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**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**



# Cimatu launches watershed campaign

By [Leander C. Domingo](#) July 2, 2021



DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu. FILE PHOTO

**BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya:** Racing against time to save critical watersheds in the country, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Forest Management Bureau (DENR-FMB) has launched a national campaign dubbed as "Save Our Watershed (SOW)."

DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu led the virtual launching on Wednesday hosted by actress Antoinette Taus at the Social Hall of DENR's Central Office on Visayas Avenue in Quezon City.

"Our campaign aims to mobilize stakeholders to help the DENR save at least 131 critical watersheds in the country, adopting a strategy patterned after the whole-of-society approach of the current administration," Cimatu said.

During the launch, Nueva Vizcaya Gov. Carlos Padilla affirmed the 2018 Declaration on Water where the province accepted the role as the keeper of the most important watersheds in the heart of Northern Luzon including the Sierra Madre, Cordillera and Caraballo Mountain ranges.

"Nueva Vizcaya contributes water not only to the Magat dam in Isabela but also to the Pantabangan dam in Nueva Ecija through the Casecnan River to the San Roque dam in Pangasinan, and to some extent, to the Ambuklao and Binga dams in Benguet," Padilla explained.

He noted the provincial board has passed a resolution calling for the characterization of all watersheds in Nueva Vizcaya as "critical" ones.

The governors of the provinces of Quirino (Cagayan Valley), Ifugao (Cordillera) and Nueva Ecija (Central Luzon) also joined the virtual launch as well as watershed protection advocates in the said provinces.

Gov. Dakila Carlo Cua of Quirino province also noted given the massive loss of their forest cover, the province of Quirino launched its flagship environmental management program Quirino Protection of Watersheds, Ecosystems and Rivers for Sustainability or Qpowers, which aims to empower communities to protect and conserve the province's major watersheds and rivers.

"As this pandemic is testing our resilience, it is crucial we strengthen our collaboration with various stakeholders and partners. We deeply advocate genuine concerns for our environment, together we can be instruments for creating safer and more resilient communities and continue to sustain our efforts in the protection of our watersheds," Cua said.



According to the DENR-FMB, the SOW campaign is a national call to action to remind everyone water is life, and thus, everyone is duty-bound to protect and maintain the forests.

As a major agenda, it is the DENR's concept of cost-sharing mechanisms (CSMs) for watershed development, management and protection.

"If there are no trees, then there is no beneficial watershed. Take away the trees, and we suffer water scarcity and when a typhoon comes, we suffer floods and landslides. Trees are therefore the crucial components of a healthy watershed," Cimatu said in his keynote speech.

Meanwhile, Japan International Cooperation Agency Philippines representative Eigo Azukisawa welcomed the launching of the SOW campaign.



## Illegal quarrying sa Lian, Batangas ipinahinto ng DENR



July 2, 2021 @ 6:39 PM 12 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines – Dahil sa pagsasagawa ng illegal quarrying activities anim katao ang inaresto ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa Lian, Batangas kahit na walang kaukulang permiso.

Sa press release ayon kay Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, ang pag-aresto sa quarry workers ay “another proof of the DENR’s continuing commitment during this quarantine period even when mobility restrictions are still impeding enforcement operations.”

“The arrest of this group of individuals is also a testimony why we need an enforcement bureau in the DENR. Through this health crisis, we laud the continuing endeavors of the men and women serving the Environmental Law Enforcement and Protection Service (ELEPS) to apprehend the culprits,” sabi ni Cimatu.

Ayon sa DENR nagsagawa ng joint-surveillance activity ang DENR-ELEPS kasama ang Environmental Crime Division ng National Bureau of Investigation, Armed Forces of the Philippines, at DENR-Mines and Geosciences Bureau sa CALABARZON upang alamin ang ulat na patuloy ang isinasagawang quarry operations sa Sitio Matuod, Barangay Binubusan, Lian kahit na may inilabas na cease and desist order sa may ari na nakilalang si Francis Limjoco, III.

Nabatid na noong Hunyo 24 nang magsagawa ng operasyon ang mga operatiba at nakumpiska ang apat na unit ng backhoe, at limang dump trucks kabilang ang “illegally sourced minerals” na tinatawag na andesite na isang volcanic rock na tinatayang may halagang P32,038,500.

Base sa “list of existing holders” ng Special Permit to Transport and Dispose ng Batangas Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office, walang transport permit ang ipinagkaloob sa bayan ng Lian.

Naglabas din ng sertipikasyon ang DENR-MGB sa CALABARZON na nagsasabing walang balidong Mineral Production Sharing Agreement (MPSA) na ipinagkaloob sa naturang munisipalidad.

Kaugnay nito ang MPSA ay isang kasunduan “wherein the government shares in the production of the contractor, whether in kind or in value, as an owner of the minerals. In return, the contractor shall provide the necessary financing, technology, management, and personnel for the mining project.”



Kabilang sa mga sinampahan ng kasong paglabag sa Section 103 ng Republic Act (RA) 7942 o ang Philippine Mining Act of 1995 sina Rodel Marinduque, Francis Dacuya, Claudio Tamayo, Jovencio Malabanan, Roger Betonia, at Sonny Marinduque.

Nakasaad pa sa Section 103 ng RA 7942 na “any person extracting minerals and disposing the same without a mining agreement, lease, permit, license, or steals minerals shall be imprisoned from six months to six years or pay a fine from P10,000 to P20,000.” **Santi Celario**

# DENR, ipinahinto ang illegal quarrying activities sa Lian, Batangas

By [RadyoMaN Manila](#) - Jul. 2, 2021 at 2:29pm



Ipinahinto ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang quarrying activities sa Lian, Batangas dahil sa pag-operate nang walang kaukulang permiso.

Kasunod ito ng joint-surveillance activity ng DENR, ng Environmental Crime Division ng National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) at DENR-Mines and Geosciences Bureau sa CALABARZON sa isinasagawang quarry operations sa Sitio Matuod, Barangay Binubusan, Lian.

Naaresto sa operasyon ang anim na quarry workers na patunay sa ilegal na aktibidad kahit na may inilabas na cease and desist order sa may-ari na si Francis Limjoco III.

Nakumpiska rin ang apat na unit ng backhoe at limang dump trucks kabilang ang “illegally sourced minerals” na tinatawag na andesite na isang volcanic rock na tinatayang may halagang mahigit P3, 000.

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BUILD, BUILD, BUILD

# Iconic bridge to spur mega socioeconomic development in Cagayan Valley

By: [Vaughn Alviar](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 02:23 AM July 03, 2021



The Camalaniugan Bridge is seen to benefit some 6,000 travelers daily.

An iconic mega bridge will soon traverse the Cagayan River between Camalaniugan town in eastern Cagayan and a portion of Aparri town on the western side.

Public Works and Highways Secretary Mark A. Villar flew all the way to Cagayan province to lead the groundbreaking ceremony on June 25 for the monumental Camalaniugan Bridge. This P2.4-billion undertaking is a crucial big-ticket project set for completion in 2023.

Also present at the groundbreaking ceremony were Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, DPWH Senior Undersecretary Rafael C. Yabut, DPWH Assistant Secretary for Regional Operations in Luzon Wilfredo Mallari, DPWH Region 2 Director Loreta M. Malaluan and Cagayan Gov. Manuel N. Mamba. Now under a design-and-build contract, the 1,580-meter-long Camalaniugan Bridge will only be the third bridge in the province to cross the Cagayan River, following the Buntun Bridge between Tuguegarao City and Solana town in the south, and the Magapit Bridge in Lal-lo town at the northern part.

Camalaniugan Bridge will connect to Jct. Cagayan Valley Road, making it an important alternative to the older Magapit Bridge. This bridge has been the only travel route to the Ilocandia and Cordillera regions, as well as some southern parts of Cagayan Valley Region. The new bridge will be a good alternate route just a few kilometers downstream.

Not only will it provide a new option for people to get from one side of the river to another, the bridge will also provide economic growth, according to Villar. “We are starting to build this bridge, and it’s going to spur socioeconomic development and increase productivity of our people in Aparri, Camalaniugan and Ballesteros in the Province of Cagayan.”



Public Works Secretary Mark A. Villar (center) led the groundbreaking for the monumental Camalaniugan Bridge.



The bridge is projected to benefit up to 6,000 travelers daily. Part of its draw will be the shorter travel time. It will effectively cut travel time between Camalaniugan and Aparri to nearby Ballesteros to as short as 30 to 45 minutes, from the current 1 hour and 30 minutes.

The design will be hard to miss, too. As a matter of fact, it is already anticipated as an iconic symbol of the Duterte administration's "Build, Build, Build" program that aims to boost the Philippine economy through a golden age of infrastructure. Camalaniugan Bridge is a tourist attraction in the making.

After the ceremony, Villar and Cimatú went to an ongoing rehabilitation and dredging project in nearby Bangag village, Lal-lo. The DENR and DPWH jointly lead the Build Back Better Task Force that ensures post-disaster rehabilitation and recovery efforts in typhoon-hit areas. The project in Lal-lo is part of the Cagayan River Restoration Program that aims to prevent the recurrence of the catastrophic flooding experienced last year across the Cagayan Valley Region.

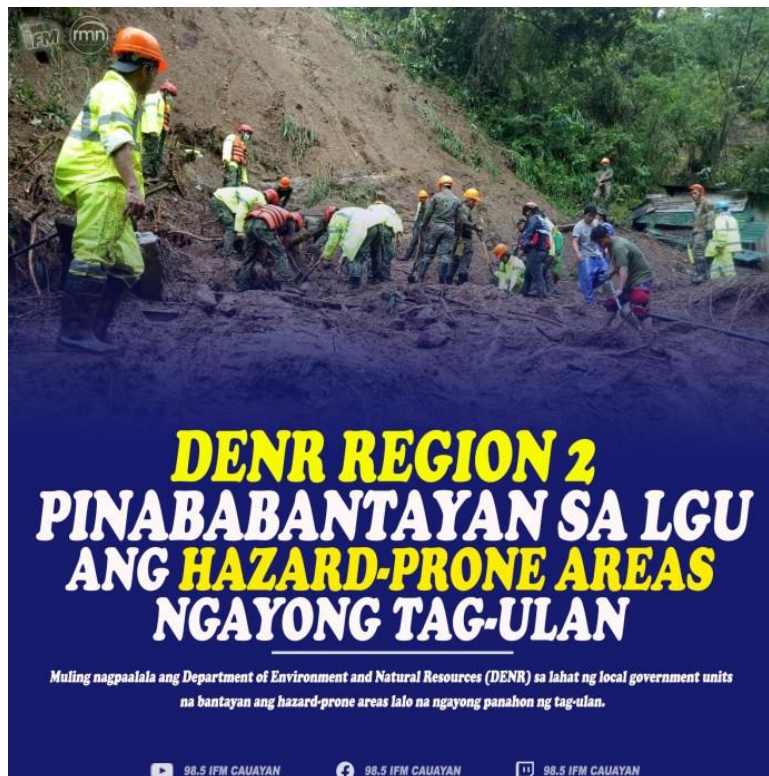
The region has been a big recipient of infrastructure projects from the national government. According to Villar, Cagayan Valley Region has seen the completion of 322 bridges under the Duterte administration. On top of that, the government also finished 1,483 kilometers of road, 5,589 classrooms and 379 flood mitigation structures.





# DENR Region 2, Pinababantayan sa LGU ang Hazard-Prone Areas ngayong Tag-ulan

By [geronimo dig](#) · Jul. 2, 2021 at 5:52pm



Cauayan City, Isabela- Muling nagpaalala ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa lahat ng local government units na bantayan ang hazard-prone areas lalo na ngayong panahon ng tag-ulan.

Tinukoy ng DENR ang mga illegal settlers na pilit naninirahan sa hazard-prone areas ng Barangay Runruno, Quezon, Nueva Vizcaya upang hindi na maulit ang nangyaring landslide sa lugar na kumitil ng maraming buhay noong nakalipas na taon.

Ayon kay DENR Mines and Geosciences Bureau Regional Director for Cagayan Valley Mario Ancheta, malapit na ring matapos ang relocation sites na ipinatayo ng Local Government Units at National Housing Authority para sa mga illegal settlers ng lalawigan.

Matatandaang daan-daang pamilya ang apektado ng pagguho ng lupa sa nabanggit na lugar habang hindi bababa sa 10 ang naitalang casualty sa pagguho ng lupa.

Source: <https://rmn.ph/denr-region-2-pinababantayan-sa-lgu-ang-hazard-prone-areas-ngayongtag-ulan/>



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

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Jul 1, 2021 9:50:17 PM



(FILE PHOTO)

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

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

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

It has also deployed more equipment for the cleanup efforts.

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

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

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

Source: [https://cnnphilippines.com/lifestyle/2021/7/1/smc-tullahan-river-cleanup.html?%3F%3F&fbclid=IwAR3tpmdwZX82t4X98TAalBQ8ObU4x4jZcxpyQbzo-1GX-ID6XLt\\_KXL0rw](https://cnnphilippines.com/lifestyle/2021/7/1/smc-tullahan-river-cleanup.html?%3F%3F&fbclid=IwAR3tpmdwZX82t4X98TAalBQ8ObU4x4jZcxpyQbzo-1GX-ID6XLt_KXL0rw)



## SMC arangkada sa Tullahan rehab kahit pandemya

By Abante News Online — Last updated Jul 1, 2021

NEWS



Photo courtesy of facebook.com/smcramonang



Umabot na ng mahigit 300,000 tonelada ng mga basura at burak ang nahukay sa rehabilitation project ng San Miguel Corporation (SMC) para linisin ang Tullahan-Tinajeros River System.

Target ng paghuhukay ng mga basura at burak na naipon sa ilalim ng ilog na mapigilan na ang pagbaha sa mga lungsod ng Navotas, Malabon at Valenzuela tuwing panahon ng tag-ulan.

Ayon kay SMC president at chief operating officer Ramon S. Ang, kahit limitado ang galawan sa pandemya ay patuloy pa rin ang isinasagawa nilang river cleanup operation para mapalalim at mapalawak pa ang ilog.

Bahagi ang proyektong ito ng mga inisyatiba ng SMC bilang suporta sa Manila Bay Rehabilitation Project ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

“We have been successful so far mainly because of the guidance of the DENR and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), as well as the support of our local governments and other stakeholders,” sabi ni Ang.



# DPWH to hire 200 more workers as dredging activities go on overdrive

Published July 2, 2021, 2:30 PM

by [Bethena Unite](#)

The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) is looking to hire additional manpower to complement its workforce amid the glut of dredging activities around the country.



**WANTED DREDGING OPERATORS**– Some 200 more workers will be hired by the Department of Public Works and Highways for its dredging projects nationwide. (Photo courtesy of the DPWH)

Public Works and Highways Secretary Mark A. Villar said that this year alone, no less than P70 million was allocated per region for the procurement of state-of-the-art dredging units and ancillary equipment, hence the need for corresponding operators.

“Supplemental equipment and manpower will augment our dredging operations that combat flooding in high-risk areas,” Villar said.

“Dredging allows us to excavate heavily-silted bodies of water which overflow during rainy and typhoon season. Currently, we are undertaking major dredging activities along Pasig River, Cagayan River, and Bicol River, in close coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR),” he added.

According to DPWH-Bureau of Equipment (BOE) Director Toribio Noel L. Ilao, the department’s regional offices were ordered to submit a list of proposed additional dredge personnel in anticipation of the new equipment for BOE’s approval. The number of personnel will be determined based on the number of additional dredging machinery.

“It is deemed necessary to ensure that all new equipment is manned by adequate and authorized crew as we prepare to intensify our dredging operations across the country. Our estimate is about 200 new personnel nationwide,” Ilao said.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/07/02/dpwh-to-hire-200-more-workers-as-dredging-activities-go-on-overdrive/>



## DPWH awaits Legal Office's opinion on cutting of trees



File photo

[MERLINDA A. PEDROSA](#)

July 02, 2021

THE Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) is still waiting for the opinion of the City Legal Office on the cutting of remaining trees along Araneta Street, Barangay Singcang-Airport, Bacolod City.

Engineer Joan Nathaniel Gerangaya, head of Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro)-Bago, said the permit issued to the DPWH on the cutting of trees along Araneta Street was already expired and it is up to them if they will apply again to continue the cutting of the remaining trees in said area.

He said the city earlier ordered them to stop the cutting of trees in said area.

In April, a total of 26 trees were cut by the DPWH purportedly to give way to the rehabilitation of the sidewalk via the construction of a footwalk along the said areas.

Mayor Evelio Leonardia also issued Executive Order (EO) No. 19, creating a committee to investigate the cutting of trees along Araneta Street in Bacolod City.

The mayor tasked City Legal Officer Joselito Bayatan as chairperson of the investigating committee, with its members Police Colone Manuel Placido, director of Bacolod City Police Office; Secretary to the Sangguniang Panlungsod lawyer Vicente Petierre III; Acting City Engineer Alido Agbones, Environment and Natural Resources (Enro) officer-in-charge Nelson Sedillo; and City Legal Office Enforcement Unit lawyer Reuben Mikhail Sabig.

Gerangaya said the officials of Barangay Singcang-Airport also withdraw their resolution of no objection on the cutting of trees along Araneta Street.

"So they have to apply again if they want to cut the remaining trees in said area," he said.

He added they also inspected the remaining trees along Araneta Street and they found out that it already destroyed the sidewalk and its roots reached and affected the drainage.

District Engineer Jaime Javellana earlier said they need to cut the trees in said area because it is very important for the safety of pedestrians and commuters.

He added the trees' roots already damaged the sidewalk and posed danger to pedestrians, commuters, and motorists. The roots also affected the drainage system in the area.

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1899555/Bacolod/Local-News/DPWH-awaits-Legal-Offices-opinion-on-cutting-of-trees>



# Tacloban suspends gatherings amid COVID-19 surge

By: [Joey Gabieta](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[Inquirer Visayas](#) / 01:01 PM July 02, 2021



Photo from Mayor Alfred Romualdez Facebook page

TACLOBAN CITY—Although it remains under the most relaxed form of quarantine, Mayor Alfred Romualdez has banned in-person gatherings after the surge of COVID-19 cases in the city.

Among the prohibited activities are graduation ceremonies, concerts, and sporting events.

Only Masses are allowed provided that the seating capacity is at 50 percent and minimum health protocols are followed.

“As a precautionary measure and in anticipation of any development that may arise and in accordance with inter-agency task force regulations and relevant issuances, all public in-person assemblies are prohibited until further notice. All previously issued permits to hold such events are hereby withdrawn,” Romualdez said in his executive order 2021-06-023.

Violators face a P20,000 to P50,000 fine and/or not more than six months in jail, at the discretion of the court and as provided under the Mandatory Reporting of Notifiable Diseases and Health Events of Public Health Concern Act.

Several events had been canceled due to Romualdez’s directive.

One of these was the “eco-pantry” organized by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Eastern Visayas (DENR-8).

As part of the agency’s Earth Day celebration, DENR-8 was supposed to give away eco-friendly and reusable eco-bags, tumblers, mugs, and cloth masks, as well as yakal seedlings at its regional office in Tacloban last June 4.

Malls have also canceled Sunday Masses, and performances in compliance with Romualdez’s order.

LZB

Source: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1454539/tacloban-suspends-gatherings-amid-covid-19-surge>



## 44 WILD SPECIES NASABAT SA NAIA

July 3, 2021 Rannie Lao



**NASABAT ng mga tauhan ng Bureau of Customs (BOC) sa Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) ang 44 wildlife species sa loob ng overstaying parcel na pinaniniwalaan galing sa bansang Thailand.**

Ayon sa report, kumpiskado ang 25 pirasong tarantulas, 12 na spiderlings, 5 centipedes at 2 ornithoctonus black spiders.

Dumating ang mga ito noong Mayo 12 ngayong taon sa Central Mail Exchange Center (CMEC) at naka-consigned sa isang Aldwin Capucae ng Pasay City, kung saan idineklara bilang mga plastic Teaching Materials.

Ayon sa pahayag ni BOC District Collector Mimel Talusan, ang mga Arthropods ay ang tinatawag na invertebrate animals kabilang ang spiders, centipedes at ito ay mahirap ma-controlled sapagkat mayroon ito direct o kaya indirect effects sa kalusugan ng tao, lalo na kung makakagat ito dahil mararamdaman mo ang sakit sa buong katawan.

Ayon kay CMEC customs Port-Sub Collector Mark Almase, inabisuhan na nito si Capucae ng maraming beses ngunit nagbingi-bingian ito, hanggang dumating ang reglementary period na isang buwan.

Batay sa impormasyon na nakalap ng pahayagang ito, hinihinalang aabot ito sa kalahating milyong piso ang halaga at agad ito inilipat sa pangangalaga sa mga tauhan sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Nakatakdang kasuhan ng BOC ang consignee dahil sa paglabag ng Republic Act (RA) No. 9147 o tinatawag na Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act, RA 10863 o Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA) at sa Section 117 in relation to Section 1113 and 1400, and all other related rules and regulations. **FROILAN MORALLOS**



# Pambihirang mga gagamba at alupihan, nasabat ng BOC sa Pasay

Hulyo 2, 2021 6:52pm GMT+08:00

Nabisto ng Bureau of Customs (BOC) sa Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) ang isang overstaying parcel na naglalaman ng mga wildlife species tulad ng tarantula o malaking gagamba.

Sa pahayag, sinabi ng BOC na 25 tarantula, 12 spiderling, limang alupihan, at dalawang Ornithoctonus black spider, ang nakita na pawang nakalagay sa maliliit na sisidlang plastik.

Idineklarang teaching materials ang mga ito na galing sa Thailand na nasabat sa Philpost Central Mail Exchange Center (CMEC) sa Pasay City.

Tinatayang nagkakahalaga ang mga ito ng nasa P500,000.

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

“Other species also administer venom through a bite, producing extreme pain to the unfortunate recipient, and can be fatal to humans,” dagdag sa pahayag.

Walang kumuha sa mga padala kaya sinuri ito ng mga tauhan ng BOC.

Ibibigay sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources, ang mga nasabat na wildlife species.

Patuloy naman ang imbestigasyon kung sino ang may-ari ng bagahe para sampahan ng reklamo sa paglabag sa Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act and the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act. —FRJ, **GMA News**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/balitambayan/umg/793855/pambihirang-mga-gagamba-at-alupihan-nasabat-ng-boc-sa-pasay/story/>





# Art murals bring environmental awareness to life in Panay, Guimaras

Published July 2, 2021, 2:44 PM

by [Tara Yap](#)

Despite the pandemic, an art collective and volunteer artists collaborated to bring environmental awareness to life with art murals in selected coastal communities of Panay and Guimaras Islands.

The ProCoast Project of Artivisim Iloilo and partners were able to bring the message of conserving and protecting marine and coastal resources in key coastal communities of Iloilo, Guimaras, and Aklan provinces.



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“It is our intention to continue to raise awareness about our oceans through meaningful engagements with the community, ocean activism, and through innovative and functional art,” the art collective explained.

In Ajuy town of Iloilo province, activists (a portmanteau for artists and activists) Marrz Capanang and Hannah Vergara led a mural painting that paid homage to the late Elmer Barbiera, a community environmentalist who pushed for the planting of more mangroves in Pedada village that was also hit by super typhoon Yolanda in November 2013. The duo were joined by Kai Buenavista, Fionalyn Villagracia, Jefferson Villagracia Balincuacas, and Margaux Blas in painting a mural at Pedada Elementary School.

Another mural project in Iloilo province was in Leganes town. Artists Epalan Noel, Marge Chavez, Isaac Bravo, and Kyle Francis Dile painted a mural that paid homage to Wilson Batislaon, an agricultural technician who was awarded as one of the Disney Conservation Heroes in 2016 for initiating mangrove reforestation and the creation of the Katunggan Eco Park.

In Ibajay town of Aklan province, the artists and volunteers created murals of kamangi (fiddler crab), uson (mud lobster), the 700-year-old avatar tree, and the Aeta culture in illustrating the roots of the famous Ati-Atihan Festival. Artists Jonard Villarde, Marlo Ubal, and Rey Gico with the special participation of Romer Almasol Superio created the mural at Bugtongbato village.

Lastly, artists Marrz Capanang and Rey Gico, with the participation of Kindred Buenavista, created a mural in Taklong Island, a government-run marine reserve in Nueva Valencia town of Guimaras province. The trio were assisted by volunteer artists from La Paz and San Roque villages.

ProCoast Project was part of the recent celebrations of Ocean Month and Environment Month.

It is organized by Artivism Iloilo with the Mangrove and Beach Forest Rehabilitation and Conservation program of the Zoological Society of London – Philippines (ZSL-Philippines), the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the local government units (LGUs), barangay officials, students, and community volunteers.

Other partners were Davies Paint and the German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ) on behalf of the German government’s environmental agency.



## Rules of engagement

[SEARCH FOR TRUTH](#) - [Ernesto P. Maceda Jr.](#) (The Philippine Star) - July 3, 2021 - 12:00am

The Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, R.A. 9003, was enacted back in 2001. It mandated the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) to prepare a non-environmentally acceptable products (NEAP) list within a year from its effectivity. It is only this year that a list has somehow been conjured up. We are five years into the term of President Rodrigo R. Duterte, long after DENR secretaries and NSWMC chairs under presidents Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and Benigno C. Aquino III have come and gone.

Twenty years to act. Civil society groups have had enough. The pique is understandable and utterly justified. Cong. Loren Legarda's resolution early this month to investigate and audit the NSWMC could have come earlier. Even the monumental announcement that a list was ready – last February's big news – ended up limited only to plastic straws and stirrers. Bigger ticket NEAPs like plastic spoons and forks, plastic labo bags, bottles, take out containers, among others, were not included. The list, by the way, has yet to even be signed.

The Philippines has become notorious in the arena of plastics pollution. We are the third largest source of discarded plastic that ends up in the ocean. Just recently, Pasig River was identified by a Netherlands-based non-profit organization as far and away the top polluter of oceans among all rivers in the world.

Congress would not micro-manage on this. It passed on to the NSWMC as administrative agency (with rule making power) the grunt work to implement the policy as per standards enunciated in the statute. But the NSWMC has not delivered. Hence, the notice served by OCEANA et. al. that continued dithering will result in legal action.

Subsidiarity rules. In the meantime, local governments have taken the lead. Pending action on the list, several cities and municipalities led in regulating the use of plastic products. With the issue crying out to be addressed and the national government taking its time, local officials acted on this matter of great importance to their constituencies. As of 2019, 316 local government units (LGUs) had ordinances banning outright the use of plastic bags, including plastic straws and stirrers.

The NEAP listing, like any government regulation, is subject to challenge by affected interests. Even if straws and stirrers are on the list, Congress continues to entertain initiatives to regulate or tax single use plastics. This means permitting their use and would clearly impact on the LGU bans.

The case of these plastic products is evocative of the disorder caused by divergent strands of national and local governance endeavors. We can imagine several comparable situations where national and local policymakers clash. Among them: the not-in-my-backyard (NIMBY) scenarios of refusing to host common sanitary landfills; leading on local smoking bans and gender neutral restrooms; South Cotabato province's prohibition on open pit mining; Davao City's firecrackers ban; Manila's contraception ban; the Manila and Navotas truck bans; Valenzuela City's suspension of the NLEX Corp.'s Tollway operations; the LGU-led backlash against the Land Transportation Office's Motor Vehicle Inspection System and, the latest imbroglio, the community pantry initiatives.

Concurrence rules. In systems such as ours, we inevitably see the confluence of regulatory spheres between national and sub-national governments. This is emblematic of decentralization where we endure actual, justiciable cases of confrontation between local legislative issuances and national initiatives. Philippine jurisprudence is replete with such showdowns. Sec. Eduardo Año should take note that local issuances are upheld by the Supreme Court about as often as they are displaced.



Hence, this latest Cebu v. Manila pissing contest on quarantine protocols will not be easily dismissed by a statement that “national policies prevail over local ordinances.” It would be more comforting to all if the DILG secretary could exhibit a more perceptive appreciation of the rules of engagement between national and local governments, most especially in light of the clear constitutional policy guaranteeing the autonomy of LGUs.

The President himself never wavered in recognizing this. His reaction to the recent controversial suspension of the NLEX Toll Plaza’s business permit by the City of Valenzuela was indicative. It was an admission in favor of the LGU and against the interest of the national government. The President was emphatic: “You cannot come barging in and overruling them because they (LGUs) have that inherent right.” As a former local chief executive, the President knows keenly that the Constitution limits the Executive power over LGUs to supervision only.

As we wrote last week, the quarantine power is local. The President, however, has been empowered by Congress through Bayanihan I and II to compel the obeisance of LGUs on pandemic response policies. The statutory language reads: “Ensuring that all LGUs are acting within the letter and spirit of all the rules, regulations and directives issued by the national government.”

Arguably, this confers upon him powers that exceed mere supervision. No one has thought to test the contours of this temporary cranking up of power. In this context, we welcome the Cebu effort to seek clarity from the Court on who prevails on the airport quarantine issue.

Concurrence of regulatory power in this multiple level governance is a reality. In this, Secretary Año must be guided. And if there is to be a resolution of the clash, it would involve an ex-post analysis, followed by the deliberation of a judicial forum.

Of course, the general rule is that national policies trump local initiatives. But this is true if there is legislative intent, explicit or implied, that can be established in each instance. Absent a clear touchstone, it is a disservice to LGUs and the constitutional principle of local autonomy to proclaim that local ordinances and policies are to automatically conform to national IATF resolutions which are binding and mandatory.

Glossary. Halfcinated – having received the first dose of a two-dose vaccine.



# EU-ASEAN dialogue zeroes in on plastic waste management

July 3, 2021



During the 4th EU-Asean Dialogue on GreenTech & Innovation Mapping: Green Technologies for Plastic Value Chain Management Webinar Series.

IN pursuit of sustainable development, the Department of Science and Technology together with the European Commission Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (DG RTD), with the support of the Enhanced EU-Asean Dialogue Instrument (E-READI) and the Asean Secretariat S&T Division hosted the EU-Asean Dialogue on GreenTech & Innovation Mapping: Green Technologies for Plastic Value Chain Management Webinar Series. This engagement is the fourth installment of the six-part webinar series.

This webinar particularly focused on plastic wastes consolidation and recycling approaches. The speakers from Asean (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) and the EU (European Union) zeroed in on the importance of policy frameworks and models on plastic waste consolidation, segregation, and recycling. Special talks of relevant EU Horizon 2020-funded projects addressing issues on plastic wastes were also presented.

This initiative aims to provide a platform for dialogues on green technology markets, particularly among innovators, and to promote EU-Asean Technology Cooperation and Transfer. The focus on plastic value chain management can facilitate discussions on the present and future of plastic waste management and its key elements, including new technologies and solutions on plastic waste consolidation, segregation, and recycling to close the loop towards a circular economy.

The fifth EU-Asean Webinar Series is scheduled on 24 June 2021 that will focus on the innovative approaches in managing plastic wastes in the marine environment. Registration for this may be accessed through this link: [bit.ly/GreenTech5](https://bit.ly/GreenTech5).

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/07/03/public-square/eu-asean-dialogue-zeroes-in-on-plastic-waste-management/1805524>



# City won't terminate contract with garbage private hauler

By [Mary Ruth R. Malinao](#)(The Freeman) - July 3, 2021 - 12:00am



City Administrator Floro Casas Jr. said the city will not cancel its contract with the private contractor managing the garbage transfer station in Barangay Inayawan.

CEBU, Philippines — Despite several violations of its garbage hauling contract, the Cebu City government does not find it compelling enough to terminate Docast Construction/JJ & J Construction and General Supply as private hauler.

City Administrator Floro Casas Jr. said the city will not cancel its contract with the private contractor managing the garbage transfer station in Barangay Inayawan.

“Wala mi nakakita’g reason nga i-terminate, so unless there is a compelling reason to terminate, we will not,” said Casas.

“Ang atong contractor magpabilin ni atong contractor hangtod mo-expire ang atong kontrata,” he added.

Vice Mayor Michael Rama issued a memorandum on June 28, 2021, enumerating the requirements stipulated in the contract that the private hauler allegedly violated.

According to Rama, the contractor was required to have a property of not less than one hectare in land area that is suitable to serve as a motor pool; must be able to present its weight determination facility or weighbridge facility; and must have at least 50 units of garbage collection and hauling equipment specifically dump truck transporters with certificate of inspection from Cebu City Environment and Natural Resources Office (CCENRO) and Department of Public Services (DPS), among others.

“After thorough inspection on the Inayawan Transfer Station, it has come to our knowledge that you have not complied with the above stated requirements,” Rama’s memorandum reads.

The memo also stated that to this date, there is only one waste transfer station existing in the south, not owned by Docast but somebody else, which is “undeniably substandard.”

There is also no transfer station in the north area considering the fact that this must exist prior to entering the contract.

There was also no proper monitoring as to how much garbage is disposed of in the landfill due to the alleged absence of a proper person to monitor the weighing process from ARN landfill in Barangay Binaliw as well as in the transfer station.

In the memo, Rama pointed out that the contractor is only providing 13 trucks, which is far less than the minimum requirement of at least 50 units they need to provide.

Since June 19, Docast was also barred from dumping garbage at the landfill in Binaliw after allegedly failing to pay the landfill operator, ARN Central Waste Management Inc., more than P18 million in dues, which consist of P1,027,386.60 for 2020 and P17,648,518 for the period covering March 16 to May 31, 2021.



The refusal by ARN landfill to accept the trucks of Docast resulted in the piling up of garbage at the Inayawan transfer station. Rama said these violations are grounds for termination of the contract.

Meanwhile, Department of Public Services (DPS) head John Jigo Dacua has assured that the uncollected garbage at the transfer station is being hauled slowly every day.

“So far, siges man ta’g collect everyday. Wa man ta moundang pag-collect buntag, hapon ug sa magabii everyday still collecting and disposing our garbage,” said Dacua.

“Wa’y problema, wala ma-hamper atong operations, padayon unya so far among gyu’ng gipaningkamutan everyday nga limpyo gyud ang dalan kay mao man gyud gi mando ni mayor nga dapat way makita nga basura sa pagbuntag ug kanang padulong na mutrabaho ang mga tawo kanang mugawas sa ilang panimalay sa gabii padung sa panguli dapat limpyo gyud,” he added.

Dacua said the contractor was able to comply with its obligation to the city government with regard the garbage collection. — **FPL (FREEMAN)**



# Climate impacts fast approaching

[By Eireene Jairee Gomez](#)

July 3, 2021

Rising sea levels and coastal flooding could slash the City of Manila's gross domestic product (GDP) by at least \$39 billion within the current decade, Greenpeace East Asia said in a new report.

"Experts have long known the extreme vulnerability of coastal cities such as Manila to climate impacts due to flooding events compounded by sea level rise," Greenpeace Country Director Lea Guerrero said.

But what we're seeing is that we may experience these impacts sooner than we think. Within this decade, coastal cities in Asia and the Philippines - not just the City of Manila - are at high risk from rising sea levels and intensifying storms, impacting our homes, safety, and livelihoods," she added.

The report, which looked at seven cities across the Asia Pacific, calls for stronger climate action from governments in order to avert the worst climate scenarios.

"The data presented in this report should serve to urgently spur government leaders to prioritize climate action," Guerrero said.

The report estimates that by 2030, 15 million people across the seven Asian cities would be living in areas at risk of flooding. Manila was said to be especially vulnerable, being one of the most congested in the world and one of the riskiest in terms of natural disasters.

"This July marks National Disaster Resilience Month. We need to remember that climate action needs to be at the core of this response," Guerrero said.

"The climate emergency is already here and we need to strengthen disaster management planning and enable communities to cope with climate impacts. This includes updating infrastructure, establishing early warning systems, decentralizing climate information to enable more people to plan for climate impacts, and strengthening community-based disaster risk reduction," he added.

Beyond disaster response, Greenpeace said a coherent strategy should include actions to curb greenhouse gas emissions.

It again called on the government to cancel all new coal-fired power plants in the pipeline, accelerate the shift to clean and renewable energy (RE), and call on other countries to enhance their emissions reduction targets.

At the same time, Greenpeace urged Congress to adopt policies and enact laws to protect the climate and direct public and private entities to align their practices and/or business models to the goals of the Paris Agreement.

Fossil fuel firms should also be held accountable, it added, for contributing to the climate crisis. Given the expected domestic impact, Greenpeace campaigner Rhea Jane Mallari said they were urging "Manila Mayor Isko Moreno and other LGU (local government unit) leaders to prioritize climate adaptation and mitigation strategies in their city planning development."

Local government plans, she added, should include "not just investing in green and sustainable





technologies, infrastructure, and localized solutions such as green belts, natural carbon sinks, and RE systems, but also championing inter-LGU dialogues to address climate impacts."

This entails shifting LGU mindsets and practices, from disaster response to building adaptive capacity of their communities.



In a report, Washington-based World Bank estimated that the collapse of select ecosystem services provided by nature may result in the decline of the global economy by \$2.7 trillion annually by 2030.

AFP/Eric Baradat

## Ecosystem damage to cost Philippines \$21 billion by 2030 — World Bank

[Louise Maureen Simeon](#) (The Philippine Star ) - July 3, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines may lose nearly \$21 billion by 2030 if the services provided by nature collapse and if no smart policies will be implemented to protect the country's biodiversity.

In a report, Washington-based World Bank estimated that the collapse of select ecosystem services provided by nature may result in the decline of the global economy by \$2.7 trillion annually by 2030.

The World Bank maintained that low and middle income countries that are reliant on nature — specifically agriculture, livestock, forestry production and fisheries — are likely to lose more over the next few years amid worsening climate crisis.

The Philippines, a lower-middle income economy, is among the countries that rely directly on ecosystem services and may suffer an 18 percent decline in output worth \$12.2 billion.

Across the world, significant losses will come from China (\$194 billion), India (\$46 billion), and the US (\$41 billion).

In terms of crop output, global decline is estimated to contract by nine percent or \$400 billion in the next nine years. China is still seen to suffer the worst at \$142 billion.

For an agricultural country like the Philippines, potential losses may reach \$5 billion or a 17 percent drop. Other countries with significant declines in crop output are Brazil at \$31 billion, and Argentina and Turkey at \$7 billion each.

The country's fisheries sector could also lose some \$3.5 billion over the next few years as global output may contract by 15 percent to \$94 billion under a partial ecosystem collapse scenario.

China is expected to be the biggest loser with \$42 billion. Significant declines are also seen in Bangladesh (\$5.4 billion) and India (\$4.9 billion).

The World Bank said the global decline of biodiversity and ecosystem services is a development issue considering that economies, particularly low-income countries, cannot afford the risk of collapse in the services provided by nature.



World Bank president David Malpass said preserving nature and maintaining its services are critical for economic growth especially as the world is just slowly recovering from the pandemic.

“Nature-smart policies and reforms, including agricultural subsidy reform and investments in agricultural innovation enhance biodiversity and economic outcomes. As countries seek to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, it’s important that economic development improves outcomes for nature,” Malpass said.

The multilateral development bank argued that a combination of carefully crafted and coordinated policies, particularly those supporting innovation, can simultaneously benefit biodiversity and development.

It added that investments in ecosystem services must be made in a way that exploits synergies with climate change mitigation and adaptation, as this strengthens the case for action.

For one, when forest carbon payment schemes are implemented, either at the domestic or global level, other domestic policies like agriculture subsidy reform become more effective at protecting nature while enhancing economic gains.



## Renewables to help curb effects of climate change

By [Eireene Jairee Gomez](#) July 3, 2021

THERE is a need for the government to ensure that energy plans and projects will take into consideration the current climate change crisis, an official of green advocacy group Greenpeace said.

Speaking at The Manila Times forum titled "Propelling Renewable Energy Against Climate Change" on Wednesday, Greenpeace Southeast Asia Executive Director Naderev "Yeb" Saño highlighted the importance of promoting renewable energy in the country, which could help lessen the worst possible impacts of climate change.

However, this requires the country, including the national government, "to acknowledge climate change as what it really is" as one way to keep it from spiraling out of control, he said.

"What we have to address today is how to combat climate change and how to promote renewable energy in that context. It's an emergency because it causes a lot of damage and dangers. And the emergency is escalating to the level that we have not predicted," said Saño.

He stressed the various energy-related challenges the country is facing today, such as power outages, amid continuously increasing electricity demand will be too far away from getting resolved if the government will not get away from "outdated" energy systems.

"The recurring power outages are really a symptom of the country's very outdated energy system and that is because we are very reliant on fossil fuel. We must build energy systems that would cope with the future, not with the past," Saño pointed out.

To recall, the Luzon grid was placed under red alert for three consecutive days from May 31 to June 2 amid the forced outages of plants and higher temperatures. A red alert is raised in the event of zero ancillary service or deficient reserves that may result in rotational power outages while a yellow alert is hoisted when power reserves are thin.





Meanwhile, Saño acknowledged one of the milestones on the energy sector when Republic Act 9513, or the "Renewable Energy Act of 2008," was enacted in December 2008. However, he stressed that much still needs to be done to fully accelerate the utilization of renewable energy resources in the country, effectively reduce harmful emissions and resolve the current energy problems.

In 2020, the country's energy mix was composed of 41.7-percent coal, 29-percent renewable energy (hydro, geothermal, wind and solar), 16.1-percent oil-based and 13.2-percent natural gas with energy capacity at 26,250 megawatts, data from the Department of Energy showed.

# Forest loss in Southeast Asia accelerates at ‘shocking’ pace: Report

A new study reveals that mountain forest loss in Southeast Asia is accelerating at an unprecedented rate: approximately 189,000 square kilometers of highland forest was converted to cropland during the first two decades of this century.



Deforested terrain in Guangxi Zhuang, China: [CIFOR](#), [CC BY-NC-ND 3.0](#)

By Carolyn Cowan, Mongabay.com  
July 1, 2021

Southeast Asia is home to roughly half of the world’s tropical mountain forests. These highland ecosystems support massive carbon stores and tremendous biodiversity, including a host of species that occur nowhere else on the planet. But new evidence suggests these havens are in grave danger. Conversion of higher-elevation forest to cropland is accelerating at an unprecedented rate throughout the region, according to findings published June 28 in [Nature Sustainability](#).

By analysing high-resolution satellite data sets of forest loss and state-of-the-art maps of carbon density and terrain, an international team of researchers quantified patterns of forest loss in Southeast Asia during the first two decades of this century. They found that during the 2000s, forest loss was mainly concentrated in the lowlands; but by the 2010s, it had shifted significantly to higher ground.

Between 2001 and 2019, the researchers calculated that Southeast Asia had lost 610,000 square kilometers (235,500 square miles) of forest — an area larger than Thailand. Of this loss, 31 per cent occurred in mountainous regions, equivalent to 189,100 km<sup>2</sup> (73,000 mi<sup>2</sup>) of highland forest converted to cropland and plantation in less than two decades.

Moreover, the study reveals an accelerating trend. By 2019, 42 per cent of total annual forest loss occurred at higher elevations, with the frontier of forest loss migrating upslope at a rate of roughly 15 meters (49 feet) per year.

Particularly prominent shifts to mountain forest loss were found in north Laos, northeast Myanmar, and east Sumatra and Kalimantan in Indonesia — the country that experienced the most overall forest loss.

Decades of widespread clearing of lowland forests to make way for rice, oil palm and rubber plantations has led the conservation community to perceive forest loss as an issue only affecting the lowlands, said Paul Elsen, climate adaptation scientist at the Wildlife Conservation Society and co-author of the study.

“To see through this study that forest loss is increasing and accelerating in mountainous areas throughout the whole of Southeast Asia was pretty surprising,” he told Mongabay.



The expansion of agriculture into higher elevation areas, despite sub-optimal growing conditions due to lower temperatures and steep slopes, spotlights just how scarce undeveloped land now is in lowland Southeast Asia.

“Just because we found that there’s a lot of increasing forest loss in the mountains does not mean that we’re not still seeing forest loss in the lowlands ... we still have to worry about lowland forest loss,” Elsen said. “It is just shocking that [forest loss] is continuing to move up into places that we felt were safe by virtue of being rugged and remote and isolated.”

### ***Natural hazards***

Worldwide, more than 1 billion people live in mountainous regions. Forest loss in these areas has far-reaching implications for people who depend directly on forest resources and downstream communities.

Clearing forests in steep headwaters where rivers originate can increase the risk of catastrophic landslips and flooding in lower areas. It also exacerbates soil erosion and runoff, causing rivers to clog with silt and agricultural pollutants, reducing downstream water quality and availability. In 2018, many people blamed the devastating floods that struck southeast Sulawesi in Indonesia, [displacing](#) thousands of people from their villages, on upstream forest clearing.

“These impacts can kill people, of course, but they also disrupt roads and transportation access so goods and services can’t reach communities,” Elsen said. “That’s hugely impactful when you have increased soil erosion and instability following the removal of trees.”

Elsen said communities dependent on mountain forests are hit with a “double whammy” when trees are cleared, since they lose the safety net the forest provides against diminished crop yields, which also suffer from diminished water availability and quality. “Now that the forest has been removed, you have fewer products available for communities to rely on, so it also reduces their adaptation potential,” he said. “If left unchecked, this could be a really big environmental problem for the communities living both in the mountains and in the lowlands.”

Furthermore, a 2021 [study](#) showed that deforestation in the tropics can increase local warming by up to 2° Celsius (3.6° Fahrenheit). “Local communities living in these frontier zones will suffer much stronger climate warming due to the biogeophysical feedbacks driven by tree loss further compounding the effects of global warming,” Zhenzhong Zeng, associate professor at the Southern University of Science and Technology, Shenzhen, China and co-author of the new study told Mongabay.

### ***Nowhere to go***

If the forest loss continues to march upslope, the consequences for wildlife could be equally devastating. [Recent studies](#) suggest many species are shifting their ranges to higher altitudes in response to warming temperatures.

“The mountains of Southeast Asia are one of the most biologically rich regions of the planet and it’s incredible how many species of mammals, of birds, of amphibians are living only in the mountains and rely on forested ecosystems for their survival,” Elsen said. “So the removal of any of those forests will most likely reduce their abundances at a minimum and could potentially cause local extinctions because species that live in mountains often are very isolated in particular spots.”

“While it’s not surprising, unfortunately, that forest loss rates are moving up elevation in Southeast Asia, this study importantly quantifies this upwards acceleration,” Tim Bonebrake, a conservation biologist at Hong Kong University who was not involved in the study, told Mongabay in an email. He said the rate of upslope shift in the frontier of forest loss is very concerning and might hamper species’ ability to adapt to climate change.

“Not only do these losses of forest cover amount to losses in habitat for species, but the incursion of this forest loss up elevation will also impair biodiversity resilience to climate change,” Bonebrake said. “Forest species that may have otherwise been able to shift their distributions in response to warming will have less space to do so.”

### *Global carbon budget*

As part of the study, the researchers investigated how forest loss is affecting carbon budgets by overlaying forest loss datasets on high-resolution carbon density maps. They found that carbon stocks in steeper, higher-elevation forests are much greater than in lowland forests. This contrasts with patterns in Africa and South America where lowland forests account for more carbon sequestration. The Southeast Asia pattern is most likely due to greater levels of primary production and organic soil content in the region’s highland forests, say the researchers.

The team calculated that the total annual forest carbon loss across Southeast Asia was 424 million metric tonnes of carbon per year, which is equivalent to one-sixth of all the carbon absorbed by the world’s [oceans](#) each year. Mountain areas accounted for nearly one-third of that loss.

Their findings suggest that assumptions used in global climate change models, which consider all forest carbon emissions as equal, could be inaccurate. Moreover, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s (IPCC) climate models incorporate predictions that tree-dominated land cover will persist in Southeast Asian mountains. Not only are those mountains losing their forest cover, but the fact that the region’s mountain forests store comparatively more carbon than lowland forests means that their loss will disproportionately affect climate predictions.

The authors calculate that if the patterns of forest loss continue, annual forest carbon loss in the mountains will exceed that of the lowlands as soon as 2022. They also suggest that the continued loss of carbon-rich forests at higher elevations could eventually tip the scales, shifting Southeast Asia’s forests from being a [neutral actor](#) in the global carbon cycle to a net carbon emitter.

Ultimately, the loss of higher-elevation forest will make it much harder to meet international climate objectives to limit global warming to below 2° Celsius (3.6° Fahrenheit) by the end of this century. This is, according to Elsen, “A very simple message that we need practitioners and policymakers to understand.”

*This story was published with permission from [Mongabay.com](#).*





# Phivolcs warns of 'explosive' Taal eruption

By [Helen Flores](#)(Philstar.com) - July 3, 2021 - 12:00am



Photo shows a general view of the volcano's crater lake yesterday, which was generally calm a day after a five-minute steam and gas-driven explosion.

## 'Volcano activity could delay vaccine delivery'

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) appealed yesterday to residents living within the seven-kilometer danger zone of Taal Volcano not to return to their homes yet due to the threat of "explosive eruptions."

"We need to observe Taal Volcano's activities. In case there will be a downward trend, we have to wait for two weeks to make sure that it's already safe to return and to lower its status," Science Undersecretary and Phivolcs officer-in-charge Renato Solidum Jr. said in an interview with Teleradyo.

While there is presently no indication of a bigger eruption, Solidum reminded the public to "be vigilant, because magma is rising."

On Thursday, Phivolcs raised the alert level of Taal from 2 (increased unrest) to 3 (magmatic unrest) as it reminded the public to avoid entering Taal Volcano island and the high-risk barangays of Agoncillo and Laurel in Batangas.

Phivolcs also issued an evacuation advisory covering the barangays of Banyaga and Bilibinwang in Agoncillo, and the barangays of Gulod, Boso-boso and Lakeshore Bugaan East in Laurel town. Affected areas also include Poblacion, and Sinturisan in San Nicolas, Subic Ilaya in Agoncillo, Apacay, Taal, Boot in Tanauan City and San Sebastian in Balete.

Sen. Joel Villanueva urged the government to prepare for possible delays in COVID-19 vaccine shipments due to disruptions on inbound and outbound flights should Taal Volcano erupt.

He noted the Jan. 12, 2020 eruption that cancelled 643 flights at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Parañaque and Clark airport in Pampanga, affecting more than 100,000 passengers. "If that happens again, heaven forbid, what's our Plan B for flights carrying imported vaccines? And how will we dispatch vaccines to provinces because we're using Manila as a base," he said.

### Pre-emptive evacuation

About 317 families or 1,282 individuals have been preventively evacuated due to phreatomagmatic eruptions, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council reported yesterday.



The Department of Tourism has called on tourists and tourism operators near Taal Volcano to evacuate. It also asked for the postponement of activities and non-essential travel to high-risk towns until declared safe by authorities.

Malacañang appealed to residents living near the volcano to heed the call of local government units for evacuation and taking precautionary measures due to a possible eruption.

“We ask residents in the areas surrounding the volcano lake to remain vigilant, take precautionary measures, cooperate with their local authorities should the need for evacuation arise,” presidential spokesman Harry Roque Jr. said.

Roque said President Duterte ordered the Department of Social Welfare and Development Region 4-A to stockpile food packs worth P1.4 million and non-food items worth P11 million, ready for deployment in relief operations.

Philippine National Police chief Gen. Guillermo Eleazar directed Calabarzon police director Brig. Gen. Eliseo Cruz to deploy police vehicles to help evacuate residents in high-risk areas.

“Our police commanders were also instructed to coordinate with the local DRRMCs (disaster risk reduction and management councils) not only for the evacuation of the affected residents but also in the assessment of their needs,” Eleazar said.

The Batangas police deployed 946 personnel, backed by 134 personnel from the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Bureau of Fire Protection and Philippine Coast Guard.

### **Warning**

Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire warned the public that the ashfall and sulfur emissions from Taal Volcano might cause eye and skin irritations, itchy throat and nose, coughing and difficulty in breathing.

“You have to wear masks and eye protection. Better if it will be N95 masks to prevent inhalation of these emissions. If you really need to go out of your homes, wear goggles or N95 masks and wear long clothes to prevent skin irritation,” she added.

Meanwhile, Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas national chair Fernando Hicap urged the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources to assess the fisheries and aquaculture damage in Taal Lake and prepare calamity assistance for affected fisherfolk. – **Sheila Crisostomo, Christina Mendez, Ralph Edwin Villanueva, Romina Cabrera, Emmanuel Tupas, Paolo Romero, Rhodina Villanueva**



# Panganib sa kalusugan ng 'sulfur dioxide' nakaamba sa mga residente sa Taal

By [Danilo Garcia](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon) - July 3, 2021 - 12:00am



Ipinayo ni Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire sa mga residente na magsuot ng N95 masks, goggles at iba pang pang-proteksyon sa mata lalo na ng mga may sakit na asthma, bronchitis, emphysema at iba pa.

MANILA, Philippines — Nagpaalala ang Department of Health (DOH) sa mga residente na malapit sa nag-aalburuto ngayong bulkang Taal na magsuot ng mga pang-proteksyon upang hindi masinghot ang 'sulfur dioxide' na ibinubuga ng bulkan at makakasama sa kalusugan lalo na ng mga may kundisyon sa baga.

Ipinayo ni Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire sa mga residente na magsuot ng N95 masks, goggles at iba pang pang-proteksyon sa mata lalo na ng mga may sakit na asthma, bronchitis, emphysema at iba pa.

“Ang ibinubuga pong sulfur dioxide o kung magbubuga ng abo ang bulkan ay nakakasama sa kung sino mang makakalanghap nito,” ayon kay Vergeire.

Nitong Huwebes, itinaas ng Phivolcs ang Alert Level 3 sa Taal makaraang magbuga ng isang kilometrong taas na “phreatomagmatic” na abo.

Libo-libong residente na malapit sa bulkan ang inilikas dahil sa pangamba na mas matitindi pang pagsabog na magaganap.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2021/07/03/2109828/panganib-sa-kalusugan-ng-sulfur-dioxide-nakaamba-sa-mga-residente-sa-taal/amp/>



# Phivolcs records 28 volcanic quakes as Taal remains on Alert Level 3

By [Kaithreen Cruz](#) July 2, 2021

THE Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) continues to monitor Taal Volcano after it erupted on Thursday.

Phivolcs has recorded 28 volcanic earthquakes and 1 explosion-type tremor over the past 24 hours.

Alert Level 3 remains as the volcano showed relatively high unrest activity.

A 3.5 magnitude volcanic-tectonic earthquake was also recorded at 9:32 a.m. on Friday in Mabini, Batangas. Phivolcs said that this indicates a movement of magma underneath the ground.

According to Phivolcs Volcano Monitoring and Eruption Prediction Division Chief Mariton Bornas, they are looking at three possible scenarios that could occur given Taal's recent activities.

A phreatomagmatic eruption may reoccur, in which water and magma or lava interact. This kind of eruption could be dangerous, as it is explosive. Bornas said that future occurrences could be more intense or even be prolonged, but not similar to the explosion in 2020.

Another scenario is for a Strombolian eruption to occur. This is a less violent form of eruption that has lava fountaining or lava flow.

Lastly, there is still a possibility that the volcanic activity will die down in the next two weeks and the volcano alert level could soon go to level 2.

Phivolcs reminded the public to stay on alert for an explosion where pyroclastic density currents or base surge, volcanic tsunami, ashfall, or emission of poisonous gases may occur within the vicinity of Taal volcano.

03 JULY 2021, SATURDAY



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# **NEWS ALERTS**

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# COVID-19 deaths near 25,000 with 177 new fatalities

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Jul 2, 2021 3:32:48 PM

**BREAKING NEWS**



The country's COVID-19 death toll moved close to 25,000 at 24,973 after 177 more patients lost their lives to the disease, the Department of Health said Friday. (FILE PHOTO)

**Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, July 2)** — The country's COVID-19 death toll moved close to 25,000 at 24,973 after 177 more patients lost their lives to the disease, the Department of Health said Friday.

The death toll is 1.75% of the nationwide tally, which rose to 1,424,518 with 6,192 new infections. Of the total, 3.9% or 55,482 are active or sick people - with at least 91.5% experiencing mild symptoms, 3.8% without symptoms, 2% with severe symptoms, 1.44% in moderate condition, and 1.4% in critical condition.

The number of survivors also climbed to 1,344,063 or 94.4% of the COVID-19 total after 2,212 more people recovered.

The DOH said it reclassified 114 recoveries - 12 into active cases and 102 into fatalities - after validation. It also deleted 11 duplicates, including one fatality and eight recoveries.

The total excludes data from four laboratories that failed to submit their reports on time, the DOH said. These laboratories contributed an average of 0.05% of samples tested and 0.25% of positive individuals in the last 14 days.

The daily positivity rate or percentage of individuals who tested positive slightly dropped from 11.9% on June 29 to 11.4% based on 51,536 tests on June 30. The rate will still get updated but it is far from the below 5% recommended by the World Health Organization. Experts said high rates may mean high transmission and there are more cases that have yet to be detected.

Independent research group OCTA said the [daily average cases in Metro Manila](#) rose slightly to 686 from June 25 to July - up 5% compared to the week before.



# 4 cities tagged as COVID-19 areas of concern

[Janvic Mateo](#) (The Philippine Star) - July 3, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The OCTA Research Group has identified four cities as areas of concern as COVID-19 cases continue to rise in the past week.

OCTA said Baguio, Davao, Iloilo and San Fernando in La Union also recorded high utilization rate of healthcare facilities.

Citing data from the Department of Health, OCTA said Davao recorded a daily average of 324 cases from June 25 to July 1, an increase of 43 percent from the 227 recorded in the preceding week.

The city had an incidence rate of 17.86 daily new cases per 100,000 people, which is classified as "very high risk."

Intensive care unit (ICU) bed utilization rate is at 89 percent, which is above the critical threshold of 70 percent.

After a period of decline, Iloilo recorded an increase in average daily cases again from 75 to 103, an increase of 38 percent.

The city had an incidence rate of 21.73 percent, with its hospital and ICU bed utilization above the critical threshold.

The number of new cases in Baguio rose by 30 percent from 43 to 56 per day. San Fernando logged an increase of 148 percent from 15 to 38.

The two areas recorded 15.10 and 29.31 daily new cases per 100,000 people, respectively.

OCTA also noted a 37-percent increase in new cases in San Pablo, Laguna from 26 to 35 per day. The city recorded an incidence rate of 12.09 percent and ICU bed utilization rate of 71 percent.

"The trends slowed down or saw a decline in many LGUs (local government units) in Mindanao and the Visayas, including Cagayan de Oro, Tagum, Zamboanga, Tacloban, Bacolod and Butuan," the group said.

## **MECQ extended in Ilocos town**

Meanwhile, in Ilocos Sur, Gov. Ryan Luis Singson issued an executive order (EO) extending the modified enhanced community quarantine in Magsingal town until July 15.

"Due to the still increasing number of new cases and sustained community transmission in some barangays in the municipality of Magsingal, the medical team of Ilocos Sur... sees the need to extend anew the modified enhanced community quarantine... in order to contain the virus," the EO read.

Singson said the threat of COVID-19 in the province remains "very high and alarming" as there are 547 active cases with extensive contacts.

Fifty-one of the active cases are in Magsingal.



20 establishments locked down in Davao

In Davao City, the task force against COVID-19 is stepping up the lockdown of 20 establishments where a spike in COVID-19 cases were recorded.

Michelle Schlosser, city task force against COVID-19 spokesperson, said the increase in cases was traced to quarantine protocol violators.

The city's district health offices are conducting risk assessments while health workers are checking the level of transmission.

Schlosser said the city government is also monitoring the work arrangements and observance of health protocols in these establishments.

She said the reopening of the establishments would be subject to certain requirements, such as disinfection and swab testing of all close contacts of those who tested positive for COVID-19. – **Eva Visperas, Edith Regalado**





# OCTA sees 5% uptick in NCR's daily COVID-19 cases, tags 4 cities as 'areas of concern'

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Jul 2, 2021 3:53:28 PM



(FILE PHOTO)

**Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, July 2)**— The average number of COVID-19 cases recorded per day in Metro Manila slightly rose again after weeks of decline.

The National Capital Region logged a daily average of 686 infections from June 25 to July 1 — a 5% increase from the 654 tallied the week prior, OCTA Research said in its report Friday. The highest daily average recorded in the NCR was 5,534 from March 29 to April 4 this year, according to the Department of Health.

The region's positivity rate — defined as the percentage of all coronavirus tests performed that turn out to be positive — was 6% over the past week, OCTA added.

In May last year, the World Health Organization advised governments that the positivity rate must be below 5% for at least two weeks before considering relaxing movement restrictions.

NCR remains under general community quarantine "with some restrictions."

But OCTA noted Metro Manila's occupancy rates in terms of beds and ventilators for COVID-19 patients are "within safe levels."

## Areas of concern

Meanwhile, OCTA tagged four cities as "areas of concern" due to increasing cases and high healthcare utilization rates.

These are Davao City, Iloilo City, Baguio City, and San Fernando in La Union.

Davao City had the highest daily average with 324 from June 25 to July 1, OCTA said.



## LAGUNDI AT VIRGIN COCONUT OIL VS COVID-19



July 2, 2021 @ 10:07 PM 9 hours ago

DAPAT buhusan ng suporta ang mga siyentista, doktor at iba pa na sama-samang nagsasagawa ng clinical trial ng mga tanim na lagundi at niyog bilang gamot laban sa coronavirus disease-19 o COVID-19.

Gayundin na bigyan sila ng mga angkop na pasilidad, kabilang na ang mga ahensyang kanilang kinapapalooban, upang magtagumpay sila sa kanilang ginagawa.

Natapos na umano ang clinical trial para sa lagundi samantalang ngayong Hulyo pa lang matatapos naman ang sa virgin coconut oil.

### UMAASA SA BAKUNA

Sa bakuna pangunahing umaasa ang lahat upang makontrol, mapigilan o madaig ang COVID-19 na nagdudulot ng sakit, pagkaospital at kamatayan ng napakaraming tao sa Pilipinas at sa buong mundo.

Subalit lumalabas na hindi sapat ito, lalo ngayong may mga sumusulpot na bagong anyo ng pandemya na may kakayahang umiwas sa bisa ng mga bakuna at magpatuloy sa paghahasik ng sakit, pagkaospital at kamatayan.

Napakalaki ring pasanin para sa pamahalaan at mamamayan, lalo't dinudukot nito ang buwis na naiipon ng pamahalaan at laman na rin ng bulsa ng mga mamamayan.

Sa ngayon, may mahigit 1.4 milyong biktima na ang pandemya sa Pilipinas, kabilang na ang nasa 25,000 patay.

### KANYA-KANYANG PAGTUKLAS NG GAMOT

Lumalabas na bawat bansa ay gumagawa ng mga paraan sa pagdiskubre ng mga gamot laban sa COVID-19.

'Yun bang === bukod sa bakuna, dapat talagang may gamot dito.

Kung magsama ang bakuna at gamot bilang kalasag at armas laban sa pandemya, at parehong epektibo ang mga ito, ang pag-asa ng mundo na babalik lahat sa normal na buhay sa mas madaling panahon ay matatamo.

### NAPAKAMAHAL NA GAMOT

Ang totoo, may mga gamot na dayuhan na ginagamit mismo ng ating mga doktor laban sa COVID-19.

Kabilang dito ang Remdesivir.

Pero nakalulungkot na isiping mamatay ka sa COVID-19 dahil sa kawalan mo ng kakayahang bumili nito sa halagang P12,000 bawat isa.

Ganito rin ang halaga ng dayuhan ding gamot na Tocilizumab.



Karaniwang tatlo o mahigit pang yunit ang kailangan mong Remdisivir o Tocilizumab sa unang atake ng mabigat na kondisyon sa COVID-19.

Ang masakit, nabibigong pigilin ng pamahalaan ang presyo ng mga ito dahil na rin sa pangambang hindi magbebenta ang mga kompanya ng gamot kung gawin ito.

### **MURA AT MATERYALES 'DI MAUUBOS**

Sa ngayon, napakamura ang lagundi at pupwedeng libre dahil pwedeng itanim ng kahit sino ito sa mga bakuran o paso.

Nilalaga lang at iniinom ito at kailangan lang ang tamang gabay sa pagluluto at pag-inom nito.

Ang bentang lagundi naman sa mga parmasya ngayon ay kulang pa sa P10 bawat kapsula.

Kabilang naman ang Pilipinas sa pinakamalaking producer ng niyog na kahit saan ay matatagpuan at pwedeng paramihin, gaya ng lagundi.

Kaya naman, kung gagawa ng langis mula sa niyog laban sa COVID-19, tiyak na magiging mura rin ito.

Malilibre rin ang mga may puno ng niyog na ang sabaw ay ginagawa ring suwero na pampalakas ng katawan at bilang gamot na rin sa sakit sa bato.

### **MGA KALAGAYAN SA COVID-19**

Ang lagundi ay sinusubukan laban mild na COVID-19.

'Yun bang === hanggang konting ubo, konting lagnat, konting sipon, konting pananakit ng katawan na gawa ng virus ng pandemya.

Sinusubukan din ang VCO laban sa mas mabigat na kalagayan gaya ng severe o critical na sanhi ng pagkakaospital na maaaring mauwi sa kamatayan.

Kung pakikinggan ang mga awtoridad, may pag-asa na maging gamot talaga ang VCO at magpapasalamat tayo nang todo kung talagang maging mabisa ito.

### **MAGTANIM NG LAGUNDI AT NIYOG**

Ngayong napatutunayan na ang lagundi na epektibo sa mild na COVID-19 at may pag-asa na maging epektibo naman ang VCO laban sa severe at critical na kalagayan, aba, mga Bro, magtanim na tayo nang magtanim.

Sa mga kalunsuran, paso lang ang kailangan sa pagpapalago ng lagundi.

Hindi naman masamang niyog ang itanim sa mga lugar sa kalunsuran na may mga espasyo sa halip na mga ornamental plant.

Sa mga kanayunan, pupwedeng pagkaisahan ang pagtanim kahit sabihin pang umaabot ng 6-7 taon bago magbunga ang niyog, bukod ang mas maigsing panahon ng pagbunga ng mga hybrid.

Kahit saan at kahit kailan, pupwedeng magtanim ng lagundi at niyog.

Bukod sa gamot laban sa pandemya, makatutulong pa nang husto ang mga ito na panlinis sa maruming hangin na dulot ng polusyon.

Panahon nang umasa tayo sa mga sariling produkto at gawang gamot at hindi sa mga dayuhan na kung iisipin, pera-pera lang ang habol na ikinahihirap at ikinamamatay naman natin.



**#OneDENR**

**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.

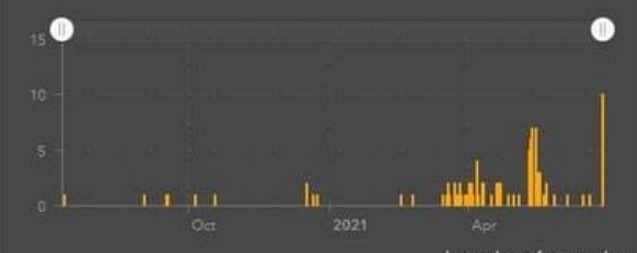


## % COVID-19 Confirmed Cases in DENR-CO



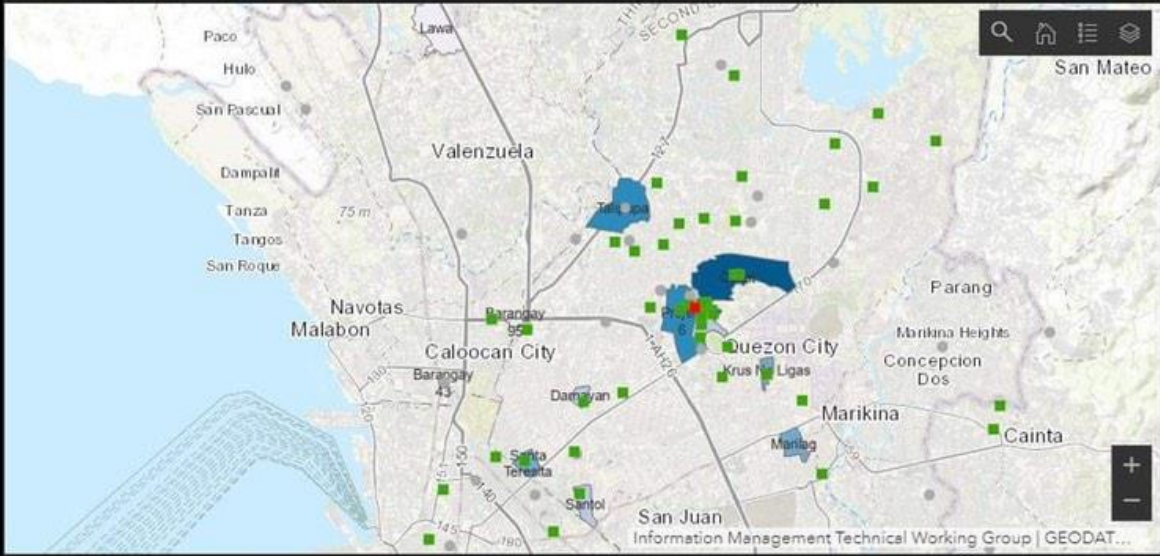
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## Daily Confirmed Cases



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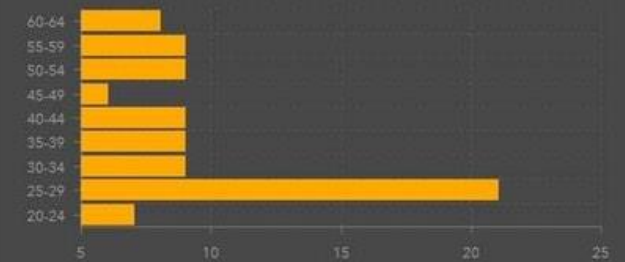
## Residence of affected personnel



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.

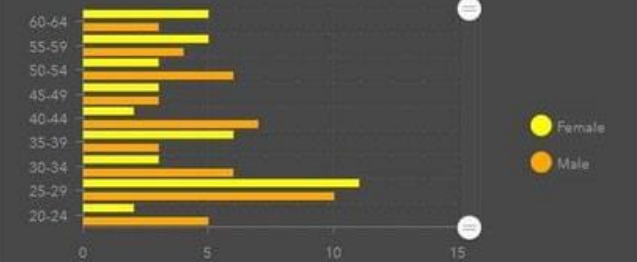
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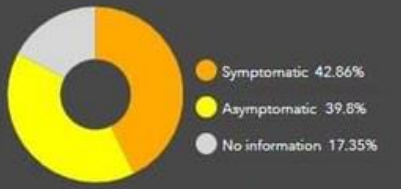
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## Age Group by Sex



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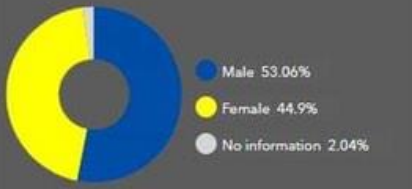
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


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