine Coast Guard

19 hours ago



ICYMI: More than a hundred mangrove propagules were planted in Barangay Maringian, Cuyo, Palawan during the joint marine environmental protection activity of the [Philippine Coast Guard \(PCG\)](#), [Philippine National Police \(PNP\)](#), [Bureau of Fire Protection \(BFP\)](#), [Municipal Social Welfare and Development \(MSWD\)](#), and the local government on 25 February 2021.

Said activity was also supported by the local officials of Barangay Maringian to encourage residents to care for the environm..... [查看更多](#)



In a joint marine environmental protection activity of the [Philippine Coast Guard \(PCG\)](#), [Philippine National Police \(PNP\)](#), and [Bureau of Fire Protection \(BFP\)](#), [Municipal Social Welfare and Development \(MSWD\)](#), and local government units have planted more than 100 mangrove propagules in Barangay Maringian, Cuyo, Palawan on Thursday, Feb. 25.

The PCG said the activity was also supported by the local officials of Barangay Maringian to encourage the residents to protect the environment through consistent and sustainable community efforts.



More than 100 mangroves planted in Palawan

According to the environmental organization World Wildlife Fund (WWF), the mangrove forests are home to a large variety of fish, crabs, and mollusk species. These fisheries form an essential source of food for thousands of coastal communities around the world.

The organization added that by planting mangroves help to prevent coastal damage from hurricanes and typhoons.



Walong taon ininvestigahan ng NBI 4 BOC OFFICERS, NADIIN SA BASURA NG CANADA

[10 hours ago](#) [jake](#)



WALONG taon ang inabot ng National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) bago natukoy ang mga kawani ng Bureau of Customs (BOC) na siyang may kasalanan sa pagpasok ng tone-toneladang mga basura mula sa Canada noong taong 2013 at 2014.

Tinukoy ng NBI ang mga kawani na sina BOC examiners Benjamin Perez Jr. at Eufrazio Ednaco, at BOC appraisers Matilda Bacongan at Jose Saromo.

Batay sa resolusyon ng mga prosekyutor ng Department of Justice (DOJ) na inilabas noong Disyembre 4, 2020, kasong kriminal ang nararapat isampa laban kina Perez, Ednaco, Bacongan at Saromo dahil sa paglabag sa ilang probisyon ng Republic Act No. 6969 (Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Waste Control Act of 1990).

Ayon sa DOJ, alam ng nasabing mga kawani ng BOC ang nilalaman ng mga container van dahil sila ang nag-asikaso ng mga ito.

Sa kabilang banda, pinawalang-sala ng mga prosekyutor si Department of Environment and Natural Resources Undersecretary Juan Miguel Cuna, mga opisyal ng Environment Management Bureau (EMB) na sina Irvin Cadavona, Geri Geronimo Sañez at Renato Cruz dahil kapus ang ebidensiya laban sa mga ito.

Ibinasura rin ng DOJ ang reklamang paglabag sa Republic Act 3019 (Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act) laban sa mga akusado dahil walang sapat at matibay na ebidensiya.

Ang resolusyon ng DOJ ay sagot sa reklamo ayon sa resulta ng imbestigasyon ng NBI-Environmental Crime Division-Investigative Service (ECD-IS) laban sa mga akusado.

Naibalik na sa Canada ang mahigit 100 container vans na naglalaman ng mga basura. (NELSON S. BADILLA)

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/107427980954216/posts/267921158238230/?app=fbl>



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Ganito Kasi 'Yan
ni ANDY VERDE

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SA likod ng isang matatagpuan na lolaki ay ang sumuporta at matatag na bobae. Ang babae ng hindi lamang laging animo bagkus siya ay kakaiba at maaring makagawa ng pagbabago.

Ang namayagang si Fe Aquilino-Cimatu na kilala rin sa tawag na Ma'am Fe ay hindi ordinaryong babae.

Siya ang babae ng katuwag sa buhay ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, na re-tiradong heneral at dating chief-of-staff ng Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Kilala sa pagiging "hands-

on," si Ma'am Fe na rin ang punong-abala sa kanilang kasal. Siya mismo ang naging wedding planner. Ang heneral na nakatukdang ikasal ay kasahakuyang nasa Marawi para sa military operation apat bes araw bago ang kanilang kasal. Tinityak ni Ma'am Fe na nasa ayos na ang lahat at sinabi pa nito na "ikaw na lang ang kulang."

Ang pagiging asawa ng isang militar ay hindi madaling tungkulin ngunit hindi jinaging hulang sa kanilang buhay mag-asawa.

Sa ilang combat operations si Heneral Roy ay binibisita no ng magmamahal na asawa

MA'AM FE CIMATU PAALAM 'DI KA MALILIMUTAN

May mga pagkakatotohan pa na nagmamadaling bentahe sa barracks ang mister upang makita ang kanyang samang-nais na misis. Matatagpuan niya ito sa malapit na public market na bumibili ng sariwang gulay na kanilang pagsasulubin sa hapunan habang nagkukuwentuhan.

Palagi ring nasa kanyang tabi ang responsable at mapag-alagang asawa hindi lamang para sa katiwala ang kanyang tinatahak bagkis ay nagsisilbi pa itong cheerleader sa pagkakaiba niya ng matatag na personalidad.

Hindi rin mahilig lumabas ng kanilang bahay ang tatak na misis kung saan ay nilalamban nito ang kanyang oras sa kanyang katuwag sa buhay. Mas nais nitong minalagi sa kanilang buhay upang matiyak na malinis ang labanan at mag-alaga ng halaman sa kanilang malit na hardin.

Si Ma'am Fe ay isang dula-

kadong house keeper na sa halip na komida ng kasambahay, ay personal nitong pinangangasiwaan ang pangangalagan ng kanyang mister. Palagi nitong tinitiyak na laglag nakatanda ang kinakailangan kabit na hindi pa sinasabi sa kanya.

Isa rin itong negosyante ngunit tinitiyak nito na magiging prayoridad ang pagkakaroon ng masayos at masugling married life. Malaki rin ang sinasakripisyo nito sa panahon ng military days ng kanyang mister kung saan ay hindi sila magkakaroon ng mga panatilon na iyon.

Dalawang beses na ring sinamahin ni Ma'am Fe ang kanyang mister sa out-of-the-country assignment nila. Una ay sa Libya nang itataga itong bilang special envoy para sa delikadong tungkulin, personal nitong ibimbigay ang mga pangangailangan ng asawa. Pangalawa ay sa Poland para

mali sa special assignment. Sa parehas na pagkakatotohan ay panalit ni Ma'am Fe na sa malaman ang mister kabit na alam nito ang pangamit na kanyang kabuharapin.

Mula sa pagiging Heneral Roy hanggang maging Secretary Roy, mula sa pagiging asawa ng heneral hanggang maging civilian official ay palaging caron ni Ma'am Fe. Hindi lang siya pagiging nakikita bagkus ay nararamdaman rin ito.

Itong taraming pagkakatotohan upang pag-usapan ang mga sakripisyo at hirap ng babae katulad ni Ma'am Fe upang magkaroon ng magaling na kapareho ng magiging na lalake. Ngayong imahinang ng bansa ang National Women's Month ay angkop lamang upang bigyang-pugay ang mga babae ng malaki ang nakambag sa matagumpay nilang mister.



BAN SA PLASTIC BAGS MULING IPINATUPAD SA QC

[10 hours ago](#) [jake](#)



MULING ipinatupad ng lokal na pamahalaan ng Lungsod Quezon ang pagbabawal ng paggamit ng plastic bags sa pamimili sa mga establisyemento sa buong siyudad.

Kasama ni Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte ang Environmental Protection and Waste Management Department head na si Andrea Villaroman at ang personnel mula sa Market Development and Administration Department, sa pagtungo sa Galas, Muñoz, Suki, A. Bonifacio, Frisco at Kamuning markets sa lungsod para mamahagi ng bayongs at ecobags sa mga namimili.

Maging ang isang supermarket sa Barangay Kamuning ay binisita ng grupo.

Ang nasabing aktibidad ay nagsilbi bilang kick-off event na may kaugnayan sa re-implementation ng City's Plastic Bag Ban Ordinance na nagsimula nitong Lunes, Marso 1, 2021.

Ang plastic bag ay ipinagbabawal bilang gamit ng mga namimili sa mga establisyemento sa buong siyudad.

Ang aktibidad ay bahagi ng Quezon City's celebration ng Women's Month ngayong buwan ng Marso na naka-highlight sa tungkulin ng mga kababaihan sa environmental protection.

Sa ilalim ng Kababaihan Para sa Kalikasan movement na may temang "Babae: Tayo ang Pagbabago," ang kababaihan ay hinikayat na maging pro-active at katalista para sa pagbabago na magbibigay ng kanilang mahalagang tungkulin sa mga sambahayan at komunidad.

"We suspended the implementation of the ordinance during the pandemic para hindi po makadagdag sa uncertainty, but now we can manage the pandemic better so itinuloy na natin. Alam naman natin na plastics are one of the greatest polluters of our oceans and bodies of water, clogs our waste streams and pose health risks," ani Belmonte.

Ang supermarkets, malls, shopping centers, fastfood restaurants at iba pang mga negosyo na lalabag sa ordinansang ito ay papatawan ng kaukulang multa na halagang P1,000 para sa unang paglabag, P3,000 at revocation ng environmental clearance para sa ikalawang paglabag at para sa ikatlong paglabag ay revocation ng business permit at multang P5,000. (JOEL O. AMONGO)

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/107427980954216/posts/267923004904712/?app=fbl>



Leyte town residents urged to exchange plastic for food

[Monday, March 1, 2021 People's Tonight](#)

TACLOBAN CITY –The local government of Carigara, Leyte is urging residents to participate in the program that collects solid waste in exchange for food items.

In a phone interview on Monday, Carigara Vice Mayor Eduardo Ong Jr. said that since the Project's Barter's launch on Feb. 24 last year, only a few have joined the livelihood and community development project of the town.

Ong said residents are entitled to a kilogram of rice and a can of sardines for every kilo of plastic waste.

A kilogram of garbage such as plastic bags and cups, milk tea cups, sachets of shampoo, coffee, milk, vinegar, soy sauce, and snack and candy wrappers, disposable spoon, and fork can be considered for the barter. All plastic should be cleaned thoroughly.

During the project launch, the local government collected 27 kilograms of plastic waste.

"The project's goal is to reduce the disposal of trash as well as to make food available to poor families," he said.

A resident who will be able to gather and barter the highest volume of plastic will get a reward, he added.

The local government will bring the project to remote villages for the residents to save time and money in bringing recyclable materials to the town center. Collected plastic waste will be used as eco-bricks. *Philippine News Agency*

Source: <https://journal.com.ph/news/provincial/leyte-town-residents-urged-to-exchange-plastic-for-food/>



Expansion of hydroponics farming in critical Lake Sebu pushed

By Allen Estabillo March 1, 2021, 7:17 pm



The thriving fish cages in Barangay Poblacion of Lake Sebu, South Cotabato (*PNA GenSan file photo*)

GENERAL SANTOS CITY – The provincial government of South Cotabato is pushing for the expansion of hydroponics farming in the critical Lake Sebu to help improve the quality of its waters and overall condition.

Siegfred Flaviano, head of the Provincial Environment Management Office (PEMO), said Monday they are currently working with the local government of Lake Sebu and other stakeholders for the establishment of more hydroponic gardens within the 354-hectare lake.

He said studies showed that hydroponics, which is a method of growing plants or crops without soil and by using mineral nutrient solutions in an aqueous solvent, could be a “natural remedy” to the declining condition of the lake’s waters.

Flaviano specifically cited the deterioration these past years of the lake’s dissolved oxygen level, a situation that has triggered perennial fish kills, with the latest only recorded last January.

“The presence of more hydroponic gardens at the lake could help enhance the dissolved oxygen in its waters and address its waste problem,” he told reporters.

He said the natural wastes that have long accumulated at the lake may be processed and used as fertilizers for the hydroponic gardens.

The provincial government, through PEMO, launched the hydroponics program in 2016 as part of the Lake Sebu Rehabilitation, Conservation, and Development Program.

Flaviano said they trained at least 25 households in the area regarding the innovative system that helped establish vegetable gardens along the lake.

The program has so far thrived, with the household-beneficiaries now selling their “organic and chemical-free” vegetables such as lettuce to the area’s hotels and resorts.

“By expanding the program, we will not only help save the lake but provide alternative livelihood to residents as well,” he said.



Expansion of hydroponics farming in critical Lake Sebu pushed

Flaviano said the program will complement the continuing regular clean-up activities at the lake conducted by PEMO and the municipal government as well as the rehabilitation of its watershed areas.

Last year, he said their enhanced reforestation program covered at least 12 hectares of the lake's watershed and areas within its water sources.

The official said they are continually monitoring the "health condition" of Lake Sebu through the assigned lake wardens.

He said they are currently working on the purchase of at least two dissolved oxygen test kits to help stakeholders better prepare in case of a possible fish kill.

Fishery experts said the fish kills were caused by the occurrence of "kemohung," a phenomenon triggered by the sudden rise in the water's temperature.

"Kemohung," which usually occurs during the rainy season, triggers the rise of sulfuric acid that eventually lowers the dissolved oxygen in the lakes' waters.

The fish kill last January devastated around 200 tons of tilapia worth PHP20 million. In 2017, portions of the lake were hit by a series of major fish kills that destroyed 1.4 million kilos of tilapia valued at around PHP126 million. (PNA)



Dominguez nixes proposed Boracay authority's roles

By [Ma. Stella F. Arnaldo](#)

March 2, 2021



Finance Secretary Carlos G. Dominguez III

Image credits: [AP/Wong Maye-E](#)

THE Department of Finance (DOF) and the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF) are opposed to the substitute bill in the House of Representatives that establishes the Boracay Island Development Authority (Bida) as a government-owned and -controlled corporation (GOCC).

In a position paper re-sent to Speaker Lord Allan Jay Q. Velasco on January 28, 2021, Finance Secretary Carlos G. Dominguez reiterated that the proposed Bida is “inconsistent with the government’s ongoing policy to streamline and rationalize the government corporate sector and bureaucracy as a whole.” He underscored the need for more coordination among government agencies in dealing with Boracay’s issues, instead of creating a new government corporation or economic zone.

Separately, Interior Undersecretary for Operations Epimaco V. Densing III told the BusinessMirror the BIATF’s stand: “We don’t want [Bida] to be a GOCC but a regulatory office protecting and preserving the island and ensure compliance of environment laws and long-term tourism sustainability. Basically, BIATF’s [proposal] wants Bida to carry out the functions of the current task force in a more permanent manner, to “be under the Office of the President,” he said. BIATF’s term is scheduled to expire in May 2021.

The substitute bill, which now has over 100 coauthors, has also been opposed by local government executives and the private sector representatives in Boracay, the municipality of Malay, and Aklan province. ([See, “New bill on Boracay regulatory authority opposed,” in the BusinessMirror, February 28, 2021.](#))

Existing agencies do Bida’s jobs



Dominguez nixes proposed Boracay authority's roles

Dominguez, for his part, said Bida's functions will just be redundant and overlap with the functions of existing government agencies such as the Boracay Inter-Agency Rehabilitation Management Group, "specifically tasked to implement...Phase 2 of Boracay's rehabilitation," the Departments of Environment and Natural Resources, Trade and Industry, Transportation, Public Works and Highways, Health, Tourism, Science and Technology, National Defense, the Interior and Local Government, and a whole slew of regular line and attached agencies.

"Instead of the creation of new authorities, coordination should be intensified among the above-mentioned national government agencies, councils, and GOCCs, with the LGUs concerned," he stressed.

Dominguez also noted Bida's creation "is no longer necessary" as the Philippine Economic Zone Authority is already empowered to administer and manage all ecozones, under Republic Act No. 7916.

No to new ecozone, tax perks

On the proposed establishment of the Boracay Islands Special Economic and Tourism Zone, Dominguez noted the second tax reform package "mandates that all applications for tax incentives should be accompanied by a cost-benefit analysis and the continued grant of incentives is conditional on the performance of incentivized firms." As such, this should also apply when creating new ecozones and free trade zones.

"The presence of economic zones does not guarantee economic growth and development of a certain area," he underscored. "We believe a more holistic approach that includes building the necessary infrastructure, developing our labor force through investments in their education and health, and eliminating multi-layered bureaucracy, to name a few.... The policy direction of this administration is to depart from granting wasteful incentives that denies the government and the public with the resources that will directly benefit those who truly need them."

Dominguez likewise noted that a number of designated ecozones have yet to be operational. "There is thus a need to go slow with their establishment or to defer the creation of additional or new ones..."

The House Committee on Ways and Means, however, approved tax incentives for Bida investors in December. ([See, "Lawmakers OK tax perks in bill for Boracay SETZ," in the BusinessMirror, December 8, 2020.](#))

The DOF chief said the proposed power of Bida to borrow from local and foreign sources should be "subject to the review and approval" of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas's policy-making Monetary Board and the DOF, "in line with the policy of promoting fiscal prudence to avoid unduly exposing the national government to potential increase in contingent liabilities."

The DOF also does not support the proposed establishment of a revenue district office and a customs district office exclusively for Bida and its surrounding municipalities, as "the power to divide the country into such number of revenue and customs districts has been delegated to the Commissioners of Internal Revenue and of Customs," as per existing laws.



COVID-19 CASES SA BANSA POSSIBLENG SUMAMPA SA 715,000 NGAYONG MARSO —OCTA

written by [Lyn Aurora Legarteja](#) March 2, 2021



Posibleng umabot na sa 715,000 ang kaso ng coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) sa bansa pagsapit ng katapusan ng Marso.

Ito ang ibinabala ng mga eksperto mula sa OCTA Research team, kasunod na rin ng nakitang pagtaas sa reproduction number ng COVID-19 cases sa Metro Manila na ngayo'y nasa 1.51 na.

Kabilang anila sa mga lungsod na nakitaan ng pagsirit ng kaso ng COVID-19 ay ang Pasay, Manila, Makati, Malabon at Navotas.

Kapansin-pansin din umano ang pagtaas ng mga bagong naitatalang kaso sa Quezon, Valenzuela, Caloocan, Taguig, Parañaque at Las Piñas.

Dahil sa pagdami ng naitatalang kaso, ibinabala rin ng mga eksperto na malaki ang posibilidad na umabot sa labing limang libo ang maitalang death toll sa bansa sa katapusan ng buwan.

Gov't secures 25 million Sinovac vaccine doses for 2021

By Adora R. Rodriguez Published on March 1, 2021

QUEZON CITY, March 1 (PIA) – The government has secured 25 million doses of the Sinovac vaccine for 2021, Presidential Spokesperson Secretary Harry Roque Jr. said.



“Twenty-five million doses po ang ating sinecure na Sinovac vaccine at ito’y inaasahan nating na ma-roll out bago matapos ang taong 2021 (We have secured 25 million doses of the Sinovac vaccine, which are expected for roll out before the year 2021 ends,)” Roque said during the press briefing at the UP-PGH as the Philippines’ national vaccination program started today, March 1, 2021.

He enumerated higher public officials of different countries who were already inoculated with the same vaccine, such as the President and Vice-President of Indonesia, Chief Executive of Hongkong, and Deputy Prime Minister and Health Minister of Thailand. He added that the Turkey President has also been vaccinated and more than 5 million Turks started its vaccination in January this year, while 3.2 million people were vaccinated in Chile beginning February 3.

Meanwhile, vaccine Czar Secretary Carlito G. Galvez, Jr. said the country’s procurement of vaccines will start this March since the one rolled out today were donation by the Chinese government.

In the meantime, he explained that the arrival of AstraZeneca vaccines was delayed due to acute global shortages and logistic challenges.

Following the President’s directive (PRRD) that vaccination must not be concentrated only in one area, Galvez committed and hoped that all available vaccines would be administered to all health workers nationwide by the end of March. (PIA Central/IDPD)

Source: <https://pia.gov.ph/news/articles/1068273>



Coronavirus infections rise for first time in 7 weeks, WHO says

Published March 2, 2021 12:58am

ZURICH — The number of new coronavirus infections globally rose last week for the first time in seven weeks, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said on Monday.

Tedros said the rise was "disappointing but not surprising" and urged countries not to relax measures to fight the spread of the disease. He suggested that countries were hastening to loosen those measures, betting on vaccines to bring an end to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"If countries rely solely on vaccines, they are making a mistake. Basic public health measures remain the foundation of the response," Tedros said.

He noted that Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire became the first countries on Monday to begin vaccinating people with doses supplied by COVAX, the international program to provide vaccines for poor and middle-income countries. But he also criticized rich countries for hoarding vaccine doses.

"It's regrettable that some countries continue to prioritize vaccinating younger healthier adults at lower risk of diseases in their own populations, ahead of health workers and older people elsewhere," Tedros said. — **Reuters**



Boracay's White Beach, El Nido's Nacpan Beach make list of TripAdvisor's top beaches in Asia

Aileen Cerrudo • March 1, 2021



MANILA, Philippines—Boracay's white beach, and El Nido, Palawan's Nacpan Beach are among the top beaches in Asia, according to TripAdvisor.

The Department of Tourism (DOT) celebrates the inclusion of two of the country's famous beaches. TripAdvisor has ranked White Beach at the 12th spot and El Nido, Palawan's Nacpan Beach at 18th.

"The TripAdvisor recognition is all the more heartwarming as sun and beach have always been the country's best tourism products," Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat said.

Puyat also said the two beaches are among the first destinations the tourism department has opened up.

Based on the travel survey, travelers have new preferences when it comes to choosing holiday destinations due to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

The DOT noted that other key implications from the evolved travelers' preferences, based on TripAdvisor, include outdoors and well-ventilated areas over confined spaces or facilities which re-circulate air.

Meanwhile, Puyat reminded travelers about the health and safety protocols in various tourist destinations in the country.

"And while we celebrate our beaches being named among the best in Asia, please be responsible tourists when travelling. Follow all the health and safety protocols for a safe and fun beach trip," she said. **AAC**

Source: <https://www.untvweb.com/news/boracays-white-beach-el-nidos-nacpan-beach-make-list-of-tripadvisors-top-beaches-in-asia/>



Plastic is part of the carbon cycle and needs to be included in climate calculations

March 1, 2021 12:36am AEDT

Author



[Xia Zhu](#)

1. PhD Student, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Toronto

Disclosure statement

Xia Zhu received funding from the Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship. She is affiliated with the People's Climate Movement.

Plastic pollution and climate change are two prominent environmental issues of our time. Plastic was once thought to be a miracle invention that made [life simpler](#) for families.

But just as our exploitation of fossil fuels led to climate change, the unsustainable use of plastic materials has led to a global environmental catastrophe. To this day, plastic pollution has infiltrated every part of our planet, from [remote mountain lakes](#) to [the ocean](#) to the [very air we breathe](#).

The unsustainable consumption of nonrenewable resources is the common root of both these problems, and beneath the surface, there are many links between these two issues.

Plastic is part of the carbon cycle

To better understand [how plastic particles move through the environment](#), scientists should [investigate their transport](#) as they do for [nitrogen, carbon and water](#).

To do this, they should formally adopt the terminology used to study these biogeochemical cycles, including “reservoirs,” which are places of storage, and “fluxes,” which describe the movement of substances from one place to another over time. This will help us understand the transport mechanisms and fate of plastic pollution in the environment, which are major gaps in the field today.



Plastic should be studied in the same way nitrogen, carbon and water are, so that scientists can understand its movement and its fate. (Shutterstock)



Plastic is part of the carbon cycle and needs to be included in climate calculations

In fact, all the plastic that has ever been produced is part of the carbon cycle. Overall, an enormous [seven gigatonnes](#) — or seven billion tonnes — of plastic have been produced, mainly from chemicals extracted from the [fossil carbon reservoir](#). This is not much different from the roughly [14 billion tonnes of carbon](#) emitted into the atmosphere every year from the same reservoir due to human activities.

Plastic transports carbon in different ways. For instance, plastic can become [incorporated into living organisms](#), or settle to the bottom of the ocean as aggregates of plastic and organic matter. It can also [release greenhouse gases](#) at every stage of its life cycle, from production to transportation to waste disposal. Scientists and governments should investigate how plastic pollution transports carbon because nutrient redistribution has implications for the livelihoods of ecosystems and the well-being of living organisms.

Since plastic polymers are so persistent, almost every piece of plastic we have ever produced is still somewhere on this planet. This suggests, due to the sheer amount of plastic pollution, that plastic pollution is on the same scale as global transport processes of carbon, also on the order of gigatonnes.

The key takeaway is that plastic pollution [has its own cycle](#), and that it may also play a fundamental role in the carbon cycle — the movement of carbon between different reservoirs such as the atmosphere, ocean and organisms — a cycle that is very relevant to global climate change.

Two sides of the same coin

Several recent [articles by journalists](#) and [scientists](#) have framed the plastic pollution problem as a [distraction from the problem of climate change](#). The issue of plastic pollution may compete with climate change for funding and attention, delaying action what is a more pressing environmental issue, they say.

I disagree. Research shows that the plastic problem is [not independent](#) from climate change.



Greenhouse gas emissions from the burning of fossil fuels. (Pixabay)



Plastic is part of the carbon cycle and needs to be included in climate calculations

Plastic and climate are two sides of the same coin: the [majority of plastic polymers](#) are made from petrochemical feed-stocks and their raw materials for synthesis are ethylene and propylene. These compounds are derived from [naphtha, one of several chemicals refined from petroleum](#). What else is refined from petroleum? [Gasoline](#), the fossil fuel we burn for energy that emits greenhouse gases.

These sister compounds are used differently but they have a common origin and they instigate the very issues in question. When demand for petroleum drops, companies [ramp up](#) their plastic production. When demand for plastic drops, fossil fuel companies might be inclined to shift their production ratio again. Failing to recognize the intimate connections between these issues not only makes tackling these issues inefficient, but may also undermine efforts on both fronts.

Moving forward

Through the many years of efforts by researchers, activists, and policy-makers around the world, we are starting to see a big difference in public attitude towards these issues. On the climate front, the adoption of the [Paris Agreement](#) and the energy of the [youth movement](#) fill me with optimism.



The Paris Climate Summit (COP21) in 2015. (COP21 UofT Students, 2015)

On the plastic pollution front, a [UN international agreement](#) to limit emissions of plastic may be on the horizon.

By acknowledging the connections between these issues, I only see benefits. Climate plans should acknowledge the greenhouse gas emissions from plastics and how plastics can be better managed. For instance, Canada's [most recent climate plan](#) acknowledged its ban on single-use items in 2021 and recognized the importance of transitioning to a [circular economy](#).



Plastic is part of the carbon cycle and needs to be included in climate calculations

Likewise, plastic pollution plans can describe the benefits to that city, state or country's climate strategy by mitigating plastic production.

Moving forward, we should keep this in mind and tackle these two issues together — the opportunities to do so are plentiful.

02 MARCH 2021, Tuesday



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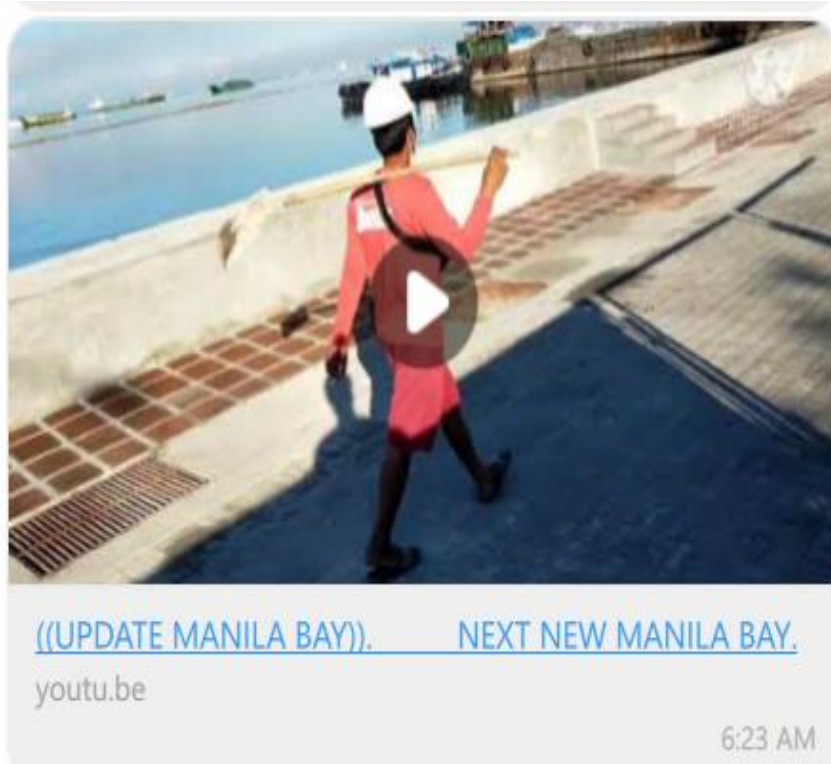
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