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CIMATU NANAWAGAN NA IPASA ANG BATAS PARA SA WETLAND PROTECTION

September 1, 2021 Rannie Lao



HINIMOK ni Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu ang mga mambabatas na kilalanin ang kahalagahan ng wetlands sa paglaban sa climate change sa pamamagitan ng pagpasa ng batas para maprotektahan ang “most valuable ecosystems” sa mundo.

“There has been no single Philippine legislation that advances wetland conservation and its wise use.

While there are already existing laws that contain provisions directly or indirectly promoting wetland conservation, not one deals specifically on wetlands,” saad ni Cimatu matapos ang dalawang events na pinangunahan ng DENR tungkol sa pangangalaga sa peatlands.

“If legislated, the national law on wetland will serve as the mother law for all wetlands in the country including peatlands. This will address the gray areas on our existing policies relevant to wetlands conservation,” sabi ni Cimatu.

Sa kasalukuyan, mayroong dalawang bills para sa wetland protection at conservation: ang substitute bill na “An Act Institutionalizing the National Wetlands Conservation Policy”; at ang House Bill 7206 o ang panukalang National Peatland and Peatland Resources Act.”

Ang substitute bill sa HB Numbers 3460 at HB 8925 na inihain nina Representatives Mujiv Hataman, Amihilda Sangcopan, Luis Raymond “LRay” Villafuerte, Jr., Elpidio Barzaga, Jr., at Eric Go Yap ay pumasa na sa committee level sa House of Representatives. Ang HB 7206 ay inihain naman ni Cavite 2nd District Rep. Strike Revilla at 25 pang mambabatas.

Ang substitute bill na kikilalanin bilang National Wetlands Conservation Act ay para sa proteksiyon at konserbasyon ng lahat ng uri ng wetlands sa Pilipinas kabilang na dito ang inland wetlands tulad ng ilog, lawa, marshes at swamps, coastal at marine, at human-made wetlands.

Sa kaso naman ng human-made wetlands, ang inihaing batas ay para sa may mataas na biodiversity value, critical wildlife habitat at sa bahagi ng migratory routes ng mga ibon at isda.

Noong Nobyembre 2020 nang makipag-partner ang DENR Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) sa PLDT-Smart upang maiangat ang kamalayan sa Caimpugan Peatland sa Agusan Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary.

Nag-host din ang Pilipinas ng 6th Meeting ng ASEAN Task Force on Peatlands (ATFP) noong Hunyo.



Ang peatland ay isang uri ng wetland na ang peat soils ay mayroong carbon-rich dead at decaying plant matter. Kung mapapanatili itong basa, ang peatland ay kayang mag-imbak ng carbon na doble pa sa bilang ng nagagawa ng pinagsamang mga kagubatan sa mundo.

Ayon kay DENR Undersecretary for Special Concerns at concurrent BMB Director Edilberto Leonardo, ang papel ng publiko ay upang maitaas ang kamalayan para sa proteksiyon at konserbasyon ng wetlands kabilang na ang peatlands ay napakahalaga para mas mabilis na maipasa ang mga nakahaing bills. **BENEDICT ABAYGAR, JR.**



Cimatu calls on lawmakers to legislate wetland protection

Published on: September 01, 2021

By DENR

QUEZON CITY -- Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy A. Cimatu has urged lawmakers to acknowledge the importance of wetlands to combat climate change by having a legislation for the protection of one of the Earth's most valuable ecosystems.

"There has been no single Philippine legislation that advances wetland conservation and its wise use. While there are already existing laws that contain provisions directly or indirectly promoting wetland conservation, not one deal specifically on wetlands," Cimatu said following the culmination of two DENR-led events on the conservation of peatlands.

"If legislated, the national law on wetland will serve as the mother law for all wetlands in the country including peatlands. This will address the gray areas on our existing policies relevant to wetlands conservation," Cimatu said.

Currently, there are two existing bills for wetland protection and conservation: a substitute bill titled, "An Act Institutionalizing the National Wetlands Conservation Policy"; and House Bill 7206 or the proposed National Peatland and Peatland Resources Act.

The substitute bill to HB Numbers 3460 and HB 8925 filed by Representatives Mujiv Hataman, Amihilda Sangcopan, Luis Raymond "LRay" Villafuerte Jr., Elpidio Barzaga Jr., and Eric Go Yap, was recently approved at the committee level in the House of Representatives. HB 7206, on the other hand, was authored by Cavite 2nd District Rep. Strike Revilla and 25 other legislators.

The substitute bill, to be known as the National Wetlands Conservation Act, will apply to the protection and conservation of all types of wetlands in the Philippines, including inland wetlands such as rivers, lakes, marshes and swamps, coastal and marine, and human-made wetlands.

In the case of human-made wetlands, the proposed legislation will apply to those with high biodiversity value, critical wildlife habitat, and are part of the migratory routes of birds and fishes.

In November 2020, the DENR's Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) partnered with PLDT-Smart in raising awareness on the Caimpugan Peatland in the Agusan Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary.



The Philippines also hosted the 6th Meeting of the ASEAN Task Force on Peatlands (ATFP) last June.

A peatland is a type of wetland whose peat soils consist of carbon-rich dead and decaying plant matter. If kept wet, a peatland can store twice as much carbon as all the world's forests combined.

DENR Undersecretary for Special Concerns and concurrent BMB Director Edilberto Leonardo said that the public's role in raising awareness for the protection and conservation of wetlands including peatlands is crucial for the immediate legislation of the existing bills.

"Raising public awareness on both the importance and the threats related to the peatland and wetland ecosystems could be enhanced by gaining public support for the passage of the wetland and peatland bills and intensify the efforts for lobbying," Leonardo said.

The wetlands, he said, are one of the most productive habitats on earth which provide various direct and indirect benefits critical for human survival such as a source of drinking water, food, shelter, and livelihood activities.

It also plays an important role in disaster risk reduction such as flood control," he added.

"If our legislators would see and know how strongly the public supports these bills, they will realize how important the passage of these bills are into national laws," Leonardo pointed out.

Leonardo said the public can show their support for the legislation of wetland-related bills by "using their social media platforms and joining public discussions so that they can attest on how these wetlands benefit us when maintained healthy and used wisely."

"They can even send petitions or letters of support to their district representatives and local government units to conserve these critical ecosystems," he said. (DENR)

Cimatu pinuri ni PRRD sa kanyang environmental protection efforts



September 1, 2021 @ 5:59 PM 12 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines – Pinuri ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte si Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy A. Cimatu dahil sa pagsisikap nito na mabigyan ng proteksyon ang kapaligiran sa ginanap na “Talk to the People” noong Agosto 26.

Sa naturang event, pinasalamatan din ni Pangulong Duterte si Cimatu dahil sa kontribusyon nito sa bansa partikular na ang pagsisikap nito sa rehabilitasyon ng Isla ng Boracay at Manila Bay.

“In not so many words, talagang industrious ka. Typical of a military upbringing. Salamat sa contribution mo sa bayan natin,” saad ng pangulo.

“For so many years you had every chance to do it (clean up Manila Bay), was there anybody willing to take the problem by its horn? Si Cimatu lang, magpasalamat tayo,” sabi pa ng pangulo bilang sagot sa mga kritiko ng “dolomite beach” sa Manila Bay.

Sa press release, pinasalamatan din ni Pangulong Duterte si Cimatu dahil sa pagsisikap nitong mabigyan ng solusyon ang problema sa polusyon sa Manila Bay.

Sa ginanap na pulong, iniulat ni Cimatu ang mga pangunahing programa ng DENR sa ilalim ng administrasyon ni Duterte partikular na ang Boracay Island Rehabilitation, Manila Bay Rehabilitation at ang Task Force Build Back Better.

Magugunitang noong 2018 nang mag-isyu si Pangulong Duterte ng Executive Order (EO) No. 53 na bumuo sa Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force at Proclamation No. 475 na nag-uutos na pansamantalang isara ang Boracay sa loob ng anim na buwan matapos bansagan ng punong ehekutibo ang Boracay bilang “cesspool”.

Binanggit pa ni Cimatu na matapos ang rehabilitasyon ng Boracay, ang water quality dito ay bumaba sa 50 most probable number/100mL (mpn/100mL) kung saan ay ligtas na itong paglanguyan at iba pang contact recreation activities.

Noong Oktubre 26, 2018 ay muling binuksan ang Boracay sa publiko na ayon pa kay Cimatu ay nagpalakas sa turismo at nakagawa ng hanapbuhay.

Nakakuha ang isla ng “international recognition” matapos ang rehabilitasyon nito.

Kaugnay nito nakatanggap din ang Boracay ng pagkilala mula sa Conde Nast Traveller, isang kinikilala at ginagalang na otoridad pagdating sa lifestyle travel, matapos itong pangalanan bilang “the best island in Asia” at isa sa 30 best islands sa mundo noong 2019.



Matapos ang rehabilitasyon sa Boracay, nag-isyu naman si Pangulong Duterte ng Administrative Order No. 16 na bumuo sa Manila Bay Task Force bilang pagsunod sa Supreme Court mandamus para sa paglilinis, pagsasaayos at pagpreserba sa Manila Bay at ibalik at panatilihin ang kalidad ng tubig nito sa SB level kung saan ay maaari ito sa swimming, skin-diving at iba pang uri ng contact recreation.

Ayon kay Cimatú, ang water quality sa Manila Baywalk area ay mas bumuti na kung saan ay mayroon na itong 7,000 most probable number per 100 milliliters (mpn/100mL) nitong Hunyo 2021 mula sa 5.75 million mpn/100mL noong 2019. **Santi Celario**



DENR: Used masks make up 8M tons of waste

Published 3 hours ago on September 2, 2021 03:30 AM

By [Jonas Reyes](#)



CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) disclosed that a total of eight million tons of collected trash was composed mainly of used masks.

The agency said that aside from used masks, the total also includes cigarette butts, food wrappers, straws, stirrers, plastic utensils, plastic beverage bottles, caps, grocery bags and other plastic wastes.

With the development, the agency is encouraging the public to take a step further in understanding the battle with marine pollution.

“The public needs to take an active role in the conservation and protection of our ocean by doing proper solid waste management, recycling, discouraging the use of plastic bags and bottles, learning the practice of composting and sharing their knowledge about these practices with others,” said the DENR.

Studies showed that pollution is one of the leading threats to our marine resources and poses a serious danger to marine life. It contaminates our water resources, the habitat of rich marine life, resulting to its degradation.



DENR: Medical waste to increase amid case surge

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DENR Region 4 vows to help rid Manila Bay of water hyacinths

Published September 1, 2021, 1:38 PM

by [Joseph Pedrajas](#)

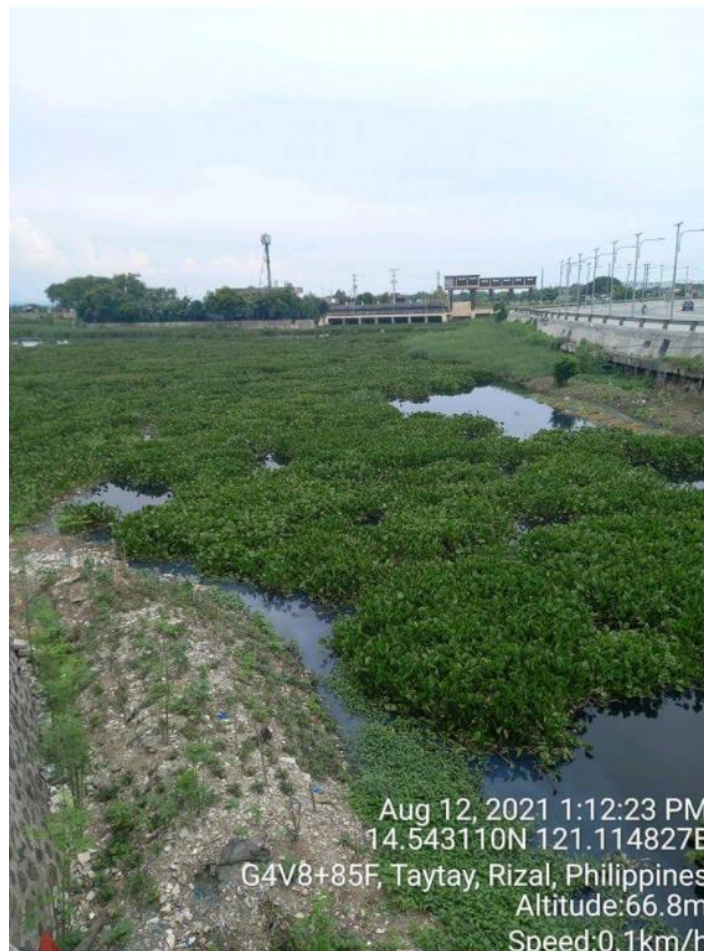
The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Region 4 Office has vowed to manage and control the water hyacinths coming from the Laguna Lake as part of the agency's action plan to lessen the overwhelming number of the aquatic plants from the Manila Bay.

DENR Regional Executive Director Nilo B. Tamoria said the agency and its partner offices will be making the move as part of DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu's order to prevent water hyacinths from entering and crowding the Manila Bay, which Tamoria admitted to be originating from Laguna and Rizal provinces.

According to Tamoria, Cimatu initially ordered the DENR National Capital Region (NCR) office to prepare an action plan to address the issue of water hyacinths proliferating in Marikina River, as the same may eventually flow to Manila Bay.

However, based on the assessment made by the NCR office, it was found that the water hyacinths actually originated from Laguna Lake, which was brought to Manila Bay through Napindan Channel by the wind.

"Our action plan should involve the immediate control and management of the water hyacinths within Laguna Lake so that it will not float towards Pasig River and Manila Bay. Our first line of defense is the river mouths in CALABARZON (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Quezon)," Tamoria said.



DENR CALABARZON



Particularly, Tamoria directed the Manila Bay Coordinating Office in Rizal to look into the backflow of water lilies along Manggahan Floodway in Taytay and Cainta as well as to consider the possibility of propagating Kangkong or water spinach which, like water hyacinth, absorbs heavy metals. The advantage of Kangkong is that it does not float from one place to another.

Currently, only river rangers manage to limit the number of water hyacinths going to the Manila Bay by removing them along the tributaries of the Laguna Lake.

For the meantime, DENR's regional department will start hiring additional men to manually remove the water hyacinths and coordinate with the Department of Public Works and Highways for the use of trash skimmers for the mechanical removal of the aquatic plants.

5 LGUs, ginawaran ng pagkilala ng DILG dahil sa pag-rehabilitate sa Manila Bay watershed area sa gitna ng COVID-19 pandemic

By [RadyoMaN Manila](#) -Sep. 1, 2021 at 4:14pm



Tatlong lungsod at dalawang munisipalidad ang ginawaran ng Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) ng Manila BAYani Awards dahil sa kanilang pagsisikap na i-rehabilitate ang Manila Bay watershed area sa gitna ng COVID-19 pandemic.

Mismong si DILG Secretary Eduardo Año ang nag-abot ng parangal at incentives sa lungsod ng Biñan sa Laguna (1st place), lungsod ng Balanga sa Bataan (2nd place), at Navotas City (3rd place) para sa city category.

Gayundin sa munisipalidad ng Kalayaan sa Laguna (1st place) at Baliwag sa Bulacan (2nd place) para sa municipality category.

Ang first-time winner na lungsod ng Biñan ay nakatanggap ng ₱1.5-million habang ang three-time finalist na lungsod ng Balanga, at Navotas City ay nakatanggap ng ₱750,000 at ₱500,000. Ang munisipalidad ng Kalayaan sa Laguna ay nakatanggap ng ₱1.5-million habang ₱750,000 para sa three-time winner na Baliwag, Bulacan para sa municipality category.

Sa ilalim ng Mandamus ng Supreme Court, ang DILG ang naatasang mag-supervise sa mga LGUs sa Region 3, 4-A at sa National Capital Region (NCR) na nasa bisinidad ng Manila Bay watershed para sa kanilang mga programa at aktibidad para sa rehabilitation.

Source: <https://rmn.ph/5-lgus-ginawaran-ng-pagkilala-ng-dilg-dahil-sa-pag-rehabilitate-sa-manila-bay-watershed-area-sa-gitna-ng-covid-19-pandemic-123/?fbclid=IwAR3WiM5fHbIGDT3NUY1MtAd6UDvni2r9WhUed7hIDy17Qd0z1YDSBW0h8Kg>



DENR puts up rice mills, VCO facility in Bohol

BY BUSINESSMIRROR SEPTEMBER 1, 2021

AT least two rice mills, a virgin coconut oil (VCO) facility, and a multi-commodity solar dryer have been put up by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in the Wahig Inabanga River Basin in Bohol.

The DENR has put up the rice mills as part of a project protecting the watershed around Wahig Inabanga River.

Water Inabanga is the largest and most important river in Region 7. It is recognized as a watershed reservation under Proclamation 468.

It has a huge potential source of water for agricultural, commercial, industrial, and household uses. The National Irrigation Administration has constructed a dam to provide irrigation to about 5,000 hectares of agricultural land in four valley towns—Sierra Bullones, Pilar, Dagohoy, and San Miguel.

The dam also supplies the domestic water needs of 637,097 households.

The rice mills are now managed by the people's organization (PO) of DAFA and MVEGEGRO (Matinao Vegetable Growers Association).

A separate all-weather dryer facility has been put up for the KUFFARD (Kauswagan United Farmers for Forest and Agro-Forest Resources Development) and the multi-commodity solar tunnel dryer for COMASFARMA (Confraternity of Mayana Small Farmers).

Since these facilities have been constructed, around 2,700 beneficiaries have enjoyed their production of nearly 450,000 kilos of palay, corn, cassava, and assorted fish.

The DENR project—Integrated Natural Resource and Environmental Management Program (INREMP) —has also put up a virgin coconut oil facility to enhance the livelihood source of the communities. For the fishing residents, a fish pen coral in the area has been constructed.

INREMP has allocated P17.7 million for these livelihood projects totaling to 66 units. These have a total of 52 people's organization beneficiaries.

For their water supply, a concrete water reservoir and a water system transformer have been constructed.

While the upland communities are helping the government in natural resource management as they protect the forests and mountains, INREMP provided them with the farm-to-market road (FMR).

These FMRs are needed by the upland communities in order to transport their agricultural goods to the market from the mountains.

Such roads, among around 15 rural infrastructure projects, have been constructed with the help of local government units in the towns of Danao, Inabanga, Trinidad, San Miguel, and Talibon, among others.



INREMP is funded by the Asian Development Bank with a counterpart fund from the Philippine government.

As the project nears completion, a total of 4,316.67 hectares of forestland has been properly put under NRM.

This consists of the following:

- 758 hectares of reforestation with a contract cost of P19.169 million, benefiting 24 POs
- 1,439 hectares of agroforestry area, with a contract cost of P43.684 million, benefiting 47 POs; and
- 1,644 hectares of Assisted Natural Regeneration area with a contract cost of P46.625 million, benefiting 30 POs.

There is also a conservation farming area of 331 hectares with a contract cost of P19.8 million and 30 PO beneficiaries. A total of 134 hectares of commercial tree planting area has been put up, benefiting five POs.



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Crested serpent eagle, pinakawalan ng CENRO

33 views • Sep 1, 2021

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Pinakawalan ng mga tauhan ng Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) Manukan ang isang crested serpent eagle (spilornis cheela) sa Barangay Libuton Manukan, Zamboanga del Norte.

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Source: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7u9xf58BQes&ab_channel=EagleNews



Just cut the dolomite beach losses

August 31, 2021 | 7:41 pm

Grassroots & Governance

By Teresa S. Abesamis



PEOPLE gather at the artificial white sand beach along the shore of Manila Bay. — PHILIPPINE STAR / MIGUEL DE GUZMAN

FROM out of the blue, at a televised meeting of his COVID-19 Task Force, President Duterte justified the dolomite beach “nourishment” project by defending his choice of Roy Cimatu as his Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources. He, typically, cited his personal trust in Cimatu as having worked in Davao when he was mayor there. Therefore, it seems, in his opinion, Cimatu, who happens to be a retired general, can do no wrong.

Look at the facts.

We are trying to deal with a humongous pandemic crisis. There is not enough money to pay for all the vaccines that we need. Nurses and other healthcare frontliners have not been getting their hazard pay, let alone their basic salaries. Millions of people have lost their jobs or their businesses. Government revenues have been decreasing due to reduced tax collections from businesses which are closing or losing money, plus reduced consumer spending: a source of business incomes and VAT collections. Social welfare “*ayuda*” benefits for the needy, including the newly needy as a result of the pandemic, are not enough to prevent more and more involuntary hunger and deaths caused by inability to pay for expensive anti-COVID treatments. Besides, hospitals, which are losing their frontliners, are unable to cope with the unprecedented demand for rooms, medicines, patient care, and survival equipment.

Government certainly has to prioritize between basic needs and wants.

The Manila Bay artificial beach project at best is definitely not a need, but a want, if at all. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) justifies it as something that the public needs. A beach in the heart of the capital city! We can’t even swim in highly polluted Manila Bay! Can’t we just enjoy the most beautiful sunset in the world? Can’t we just sit on the sea wall and watch for the awesome view like I used to when I lived there?

When the “beach” was opened to the public, the people who went there forgot the social distancing protocols in place because of the pandemic. So, surveillance and security personnel had to be mobilized to supervise the crowds which included children. These required additional operating costs that surely were not anticipated.

After the project was “completed,” when the rains came, as they always do, black sand covered the “white” dolomite fake sand. The DENR claims that the dolomite beach was not washed away by the rain, but that the black sand from the bay covered the dolomite. What difference does that make? The artificial beach was ruined. Engineering cures had to be shoveled in place to keep the dolomite beach from getting submerged. Did that mean more unplanned spending?



Marine biologists say that the quick fixes will not last as they work against nature. Dolomite is not indigenous to Manila Bay's environment. It is destructive to marine life there. The fish kill that followed the construction of the dolomite beach testifies to this. Of the hundreds of "beach nourishment" projects in the world, the Manila Bay project is the only one using dolomite, which is crushed into sand after being mined in Alcoy town in Cebu province. We haven't even studied the impact the dolomite mining will have on the environment of Alcoy and Cebu province.

If the government persists in operating and maintaining the artificial Manila Bay beach project, are we prepared to allocate more and more funds to this ill-conceived and unnecessary project? We are a poor country and getting poorer. Government loans are already at the record highest in history.

Secretary Cimatú obviously was not asked the usual question that President PNoy would ask his Cabinet: "Is this the best use of the people's money?" Last I checked, the initial budget for the dolomite beach was P389 million. This year, another P265 million has been allocated. More will be provided for 2022 when the beach "nourishment" project is supposed to be completed. Additional funds will have to be provided annually for the destructive heavy rains and typhoons that come to our Pacific island country. These climate disasters will continue to visit us with increasing frequency and severity with unmitigated climate change.

Mr. President, this is not personal. This is not about relationships. This is about responsibility for the people's money.

Mr. President, let's just cut our losses. Drop the project now. Just let it die. We cannot continue to spend money on it that we cannot afford. This is the plain and simple, sensible and practical option among several worse ones. Let's just acknowledge it as a terrible mistake.

Teresa S. Abesamis is a former professor at the Asian Institute of Management and Fellow of the Development Academy of the Philippines.

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Source: <https://www.bworldonline.com/just-cut-the-dolomite-beach-losses/?fbclid=IwAR11kFGdRddfP2lfQwK3VQ4087e-4vRlaYp-OYUzkFYxKfwGAzEuMgqKBCK>



Billionaire Andrew Tan says Megaworld ready to proceed with casino project in Boracay

Warren de Guzman, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Sep 01 2021 01:56 PM | Updated as of Sep 01 2021 08:00 PM



Boracay as it reopens to tourists amid the COVID-19 pandemic in this photo taken on October 1, 2020. *Stanley Buenafe Gajete*

MANILA (**UPDATE**) - Billionaire Andrew Tan said his company Megaworld is ready to proceed with a casino project in Boracay following President Rodrigo Duterte's announcement that gambling will be allowed on the famous resort island.

Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation Chair Andrea Domingo earlier confirmed to media that Duterte had given the go signal for two casino projects in Boracay Island, by Megaworld and Macau-based Galaxy Entertainment Group.

Tan said they are ready to push forward with Boracay Newcoast, a casino project which was previously shelved due to a casino ban on the island ordered by Duterte.

"We will proceed with our casino project in Boracay Newcoast. We already have several hotels there and we are still building more," Tan said in a statement.

The project "will adhere to all government environmental policies," Megaworld said in a separate statement, as it "remains committed to the protection of the environment in the island."

Around 60 percent of the entire 150-hectare estate "is dedicated to green and open spaces", the company said, adding it has been "proactively implementing green initiatives and programs" since the start of its development some 10 years ago.

It cited the use of solar-powered and LED streetlamps and e-jeepneys, the installation of detention and siltation tanks, the construction of its own material recovery facility, its compliance to the 25+5 meter 'No Build' rule in the beach area, and the construction of its own sewage treatment plant.

Tan said his group is "hopeful that the tourism industry in this island will recover fast after the pandemic."

The casino ban in Boracay came the same year Duterte ordered a 6-month shutdown of the island to clean up the tourist hotspot.

In reversing the ban, Duterte said the government needed funds following the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.



Galaxy's casino proposal was valued at \$500 million when it was first rejected by Duterte in 2018. That is equivalent to nearly P25 billion at today's exchange rate.

Some Boracay residents however are opposing the casinos.

Nenette Aguirre-Graf, who owns a business on the resort island, said Duterte's statement was "shocking" to them.

"Because after saying that he hates casino, he doesn't like gambling, it made us all happy. But now, with this new pronouncement, it's kinda scary because you don't know what's gonna happen," she said.

Graf said Boracay residents are concerned about how the pronouncement will affect the island's image as a family-friendly destination.

Bishop Jose Corazon Tala-oc of the Diocese of Kalibo said that while he understands the need of the national government to generate funds, he is wondering why Duterte picked Boracay, which is a family destination, including young people.

"Kami'y naniniwala, 'pag may casino na nagha-house ng iba't ibang gambling o sugal, we always see na itong lugar will attract people... Pero, sa mga nangyari sa ibang lugar, after na magkaroon ng interes ang mga tao sa sugal, it becomes a habit for them. Then, later, parang nagandahan, naging bisyo. Pagkatapos ng bisyo, masasabi kong naging addiction na nila," Tala-oc told ABS-CBN's Teleradyo on Tuesday.

(We believe that wherever there are casinos that house different forms of gambling, we always see these places attracting people... In some of these places, gambling became a habit of people after getting interested in it. Then, it becomes a vice, and then, an addiction.)

"Pag nagkaganun, ito na ang simula ng sabi namin na destruction ng Boracay," he added, describing it as being worse than the island's environmental issues.

(When that happens, Boracay's destruction is looming.)

"Mas delikado pa ito, kasi ang aatakihin nito ay ang puso, ang buhay ng mga tao... Kaya tutol kami," the church leader said.

(This is more dangerous because it's the heart and the lives of people that will be destroyed... That's why we are against casinos.)

Tala-oc said that while the casino project will boost tourism in the beginning, it will later give rise to crimes like theft, illegal drugs and prostitution because of people's addiction to gambling.

As far as he knows, the municipal government of Malay is also against Duterte's pronouncement, said Tala-oc.

Senate Committee on Tourism Chair Nancy Binay expressed her opposition as well to Duterte's policy.

Source: https://news.abs-cbn.com/business/09/01/21/tycoon-andrew-tan-ready-to-proceed-with-boracay-casino?fbclid=IwAR26kqAUkf2Ovc3c_2iJgAZ9OXqC0GjVjOIRwZQHMoOn1oJAK_NdkUj1rk4



Kaliwa Dam construction equipment arriving in November as talks with IPs fail —MWSS

By TED CORDERO, GMA News

Published September 1, 2021 8:50pm

The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) on Wednesday said the tunneling equipment for the construction of the controversial Kaliwa Dam project is set to arrive in November this year.

“By November parating na ang tunnel boring machine na gagamitin sa tunnel excavation natin,” MWSS Deputy Administrator for Engineering and Technical Operations Group Jose Dorado Jr. said during a hearing of the Senate Committee on Public Services

(The tunnel boring machine which will be used for tunnel excavation will be arriving by November.)

However, the project’s actual start of construction is still uncertain due to failed negotiations with indigenous people communities to be affected by the P12.2-billion China-funded project. Around 400 individuals from 55 barangays would be affected by the P12.2-billion China-funded project, according to the MWSS.

Dorado said the agency has not yet started construction for Kaliwa Dam.

This, as the MWSS official said that a series of negotiations with members of the indigenous people communities have failed, which led to a failure to secure a Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) and Special Use Agreement in Protected Areas (SAPA) needed to begin construction of the project.

"We had this meeting with IPs last May 17 and 19... Unfortunately, 'di kami nagkasundo. We seek the assistance of ARTA (Anti-Red Tape Authority)... para matulungan ang MWSS ma-fast track ang pag-secure namin ng FPIC," he said.

(Unfortunately, we failed to reach an agreement. We seek the assistance of ARTA to fast-track the securing of FPIC.)

The MWSS official said that the agency is also in talks with the government of Quezon province, which is opposing the project.

The Kaliwa Dam, once constructed, is seen to provide Metro Manila with 600 million liters of water per day.

The project traverses the provinces of Rizal and Quezon.

It will be constructed by China Energy Engineering Corporation (CEEC) through an official development assistance loan of \$211.414 million signed by the Philippine and Chinese governments in 2018.

About 85% of the project will be funded through a Chinese loan, while the remaining 15% will be financed by the MWSS.

Dorado said that minor activities for the preparation of the site for tunneling is ongoing in areas in Rizal, which are not covered by ancestral domain.



President Rodrigo Duterte had warned courts against issuing temporary restraining orders that would delay the construction of the Wawa and Kaliwa dams.

Duterte said the dams are the "last resort" for Metro Manila to have an adequate water supply.

The MWSS earlier underscored the need for Kaliwa Dam as the water supply capacity from the Angat reservoir and some other smaller sources would not be sufficient to satisfy the water demand of Metro Manila between 2020 and 2025.—**LDF, GMA News**



House OKs 3 eco-tourism bills for Samar

By Lizbeth Ann Abella [September 1, 2021, 1:19 pm](#)



NATURAL WONDER. Ulot River, the longest in Samar Island is one of the natural wonders within the Samar Island Natural Park (SINP). The site is one of the destinations in Samar approved by the House of Representatives to be declared as an eco-tourism site. *(Photo courtesy of SINP)*

TACLOBAN CITY – The House of Representatives has approved three legislative proposals declaring key tourist attractions in Samar as eco-tourism destinations.

Samar 2nd District Rep. Sharee Ann Tan said on Wednesday the bills have been approved by House members in the third and final reading on August 25 and transmitted to the Senate.

The three House-approved measures seek to develop and preserve as well provide funds for Ulot River in Paranas town (House Bill 9586), Lulugayan Falls and Ecovillage in Calbiga town (HB 9825), and Sohoton Caves and Natural Bridge in Basey town (HB 9827).

Tan is hopeful that since these bills are already transmitted to the Senate, it will pave the way for the national government to fund and assist the villagers managing these sites.

“The people’s organizations manning these three tourism sites are (at) the heart of these projects. The government is here to support, guide, and enable them,” Tan said in a social media post.

The bills seek to make the destinations as priorities by the Department of Tourism for promotion and development subject to rules and regulations governing eco-tourism sites.

The Ulot River is the longest in Samar Island, the third largest island in the country. The 90-kilometer river runs from San Jose de Buan town in Samar province and discharges into the Philippine Sea.

An extreme boat ride covering a portion of Ulot River is offered here as an attraction to thrill-seekers.

The Lulugayan Falls is 50 meters in width, making it one of the widest waterfalls in the country with its highest drop of about 30 meters. It is also called as mini-Niagara Falls of Samar.

The water that flows at the falls starts at Lake Kalidongan that has over 100 water cascades on its 14 kilometers rapids before it reaches Lulugayan and drains in Calbiga River.



The Sohoton Caves and Natural Bridge Park in Basey town is a protected natural area of about 841 hectares, and a tourist attraction within the Samar Island Natural Park that features caves, subterranean rivers, waterfalls, limestone formations, thick forest, and a natural stone bridge.

The sites are within the Samar Island Natural Park, the largest contiguous tract of old-growth forest in the Philippines and also the country's largest terrestrial protected area with an area of 333,300 hectares. **(PNA)**



W. Visayas farming communities to adopt climate-resilient practices

Published September 1, 2021, 3:57 PM

by [Tara Yap](#)

ILOILO CITY – The Department of Agriculture (DA) is pushing local government units (LGUs) in Western Visayas region to adopt climate-resilient agriculture (CRA) practices to curb the impact of climate change to the region's agricultural industry.

The LGUs in Aklan, Antique, Capiz, Guimaras, Iloilo, and Negros Occidental provinces as well as the highly urbanized cities of Iloilo and Bacolod are urged to incorporate CRA practices during a recent climate information services (CIS) training.

“They were taught calculate site-specific climate information that will lead the farmers to determine the priority crops, stages of the crops versus the rainfall forecast,” said Chrystal Jane Almendralejo, DA Region 6's specialist for CIS.



A farmer gathers unmilld rice that has been dried under the sun in Iloilo City. (Tara Yap/Manila Bulletin)

Almendralejo also discussed the features of the information system, such as the Seasonal Climate Outlook and Advisory (SCOA), highlighting the six months climate report, weather systems, rainfall forecasts.

The LGU agricultural offices were also urged to utilize the Adaptation and Mitigation Initiative in Agriculture (AMIA) as a “climate information services is an early warning tool designed for farmers, fishers, and local government units (LGUs) to optimize weather information and advisories provided by the system their production and reduce losses.”



Climate change, diseases threaten PHL trees—report

BYCAI ORDINARIO SEPTEMBER 1, 2021



In file photo: The DENR, GCash, Biofin and WWF aim to plant 365,000 new trees as soon as Covid-19 restrictions are lifted in 2021.

The clearing of forests, exploitation, pests and diseases, and climate change are killing Philippine trees, according to the State of the World's Trees.

According to the Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) report, these activities are threatening 34 percent or 756 tree species in the country.

The Philippines is one of the 12 countries with the most number of endemic tree species as it has a total of 2,220 tree species and 1,004 of these are considered endemic.

“The main threats to tree species are forest clearance and other forms of habitat loss, direct exploitation for timber and other products and the spread of invasive pests and diseases. Climate change is also having a clearly measurable impact,” BGCI said in a statement.

The report stated that 29 percent of trees are affected by agriculture; 27 percent, logging; and 14 percent, livestock farming.

Data also showed residential and commercial development and fire and fire suppression each affect 13 percent of trees.

The report also said energy production and mining affects 9 percent; wood and pulp plantations, 6 percent; invasive and other problematic species, 5 percent; and climate change, 4 percent.

“The threats to trees act in different combinations and at different intensities in different parts of the world. Threats also change over time,” the report stated.

The report stated that a total of 15,748 endemic tree species were recorded in 10 countries with the highest recorded number of endemic trees.

Apart from the Philippines, the countries with the most endemic trees are Brazil, Madagascar, Australia, China, Malaysia, Indonesia, Mexico, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, and Colombia.

The country with the most diverse tree flora is Brazil, with 8,847 tree species, followed by Colombia with 5,868 species and Indonesia with 5,716 species.

Of the most diverse countries, the report stated that New Zealand, Madagascar and New Caledonia had the greatest proportion of endemic tree species, with over 90 percent of species being found nowhere else.



Based on the Global Tree Assessment, a 5-year intensive research compiled extinction risk information on the 58,497 tree species worldwide.

The study found that 30 percent of tree species are threatened with extinction, and at least 142 tree species were recorded as extinct.



Some 30% of global tree species at risk of extinction — report

September 1, 2021 | 2:24 pm



Heris Luiz Cordeiro Rocha/CC BY-SA 3.0/Wikimedia Commons

Almost a third of the world's tree species are at risk of extinction, while hundreds are on the brink of being wiped out, according to a landmark report published by Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) on Wednesday.

According to the State of the World's Trees report 17,500 tree species — some 30% of the total — are at risk of extinction, while 440 species have fewer than 50 individuals left in the wild.

Overall, the number of threatened tree species is double the number of threatened mammals, birds, amphibians and reptiles combined, the report said.

"This report is a wake-up call to everyone around the world that trees need help," BGCI Secretary General Paul Smith said in a statement.

Among the most at-risk trees are species including magnolias and dipterocarps — which are commonly found in Southeast Asian rainforests. Oak trees, maple trees and ebonies also face threats, the report said.

Trees help support the natural ecosystem and are considered vital for combating global warming and climate change. The extinction of a single tree species could prompt the loss of many others.

"Every tree species matters — to the millions of other species that depend on trees, and to people all over the world," Mr. Smith added.

Thousands of varieties of trees in the world's top six countries for tree-species diversity are at risk of extinction, the report found. The greatest single number is in Brazil, where 1,788 species are at risk.

The other five countries are Indonesia, Malaysia, China, Colombia, and Venezuela.

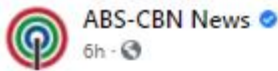
The top three threats facing tree species are crop production, timber logging and livestock farming, the report said, while climate change and extreme weather are emerging threats.



At least 180 tree species are directly threatened by rising seas and severe weather, the report said, especially island species such as magnolias in the Caribbean.

Though megadiverse countries see the greatest numbers of varieties at risk of extinction, island tree species are more proportionally at risk.

“This is particularly concerning because many islands have species of trees that can be found nowhere else,” the report added. — **Oliver Griffin/Reuters**



ABS-CBN News

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TINGNAN: 70 green sea turtle ang pinakawalan sa dalampasigan ng Barangay Funda-Dalipe, San Jose, Antique Sabado.

Matapos mapisa ang mga itlog, kaagad itong sinuri ng mga awtoridad at sinigurong malulusog ang mga baby pawikan bago pinakawalan.

Paalala ng lokal na pamahalaan sa mga residente na alagaan ang mga pawikan kung sakaling mapapad sa kanilang lugar at hayaang mangitlog sa dalampasigan. (🗣️: Mayor Elmer Untaran) | via Rolan Escaniel

BASA HIN ang kaugnay na ulat: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/.../tingnan-95-baby-pawikan...>



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Mangrove restoration scales up in Indonesia

Restoration push could help Indonesia meet its climate commitments, but protecting existing mangroves is crucial.



Measuring the diameter of mangrove trees in a study on above-ground and below-ground biomass in mangrove ecosystems, part of Sustainable Wetlands Adaptation and Mitigation Program (SWAMP). Kubu Raya, West Kalimantan, Indonesia. Image: [Kate Evans/CIFOR, CC BY-NC-ND 2.0](#)

By Nithin Coca, China Dialogue
Sept. 1, 2021

As the risks of sea level rise, stronger tropical storms and seawater intrusion grow due to climate change, Indonesia is ramping up efforts to protect mangrove ecosystems across the archipelago as part of both its Covid-19 recovery efforts and climate change commitments.

Currently, Indonesia has about 3.2 million hectares of mangroves. The goal is to rehabilitate 150,000 hectares of degraded mangrove this year, and a total of 600,000 hectares by 2023. The effort is being led by Indonesia's coordinating minister for maritime affairs, Luhut Binsar Pandjaitan, and the Ministry for Environment and Forestry, with [support from the World Bank](#) and local NGOs.

"The government of Indonesia has taken several bold initiatives to protect and restore critical coastal ecosystems, particularly coral reefs and mangroves," said Andre Aquino, senior natural resources management specialist at the World Bank's environment and natural resources global practice, during an online press event.

Indonesia has about 23 per cent of the world's mangroves, and they store an estimated [3.14 billion metric tonnes](#) of carbon, according to the World Bank. The figure used to be much higher, however. Nearly [1 million hectares](#) of mangroves have been lost in the country since 1800.

While coal power plants, ports and other infrastructure development have all played a part, the main factor has been [growth in shrimp farms](#). Top export [destinations](#) for Indonesian shrimp include the United States, Japan and China.

In charge of rehabilitation and restoration is the newly named Peatland and Mangrove Restoration Agency. Its predecessor, the [Peatland Restoration Agency](#) (PRA), was formed in 2015 after Indonesia experienced historical forest fires connected to peatland degradation.

The PRA has restored more than [1 million hectares](#) of peatland so far. Now, the agency is aiming to restore a further 2 million hectares of degraded peatland and mangrove [ecosystems](#) across 13 provinces, partly funded by the growing carbon market.

“Sustainable mangrove management is going to be part of ensuring that Indonesia is a carbon superpower,” said Nirarta ‘Koni’ Samadhi, director of World Resources Institute (WRI) Indonesia. “Indonesia can sell carbon credits to the market, which would then feed into the state budget.”

According to WRI Indonesia, mangrove forests have been lost at a higher rate than Indonesia’s inland tropical forests, despite the latter getting far more attention. This has resulted in a decline in fisheries health, more soil erosion and greenhouse gas emissions, [as soil carbon escapes](#) into the atmosphere where mangroves are cut down or killed. With so many drivers pushing mangrove loss, protection and restoration will be a challenge.

“If you want to successfully restore mangroves, it has to be connected to livelihood programs, and that will take quite some time,” said Nirarta. “It is not an easy task.”

The World Bank’s effort aims to take a livelihood approach, which includes investing in basic services and infrastructure that improve the quality of life of people who live on the coasts. They also want to ensure that communities play an active role in mangrove restoration and management.

“Working with the local communities is going to be a key part of these reforms,” said Mari Elka Pangestu, World Bank’s managing director of development policy and partnerships, during a press event. “This is what green and blue, resilient, inclusive development is all about.”

One particular challenge is data and maps, especially when trying to determine where to focus restoration efforts.

Nirarta notes that the official numbers are estimates, and lack the details necessary to implement restoration efforts. “We don’t have good and reliable maps on mangroves.”

This was the case with peatlands back in 2015, and led to efforts including a [Peat Mapping Prize](#), to improve the use of data, satellite technology and drones to accurately map peatlands and their carbon stock. Nirarta hopes that similar efforts can help scale up mangrove restoration quickly and effectively.

Both Nirarta and the World Bank hope that, if successful, mangrove restoration can play a key role in both Indonesia’s climate commitments, and resilience efforts. Restoration would reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and go a long way towards meeting the country’s Paris Agreement commitments, which are highly [dependent on reducing](#) land-based emissions.

It would provide greater resilience to sea level rise and extreme weather events, such as the floods that [killed over 100](#) in East Indonesia in April. And it can be a model for other mangrove-rich tropical nations.

“Managing the oceans sustainably is a global issue, and as the world’s largest archipelago nation, Indonesia can play a leading role,” said Pengestu.

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China to cooperate on US climate goal

By [Global Times](#) September 2, 2021



U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate [John Kerry](#), left, meets Japanese Prime Minister [Yoshihide Suga](#) at Suga's official residence in Tokyo Tuesday, Aug. 31, 2021. Kerry met with Japan's top diplomat to push efforts to fight climate change ahead of a United Nations conference in November. BEHROUZ MEHRI/POOL PHOTO VIA AP

BEIJING: US climate envoy John Kerry is set to kick off his second visit to [China](#) inside five months under China's invitation, at a time when the bilateral relationship has hit a nadir not seen in decades.

China's [Ministry of Ecology and Environment](#) announced on Tuesday that Kerry would visit China this week, under China's invitation. During his visit, Kerry will discuss cooperation on climate change between China and the [United States](#) and the upcoming 26th [UN Climate Change Conference](#) of the Parties (COP26) with his Chinese counterpart Xie Zhenhua in the Chinese city of Tianjin.

Analysts believe that a series of fiascos at home and abroad has made Washington realize that cooperation with Beijing is essential for it to deal with multiple affairs, so that Kerry's visit, apart from enhancing global cooperation on climate, also serves as testing the waters on whether collaboration could be extended beyond the global warming battle.

Kerry's visit comes just ahead of a key United Nations climate meeting - the COP26 in Glasgow in November where nations are expected to enhance their targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions within this decade.

"The recent extreme weather that has caused incidents around the globe has warned countries of the urgency to address climate issues.

By inviting Kerry twice, China is demonstrating its willingness to strengthen cooperation with the United States on climate change and showcases its image as a responsible bellwether in tackling this global puzzle," [Li Haidong](#), professor at the [Institute of International Relations](#) of the [China Foreign Affairs University](#), told the Global Times.

Days before Kerry's visit, some US media, including The Wall Street Journal and CNN, cited sources saying the US special climate envoy will press Chinese leaders to declare a halt on financing international coal-fired projects as part of the Belt and [Road Initiative](#) (BRI) and ask China to accelerate its timeline to decarbonize the economy.

[Yang Fuqiang](#), a research fellow at [Peking University's Research Institute](#) for Energy, told the Global Times that "developing countries in the BRI prioritize boosting the economy, which results in large amounts of carbon emissions. But without help from China's technology and capital, emissions will be higher than they are now."



The expert noted that China is gearing up to phase out coal consumption and achieve its goal of carbon neutrality, and it will not bow to any external pressure to act rashly.

Yang said China's development in the digital economy, the new-energy industry, such as photovoltaics and super computers, all contribute to pushing forward the country to shake off its reliance on traditional energy. Yet, paradoxically, the United States is trying to slap sanctions on these fields, which thwarts China's development, Yang noted.



Weather, climate disasters surge fivefold in 50 years — UN

[Nina Larson](#) - Agence France-Presse

September 1, 2021 | 3:41pm



Destruction is left in the wake of Hurricane Ida on August 31, 2021 in Grand Isle, Louisiana near New Orleans. Ida made landfall August 29 as a Category 4 storm southwest of New Orleans, causing widespread power outages, flooding and massive damage. Win McNamee/Getty Images/AFP

WIN MCNAMEE / GETTY IMAGES NORTH AMERICA / Getty Images via AFP

GENEVA, Switzerland — The United Nations warned Wednesday that weather-related disasters have skyrocketed over the past half-century, causing far more damage even as better warning systems have meant fewer deaths.

A report from the UN's World Meteorological Organization (WMO) examined mortality and economic losses from weather, climate and water extremes between 1970 and 2019.

It found that such disasters have increased fivefold during that period, driven largely by a warming planet, and warned the upward trend would continue.

"The number of weather, climate and water extremes are increasing and will become more frequent and severe in many parts of the world as a result of climate change," WMO Secretary-General Petteri Taalas said in a statement.

In total, there were more than 11,000 of disasters attributed to these hazards globally since 1970, causing more than two million deaths and some \$3.64 trillion in losses.

115 deaths each day

On average, a disaster linked to weather, climate and water extremes has thus occurred every single day over the past 50 years, killing 115 people and causing \$202 million in daily losses, WMO found.

More than 91% of the deaths occurred in developing countries, it said.

Droughts were responsible for the largest losses of human life during the period, alone accounting for some 650,000 deaths, while storms have left over 577,000 people dead.

Floods have meanwhile killed nearly 59,000 over the past 50 years and extreme temperatures have killed close to 56,000, the report found.

On a positive note, the report found that even as the number of weather and climate-related disasters ballooned over the past half-century, the number of associated deaths declined nearly threefold.

The toll fell from over 50,000 deaths each year in the 1970s to fewer than 20,000 in the 2010s, WMO said.



And while the 1970s and 1980 reported an average of 170 related deaths per day, the daily average in the 1990s fell to 90, and then to 40 in the 2010s.

Taalas said dramatic improvements in early warning systems were largely to thank for the drop in deaths.

"Quite simply, we are better than ever before at saving lives," he said.

More people exposed

WMO stressed though that much remains to be done, with only half of the agency's 193 member states currently housing the life-saving multi-hazard early warning systems.

It also cautioned that severe gaps remained in weather and hydrological observing networks in Africa and parts of Latin America and in Pacific and Caribbean island states.

Mami Mizutori, who heads the UN office for disaster risk reduction, also hailed the life-saving impact of the improved early warning systems.

But she warned in the statement that "the number of people exposed to disaster risk is increasing due to population growth in hazard-exposed areas and the growing intensity and frequency of weather events."

And while early warning systems save lives, they have done little to shield disaster-prone areas from swelling economic damage.

In fact, the reported losses from 2010 to 2019 stood at \$383 million per day—seven times more than the some \$49 million in average daily losses in the 1970s.

Seven of the costliest 10 disasters in the past 50 years have happened since 2005, with three of them in 2017 alone: Hurricane Harvey, which caused nearly \$97 billion in damages, followed by Maria at close to \$70 billion and Irma at almost \$60 billion.

02 SEPTEMBER 2021, THURSDAY



NEWS ALERTS

COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



COVID-19 infections sa Pilipinas lumobo na lagpas 2 milyon

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



Residents receive their first dose of Moderna vaccine at the "Vaccine Express" of Vice President Leni Robredo's team in San Pedro Laguna on Aug. 28, 2021.
The STAR/Geremy Pintolo

MANILA, Philippines — Nakapagtala ang Department of Health (DOH) ng 14,216 bagong infections ng coronavirus disease (COVID-19), Miyerkules, kung kaya't nasa 2,003,955 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:** 2,003,955
- **Nagpapagaling pa:** 140,949, o 7% ng total infections
- **Kagagaling lang:** 18,754, dahilan para maging 1,829,473 na lahat ng gumagaling
- **Kamamatay lang:** 86, na siyang nag-aakyat sa total local death toll sa 33,533

Ilang araw na eleksyon kontra COVID-19?

- Kanina lang nang sabihin ni vaccine czar at Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Carlito Galvez Jr. na [inaaral](#) na ngayon ng gobyerno kung maaaring isagawa nang maraming araw ang Halalang 2022 para maiwasan ang siksikan ng mga tao na siyang maaaring pagmulan ng hawaan ng COVID-19. Gayunpaman, kailangan daw ng bagong batas para rito.
- [Papayagan](#) naman na ng Commission on Elections ang pagsasagawa ng voter's registration sa mga Modified Enhanced Community Quarantine areas simula ika-6 ng Setyembre. Dati'y pinapayagan lang ito para sa mga may maluwag-luwag na quarantine restrictions.
- Samantala, inamin naman ni Health Secretary Francisco Duque III na [walang budget na nakalaan para sa pagtatayo ng panibagong COVID-19 testing labs sa mungkahing 2022 budget](#).



- [Nasa 15,000 doses naman ng Sputnik COVID-19 vaccine](#) ang kararating lang ng Pilipinas nitong Martes, bagay na daragdag sa suplay ng gamot laban sa virus sa gitna ng bagong pagsipa ng mga kaso.
- [Nagnegatibo naman para sa COVID-19 si Bise Presidente Leni Robredo](#) matapos magpatest kamakailan, ilang araw matapos maging "very close contact" ng isang pasyenteng nagpositibo sa sakit.
- [Minomonitor](#) naman ngayon ng World Health Organization ang panibagong variant ng COVID-19 na "Mu," bagay na unang nadiskubre sa bansang Columbia nitong Enero. Kasalukuyan itong itinuturing na "variant of interest" ng global health body.
- [Pinag-aaralan naman ngayon ng Brazil ang kamandag ng isang ahas](#) matapos nitong ma-"inhibit" ang pagdami ng coronavirus sa cells ng mga unggoy. Tinitignan ito ngayong posibleng pagmulan ng gamot laban sa COVID-19.
- Umabot na sa 216.86 milyon ang tinatamaan ng COVID-19 sa buong daigdig, [ayon sa huling datos ng WHO](#). Sa bilang na 'yan, patay na ang 4.5 milyong katao.

— James Relativo



Over 137-M doses of Covid vax set to arrive in PH until year-end

By Lade Jean Kabagani **September 1, 2021, 3:01 pm**



UNWRAP. Several airport personnel remove the plastic cover of the shipment of the Covid-19 vaccines that arrived at the NAIA Terminal 2 in Pasay City on Tuesday (Aug. 31, 2021). The latest shipment consisted of 3 million doses of government-procured Sinovac vaccine from China. (PNA photo by Robert Oswald P. Alfiler)

MANILA – The Philippines is set to receive over 137 million doses of Covid-19 vaccines within the remaining months of this year, National Task Force Against Covid-19 chief implementer Secretary Carlito Galvez Jr. assured on Wednesday.

To date, the Philippines has received a total of 51,900,590 doses of Covid-19 vaccine doses which were acquired through procurement and donations.

"We are making significant work towards having a better Christmas. That's what we are doing," Galvez, who is also vaccine czar, said in an interview at the *Kapihan sa Manila Bay* forum.

Of the total vaccines that arrived since February, 31,347,230 doses were procured by the government, 3,617,100 doses were orders of the private sector and local government units, 13,297,120 doses were donated from the COVAX Facility and 3,639,140 doses were donations from other countries.

Galvez said about 44,804,170 vaccine doses have been deployed nationwide.

A total of 33,706,95 doses were administered, of which 19,747,877 persons received their first doses and 13,958,418 fully protected.

Galvez reported that the country's average vaccination rate from Aug. 1 is 426,653 doses per day.

There are 1,743 active vaccination sites operating across 17 regions nationwide.

The Philippines is set to receive 25 million doses this month, and 29.5 million doses in October, he added.

The government targets to vaccinate 70 percent or 77,139,058 Filipinos out of the country's 110,198,654 total population to achieve population protection by yearend. **(PNA)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1152254>



DoH: More vax, fewer test labs

Duque uncertain if it's still necessary to boost the country's testing capacity given the arrival of Covid-19 vaccines

Published 6 hours ago on September 2, 2021 12:20 AM

By [Michelle R. Guillang](#) @tribunephil_mish



Health Secretary Francisco Duque III has told lawmakers that government will put on the backburner any plan to build additional molecular Covid-19 This, according to Duque, was in view of the expanding vaccination coverage in the country and the prioritization of buying more test kits.

Duque revealed the strategy shift during a hearing of the House Committee on Health Wednesday on the Department of Health's (DoH) proposed budget for 2022. He was responding to the query of the panel's chairperson, Quezon Rep. Helen Tan.

"I have noticed that with the Covid-19-related activities funding, P5.9 billion has been allotted for commodities, but none for molecular laboratories, even materials to establish one," Tan, also a medical doctor, pointed out.

"At this time, we have seen, and I'm sure we recognize, that we really need testing facilities, especially in provinces where there is none or very limited access to testing," she added.

Duque replied that his office opted to increase funding for Covid-19 testing kits than build more testing facilities as they are uncertain if it is still necessary to boost the country's testing capacity given the arrival of Covid-19 vaccines.

"We increased (the funds to purchase) GeneXpert (cartridges) testing kits, (but) I agree that there should be more testing laboratories," Duque said.

"However, we need to calibrate as we are slowly reaching herd immunity. We still need to ascertain if the testing output should be further increased as we increase our coverage of Covid-19 immunization," he added.

According to the National Expenditure Program submitted by the Department of Budget and Management, the DoH will allocate P5.1 billion for the procurement of Covid-19 GeneXpert cartridges and P819 million for the purchase of personal protective equipment (PPE).

These commodities, Duque said, will be allotted to eight government laboratories, 29 DoH hospital-based laboratories, and the 2,432 personnel in 95 laboratories.

Tan insisted, however, that with the emergence of more infectious Covid-19 variants, it is imperative to amplify the country's Covid-19 testing capacity.



“With the advent of Delta variant and other variants... that may cause an increase in cases, from my point of view, it is important to build more Covid-19 testing facilities,” Tan told Duque.

OCTA Research, an independent analytics group, on Tuesday noted the country’s low daily testing output and recommended that it should be at least doubled.

OCTA’s Dr. Guido David averred that to stop the further spread of Covid-19 in the Philippines, more tests are needed.

According to his projection, about 30 percent of Covid-19 carriers in the country are untested and unknowingly spreading the disease.

Meanwhile, the Covid-19 reproduction rate in the National Capital Region (NCR) has decreased to 1.43, OCTA said on Wednesday.

Based on the group’s latest NCR Covid-19 report, the reproduction number — which refers to the number of people who can get infected by the virus from a Covid-19 patient — decreased by 0.13 from 1.56 a week ago.

David said that in the same period, the reproduction rate in Quezon City also decreased from 1.47 to 1.27. Likewise, the reproduction rate in the country’s capital city has decreased from 1.49 to 1.33, he added.

“At this rate, the R (reproduction rate) in the NCR may decrease to less than one in three weeks,” David said.

Despite the decrease in the reproduction rate in the capital region, it remained as the country’s coronavirus epicenter with 3,515 cases as of 31 August — the highest among all regions.

It was followed by the province of Cavite with 1,428, Bulacan with 810, Laguna with 698, Cebu with 591, and Rizal with 497.

Earlier this week, OCTA said that the reproduction rate in Metro Manila is expected to go down below 1 by the second week of September.

On Monday, the Philippines logged 22,366 new Covid-19 cases, the highest single-day tally since the pandemic started last year.

The DoH previously said that Covid-19 cases are expected to go higher in the next few days.

As of 31 August, the country has a total of 145,562 active cases, of which 95.9 percent are mild cases, 1.4 percent are asymptomatic and 1.1 percent are severe.

With Jomelle Garner



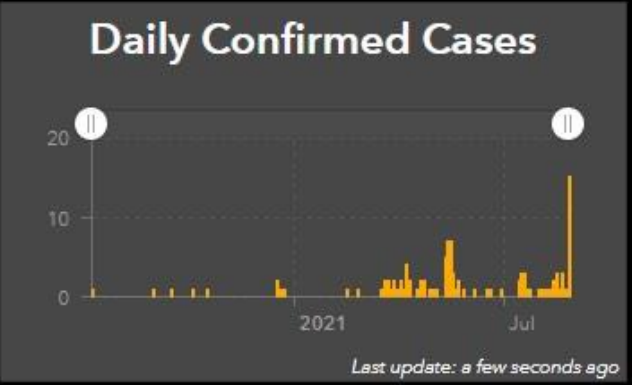
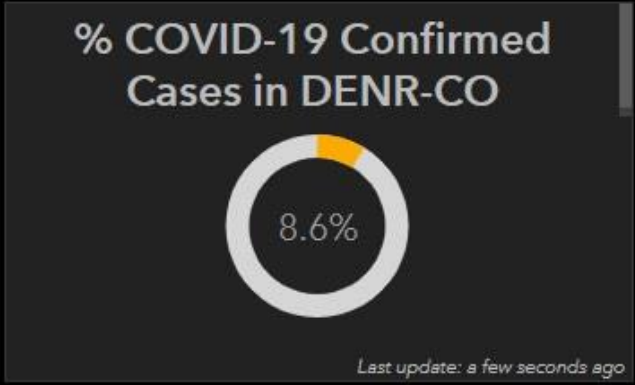
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**Covid-19
Situation and Response**

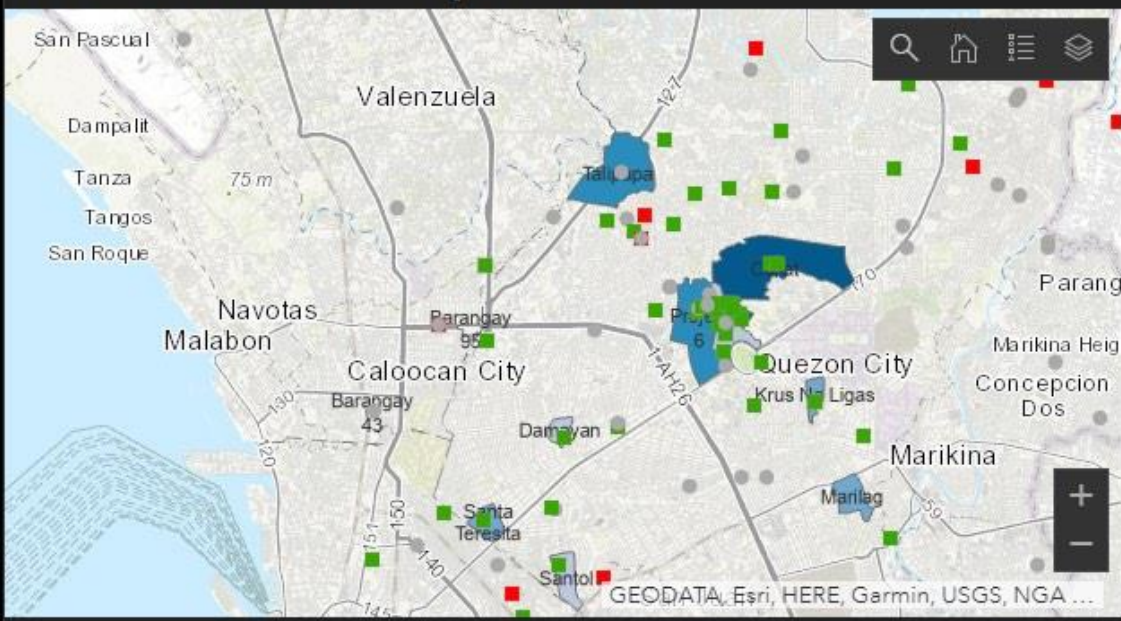
DENR-CO COVID-19 Monitoring



Data on COVID-19 include reported cases of DENR employees (Permanent, Contract of Service/Job Order, Support Staff (Triumph/Security)) as collected by the Contact Tracing Team of DENR Central Office.

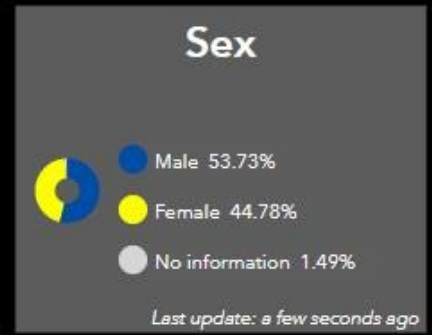
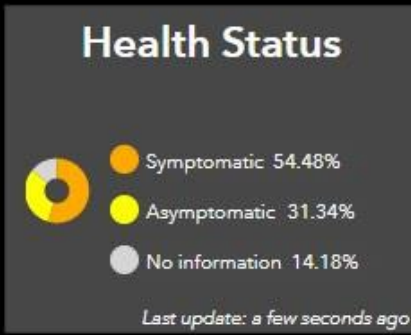
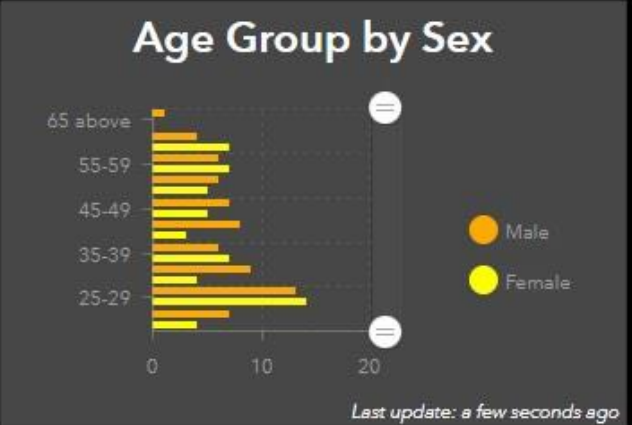
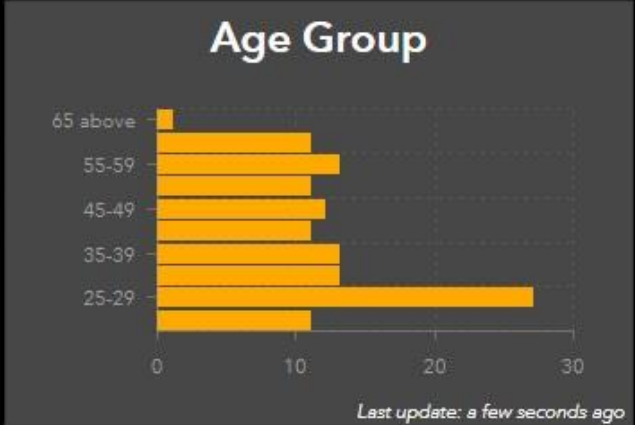


Residence of affected personnel



Please note that representative dots were randomly assigned within the barangay residence of the affected personnel and do not necessarily provide exact location/ addresses of the cases.

[Map](#) [Map Legend](#)





DOH COVID-19 CASE BULLETIN # 536

SETYEMBRE 1, 2021

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

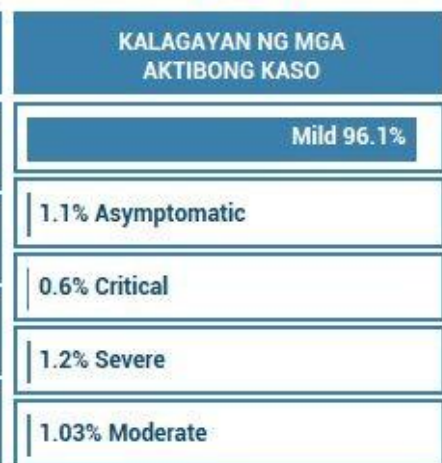
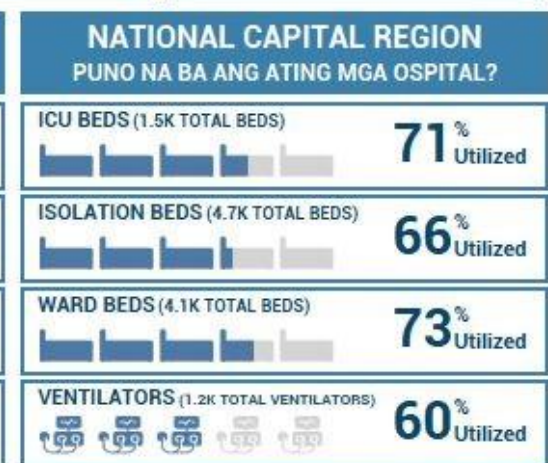
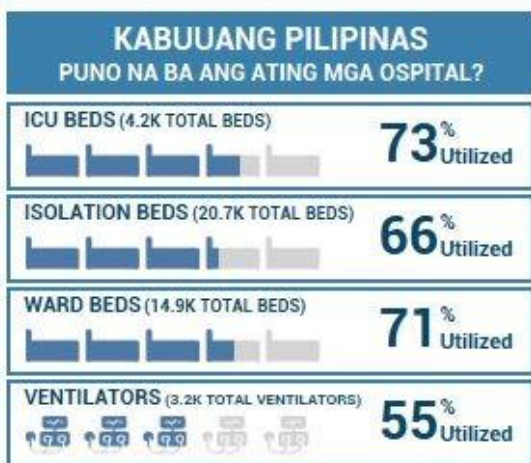


MGA BAGONG KASO **14,216** MGA BAGONG GUMALING **18,754** MGA BAGONG NAMATAY **86**

KABUWANG BILANG NG KASO **2,003,955**



HALOS 97.2% ANG MILD AT ASYMPTOMATIC NA KASO!



UPDATE AND MESSAGE OF THE DAY

Habang patuloy ang ating laban sa COVID-19, tiyakin natin ang masusing pagsunod sa **Minimum Public Health Standards**. Maging alisto din sa mga sintomas, at agad na makipag-ugnayan sa **BHERTS** o sa **One COVID Referral Center**, para sa karampatang gabay. Maaabot ang One COVID Referral Center sa **1555, (02)886-505-00, 0915-777-7777, o sa 0919-977-3333**.

Para sa iba pang pangangailangang medikal, puntahan ang <http://bit.ly/DOHTelemedicine> upang malaman kung papaano maabot ang serbisyo ng ating **Telemedicine Service Providers**, at ang <http://bit.ly/DOHHospitalHotlines> para maabot ang ating mga ospital sa alang mabilis na panahon.



Ihahanap ka namin ng lugar para mag-isolate o magpagamot, tumawag lang sa sumusunod:

SMART: 0919 977 3333
GLOBE: 0915 777 7777
TEL NO: (02) 886 505 00



May tanong ukol sa COVID-19? I-chat na si KIRA!

VIBER: Kira Kontra COVID by DOH
MESSENGER: Department of Health PH
KONTRACOVİD PH: kontracovid.ph



Manatiling ligtas!
I-download ang StaySafe App
O Gamiting ang WEBAPP
at pumunta sa Staysafe.ph

MAYROON PANG KATANUNGAN? SUMANGGUNI LAMANG SA SUMUSUNOD:

OfficialDOHgov

@DOHgovph

doh.gov.ph

(02) 894-COVID / 1555

RESBAKUNA

Here are the R-E-S-B-A-K-U-N-A steps to encourage your friends, family, and colleagues to get vaccinated when it's their turn to protect the country and the world.

RESPECT!



Respect their opinion

ENGAGE!



Engage them whenever they are open to conversation

SEARCH!



Search for accurate information

BE EMPATHETIC!



Be empathetic and accept their context

ASK!



Ask about what they feel, and why they feel this way

KEEP CONVERSING!



Keep the conversation focused on getting vaccinated

USE STORIES!



Use your and other people's stories and experiences

NEVER NEGATIVE!



Never end the conversation on a negative note

ASSIST!



Assist them on how to register for vaccination



02 SEPTEMBER 2021, THURSDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

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


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
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




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





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


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




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