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DENR

NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

DENR, BASINGPFA inks establishment of 35-ha plantation in Monkayo

By Michael Uy Published on April 2, 2021



BASINGPFA Chairman Salvador Orquiola signed the Memorandum of Agreement for the establishment of 35 hectare plantation in Barangay San Isidro, Monkayo, Davao de Oro.

MONKAYO, Davao de Oro, March 31 (PIA) - The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) XI inks on Thursday an agreement with Barangay San Isidro National Greening Program Farmer's Association (BASINGPFA) for the establishment of a 35-hectare plantation in Monkayo, Davao de Oro.

Under the Enhanced National Greening Program of DENR, the program includes ten hectare Bamboo Plantation, 20 hectares for Agroforestry, and five hectare Indigenous Plantation.

According to the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) Davao de Oro, the program targets to plant 23,368 seedling for this year, with a total contract cost of PhP 944,124.

Chamberlain Babiera, head of PENRO-DENR Davao de Oro, assures the public that they will be working hand in hand with the beneficiaries for the projects to succeed.

"Hindi lang project per se yong ibibigay natin but all the way we will assist them in ensuring na iyong projects will succeed. Kailangan every year, nag-expand tayo ng area para lalapad yong plantation natin, and in a long term, babalik yong magandang environment. (Its not just the project per se which we will give, but all the way we will assist them in ensuring the projects will succeed. It is necessary every year we will expand areas so our plantations will widen and in the long term we will bring back the beautiful environment)"

Regional Executive Director Bagani Fidel Evasco of DENR XI revealed that the plantation is part of the program under Executive Order Number 70 of President Rodrigo Duterte or the whole of nation approach to end local communist armed conflict.



DENR, BASINGPFA inks establishment of 35-ha plantation in Monkayo

“Karon naa tay gi launch nga ELCAC under the EO 70 or the whole of nation approach, pagpanghatag og serbisyo dinha sa kabarangayan jud mismo kay kani siya nga programa, wala ni siya matagamtaman sa unang panahon.” (We launch today this program, part of the ELCAC initiatives under EO 70 or the whole of nation approach, bringing services to the villages since these programs were never experienced by the communities until now.)

Meanwhile, BASINGPFA thanked the government in bringing this program to their community as it will greatly help in their livelihood.

“Nagpasalamat ko sa paningkamot sa DENR inubanan sa among barangay captain, nga naabot na gyud among gipangandoy nga makatanom mi anang mga prutasa. (alang kini) sa kaayuhan sa among mga anak kay kini siya mao ni siya ang kabilin namo sa among mga anak,” said BASINGPFA Chairman Salvador L. Orquiola. (We are thankful of the efforts of DENR including our barangay captain because what we dreamt of planting these kind of trees has finally arrived. This is for the benefit of our children since this will be our inheritance to them.) (PIA XI, Michael Uy)

Rare captive-bred crocodiles develop new, 'odd' habits in Philippine wild

by [Erwin M. Mascariñas](#) on 2 April 2021

- *Crocodile experts in the Philippines have discovered new habits among the critically endangered Philippine crocodile (*Crocodylus mindorensis*) that could help them better understand how to protect and repopulate the species in the wild.*
- *Since 2013, the Philippines has taken steps to reintroduce captive-bred juvenile crocs into the wild.*
- *Eight years on, experts have discovered that the crocodiles can climb steep hilly slopes and that they're nesting several months out from the previously understood breeding period.*
- *Conservationists have also welcomed two juvenile Philippine crocodiles bred at Cologne Zoo in Germany, the first of a batch of 12 from an international captive-breeding program.*

MISAMIS ORIENTAL, Philippines — The southern Philippines is home to the world's rarest and most endangered crocodile species: the freshwater Philippine crocodile (*Crocodylus mindorensis*). After decades of sliding toward extinction, things may be turning around for the species, as experts make new discoveries about its behavior that could impact its conservation and repopulation in the wild.

In 2013, three dozen captive-bred Philippine crocodiles were reintroduced to a new habitat on the island of Siargao in the southwestern Philippines. Eight years on, conservationists have discovered a behavior never before observed among this shy species: These rare crocs can climb steep hills.

"These crocodiles can climb to as high as 16 meters [52 feet] or about more than two-story house equivalent and with 50 degrees steep slope limestone wall," said Rainier I. Manalo, marine biologist and program head for crocodile research at the conservation outfit *Crocodylus Porosus Philippines Incorporated (CPPI)*. "This is the first time that anyone has recorded and observed this behavior which is very unusual."

The discovery could help experts better understand how the species can be better protected and repopulated in the wild, Manalo said. It comes at a crucial time, as efforts are intensifying to breed the species in captivity and rewild zoo-born juveniles.



A Philippine Crocodile (*Crocodylus mindorensis*) photographed along the banks of Paghungawan Marsh, Pilar town, Siargao Island in the province of Surigao del Norte. Image by Erwin M. Mascariñas.



Rare captive-bred crocodiles develop new, 'odd' habits in Philippine wild

Past studies into crocodile behavior suggest the species bury themselves deeper into the mud or crevices near the water line to stay cool during the dry season in the Philippines. This recent observation expands this notion, where the temperature is much cooler.

"We cannot imagine how those crocodiles got up those crevices and small caves when we had a hard time climbing those slopes ourselves," Manalo told Mongabay. "We might have been looking at the wrong places, and maybe that's why we've only documented so few in the wild."

The wild population of the Philippine crocodile is estimated at fewer than 100, making the species critically endangered on both the national red list and the IUCN Red List. Under the country's Wildlife Act, killing a Philippine crocodile carries a minimum penalty of six years' imprisonment and/or a fine of 100,000 pesos (\$2,100).

*The Philippines is home to two species of crocodiles: the saltwater crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*), which can grow up to 6 meters (20 feet) long and is common across much of Southeast Asia and Australia; and the freshwater Philippine crocodile, about half the size and significantly rarer.*

"These crocodiles play a very big role in our ecosystem," said Jurgenne Honculada Primavera, chief mangrove scientific adviser for the Zoological Society of London and a Time magazine "hero of the environment" in 2008. "The waste from these creatures provide much-needed nitrogen and phosphorus to our plants and microorganisms. This in turn provides food to other forms of animals in the area, from small insects, birds, crustaceans and of course fish, as one big web of feeding chains."



Rainier I. Manalo (right) of the *Crocodylus Porosus Philippines Incorporated* together with his assistant attached a radio transmitter on the back of a Philippine Crocodile (*Crocodylus mindorensis*) in Barangay Jaboy, Pilar town, Siargao

Island, Surigao del Norte. Image by Erwin M. Mascariñas.

Rare captive-bred crocodiles develop new, 'odd' habits in Philippine wild

For years, scientists and conservationists have pushed for more research and studies to better understand the behavior of the Philippine crocodile, in an effort to better protect what's left in the wild amid rising threats from hunting and habitat loss.

With the new observation of the crocodile's rock-climbing skills, Manalo said, conservationists can get a glimpse into the animal's life cycle and the areas it utilizes. While it suggests reassessing the population survey techniques for the species by expanding the search area, Manalo said more work is needed to understand the species' behavior patterns.

New breeding habits?

Angel Alcala, former secretary of environment and natural resources, said he agreed on the urgency of better understanding the Philippine crocodile as part of conservation efforts.

"There were just too few of them left in the wild," he said. "Wild population should be protected and should be a priority as the numbers of the Philippine crocodile is fast declining."

*The rock-climbing habit is just the latest unique behavior exhibited by the Philippine crocodile. Compared to other crocodylian species, *C. mindorensis* is "shy, very secretive and does not form into groups," Alcala said "The only time they are with another crocodile is when they mate."*



Radio transmitter attached to the back of the Philippine Crocodile. Image by Erwin M. Mascariñas.

Rare captive-bred crocodiles develop new, 'odd' habits in Philippine wild

While conservationists have been able to successfully breed the crocodiles in captivity, they say they're concerned that too much time in captivity will cause the species to lose some of its natural behaviors, particularly learned habits that pass down from one generation to another.

"That is why it is essential that we release and introduce them into the wild at an early age and then let them develop their traits, then hopefully have them mate creating their own offspring in their natural habitat," Alcala said.

As part of these efforts, the government in 2013 introduced 36 juvenile crocodiles into Paghungawan Marsh on Siargao Island, an area that also hosts the more aggressive saltwater crocodiles. By 2017, an additional 29 juvenile Philippine crocodiles were released.

In November 2020, despite the pandemic lockdown halting habitat and conservation initiatives, citizen scientists monitoring the area discovered two nests with eggs in the wetland. They estimated the eggs were laid in October.

This shows that the captive-bred crocodiles are not only surviving and thriving in the wild, but are also able to reproduce. "This is the first in the Philippines, a huge significant development in the conservation program, a decisive factor indicating that the introduction of the species into a new habitat is a success," Manalo said.

He added it may be easier for juveniles to adapt to the wild — by developing their hunting instincts — compared to adult crocodiles, a factor that could help improve the success rate of the repopulation program. Older crocodiles are used to being fed in captivity and thus less likely to learn to hunt, he said.



The attached radio transmitter is visible from the back of the Philippine Crocodile as it swims along the waters of Paghungawan Marsh. Image by Erwin M. Mascariñas.

Rare captive-bred crocodiles develop new, 'odd' habits in Philippine wild

*Scientists are also puzzling of the discovery of the eggs. *C. mindorensis* is known to lay eggs between March and July, but the eggs that were found were laid several months later.*

"This is an odd mix, as we did not expect to find nested eggs around [November], but since this is the first time for them to lay eggs [in the wild], we still need to further observe and study this behavior," Manalo said. "We are not expecting a high rate of survival for the hatchlings, but we are very optimistic that next breeding season in 2021, we will find more nests."

Fresh from Germany

On Dec. 15, 2020, Manalo's group also received two Philippine crocodiles, offspring of loaned Philippine crocodiles in 2012, from Cologne Zoo in Germany.

The two young crocs, named Hulky and Dodong, are the first of 12 juveniles headed to the Philippines from a successful breeding program in Germany. After acclimation, the juveniles will become part of a new colony in the Philippines for subsequent reintroduction into the wild.

"This is an excellent and positive example how ex-situ measures such as conservation breeding projects, coordinated by modern, scientifically led zoos, can help to actively support the in-situ conservation measures in the country of origin," said Thomas Ziegler, regional chair for Europe of the IUCN Crocodile Specialist Group.

Cologne Zoo director Theo B. Pagel, who is also president of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA), called the program another successful example of the "One Plan Approach," which is supported by the IUCN and aims to develop integrative strategies to combine in-situ and ex-situ measures with groups of experts for species conservation.



A Philippine Crocodile (*Crocodylus mindorensis*), with a radio transmitter, sprints into the waters of Paghungawan Marsh after it was released. Image by Erwin M. Mascariñas.



Rare captive-bred crocodiles develop new, 'odd' habits in Philippine wild

The Philippine Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Biodiversity Management Bureau (DENR-BMB), in collaboration with CPPI, has plans for further repatriation of offspring from the European captive-breeding program to the Philippines.

Manalo, who also is regional vice chairman for East and Southeast Asia of the IUCN Crocodile Specialist Group, said there's sufficient space and suitable habitat in the southern Philippines for restocking Philippine crocodiles.

"We have come a full circle, after years of hard work, this is the culmination of our efforts," he said, adding that the "next generation" of crocodiles will thrive in the Philippine wild.

Banner image of the Crocodylus Porosus Philippines Incorporated team prepares the area at the back of the crocodiles where the radio transmitter will be attached. Image by Erwin M. Mascariñas.

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MWSS chief lauds RSA for environmental projects

Published April 2, 2021, 2:00 PM

by [Madelaine B. Miraflor](#)

Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) has lauded San Miguel Corporation President and COO Ramon S. Ang for his various projects to promote environmental protection and rehabilitation.



San Miguel Corporation President Ramon S. Ang

“The projects that SMC, through the leadership of Mr. Ramon S. Ang, are undertaking to address environmental problems are both commendatory and worth emulating,” MWSS Chairman and OIC Administrator Reynaldo V. Velasco.

To recall, Velasco is one of the prime movers of the MWSS’ Annual Million Tree Challenge and the Million Trees Foundation, Inc. (MTFI).

He made the statement about Ang in reaction to a report that SMC intends to plant close to 200,000 mangroves along the Bulacan coastlines as part of its flood mitigation plan.

SMC’s comprehensive plan also includes the cleaning, dredging, and widening of major tributaries in the Marilao-Meycauayan-Obando river system of Bulacan.

Bulacan is the site of the new Manila international airport under SMC’s Aero City franchise that is set to break ground in the second quarter of the year.



MWSS chief lauds RSA for environmental projects

The other week, MWSS and National Irrigation Administration (NIA) has turned over P16.25 million worth of financial support to 6,500 farmers of Angat-Maasim River Irrigation System (AMRIS) Federation of Irrigators Association, Inc. represented by IA President Guillerm.



MWSS Chairman and OIC Administrator Reynaldo V. Velasco
(Photo credit: <https://mwss.gov.ph/board-of-trustees/>)

This was several months after these farmers were unable to benefit from its supposed water allocation from the National Water Resources Board (NWRB) during the Dry Cropping Season of CY 2020 due to a collapse reported in Bustos Dam in May last year.

The unfortunate event made it possible for NWRB to provide MWSS with Additional Water Allocation for household consumption of residents in the National Capital Region (NCR).

Thus, NWRB Director Seville D. David, Jr. proposed to MWSS an equitable cash compensation plan for Bulacan farmers who were affected by the said Additional Water Allocation.

In this regard, NIA assisted in the selection of qualified beneficiaries, while MWSS formally instructed its concessionaires, Maynilad Water Services, Inc. and Manila Water Company, Inc., to make necessary payment as compensation to the farmer-beneficiaries.



Waking up to clean bay waters



By [Jerry Hernandez](#)
April 3, 2021

THE Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) wants to clean up all bodies of water leading to the Manila Bay “a way of life.” This was echoed by DILG Central Luzon Regional Director Julie Daquiao as the agency staged the 2020 Manila BAYani Awards and Incentives virtual ceremony. “It is actually not needed that we will have an assessment and awarding just to wake up people to clean the Manila Bay. When people are awake and they understand the program, our communities will be awake also. When the communities are awake, the whole Central Luzon and the whole nation will be awake, too,” she said. Awardees included Dinalupihan, Balanga City, Samal, Orani as high compliant LGUs (local government units) in Bataan; Baliwag, Plaridel, City of San Jose del Monte and Santa Maria in Bulacan; Palayan City in Nueva Ecija; and the Cities of San Fernando and Mabalacat in Pampanga. Recognized as the Provincial Top Performers-Municipal Category were Dinalupihan in Bataan, Baliwag in Bulacan, Candaba in Pampanga, Santa Rosa in Nueva Ecija and Bamban in Tarlac while Provincial Top Performers-City Category were Balanga City in Bataan, City of San Jose del Monte in Bulacan, City of San Fernando in Pampanga, Palayan City in Nueva Ecija and Tarlac City in Tarlac. Acknowledged as the Regional Top Performer-Municipal Category were Baliwag in Bulacan followed by Dinalupihan in Bataan and Santa Maria in Bulacan while Balanga City in Bataan was awarded as the Regional Top Performer-City Category with City of San Jose del Monte in Bulacan and City of San Fernando in Pampanga winning second and third places, respectively. “It is a sort of inspiration and encouragement to everyone. Aside from the plaque and small financial considerations we could give, we show our recognition and appreciation to the winners in their compliance. Aside from all these awards, the most important is we can inculcate the value of this program, of cleaning up the surroundings, of doing our part as residents, leading toward cleaning up Manila Bay,” Daquiao said.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/04/03/news/regions/waking-up-to-clean-bay-waters/859004/>



Priority areas needed toward climate resilience



By [Ludwig O. Federigan](#)

April 3, 2021

The State of Southeast Asia 2021 Survey Report revealed that the top three challenges faced by the Philippines today are the threats to health from the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic, unemployment and economic recession, and more intense and frequent weather events resulting from climate change like droughts, floods, cyclones, rising sea levels, among others.

During my presentation titled “Climate Change and Resilience” at the Fellow Learning Session held recently at the Asian Institute of Management-Stephen Zuellig Graduate School of Development Management, I discussed that, in this era of health and climate crises, there are still room for our government to exhibit its leadership and ensure our sustainable pandemic and climate recovery through these six priority areas:

First — The need to undertake risk-sensitive planning and investment

It is crucial for our local government units (LGUs) who are at the forefront of the planning, preparation and execution of resilience plans and measures.

We must invest, for example, by following our geo-hazard maps to determine the no-build zones opposite the safe areas to build housing and infrastructure. We should raise the standard for building structures. For instance, coastal structures, including roads and bridges, should be build and designed considering the projected sea-level rise due to climate change.

Second — The need to promote community resilience

LGUs could prioritize resiliency as part of their political and sustainable development agendas and make it their legacy opportunity. Paying attention to protection will improve the environmental, social and economic conditions of the people.

These initiatives may include the establishment of multihazard early warning systems, rainwater harvesting, seed banks, rooftop gardens, roadside ditches and sea walls, mangrove reforestation and the conduct of drills for preparedness.

It is the responsibility of LGUs to ensure that people understand the risk present in their communities. Early and mandatory evacuation will be ineffective if the people do not understand the need for such efforts.

Third — The need to strengthen social protection

Let us examine how the government’s social protection programs, such as the conditional cash transfer (CCT) and other poverty reduction-related initiatives, can be scaled up not only to address structural poverty but also to build the resilience of the poorest of the poor against the recurring impacts of natural hazards.



Priority areas needed toward climate resilience

Under the General Appropriations Act (GAA), we have a special provision mandating the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) to integrate environmental protection in the conduct of family development sessions among beneficiaries of the CCT.

Fourth — The need to conduct an environmental program audit

We have numerous laws and policies that are focused on addressing environmental and disaster resilience issues. An environmental audit covering the performance of relevant national agencies and LGUs about their enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and compliance guidelines will help identify where implementation can be supported and how to remove barriers to implementation.

Fifth — The need to advance economic and business resilience

We can ensure our economic resilience by pursuing sustainability, let investors be aware of it, and let business investments take into account sustainable measures. Initiatives could include promoting green infrastructure, such as green buildings, risk financing, risk reduction incentives, business continuity planning, among others.

Sixth — International climate finance and leading-edge technology

There is a need to facilitate efficient access to international climate finance, and the transfer of leading-edge technology and knowledge on adaptation and mitigation as enshrined in the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

However, the government alone cannot solve our biggest challenges at hand. Partnerships and collaboration between and among sectors must be exemplified to ensure the effective implementation of recovery plans.

The involvement of the private sector — which has always been the engine of economic growth — is a critical component in our shift toward a low-carbon economy and climate-resilient development pathway. With their significant resources and capacity for investment, managerial capability and operational manpower, the private sector is capable of driving more opportunities that can combat climate change, and better the lives of millions of our people.

The youth sector should continuously demand a better and safer future for climate change is foremost their issue as inheritors of this planet.

All of us, regardless of gender, age and religion, are key in the entire process. Climate action begins at home. With persistence and tireless attempts to live sustainably, we are already doing so much for the climate and the planet.



Priority areas needed toward climate resilience

We are standing at a crucial moment to fortify our commitments to climate action.

We all have to brave these challenges at hand, accelerate our efforts and make climate action our foremost priority. Any delay in climate action is dangerous because, in the end, it is us, our people, and the future generations, who will bear the impacts of runaway global warming.

The author is the executive director of the Young Environmental Forum and a Non-Resident Fellow of Stratbase ADR Institute. He completed his climate change and development course at the University of East Anglia (United Kingdom) and an executive program on sustainability leadership at Yale University (USA). You can email him at ludwig.federigan@gmail.com.

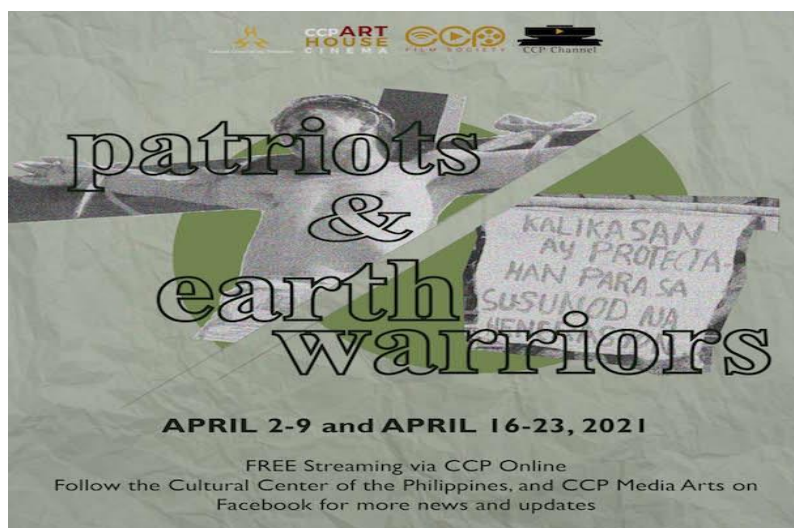
Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/04/03/business/columnists-business/priority-areas-needed-toward-climate-resilience/859063/>



Patriots and Earth Warriors take the spotlight in the CCP Arthouse Cinema April screenings

By CCP Published on April 2, 2021

PASAY CITY, April 2 -- The CCP Arthouse Cinema presents Patriots and Earth Warriors, a collection of films and documentaries from Cinemalaya and Gawad Alternatibo, for its April offerings.



The month-long film screenings put the spotlight on the Holy Week traditions, Filipino bravery, and the various environmental issues that the world is facing.

Stream the curated film selection for FREE this April at the CCP Vimeo Channel. To watch the films, go to vimeo.com/ondemand/patriotsandearthwarriors and use the promo code WARRIORS.

From April 2, 3pm to April 9, 3pm, catch Jarell Serencio's Victor and Chuck Gutierrez' Heneral Rizal.

In Serencio's short film, follow Victor who religiously offers himself to be nailed on the cross every Holy Week for 10 years now. This has been his long-time panata because he believes that God will forgive him from all his sins and grant all his petitions after crucifying himself on the cross.

The film shows the glaring realities of faith and beliefs, and how Filipinos and foreigners embrace the tradition of Semana Santa as an attraction in this town in Pampanga. This film will leave viewers questions on their own faith as well as Victor's beliefs. Is he doing a divine sacrifice? Or is it just a part of his life's big show?

Heneral Rizal uncovers the story of Paciano Rizal, often regarded as the ever-supportive elder brother of Filipino National Hero, Dr. Jose Rizal. Unknown to many, Paciano was a proficient general who fought the colonizers, together with Andres Bonifacio and Emilio Jacinto. He was instrumental in liberating Calamba during the Philippine Revolution.



Patriots and Earth Warriors take the spotlight in the CCP Arthouse Cinema April screenings

Featuring a powerful performance by Tanghalang Pilipino artistic director Nanding Josef, Heneral Rizal will form part of TP's full-length stage production in 2021, aimed to shed new light in understanding nationalism and what it really means to be a Filipino.

Film offerings for April 16 to 23 are Ana Agabin's 24K and Nonilon Abao's Dagami Daytoy.

24K takes a peek into the secret world of treasure hunting in the Philippines. The film follows Manok and his team of treasure hunters as they return to their treasure site in Suyo, Ilocos Sur. They have been told that the spirits guarding the treasure favor them, and all the signs indicate success. Convinced that their site will yield the elusive treasure, they strive to do whatever it takes to find it.

Meanwhile, Dagami Daytoy puts the spotlight on the years of destruction to the rich, ancestral land, culture, and relationships in Nueva Vizcaya by a large-scale foreign mining company.

This has divided the people, yet also summoned the collective strength of the mountains and the community to rise up. The Didipio community of Twali-Ifugao indigenous people put their stakes in setting up a barricade and risk continuing the fight for their life, honor, and land.

For more information, follow and like the CCP Media Arts official Facebook page. Visit the CCP website at www.culturalcenter.gov.ph. (CCP)

Highest ever uli': Bagong COVID-19 cases sa Pilipinas sumipa ng 15,310 ngayong araw

(Philstar.com)

- April 2, 2021 - 5:00pm



Catholic faithfuls pray at the premise of Our Lady of the Abandoned in Marikina City on Maundy Thursday, April 1, 2021.

MANILA, Philippines — Nakapagtala ang Department of Health ng 15,310 bagong infection ng coronavirus disease ngayong Biyernes, kung kaya nasa 771,497 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:** 771,497
- **nagpapagaling pa:** 153,809, o 19.9% ng total infections
- **bagong recover:** 434, dahilan para maging 604,388 na lahat ng gumagaling
- **kamamatay lang:** 17, na siyang nag-aakyat sa total local death toll sa 13,320

Anong bago ngayong araw?

- Ngayong araw ang pinakamataas na bilang ng bagong hawa ng COVID-19 na naitala sa kasaysayan ng Pilipinas sa bilang na 15,310. Nahigitan na nito ang record naiplasta nitong Lunes (10,016). "However, with this, around 3.7K cases that were supposed to be reported last Mar 31 will just be reported today as part of the total cases," paliwanag ni Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire. Gayunpaman, kapag inawas ang backlogs ng reported COVID-19 cases, 11,601 pa rin itong bagong kaso — mas mataas sa 10,016 na single-day record-high noong ika-29 ng Marso, 2021.



Highest ever uli': Bagong COVID-19 cases sa Pilipinas sumipa ng 15,310 ngayong araw

- Bukod diyan, record-breaking uli ang aktibong kaso ng COVID-19 simula nang mapasok ng virus ang Pilipinas noong 2020. Pumalo na kasi ito sa 153,809, bagay na mas mataas din sa bilang ng nagpapagaling pa nitong Huwebes.
- Hinuli naman ngayong Biyernes Santo ng Manila Police District (MPD) ang mga mananampalatayang nagpunta pa rin sa paligid ng Quiapo Church kahit ipinagbabawal sa ilalim ng enhanced community quarantine (ECQ). Gayunpaman, pinauwi rin sila matapos pagsabihan at kunin ang pagkikilanlan, [ayon sa state-owned media na PTV](#).
- Sa kabila ng mga batikos dahil sa panibagong mahihigpit na lockdown sa "NCR Plus bubble," sinabi naman ni Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian na hindi nag-iisa ang Pilipinas: "We're not alone... France going into a nationwide lockdown for 1 month despite their huge investment in health and vaccination," [sambit ng kanyang tweet kanina](#).
- Sa isang pahayag na ipinaskil ngayong araw, [nananawagan ang Filipino Nurses United na mag-hire ang gobyerno ng mga dagdag na mga nurse, medical frontliners](#) habang tumitindi ang pagtaas ng COVID-19 cases sa Pilipinas. Bukod diyan, panawagan din nila na mabigyan ng tamang bayad at benepisyong mga manggagawang pangkalusugan: "FNU reiterates its call for adequate protection, just compensation and benefits for nurses, doctors and other health workers especially when they get sick in line of duty," ayon sa grupo.
- Umaabot na sa halos 128.54 milyon ang tinatamaan ng COVID-19 sa buong mundo, ayon sa huling ulat ng [World Health Organization](#). Sa bilang na 'yan, lagpas 2.8 milyon na ang patay.

— James Relativo at may mga ulat mula kay Xave Gregorio



ECQ succeeds in lowering NCR+ daily cases: OCTA

By Ruth Abbey Gita-Carlos April 2, 2021, 6:51 pm



REDUCED CASES. Aurora Boulevard in Cubao, Quezon City is nearly deserted on Maundy Thursday (April 1, 2021).

OCTA Research reports that the average new daily Covid-19 infections and the infection growth rate in NCR Plus dropped following the implementation of enhanced community quarantine. (PNA photo by Robert Oswald P. Alfiler)

MANILA – The average new daily Covid-19 infections in NCR Plus dropped following the implementation of the enhanced community quarantine (ECQ), OCTA Research said on Friday.

OCTA Research, a group of independent researchers from the University of the Philippines, noted that the average number of daily Covid-19 cases decreased to 4,899 in Metro Manila from March 25 to April 1.

The latest figure, the group said, is 19 percent higher than the previous week but “much lower compared to previous weekly increases of 60 percent.”

OCTA attributed the significant decline to the imposition of ECQ, the most restrictive community quarantine classification, in Metro Manila, Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna, and Rizal.

“The ECQ had a greater effect in reducing the reproduction number compared to the GCQ (general community quarantine),” OCTA Research’s statement read.

On Monday, President Rodrigo Duterte retained the ECQ status over NCR Plus until April 4.

OCTA Research said Covid-19 infection growth rate in NCR Plus declined to “40 percent or less.”

“[The result] indicates that the interventions imposed by the national government, in particular the ECQ, were effective in slowing the growth of the pandemic in NCR Plus,” it said.

Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque admitted Tuesday that there is a “50-50” chance of extending ECQ in Metro Manila, Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna, and Rizal.



ECQ succeeds in lowering NCR+ daily cases: OCTA

The Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases will meet Saturday to discuss the fate of NCR Plus.

Figures explained

On Friday, the Philippines logged 15,310 additional Covid-19 cases, bringing the total case count to 771,497.

There were also 434 new recoveries raising the total to 604,368 or 78.3 percent of 771,497 confirmed infections.

Some 17 fatalities were added to the 13,320 total.

The Department of Health (DOH) explained that the new infection tally reached over 15,000 because it failed to add the 3,709 cases that should have been reported on Wednesday.

“On March 31, 2021, the DOH reported only 6,128 new cases due to CovidKaya system issue. After system checks, validation and deduplication were made, 3,709 additional cases were confirmed. These cases were added to today’s cases, thus totaling to 15,310,” the agency said.

DOH Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire also said the numbers will rise as rapid antigen testing will be used for those with symptoms, those who were exposed to a patient, or close contacts of confirmed cases in NCR Plus.

The upward trend in Covid-19 cases is also driven by new variants.

Surges worldwide

Apart from the Philippines, other countries have been forced to reinforce tougher measures against Covid-19 due to the sudden surge in infections. These include France, Canada, India, Japan, and Germany.

Euro News reported a partial lockdown already in place in Paris will be extended across the whole of France, as announced by President Emmanuel Macron, to fight a third wave of Covid-19 that resulted in tens of thousands of cases each day and hundreds of deaths.

Schools will close, travel restrictions and a night curfew will be imposed, and there will be a ban on going more than 10 kilometers from home.

In Canada, the Ontario government imposed a province-wide "emergency brake" starting Saturday that will be in place for at least four weeks, CBC reported.

"We are facing a serious situation and drastic measures are required to contain the rapid spread of the virus, especially the new variants of concern," Premier Doug Ford said in a statement.

The Diplomat reported Osaka and two other areas in Japan are under new virus control steps starting April 1 as infections rise less than four months before the Tokyo Olympics.

Osaka, neighboring Hyogo, and Miyagi in the north reported “sharp increases” in daily cases since early March.



ECQ succeeds in lowering NCR+ daily cases: OCTA

Germany is also extending its lockdown until April 18, Chancellor Angela Merkel announced early Tuesday, as reported by DW.com. During their so-called Easter Holidays from April 1 to April 5, shops, including grocery stores, will “largely have to close.”

In India, 81,466 new cases were reported in the last 24 hours, its biggest single-day tally in six months. Timesnownew.com reported the government is mulling to impose a new lockdown.

Quarantine status

Santiago City in Isabel and Quirino province are under modified ECQ from April 1 to 30 and April 1 to 15, respectively.

Cordillera Administrative Region, Cagayan, Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya, Batangas, Tacloban City, Iligan City, Davao City, and Lanao del Sur are under GCQ until April 30.

All other areas in the Philippines are under modified GCQ, the least restrictive quarantine status, for the entire April. *(PNA)*



MAGPABAKUNA, LAHAT MAG-INGAT KAY KAMATAYAN



April 2, 2021 @ 3:22 PM 15 hours ago

HINDI natin lulubayan ang usapang coronavirus disease o COVID-19 hangga't hindi naaabot ang panahong huhupa ito nang matagal na panahon.

Ginagamit nating "huhupa" dahil sinasabi mismo ng mga eksperto na maaaring aabot sa isa o dalawang taon o higit pa ang pandemyang nanalasa hindi lang sa bansa kundi sa buong mundo.

Hangga't makakaya natin, pagtutuunan natin nang higit ang mga hakbang na tinatawag na "best practices" at hindi magagandang nagaganap hindi lang sa loob kundi sa labas ng mahal kong Pinas laban sa pandemya.

'Yun bang === pinakapektibong mga pamamaraan upang magtagumpay tayo sa giyera sa pandemya at pinakamasamang nagaganap na sagabal sa ating giyera.

KABATAAN TINATAMAAN NA

May isang lumulutang na kinatatakutang problema habang nagtatagal ang COVID-19.

'Yun bang === pagtama ng COVID-19 sa mga kabataan na unang pinaniniwalaan na hindi masyadong kinakapitan nito dahil malalakas ang kanilang katawan laban sa virus.

Ang United States at Brazil ang nakararamdam ng mabilis na pagkalat ng virus sa mga kabataan.

Ang mga dahilan?

Anak ng tokwa, adik ang mga ito sa mga pagtitipon o party at pasikreto ang paggawa nila nito sa mga panahon ng lockdown at iba pang anyo ng kwarantina.



MAGPABAKUNA, LAHAT MAG-INGAT KAY KAMATAYAN

Kapag inalis ang mga kwarantina, nagpipiyesta ang mga ito at dumarayo sa iba't ibang lugar na parang nagwawalang kalabaw sa ngalan ng human right at kalayaan gaya sa nagaganap sa US.

Ganito rin umano ang nagaganap sa Brazil.

Kasama sa mga pagtitipon, party, pagbibiyaha, pamamasyal at paglimot sa mga health protocol gaya ng pagsusuot ng face mask, social distancing at iba pa.

Kaya ngayon, ang US at Brazil pa rin ang nangunguna sa mga rekord ng dami ng nagkakasakit at namamatay.

Sa rekord sa patay, may 566,611 ang US at may 325,559 ang Brazil at still counting pa sila.

Nagbabala na ang Centers for Disease Control ng US ukol sa mabilis na muling pagdami ng nagkaka-COVID-19 habang mabilis na nilagpasan Brazil ang India sa rami ng nagkakasakit at namamatay at bumulwak na ang virus sa mga bansang Chile, Paraguay At Uruguay.

MGA HAKBANG LABAN SA PANDEMYA

Dahil sa bugso o pagdami ng biktima sa 37 estado at pananatili lang sa normal na kalagayan ang 15 estado sa US, may mga estado at siyudad ang nagpapairal pa rin ng mga lockdown at stay at home na mga patakaran.

Partikular sa mga kabataan, sinasabihan ang mga ito na huwag magdaos ng mga party, mamasyal at maglamyerda kahit saan at kung ano-anong pagtitipon na hindi iniintindi na may COVID-19 pa rin sa paligid.

Itong si President Joe Biden, ipinagpipilitan nito ang pagsusuot ng face mask ng lahat at kasama nito ang mga awtoridad na nagsasabing panatilihin ang iba pang mga health protocol gaya ng social distancing.

Sa Brazil, patuloy na minamaliit ni Pangulong Jair Bolsonaro ang pandemya kaya naman walang gaanong mga lockdown at restriction na pinairal ang kanyang pamahalaan.

Gusto niyang bukas ang ekonomiya at kikilos ang lahat nang normal at katwiran niyang mas mahalagang isulong ang hanapbuhay kaysa magpatali sa pandemya.

Sa 18 estado umano ng Brazil, 16 na ang nakararanas ng 90% punuan ng pasyente sa mga ospital dahil sa pananalasa ng Brazilian variant.

Habang nakikitang malaki ang suporta ng mga Kano kay Biden, itong si Bolsonaro naman ay nialalaysan na ng kanyang mga miyembro ng gabinete, kasama na ang Foreign Affairs at Defense Secretaries dahil sa mali umanong paghawak niya sa pandemya.

Kamakalawa lang, iniulat nang nagbitiw na rin sa tungkulin ang lahat ng heneral na namumuno sa Air Force, Navy at Army matapos sibakin ni Bolsonaro ang Defense Secretary.

Bahala na kayong pumulot, mga Bro, ng mga leksyon sa nagaganap sa nasabing dalawang bansa at ilapat para sa ikabubuti ng lahat sa mahal kong Pinas.



MAGPABAKUNA, LAHAT MAG-INGAT KAY KAMATAYAN

SUPLAY NG BAKUNA

Buong makatotohanan ang pahayag ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na napakahirap bumili ng bakuna ngayon dahil kinokopo ng mga bansang vaccine maker ang mga bakuna.

‘Yun bang === kinokopo ng US ang mga gawa ng mga Kano na bakunang Pfizer, Moderna, Novavax, Johnson & Johnson at iba pa.

Kinokopo rin ng United Kingdom ang bakunang AstraZeneca na gawa nito habang inoobliga at binawalan ang kompanyang gumagawa nito ng European Union na maglabas ng gawa nito sa kanilang teritoryo.

Ang India, pinatigil na rin nito ang paglabas ng Indian-made AstraZeneca o Covishield at maging ang sarili nitong gawang bakuna na Covaxin.

Layon ng mga bansang ito na magamit muna nila ang mga bakuna bago mabigyan ang iba, lalo’t lumalabas na hindi humuhupa kundi lumalala ang COVID-19 sa kanila.

Isa pa, may prayoridad ang US na bigyan ang mga kalapit-bansa nitong Canada at Mexico bago ang iba at gagawin lang ito kapag nabakunahan na ang halos lahat ng 300 milyong Kano hanggang katapusan ng Mayo 2021 o maagang bahagi ng Hulyo.

Pero hindi lang ito ang problema, mga Bro.

Gusto ng mga bansang nakatayo ang mga kompanya ng gamot na magkaroon sila ng sobra-sobrang suplay at kung hindi nila magagamit, ay oks lang kahit gumastos pa sila nang malaki sa pagbili rito.

KUNG SAAN MERON

Kaya naman, namamasyal ang team ng Pinas sa ibang mga bansa gaya ng India at Russia na gumagawa naman ng Sputnik V upang makabili tayo ng bakuna, bukod sa pagbili natin ng bakuna sa China, gaya ng dumating nang 1 milyong dosage na Sinovac na kaiba sa 1M ding nauna na nang dumating na donasyon nito.

Dahil sa kakulangan ng suplay, nalalagay rin sa alanganin kahit ang pagbili ng mga pribadong kompanya sa Pilipinas.

Matatandaang pumayag na mismo si Pang. Digong na bumili ang mga pribadong kompanya ng sarili nilang bakuna subalit maaaring malalagay rin sila sa alanganin.

Mismong si Presidential Adviser for Entrepreneurship at Go Negosyo Founder Joey Concepcion at may-ari rin ng higanteng kompanyang RFM Corporation, ay nagsasabing hindi rin sila basta makabili ng bakuna dahil nga sa krisis sa suplay.

Maaari pa ngang maharap sila sa problema sa overpricing mula sa mga kompanya ng bakuna lalo’t ang kumita ng limpak-limpak na salapi ang nasa isipan ng mga ito.



MAGPABAKUNA, LAHAT MAG-INGAT KAY KAMATAYAN

Ang dalangin na lang natin ay magtagumpay ang pagbili ng pamahalaan at ng mga pribadong kompanya ng bakuna.

Hindi naman basta maaasahan ang World Health Organization na makapagbigay ng sapat na bakuna dahil iniintindi rin nito ang iba pang mahihirap na bansa na suplayan din.

Kakaunti pa nga lang ang nabibili ng WHO na bakuna dahil sa kakapusan ng pondo at nakararanas din ito ng panghaharang ng suplay gaya ng ginagawa ng EU at India sa AstraZeneca at ng US sa mga stateside na bakuna.

Todo-reklamo rin ito sa pagsasabing kinokopo ng iilang mayayamang bansa ang 80 porsyento ng suplay ng bakuna sa buong mundo.

KUMAPIT SA “AVAILABLE VACCINE”

Naubos na ang mahigit 525,000 bakunang AstraZeneca kaya ang nalalabing bakuna na pupwede nating gamitin ay Sinovac.

Ang susunod na AstraZeneca na kulang-kulang sa 1M dosage ay maaaring dumating ngayong buwan o Mayo pa.

Ang Sinovac naman, maaaring makakuha tayo buwan-buwan ng 1M dosage.

Sa mga araw na ito, ang Sinovac lang ang available.

Pero hindi dapat itong maliitin bilang panlaban sa COVID-19 dahil milyon-milyong mamamayan na ang gumagamit nito at naging epektibo ito.

Mahigit pitong milyon ang iniulat na napaggamitan ng bakunang ito sa China kaya maagang nakontrol nito ang pandemya,

Siyempre pa, may tatlo pang ibang Chinese vaccine na ginamit laban sa pandemya, kasama na ang Sinopharm.

Ang maganda, bukod sa bisa ng bakunang ito batay sa pagtaya ng ibang mga bansa gaya ng Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Brazil, Turkey at ilang bansa sa Africa, mas madaling makabili nito nang walang gaanong tsetsebutse.

Rason na rin ng mga nabakunahan nito, kabilang na ang libo-libong health worker na doktor, nars at iba pa, “the best vaccine is the available vaccine.”

Alangan nga namang ngumanga na lang tayo sa gitna ng lumalalang COVID-19 sa Pinas at umasa sa pagdating ng ibang klase ng bakuna.

MAGPABAKUNA BAGO MAOSPITAL, MAMATAY

Pinakamabisa ang pagpapabakuna na panlaban sa pandemya at huwag hintaying tayo’y maospital at mamatay.

Totoo, may mga naoospital at nagagamot naman gamit ang iba’t ibang gamot, kasama ang mga makina gaya ng ventilator at iba pa.



MAGPABAKUNA, LAHAT MAG-INGAT KAY KAMATAYAN

Pero pinakamabisa ang pagpapabakuna na napatunayan nang nakapipigil ng seryosong pagkakaospital at kamatayan.

Kapag nagpabakuna tayo, maaaring hindi natin mararanasan ang makipila ng ilang oras o araw sa mga tarangkahan o tent ng mga ospital para magpagamot.

Kapag nakapagpabakuna tayo, magkakaroon na tayo ng malakas na immune system at may sangkap na ang ating katawan na kikilala at lalaban sa COVID-19 kung tatamaan tayo.

Siyempre pa, may mga nalulusutan ng mga virus makaraang mabakunahan o hindi nakakayanan ng mga may malalang sakit ang epekto ng bakuna kaya nadidisgrasya sila.

Pero gaya ng sinasabi ng mga awtoridad at higit na nakararaming nakaliligtas sa pandemya makaraan silang mabakunahan, higit na malaki ang pakinabang sa bakuna kaysa sa mga disgrasyang dulot nito.

Halimbawa sa US na sinasabing may kulang-kulang na 1,000 na namatay na sa Pfizer at Moderna, may 150M na ang nabakunahan, kasama ang ilang milyong may ikalawang dosage na.

Sa China na may namatay nang ilang tao sa Hong Kong na sakop nito gamit ang Sinovac, may 105M nang nabakunahan.

Sa India na may namatay na sa Covishield o AstraZeneca na halos 100, may 65M naman na ang nabakunahan.

Sa Germany na may mga namatay na sa Pfizer at AstraZeneca na nasa 10 katao, nasa 7.3M na ang naturukan.

Sa Pinas naman na may naiulat na namatay na sa Sinovac, mahigit 800,000 na ang nabakunahan ng pinagsamang Sinovac at AstraZeneca.

Heto naman ang isang maganda sa pagpapabakuna, makaraan kang i-seminar at tsekpin ng doktor, tinatanong ka kung gusto mong magpabakuna at kung ayaw mo, hindi ka naman pipilitin.

Pero kung tinamaan ka ng COVID-19, magpa-doktor, magpa-quarantine o magpaospital at huwag gawing sikret 'yan hanggang sa madamay ang iba.

Panghuling punto, mga Bro, huwag iasa lahat sa bakuna kundi sumunod din sa pinaiiral ng mga health protocol.

Siguro ito ang tatandaang natin na sinasabi ng mga awtoridad: Ang pagsusuot ng face mask at ng tamang paraan ay 90 porsyentong epektib laban sa hawaan sa pandemya.

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/magpabakuna-lahat-mag-ingat-kay-kamatayan/>



Metro Manila nag-init sa 34.8 degrees Celsius – PAGASA

By Jan Escosio April 02, 2021 - 06:57 PM



Naitala kaninang alas-2:55 ng hapon ang pinakamainit na temperatura sa Metro Manila ngayon taon.

Sa inilabas na datos ng PAGASA, pumalo sa 34.8 degrees Celsius ang naitala sa Science Garden monitoring station sa Quezon City.

Ang mainit at maalinsangan na panahon, ayon sa state weather bureau, ay dahil sa pamamayani ng hangin na nagmumula sa silangan.

Samantala, magdudulot ng pag-ulan sa ilang bahagi ng Visayas at Mindanao ang binabantayang low pressure area (LPA).

Huling namataan ang LPA sa distansiyang 30 kilometro kanluran hilaga-kanluran ng Zamboanga City.

Magiging makulimlim ang kalangitan at kalat-kalat na pag-ulan ang mararanasan sa Zamboanga Peninsula, Soccksargen, Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), at Palawan.

Binalaan ng PAGASA ang mga residente sa mga nabanggit na lalawigan sa posibleng flashfloods at landslides kapag malakas ang pag-ulan.

Read more: <https://radyo.inquirer.net/288724/metro-manila-nag-init-sa-34-8-degrees-celsius-pagasa#ixzz6quuDZZkb>

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Damage caused by China in West Philippine Sea could affect food security — scientists

By [Bella Perez-Rubio](#)(Philstar.com)

-April 2, 2021 - 6:00pm



This handout satellite imagery taken on March 23, 2021 and received on March 25 from Maxar Technologies shows Chinese vessels anchored at the Whitsun Reef, around 320 kilometres (175 nautical miles) west of Bataraza in Palawan in the South China Sea. Chinese vessels gathered near a disputed reef in the South China Sea are "fishing boats" sheltering from poor weather, the foreign ministry said March 22, a day after the Philippines described their presence as an incursion.

MANILA, Philippines — A group of scientists on Friday warned that China's destructive activities in the West Philippine Sea could imperil the Philippines' food security if left unabated.

The warning comes as hundreds of ships suspected to be part of China's maritime militia [continue](#) to swarm reefs and artificial islands in the West Philippine Sea, the part of the South China Sea within the Philippines' exclusive economic zone.

In addition to condemning Beijing's "clear violations of our national sovereignty," the Advocates of Science and Technology for the People (AGHAM) sounded the alarm over the incursion's "possible consequences not only to the environment but also to fisheries production and fisherfolk welfare."

AGHAM said the damage wrought by China on the reefs and fisheries "may affect the food security of the country if they continue their activities in the area."

'Damage to reefs could cost over P30 billion each year'

"With China's illegal encroachment, fishes and other marine species are bound to lose their habitats as reclamation and the building of military bases has destroyed at least 16,000 hectares of reefs as of 2017," AGHAM said.



Damage caused by China in West Philippine Sea could affect food security — scientists

The group added that the "rampant poaching" of giant clams could affect reefs, the damage to which is estimated to cost the Philippines up to P33.1 billion annually.

"China's rampant demonstration of their dominance in the West Philippine Sea is also sending a strong message that they will not allow our country to develop our own natural resources within our territorial rights."

'More than 600,000 jobs in jeopardy'

The group added that 627,000 fisherfolk could lose their livelihoods as a result of Beijing's [continued aggression](#) against them, citing past encounters and a [law](#) recently passed by China allowing its coast guard to fire on foreign vessels in contested waters.

It further warned that Filipino marine scientists conducting studies in the West Philippine Sea could also face harassment. This would threaten scientific work that is "vital to fisheries management."

"We would like to remind the Duterte administration of its obligation to the Filipino people to defend our national sovereignty," AGHAM said.

"It would be a disservice to the Filipino people if the current administration continues to kowtow to China's demands. Instead we must take advantage of our victory at the Permanent Court of Arbitration in 2016, and continue to assert our rights to develop our national patrimony for the country's economic development."

What is this about?

Tension over China's outsized presence in Philippine waters flared up again last month when the National Task Force for the West Philippine Sea (NTF-WPS) reported that 220 vessels believed to be part of China's maritime militia were spotted moored within the vicinity of Julian Felipe (Whitsun) Reef.

The NTF-WPS on Wednesday said some of these vessels dispersed to other areas in the West Philippine Sea.

The following day, China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying insisted that "the overall situation in the South China Sea is stable at present."

"The Niu'e Reef is part of China's Nansha Islands," she said, using China's name for Julian Felipe Reef, which is well within the Philippines' EEZ.

"It is an important shelter from the wind for Chinese fishing boats traditionally. So it is completely normal for Chinese fishing ships to take shelter near the reef from rough sea conditions."

The NTF-WPS maintains that the boats are actually part of China's maritime militia. The task force also flagged possible illicit activity from the same vessels and warned that they could be causing irreparable damage to the marine environment in the area.



Damage caused by China in West Philippine Sea could affect food security — scientists

The Philippines [filed a diplomatic protest](#) over the incursion in March and the military has conducted three rounds of routine aerial and maritime sovereignty patrol missions in the area.

World powers such as the United States, European Union, Australia, Japan, United Kingdom, Canada and New Zealand have [expressed support for the Philippines](#), calling on China to adhere to rules-based order consistent with international law, including the Convention on the Law of the Sea.

But Beijing has repeatedly scorned such calls from the international community, with Hua on Thursday saying that "[s]ome forces never miss any chance in their attempt to drive a wedge between China and the Philippines."

"We are sure the Philippines can tell facts from fallacy and won't fall for their tricks," she also said.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. is currently in China along with three other foreign ministers from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations at the invitation of State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi. He arrived on March 31 and is expected to fly home on Friday.

No statement has been issued yet on what transpired during the visit.



British Embassy hosts COP26 Scotland climate change conference preview for PH business leaders

Published April 2, 2021, 10:44 AM

by [Roy Mabasa](#)

The British Embassy in Manila recently convened a virtual roundtable of Philippine business leaders to discuss climate change in the lead-up to the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of Parties (COP26) to be held in Glasgow, Scotland in November this year.

Nigel Topping, the UN's COP 26 High-Level Champion for Climate Action, keynoted the event where he discussed his role in galvanizing new, more ambitious and most credible climate action from companies, investors, cities, states and regions, and referenced the United Kingdom's own journey in driving down emissions while at the same time growing its economy.

Topping encouraged local businesses to embrace and join the Race to Zero initiative, the flagship global campaign to rally leadership and support from non-state actors for a healthy, resilient, zero-carbon recovery that creates decent jobs, prevents future threats, and unlocks inclusive sustainable growth.

"When you as business leaders raise your ambition, it sends a very strong signal to political leaders and makes it easier for policymakers to be bold. And when bold policy comes, it makes it easier for your peers to intensify their own [climate] ambitions. We call this the 'ambition loop', and hope it delivers a real step up in climate action from governments and the private sector alike," Topping said.

He added that COP26 is the first real test of the 2015 Paris Agreement, which set the long-term goal to net-zero and a process of ratcheting ambition every five years.

Senior Philippine corporate executives from 15 companies across the business spectrum who participated in the discussion highlighted the importance of pursuing and embedding sustainability in their operations, while at the same time tackling the significant challenges posed by COVID-19.

The participation of the Philippine Green Business Leaders showcased the strong commitment of the Philippine business sector to tackle the challenges of climate change mitigation, adaptation, resilience, and sustainability.

British Ambassador to the Philippines Daniel Pruce highlighted the important role of private investment and the business sector and the need for a whole-system approach to achieve success in climate change.

"At the core of the UK's clean growth leadership is delivering for countries most vulnerable to climate change. This of course includes the Philippines which has witnessed stronger and more destructive typhoons throughout the years. If we are to be successful in achieving a cleaner future, the role of private investment is paramount."

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/04/02/british-embassy-hosts-cop26-scotland-climate-change-conference-preview-for-ph-business-leaders/>

Pope, using Shakespeare, makes climate change appeal

By [Reuters](#)

- April 2, 2021 - 2:32 PM



Pope Francis holds a mass on Palm Sunday, amid coronavirus disease (COVID-19) restrictions, in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican, March 28, 2021. (Giuseppe Lami/Pool via Reuters)

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis adapted Shakespeare's famous Hamlet quote in an appeal to people not to remain blind to the destruction of climate change and the mass migration it may cause, writing: "To see or not to see, that is the question."

Francis went on to urge people to work together to protect "creation, our common home" and not "hunker down" in individualism, in the preface of a document by the Vatican development office on the pastoral care of people displaced by climactic events.

"I suggest we adapt Hamlet's famous 'to be or not to be' and affirm: 'To see or not to see, that is the question!' Where it starts is with each one's seeing, yes, mine and yours," Francis wrote.

"We are not going to get out of crises like climate or COVID-19 by hunkering down in individualism but only by 'being many together', by encounter and dialogue and cooperation," he added in the preface to the 30-page study released on Tuesday.

Conservatives in the Church, many aligned with conservative political forces, are climate change sceptics and contest the majority scientific opinion that global warming is mostly caused by people.

Francis appeared to be appealing to such sceptics.

"When people are driven out because their local environment has become uninhabitable, it might look like a process of nature, something inevitable," Francis wrote.

"Yet the deteriorating climate is very often the result of poor choices and destructive activity, of selfishness and neglect, that set humankind at odds with creation, our common home," he said.



Pope, using Shakespeare, makes climate change appeal

The pope criticized former U.S President Donald Trump when he withdrew the United States from the 2015 Paris accord to limit global warming. The Vatican has welcomed President Joe Biden's return to the accord.

At the Climate Adaptation Summit hosted by the Netherlands in January, leaders were told that climate change could depress global food production by up to 30%, while rising seas and greater storms could force hundreds of millions in coastal cities out of their homes.

"We really seem to be at the point of deciding, actively and passively, whether we are going to take care of the one home we have or destroy it," Cardinal Michael Czerny, under-secretary of the Vatican development office, said at a news conference presenting the work. —**Reporting by Philip Pullella Editing by Alexandra Hudson**

Source: <https://interaksyon.philstar.com/politics-issues/2021/04/02/188826/pope-using-shakespeare-makes-climate-change-appeal/>



Then and now: Rising temperatures threaten corals

By Mark Kinver
Environment reporter
Published
20 hours ago

- [Climate change](#)

In our monthly feature, Then and Now, we reveal some of the ways that planet Earth has been changing against the backdrop of a warming world. Here, we look at coral bleaching, and how warming waters are threatening the survival of a true wonder of the seas.

Coral reefs are hives of activity in the ocean, where many different species can be found. Scientists refer to such zones as biodiversity hotspots.

Although reefs take up less than 1% of the area covered by ocean, they are estimated to be home to more than a third of life under the waves.

Coral bleaching, South Pacific

Drag the button to see how the coral has changed over time



February 2015



Then and now: Rising temperatures threaten corals



December 2014
Images: The Ocean Agency

Yet they too face an uncertain future as a result of a warming world. Scientists list climate change as the main cause of damage to the world's reefs.

Corals can't tolerate very high temperatures, so as ocean water warms, they effectively become "sick". Thermal stress of this kind can lead to the coral becoming bleached, meaning they lose their striking colours and turn white or very pale.

Coral can survive bleaching events, but in this state they are also more likely to die.

The before and after photos show an episode of bleaching and coral mortality in American Samoa, a territory in the Pacific Ocean, back in 2015.

A US team of scientists observed at the time: "Severe bleaching and mortality occurred on shallow inshore and [lagoon] reefs along southern Tutuila [American Samoa's main island].

"These shallow habitats have limited water circulation, which worsens the effects of high temperature stress."

Despite this worrying event, the state of the reefs in this area are currently deemed to be "good".



Then and now: Rising temperatures threaten corals



Delicate partnership

Coral is an umbrella term for several species of marine invertebrates (animals without backbones). They have a hard outer layer (exoskeleton) made from calcium carbonate - the same stuff shells are made out of.

They are found all over the globe, from tropical waters to the freezing polar regions. However, corals only form reefs in the warm, shallow seas of the tropics. The most famous of these is the 2,300km-long Great Barrier Reef, located off the north-eastern shores of Australia.

Healthy coral forms a symbiotic relationship with microscopic algae, known as zooxanthellae. In return for being allowed to live in the corals' hard, calcium carbonate exoskeleton, the algae help produce food for their hosts. Zooxanthellae also provide the vibrant colours we associate with healthy coral reefs.

media captionThe world's coral reefs are at risk from a phenomenon called bleaching

However, as waters warm, and the delicate marine ecosystem becomes sick, or stressed, the mutually beneficial relationship breaks down.

The algae "jump ship", leaving the coral without its main food source. The result is that the coral turns white or very pale and becomes more vulnerable to pathogens.

Coral bleaching is thus a visible and dramatic signal of a reef under severe pressure.

The US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (Noaa) says that the temperature increase in the oceans as a result of climate change is the main cause of bleaching.

According to London's Natural History Museum, coral reefs have an estimated global value of £6tn each year.



Then and now: Rising temperatures threaten corals



IMAGE COPYRIGHTAFP/GETTY

image captionFish and other marine animals lose their habitats when coral die off

This is partially a result of their contribution to the fishing and tourism industries.

In addition, the ridges in reefs act as barriers and can reduce wave energy by up to 97%, providing coastal areas with crucial protection against threats such as tsunamis.

They help protect areas such as mangrove forests and seagrass beds that act as nurseries for marine animals, as well as human coastal populations.

Barrier reef under threat

In 2019, an Australian government report downgraded the outlook of The Great Barrier Reef from "poor" to "very poor" as a result of climate change.

It said rising sea temperatures - thanks to greenhouse gas emissions from human activity - remained the biggest threat to the reef.

The reef was designated a World Heritage site in 1981 for its "enormous scientific and intrinsic importance", but in recent years it has been increasingly damaged by warmer seas, which have killed off coral and affected its long-term health.



Then and now: Rising temperatures threaten corals



IMAGE COPYRIGHTGETTY IMAGES

image captionThe Great Barrier Reef's condition is deteriorating as a result of climate change. say scientific studies

Noaa researchers say that, if the bleaching is not severe, it is possible for the coral to recover.

However, scientists are concerned that we are pushing the delicate marine ecosystems beyond their ability to cope. This means that natural wonders sometimes described as the "rainforests of the seas" could be reaching their breaking point.

Our Planet Then and Now will continue up to the UN climate summit in Glasgow, which is due to start in November 2021

03 APRIL 2021, Saturday

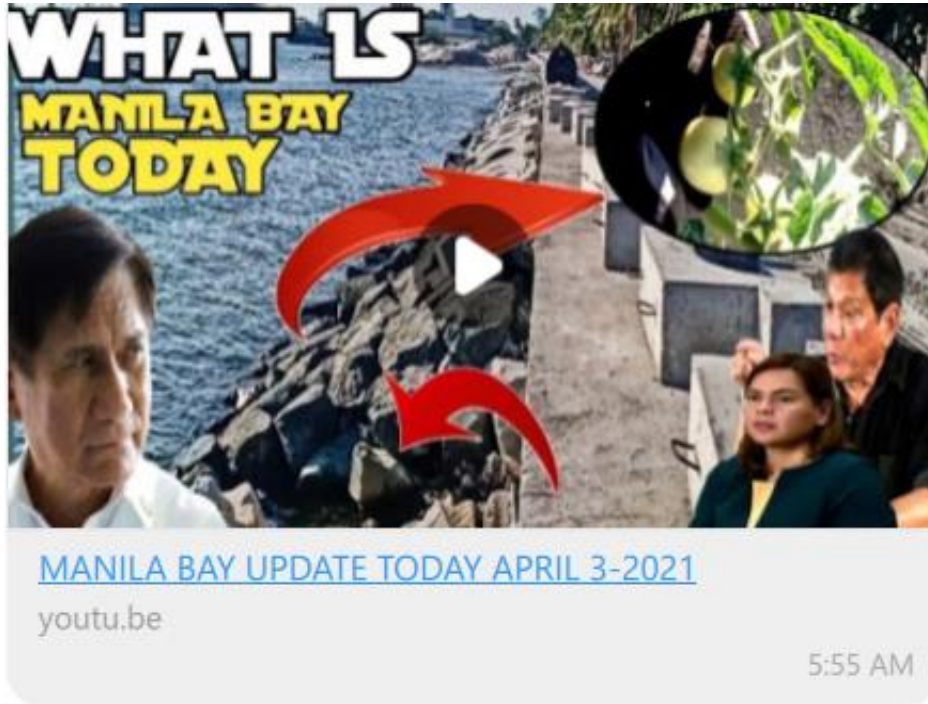


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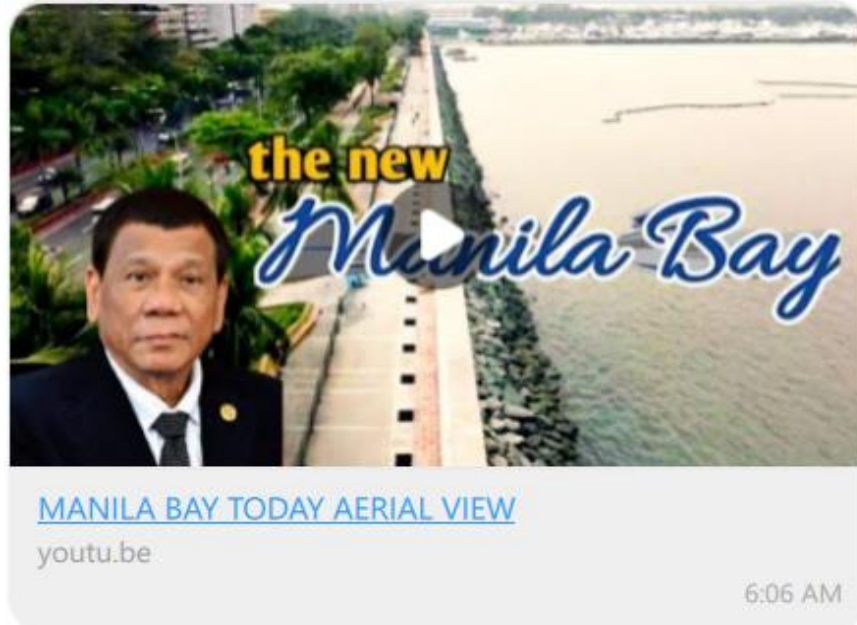
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