

04 DECEMBER 2020, FRIDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Mines bureau recommends lifting suspension for 91 Mayon Volcano quarry operators

Published December 3, 2020, 4:55 PM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

The Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) has recommended the lifting of the suspension order against 91 “compliant” quarry operators around Mayon Volcano, while dismissing claims that quarrying activities caused the mudflow or lahar during the onslaught of super typhoon “Rolly” in November.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu earlier suspended all quarry operations around Mayon Volcano and formed a task force to look into the possible liability of quarrying companies in the devastating lahar flow last month.

The MGB is an attached agency of the DENR.

After the probe, MGB Director Wilfredo Moncano said 91 quarry operators out of 106 suspended quarry operators were found to be compliant, while the remaining 15 quarry operators were found to have permit violations.

He said the MGB will forward the case of the 15 erring quarry operators to the Environmental Management Bureau for “technical review and possible sanction or payment of penalty.”

He said an immediate rehabilitation of the areas quarried by the violators will also be implemented.

Citing the result of the investigation, Moncano said there is a compelling need to lift the suspension order insofar as the 91 compliant quarry firms are concerned.

“An increased rate of quarrying is needed to empty and restore the capacity of the river channels, so that when rain comes with eroded material from the slopes of Mayon Volcano, the restored river channel can serve as the pathway to accommodate and remobilize the eroded material,” he explained in a statement on Thursday, Dec. 3.

He said these companies may be allowed to continue their operations, subject to strict monitoring under the terms and conditions of their existing permits.

“These quarry firms were proven to have followed quarry regulations, such as not operating beyond their permit area and having an active Environmental Compliance Certificate,” Moncano said.

The MGB chief also dismissed claims that quarrying operations around Mayon Volcano was largely to blame for the lahar flooding that buried some 180 houses and killed at least six people at the height of super typhoon Rolly.

He pointed out that lahar flow has “always been a likely occurrence in Mount Mayon whenever there’s heavy rainfall, thus making the houses near the active volcano naturally prone to mudflows.”

“The quarrying has an insignificant contribution to the lahar flow devastation caused by super typhoon Rolly because it was a combination of huge volume of water, combined with stocked lahar that came from the slope and foot of Mayon Volcano,” Moncano added.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2020/12/03/mines-bureau-recommends-lifting-suspension-for-91-mayon-volcano-quarry-operators/>



Quarrying of 91 firms in Albay may soon resume

By Jed Macapagal -December 4, 2020



Aftermath. A house is partially submerged in debris after Typhoon Rolly swept through Daraga, Albay on Nov. 1, 2020. (Reuters photo)

The Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) has recommended to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) the lifting of the suspension of 91 quarry operators in Albay and allow them to resume operations to empty and restore the capacity of river channels around Mayon Volcano.

Wilfredo Moncano, MGB director, said the 91 quarry operators were part of the 106 suspended by the DENR following the lahar flow in the area in the aftermath of Typhoon Rolly that hit the country last month.

Moncano said the 91 were found to be compliant of DENR regulations following a probe conducted by a task force.

Moncano said the remaining 15 will remain suspended due to several violations.

“An increased rate of quarrying is needed to empty and restore the capacity of the river channels, so that when rain comes with eroded material from the slopes of Mayon Volcano, the restored river channel can serve as the pathway to accommodate and remobilize the eroded material,” Moncano said.

He said the companies may be allowed to continue their operations, subject to strict monitoring under the terms and conditions of their existing permits.

“These quarry firms were proven to have followed quarry regulations, such as not operating beyond their permit area and having an active Environmental Compliance Certificate,” Moncano said.

The MGB dismissed claims quarrying operations around Mayon Volcano were to blame for the lahar flooding that buried some 180 houses and killed at least six people.

“The quarrying has an insignificant contribution to the lahar flow devastation caused by Super Typhoon Rolly because it was a combination of huge volume of water, stocked lahar that came from the slope and foot of Mayon Volcano,” Moncano said.

MGB will endorse for technical review and possible sanctions or penalties to the Environmental Management Bureau the cases of the 15 quarry operators.

Source: https://malaya.com.ph/index.php/news_business/quarrying-of-91-firms-in-albay-may-soon-resume/



91 quarry firms around Mayon Volcano compliant

Thursday, December 3, 2020 Cory Martinez11

THE Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has recommended the lifting of the suspension order against 91 quarry firms operating around the Mayon Volcano in Albay.

MGB Director Wilfredo Mancao said that the recommendation was made as the 91 quarry operators were found to be compliant.

Aside from being compliant, Mancao explained that there is an urgent need to empty and restore the capacity of the river channels around Mayon Volcano.

It will be recalled that DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu ordered the suspension of all quarry operations around Mayon Volcano following the lahar flow during the onslaught of Super Typhoon Rolly last month that submerged several barangays from mudflow.

Following the suspension, Cimatu created a task force led by the MGB to look into the possible liability of quarry companies in said lahar flow.

Based on the investigation conducted by the task force, Mancao disclosed that only 15 out of 106 suspended quarry operators have permit violations.

According to Mancao, there is a compelling need to lift the suspension order insofar as the “compliant” quarry firms are concerned.

“An increased rate of quarrying is needed to empty and restore the capacity of the river channels, so that when rain comes with eroded material from the slopes of Mayon Volcano, the restored river channel can serve as the pathway to accommodate and remobilize the eroded material,” Mancao explained.

He said these companies may be allowed to continue their operations, subject to strict monitoring under the terms and conditions of their existing permits.

“These quarry firms were proven to have followed quarry regulations, such as not operating beyond their permit area and having an active Environmental Compliance Certificate,” Mancao said.

At the same time, Mancao dismissed claims that quarrying operations around Mayon Volcano were largely to blame for the lahar flooding that buried some 180 houses and killed at least six people at the height of Super Typhoon Rolly.

He stressed that lahar flow has *“always been a likely occurrence in Mount Mayon whenever there’s heavy rainfall, thus making the houses near the active volcano naturally prone to mudflows.”*

“The quarrying has an insignificant contribution to the lahar flow devastation caused by Super Typhoon Rolly because it was a combination of huge volume of water, combined with stocked lahar that came from the slope and foot of Mayon Volcano,” he added.

Meanwhile, Mancao said his office will forward to the Environmental Management Bureau the case of the 15 erring quarry operators for *“technical review and possible sanction or payment of penalty.”*

He said immediate rehabilitation of the areas quarried by the violators will also be implemented.



MGB recommends lifting of quarrying suspension around Mayon Volcano

December 3, 2020 | 8:00 pm



PHILIPPINE STAR/KRIZ JOHN ROSALES

THE MINES and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) has recommended to lift the suspension order on 91 quarry operators around Mayon Volcano in Albay to support efforts in restoring the capacity of river channels in the area.

In a statement on Thursday, MGB Director Wilfredo G. Moncano said 91 of the 106 quarry operators were found to be compliant with permit regulations after a probe was conducted by the task force created by Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu.

Fifteen operators with violations will remain banned and subject to further review and possible sanctions.

Mr. Cimatu suspended quarrying activities after lahar flow during Typhoon Goni, locally named Rolly, killed residents and buried houses around the volcano.

“An increased rate of quarrying is needed to empty and restore the capacity of the river channels, so that when rain comes with eroded material from the slopes of Mayon Volcano, the restored river channel can serve as the pathway to accommodate and remobilize the eroded material,” Mr. Moncano said. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**



Mining bureau recommends lifting of quarry suspension around Mayon Volcano

By [Vince Ferreras, CNN Philippines](#)

Published Dec 3, 2020 6:04:12 PM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, December 3) - The Mines and Geosciences Bureau on Thursday recommended the lifting of suspension on quarrying operations near Mayon Volcano, citing there is an urgent need to empty and restore the capacity of river channels around it.

"An increased rate of quarrying is needed to empty and restore the capacity of the river channels, so that when rain comes with eroded material from the slopes of Mayon Volcano, the restored river channel can serve as the pathway to accommodate and remobilize the eroded material," MGB director Wilfredo Moncano said in a statement.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu [suspended all quarrying operations around Mayon Volcano](#) last November after the lahar flooding incident that occurred during the onslaught of Super Typhoon Rolly.

Out of the 106 suspended quarry operators, Moncano said 91 companies were found to be compliant following the probe of the MGB-led task force. The 15 others have permit violations.

He added the compliant companies may be allowed to continue their operations, subject to strict monitoring under the terms and conditions of their existing permits.

"These quarry firms were proven to have followed quarry regulations, such as not operating beyond their permit area and having an active Environmental Compliance Certificate," Moncano said.

As for the 15 erring quarrying operators, the MGB will forward their case to the Environmental Management Bureau for "technical review and possible sanction or payment of penalty."

Moncano also said the areas quarried by the violators will be immediately rehabilitated.

Meanwhile, Moncano said quarry operations near the volcano cannot be blamed for the lahar flooding which left six people dead.

"The quarrying has an insignificant contribution to the lahar flow devastation caused by Super Typhoon Rolly because it was a combination of huge volume of water, combined with stocked lahar that came from the slope and foot of Mayon Volcano," he said.

Source: <https://www.cnn.ph/news/2020/12/3/MGB-lift-suspension-quarry-Mayon-Volcano-.html>



Pag-alis ng quarry suspension sa paligid ng Mayon, kinakailangan – MGB



December 3, 2020 @ 5:24 PM 14 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Upang mapabilis na mabakante at maibalik ang kapasidad ng river channels sa paligid ng Mayon Volcano sa probinsiya ng Albay ay inirekomenda ng Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) na alisin ang suspension order sa 91 quarry operators sa lugar.

Nabatid kay MGB Director Wilfredo Moncano, napatunayan na ang 91 quarry operators ay sumusunod sa itinatakda ng batas matapos ang isinagawang imbestigasyon ng task force na pinangunahan ng MGB na binuo kamakailan ni Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu.

Ayon sa ulat lumabas sa imbestigasyon na 15 lamang mula sa 106 na sinuspinding quarry operators ang may permit violations.

Nauna rito matatandaan na sinuspinde ni Cimatu ang lahat ng quarry operations sa paligid ng Mayon Volcano at bumuo ito ng task force na titingin sa posibilidad na may kasalanan ang mga quarry companies sa pagdaloy ng lahar sa kasagsagan ng pananalasa ng Super Typhoon Rolly noong isang buwan.

Ayon kay Moncano, kinakailangang alisin na ang suspension order sa mga quarry firms dahil sumusunod naman ang mga ito sa itinatakda ng batas.

“An increased rate of quarrying is needed to empty and restore the capacity of the river channels, so that when rain comes with eroded material from the slopes of Mayon Volcano, the restored river channel can serve as the pathway to accommodate and remobilize the eroded material,” paliwanag ni Moncano.

Aniya, maaari nang payagan ang mga kumpanyang ito sa kanilang operasyon ngunit kinakailangan pa rin ang mahigpit na pagmonitor sa “terms and conditions” na nakasaad sa kanilang permits.

Kasabay nito, ibinasura rin ni Moncano ang suspetsa na ang quarrying operations sa paligid ng Mayon Volcano ang dapat sisihin sa pagragasa ng lahar na naging dahilan ng pagkabaon ng 180 kabahayan at pagkamatay ng anim na katao sa kasagsagan ng pananasala ng Super Typhoon Rolly. **Santi Celario**

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/pag-alis-ng-quarry-suspension-sa-paligid-ng-mayon-kinakailangan-mgb/>



Marikina River Basin quarry operations halted but freeze order may be lifted in Albay

By [Jonathan L. Mayuga](#) December 4, 2020



A woman looks at submerged structures at a swollen river as floods continue to rise in Marikina, Philippines due to Typhoon Ulysses in this file photo taken Nov. 12, 2020.

The Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Region 4 (Calabarzon) has issued an order temporarily suspending certain quarry and crushing plant operations in Rizal province within the coverage of the Marikina River Basin.

DENR-MGB Region 4 Regional Director Samuel Paragas issued Memorandum Order 01 suspending the Mineral Production Sharing Agreement of Asensio—Pinzon Aggregates Corp.; San Rafael Development Corp.; Montalban Milex Aggregates Corp., Hardrock Aggregates Inc. and Rapid City Realty and Development Corp.

Likewise, the DENR-MGB Region 4 chief suspended the mineral processing permits of Oxford Mines Inc., Viba Aggregates and Marketing, Amiterra Aggregates Corp., Montalban Millex Aggregates Corp., Dream Rock Resources Phils Inc.; Superior Aggregates Inc. and ATN Holdings Inc.

Paragas issued the order in compliance with the DENR-MGB Central Office's order to temporarily suspend the quarry and crushing plant operations until a joint assessment by the DENR's Composite Team is completed and submitted on the cause of flooding at the height of Typhoon Ulysses.

The said quarry and crushing plant operations within the Marikina River Basin which river system drains to the Marikina River are being blamed for the perennial flooding, particularly in the Marikina area.

At the height of Typhoon Ondoy and the recent Typhoon Ulysses, the entire city, as well as most parts of Metro Manila went under floodwater, resulting in tragic deaths and loss of millions worth of property.

Earlier, Rizal Provincial Governor Rebecca Ynares issued an order suspending all mining and quarry operations and other related activities under the People's Small-Scale Mining Act in Rizal province and appealed to the DENR to suspend large-scale quarry operations it allowed under the Philippine Mining Act of 1995.

Ynares, in Memorandum Order 2020-01, cited the attribution to mining and quarrying operations and related activities in Rizal the loss of lives and the millions in damage to property as a result of flooding caused by heavy rain-induced by typhoons such as Ulysses.



“In the interest of public safety and welfare and ensure environmental protection and sustainability, and to address as well the complaints and concerns on threats and impacts thereof, more so, during typhoons and similar natural disturbances, all quarry operations and related activities permitted and actively operating in the Province of Rizal over a total land area of 38.24 hectares, more or less, are hereby ordered stopped and shall remain to be such unless and until authorized to resume operations for just cause or reason,” Ynares said.

Ynares also urged the DENR to cause the immediate stoppage of all operations of mining, quarrying, and related activities that it granted under the Philippine Mining Act of 1995, which the official stated covers a total of 4,964.32 hectares, including crushing plants.

“Likewise, all local government units in this province are strongly advised to cause the immediate stoppage of all land development activities, including subdivision development, permitted under RA 7160, unless assessed and found to be compliant with the pertinent laws, rules, and regulations,” the order stated.

Albay quarry firms ‘compliant’

IN a related development, the MGB has recommended the lifting of the suspension order against 91 quarry firms in Albay province.

MGB Director Wilfredo Moncano said the lifting of the suspension order is urgently needed to allow the firms to empty and restore the capacity of river channels around Mayon Volcano.

In a news statement, Moncano said the 91 quarry operators were found to be “compliant” with environmental and mining laws by the MGB-led task force earlier formed by Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu.

The same investigation revealed that only 15 out of 106 suspended quarry operators have permit violations.

This was earlier confirmed by the Director of the MGB Region 5 Guillermo A. Molina Jr. who added that the 15 violators are not operating within the river that could have caused the landslide of lahar and volcanic debris that buried a residential community in Guinobatan, Albay at the height of Typhoon Rolly on October 31 and November 1.

Molina added that the community is situated in a lahar which is prone to lahar flow and landslide, noting that Mayon Volcano is one of the most active volcanoes in the Philippines.

To recall, Cimatu earlier suspended all quarry operations around Mayon Volcano and formed a task force to look into the possible liability of quarry companies in the lahar flow during the onslaught of Super Typhoon Rolly last month.

According to Moncano, there is a compelling need to lift the suspension order insofar as the “compliant” quarry firms are concerned.

Image credits: [AP/Aaron Favila](#)

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2020/12/04/marikina-river-basin-quarry-operations-halted-but-freeze-order-may-be-lifted-in-albay/>



Editorial Cartoon December 04, 2020

By BusinessMirror Editorial

December 4, 2020



Image credits: [Jimbo Albano](#)



Cimatu on Boracay encroachment: Enforcement of environmental, other laws is 'non-negotiable'

By: [Nestor P. Burgos Jr.](#) - Correspondent / [@nestorburgosINQ](#)

[Inquirer Visayas](#) / 12:19 PM December 03, 2020

ILOILO CITY -- The enforcement of environmental and other laws on Boracay Island is "crucial and non-negotiable," Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said on Wednesday evening.

But Cimatu, chair of the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF), said they recognized the need to balance the implementation of rehabilitation programs on the island, with the needs of the residents being ordered to vacate their homes and properties for allegedly encroaching on forestland and easements.

In a virtual press conference at the meeting of the BIATF in Boracay, Cimatu cited the operations conducted on nine establishments allegedly occupying protecting forestland.

The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) and the Boracay Inter-Agency Management Group conducted operations last week against 10 occupants of properties in Mt. Luho and Sitio Diniwid in Barangay Balabag.

The NBI arrested six Filipinos, a Filipino-Australian, a Belgian, and two Britons. They were released on bail after being detained for two nights.

They filed criminal charges against residents and property owners, who allegedly violated Presidential Decree (PD) No. 705 (Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines), while two were also charged with violation of PD No. 1067 (Water Code) and a municipal ordinance mandating a 30-meter beach easement.

"This proves that the rule of law is paramount," Cimatu said in the press conference that was also attended by BIATF co-vice chairs Interior Secretary Eduardo Año and Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat, along with other officials.

Residents in areas categorized by the government as forestland are protesting their ejection. They said they were given government permits and were paying taxes for decades but were later told that their houses and properties were illegal.

The residents, especially along easements, many of whom lost their livelihood, or are jobless because of the pandemic, are appealing for time and relocation areas.

Cimatu said they would still discuss what to do with the residents, who were ordered to vacate the forestland areas and those violating easement rules.

The BIATF supervises the rehabilitation of the island, which was initially set from April 26, 2018 to May this year, but President Duterte extended it by another year..

Source: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1367621/cimatu-on-boracay-encroachment-enforcement-of-environmental-other-laws-is-non-negotiable>



73% of Boracay structures easement rule compliant: DENR

By Marita Moaje **December 3, 2020, 3:49 pm**



(File photo)

MANILA – The '25 + 5-meter easement rule' enforced by the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF) on structures in the island has so far a compliance rate of 73 percent, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said.

During the BIATF virtual presser in Boracay on Wednesday, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu reported that out of the 339 structures on the island, 249 have complied.

DENR director Natividad Bernardino said there are around 90 establishments and residential structures that have not complied with the easement law until this time.

“These are mostly residential structures of informal settlers in Barangay Manoc Manoc. For commercial establishments, 20 na lang yung hindi pa compliant (there are only 20 left that are non-compliant),” Bernardino said.

Cimatu said that the BIATF will still discuss the relocation plans for those affected by the enforcement of the 25 + 5-meter easement rule.

Meanwhile, Cimatu also reported that in October and November, the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) together with the Task Force made arrests in Mt. Luho.

“The National Bureau of Investigation, with the Task Force, through the Boracay Inter-Agency Rehabilitation Management Group conducted operations against 9 establishments occupying protected forestlands in violation of Presidential Decree 705 or the Revised Forestry Code and PD 1067 or the Philippine Water Code,” Cimatu said.

He added that appropriate cases have already been filed which proves that the rule of law is paramount and that the enforcement of the law is crucial and non-negotiable.

Lawyer Rizaldo Rivera of the NBI said they acted upon the request of Bernardino.

“According to the CENRO (City Environment and Natural Resources Office), PENRO (Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office), and DENR and the TF, there were still confirmed violators, hardcore violators, they were issued notices to vacate, a notice of demolition, show cause order, and none of them complied with the request of the national government,” he said.

Rivera said the NBI presented pieces of evidence and filed appropriate charges before the Provincial Prosecutors' Office.

Currently, Cimatu said they have already recovered five out of the nine wetlands in Boracay island.



“Wetlands are important to the island because this helps reduce soil erosion and store water to minimize the impacts of flooding. Of the nine wetlands, we have now recovered five. These are wetland numbers 2, 3, 4, 6, and 8,” Cimatu said.

Cimatu added that in November, the DENR recorded the lowest coliform level in Boracay waters at 6.8 most probable number per milliliter from their ambient stations located in New Coast Boracay, Movenpick, Steve’s Cliff, and at the front beach grotto. (PNA)



9 Boracay businesses charged with forestry, water violations

December 3, 2020 | 8:24 pm



THE GOVERNMENT has charged nine Boracay establishments with illegally occupying protected forest land on the island, the Environment department said.

The violations involve rules laid down under the revised Forestry Code and the Philippine Water Code, Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said at a virtual briefing late Wednesday.

“Appropriate cases have already been filed against them. This proves that the rule of law is paramount and law enforcement is crucial and negotiable,” he said in a statement issued by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

The charges stem from inspections conducted over the past two months by the National Bureau of Investigation and the Boracay Inter-Agency Rehabilitation Management Group.

Mr. Cimatu added that the island’s coliform water contamination levels, as measured via the most probable number per milliliter, fell to a new low of 6.8 last month, based on readings taken at New Coast Boracay, Movenpick, Steve’s Cliff, and Front Beach Grotto.

Mr. Cimatu was speaking at a Boracay briefing conducted jointly with local government units and the Department of Tourism (DoT).

SUBSIDIZED RT-PCR TESTS

Boracay is among the major tourist destinations now open to domestic travelers.

In another statement, the DoT announced Thursday a partnership with the University of the Philippines-Philippine General Hospital (UP-PGH) to partly subsidize the cost of the COVID-19 RT-PCR test kits for domestic tourists.

At present, UP-PGH is offering its test kit for P1,800 each, which the DoT said was much lower than the ones sold by testing laboratory centers.



The DoT said that the test kit subsidy will be borne by its marketing arm, the Tourism Promotion Board.

According to the Boracay Interagency Task Force (BIATF), the DoT was given the lead role in implementing low-cost or free RT-PCR tests for Boracay-bound non-Aklan tourists; and secure at least 1,500 RT-PCR test kits for to implement expanded testing in the island.

The BIATF also tasked the DoT with facilitating the training of Aklan province and Malay municipality in case investigation, contact tracing, referrals and other COVID-19 related operations. — **Angelica Y. Yang**



Illegal Boracay occupants charged

With Boracay COVID-free, tourist arrivals are increasing and we hope this trend continues as the Christmas holidays and summer approach.

Published 2 hours ago on December 4, 2020 04:00 AM

By [Francis Wakefield](#)



Nine establishments that occupied protected forestlands in Boracay Island were ordered closed for violation of environmental laws.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu, who also chairs the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF), reported the closure in a virtual press conference.

Cimatu was joined by Department of Tourism (DoT) Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat and Interior and Local Government Secretary Eduardo Año in presenting updates on the Boracay rehabilitation and on the status of the Boracay Island Development Authority bill.

In October and November, the National Bureau of Investigation, BIATF and Boracay Inter-Agency Rehabilitation Management Group conducted operations against the nine establishments after reports of violations of Presidential Decree 705 (Revised Forestry Code) and Presidential Decree 1067 (Philippine Water Code).

Cimatu said cases have already been filed against the owners, reportedly six Filipinos, a Belgian, a Filipino-Australian and two Britons.

“This proves that the rule of law is paramount and law enforcement is crucial and non-negotiable,” he said.

On the enforcement of the Easement Law, Cimatu said 249 out of 339 structures or 73 percent have already complied with the 25+5 Meter Easement rule as of November.

Water quality monitoring also continues in the island.

“Last month, we have recorded the lowest coliform level at 6.8 most probable number per millimeter from our ambient stations in New Coast Boracay, Movenpick, Steve’s Cliff and beachfront grotto,” Cimatu said.

In July, BIATF recovered Wetland No. 6 in Barangay Manoc-Manoc from illegal occupants.

“Wetlands are important to the island because these help reduce soil erosion and store water to minimize the impacts of flooding. Of the nine wetlands, we have now recovered five,” he added.

To assist displaced workers amid the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic, BIATF also initiated “Boracay Wetland Bayanihan Program: We Clean and Heal as One,” a food-for-work program.



“With Boracay COVID-free, tourist arrivals are increasing and we hope this trend continues as the Christmas holidays and summer approach,” Cimatú said.

The BIATF is likewise studying a moratorium on the demolition of houses along easement zones and on forestland, considering that there is a pandemic and with Christmas d

ay just three weeks away.

“While we understand there is a pandemic, we have to balance law enforcement and people’s welfare, especially if they have nowhere to go,” he added.

DoT, meanwhile, partnered with University of the Philippines-Philippine General Hospital (UP-PGH) to produce more affordable reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction tests for non-Aklanon tourists going to Boracay.

RT-PCR kits from UP-PGH currently cost P1,800 each, much lower than those from testing laboratory centers.

WITH A REPORT FROM RAYMART T. LOLO

Source: https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/12/04/illegal-boracay-occupants-charged/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=illegal-boracay-occupants-charged



This October 2020 file photo shows a scene in Balabag, Boracay island.

[Philstar.com](https://philstar.com)/Efigenio Toledo IV

What we know so far: Forest land clearing, arrests of Boracay residents

[Rosette Adel](#) (Philstar.com) - December 2, 2020 - 11:22am

MANILA, Philippines — Two years after the world-famed island of Boracay was closed for rehabilitation, some residents fear the loss of their homes after the Department of Environment and Natural Resources issued notices to vacate properties in areas categorized as forest lands.

Last week, ten people — six Filipinos, a Belgian, a Filipino-Australian, and two Britons — were arrested in Barangay Balabag for allegedly occupying or building structures in protected forest lands. They were identified as owners or caretakers of establishments in this area.

[Presidential Decree 705](#), or the Forestry Reform Code of the Philippines, states that forest land “includes the public forest, the permanent forest or forest reserves, and forest reservations.”

Reports said those arrested were detained overnight at the Boracay Police Station and later brought to the Prosecutor’s Office of Kalibo, Aklan where they faced complaints of violation of PD 705, PD 1067 (Philippine Water Code), and the “25+5” or 30-meter beach easement ordinance of Malay, Aklan.

Bail of P36,000 was recommended for those accused of violating PD No. 705 while those charged for all three complaints were told to post bail amounting to P75,000.

‘Arrest is legal’

In a phone interview with [Philstar.com](#), Czar Eric Nuque, chief of the NBI’s Environmental Crime Division, confirmed that there was an operation that led to the arrests.

He, however, clarified that the apprehension was legal and did not require a warrant of arrest as the people were caught in the act of violating environmental laws, which he said is an exception for the need to issue an arrest warrant. He said these were “in flagrante delicto” (in the act of committing an offense or crime) arrests.

What the law says

Nuque furthered that the operation was in compliance with President Rodrigo Duterte’s Executive Order 53 that created the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force tasked to reverse the degradation of the island.

The task force is chaired by Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu with Interior Secretary Eduardo Año and Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat as vice-chairpersons.

This order cited Proclamation No. 1064 signed by then-President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in 2006 that classifies the island into 377.68 hectares of reserved forest land for protection purposes and 628.96 hectares of agricultural land as alienable and disposable pursuant to PD 705.

“Pursuant to the Regalian Doctrine, whereby all lands not privately owned belong to the State, the entire island of Boracay is state-owned except for lands already covered by existing titles,” the EO reads.

DENR's and DOJ's mandate

Under the same EO, the DENR was also directed to relocate and demolish establishment and structures situated inside the forest lands, wetlands, and other bodies of water in violation of environmental laws or do not have licences, agreements or any appropriate tenurial instruments with the agency.



This June 2018 file photo shows Wetland No. 4 in Balabag, Boracay
Philstar.com/Rosette Adel



This June 2018 file photo shows Wetland No. 9 in Barangay Manoc-Manoc in Boracay
Philstar.com/Rosette Adel

The DENR is tasked to rehabilitate the 377.68 hectares of foreign lands in coordination with stakeholders and to also supervise control of all foreign lands, water ways and alienable and disposable lands where in they are authorized to impose appropriate sanctions for any violation of applicable laws.

The environment agency is likewise ordered to enforce and monitor the "25 + 5 meters" easement established in accordance with existing laws, rules and regulations.



On the other hand, The DOJ, is mandated by the EO to coordinate with the Office of the Solicitor General, Land Registration Authority and the DENR in the institution of action for the reversion of land to the public domain in the appropriate court within six months of effectivity of the EO. The NBI is under DOJ.

The DOJ is also asked to provide legal support to the BIATF through its provincial prosecutor's office in Aklan and assist relevant agency in the prosecution of persons and establishments found to have violated environmental laws.

In May, Duterte extended the validity of BIATF through Executive Order No. 115, until May 2021, citing unfinished projects.

'Notices to vacate'

Nuque said that the authorities have been sending notices to the residents since 2018 and they were required to explain their authority over the forest lands.

"Walang nape-present na documents, walang authority, (They cannot present documents, they do not have the authority)" he told **Philstar.com**.

Residents cited that some of the houses were built even before the PD 1064.

However, Nuque said the law still applies to these areas.

He said they are not discounting the fact that some of the residents also have tax declarations but he said this document is not enough to gain authority to stay on the property.

"The fact remains that it is a forest land," Nuque said.

Nuque said one needs to secure a tenurial instrument that allows them to occupy areas categorized as forest land. A tenurial instrument grants an individual a limited period of stay of around 25 up to 50 years.

Nuque said structures on forest land will be demolished.

State-owned land

In an interview with ABS-CBN's Teleradyo on Tuesday, DENR Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs Jonas Leones said that notices to vacate had been issued. He warned that the residents should either vacate their structures forest land, self-demolish, or face arrest.

"This is was what happened on November 24, they were arrested because they have refused to leave the forest land while some were violating the easement rule," he said.

Leones stressed that no land titles will be granted for forest lands.

He also said that those who had been living in the forest lands even before Arroyo's presidential decree "ran the risk of being ejected" for staying there. He said the land the structures are on are not theirs.

The DENR official cited the October 2008 Supreme Court ruling that classified Boracay as both forest and agricultural land that belongs to the state. This decision also junked the ownership claims of several resort owners.

“We clearly showed them when we sued them that authorities found probable cause in their violation of forestry laws and violation of the easement [rule],” Leones said.

The DENR in July last year sought the assistance of National Mapping and Resource Information Authority to settle the issues on the accuracy of the measurement of the establishment of the "25+5-meter" easement rule of Boracay island.

[NAMRIA subsequently conducted](#) verification survey and densification of Geodetic Control Points (GCPs) in various parts of the island, specifically commercial establishments and private residences that continue to violate the easement rule.



In this July 2019 photo, officials marked establishments that are violating the easement rule with red paint marks of 25+5.

NAMRIA/Released

The authorities then placed markings on affected areas.

Residents' concerns

Aside from the claims of ownership, residents also questioned the timeliness of the arrests as it occurred amid the pandemic.

“In the middle of a pandemic, after numerous destructive natural disasters, and only weeks before Christmas day, government agencies are expected to ensure safety, food, and shelter for their people. But that is not the reality and the future is uncertain and scary,” concerned resident [Leonae Graf wrote in a Facebook post](#).

According to a report by Boracay Informer and radio host [Jonathan Cabrera](#), some residents affected by the forestland clearing are seeking financial aid from Duterte. They cited that they also lost their livelihoods during the pandemic.

Cimatu has yet to respond to [Philstar.com](#)'s request for comment on the clearing activities.

What's next: Relocation, appeals

Meanwhile, in an interview with [Radyo Todo Aklan 88.5 FM's Todo Latigo](#), Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer Rhodel Lababit confirmed that the DENR has issued a final notice to vacate forest lands. The notice also ordered affected residents to self-demolish within 15 days.



He denied speculations that the government timed the forestland clearing amid the pandemic, stressing that notices had been sent since 2018.

"That's wrong because since 2018 we have been sending notice to vacate, notices, show cause order and we just prioritized commercial areas. You can see that clearing of the four-kilometer beach from Station 1 to Station 3 is now 100% accomplished," Lababit said.

"And then, we we moved to clearing Bulabog, which is more complicated. Now, we're here in the part (of the beach) where there are more affected structures," he also said.

Lababit said they noted 339 establishments affected by the "25+5" easement rule in 2018.

Of that number, 91% of commercial establishments have been demolished while 40% of residential areas have been demolished.

The DENR only issued notices to the occupants of the remaining structures.

He said these notices are also regularly relayed to barangay officials.

According to the Boracay Action Plan, Lababit said, the local government unit of Malay and provincial government are in charge of the relocation of residents.

He cited a similar case where Tumandok residents were evacuated from Wetland No. 6 or "Dead Forest" and relocated.

He said the DENR coordinated with the Department of Agrarian Reform for the relocation of families from Wetland No. 6 to Sitio Angol in Barangay Manoc Manoc. The relocated residents were given certificates of land ownership award.

The CENRO said those who received notices to self-demolish are advised to write him a letter of appeal with attached documents such as tax declaration, among others.

On Wednesday, BIATF officials Cimatu, Año and Puyat are set to visit the island for an interagency meeting.



Illegal lumber seized

Published 2 hours ago on December 4, 2020 04:00 AM

By [Jonas Reyes](#)



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF DTC ILLEGAL loggers are back in business now that movements are less restricted.

CABANATUAN CITY — A total of 109,000 board feet of wood was confiscated by the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) of Nueva Ecija from January to September.

PENRO's Joselito Blanco said the total seized lumber nearly matched a five-year haul of 130,000 board feet despite COVID-19 protocols preventing illegal logging activities.

The pandemic, Blanco added, left lumber stacked in mountainous areas.

With restrictions slowly being eased, illegal loggers are resuming their trade mainly due to unemployment.

General Tinio town, at the boundary of Bulacan and Nueva Ecija, has become a hotspot for illegal logging.

Blanco assured PENRO is exerting all efforts to keep illegal loggers off Sierra Madre which is instrumental in buffering adverse weather conditions.



Customs personnel at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport inspect Agarwood seized at the FedEx warehouse in Pasay on Wednesday.

Rudy Santos

BOC seizes P2.4 million worth of Agarwood

[Robertzon Ramirez](#), [Rudy Santos](#) (The Philippine Star) - December 4, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Three packages containing Agarwood, a rare wood species, with an estimated market value of P2.4 million were confiscated by the Bureau of Customs (BOC) at a warehouse in Pasay City on Wednesday.

The wood weighing at least 28 kilos were declared as face masks, clothes, shoes and handbags.

The packages were shipped by a resident from Davao and bound for the United Arab Emirates, the BOC said.

The BOC did not name the sender of the shipment.

Customs personnel said they checked the items after they noticed suspicious images when the shipment passed through an X-ray machine.

The sender tried to export the wood without the necessary permit from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, according to the BOC.

Agarwood is reportedly the rarest and most expensive tree in the world because of its distinctive fragrance. It is used to make incense, perfume and medicinal products in the Middle East and Asia.

It can be sold at around P750,000 per kilo.

The DENR prohibits the selling of Agarwood or lapnisan.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/nation/2020/12/04/2061359/boc-seizes-p24-million-worth-agarwood>



BOC busts P2.4-M agarwood in Pasay warehouse

December 3, 2020 2 min read

MANILA – The Bureau of Customs (BOC) on Thursday reported the interception of 28 kilos of agarwood worth PHP2.4 million in Pasay City.

In a statement, the BOC said officials of the Port of NAIA, in coordination with its Environment Protection Compliance Division (EPCD), intercepted the three packages in a warehouse in the city on Wednesday.

Documents showed that the packages were misdeclared as “face masks and clothes”, “shoes and handbags”, and “leather jackets, face masks, man pants”.

All three packages were shipped by a resident from Davao to the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Upon x-ray inspection, the packages yielded different images compared to what was declared by the sender.

After subjected to 100 percent physical examination, they discovered the agarwood.

The BOC said the packages were attempted to be exported without the necessary permits from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The subject packages shall be subjected to seizure and forfeiture proceedings for violation of Section 117 (Regulated Shipments), Section 1400 (Misdeclaration) and Section 1113 (Property Subject to Seizure and Forfeiture), all of Republic Act No. 10863 (CMTA) in relation to Section 27 (i) [Illegal Transport] of Republic Act No. 9147 (Wild Life Act).

It will be turned over to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Agarwood is classified under the “Appendix 2” of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES).

According to the DENR, agarwood is a resin valued for its distinctive fragrance. It is formed when the host tree becomes infected with a mold called *Phialophora parasitica*.

The mold infection makes the tree produce a dark aromatic resin called aloes or agar in its heartwood. The fragrant resin is used to make incense, perfume, and medicinal products particularly in the Middle East and Asia.

Selling of agarwood or lapnisan is illegal in the Philippines. It is found only in the heart of the jungles in Mindanao and Visayas.

Agarwood is one of the rarest and most expensive tree species in the world, with a kilo amounting to as much as PHP750,000. **(PNA)**

Source: <https://maharlika.tv/2020/12/03/boc-busts-p2-4-m-agarwood-in-pasay-warehouse/?fbclid=IwAR2BpqEM4tXaAjaLboy5o2vUEkEJwVjerbe6YcVp07YouEV7-mQ71UPRdIQ>



P2.4M pinakamahal na punongkahoy, nasabat ng BOC-NAIA



December 3, 2020 @ 6:00 PM 13 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Naharang ng mga tauhan ng Bureau of Customs (BOC) Port of NAIA sa pakikipagtulungan sa Environment Protection Compliance Division (EPCD) ang may 28 kilo na Agarwood, itinuturing na pinakamahal na uri ng punongkahoy sa mundo, na nagkakahalaga ng mahigit P2 milyon sa isinagawang inspeksyon sa Fedex warehouse sa Pasay City.

Ang Agarwood ay nasa klasipikasyon “Appendix 2” ng Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species ng Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES).

“Agarwood is a resin valued for its distinctive fragrance. It is formed when the host tree becomes infected with a mold called *Phialophoraparasitica*. The mold infection makes the tree produce a dark aromatic resin called aloes or aga in its heartwood. The fragrant resin is used to make incense, perfume and medicinal products particularly in the Middle East and Asia,” saad ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR),

Giit ng DENR, ang pagbebenta ng Agarwood o “lapnisan” ay mahigpit na ipinagbabawal sa Pilipinas. Anila, matatagpuan lamang ang naturang uri ng punongkahoy sa gitnang kagubatan ng Mindanao at Visayas.

Napag-alaman na nasa mahigit P750,000 ang kada kilo ng Agarwood kaya’t itinuturing ito na pinakamahal at hindi pangkaraniwang punongkahoy sa buong mundo.

Batay sa dokumento, ang tatlong packages na naglalaman ng mga Agarwood ay pawang mga “misdeclared” dahil idineklara umao ang mga ito na naglalaman ng face mask, mga damit, hand bags, leather jackets, at mga pantalon na nagmula sa isang residente mula Davao at sana ay ipapadala sa United Arab Emirates (UAE).

“The subject packages shall be subjected to seizure and forfeiture proceedings for violation of Section 117 (Regulated Shipments), Section 1400 (Misdeclaration) and Section 1113 (Property Subject to Seizure and Forfeiture), all of Republic Act No. 10863 (CMTA) in relation to Section 27 (i) [Illegal Transport] of Republic Act No. 9147 (Wild Life Act). Thereafter, these will be turned over to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR),” saad ng BOC. **JAY Reyes**

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/p2-4m-pinakamahal-na-punongkahoy-nasabat-ng-boc-naia/>



P2.4M agarwood intercepted at Fedex warehouse in Pasay

Thursday, December 3, 2020 People's Tonight24

THREE packages weighing 28 kilos of agarwood with an estimated street value of P2.4 million were intercepted in a Fedex warehouse in Pasay City by the Bureau of Customs-Port of NAIA, in coordination with the Environment Protection Compliance Division (EPCD) of the customs bureau. According to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), agarwood is a resin valued for its distinctive fragrance. It is formed when the host tree becomes infected with a mold called *Phialophoraparasitica*.

The mold infection makes the tree produce a dark aromatic resin called aloes or aga in its heartwood. The fragrant resin is used to make incense, perfume and medicinal products particularly in the Middle East and Asia.

Agarwood is classified under the "Appendix 2" of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES).

The DENR stressed that selling of agarwood or lapnisan is illegal in the Philippines. It is found only in the heart of the jungles in Mindanao and Visayas. Foreigners are said to hike in remote villages in the country seeking help to find the rare tree.

BOC-NAIA District Collector Carmelita 'Mimel' Talusan said the treasure is one of the rarest and expensive trees in the world. A kilo of agarwood fetches as much as P750,000.

Documents showed that the packages were misdeclared as face masks and clothes, shoes and hand bags, and leather jackets, face masks, man pants. All three packages were shipped by a resident from Davao to the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Upon x-ray inspection, the packages yielded different images compared to what were declared by the sender. Consequently, these were subjected to 100% physical examination.

A total of 28 kilos of agarwood were found during the examination. Additionally, the packages were attempted to be exported without the necessary permits from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The packages shall be subjected to seizure and forfeiture proceedings for violation of Section 117 (Regulated Shipments), Section 1400 (Misdeclaration) and Section 1113 (Property Subject to Seizure and Forfeiture), all of Republic Act No. 10863 (CMTA) in relation to Section 27 (i) [Illegal Transport] of Republic Act No. 9147 (Wild Life Act). Thereafter, these will be turned over to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Amid the threat posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, Talusan said the BoC-NAIA will maintain its commitment to protect the country's border and prevent attempts to import and export endangered species, illegal goods and contrabands in full compliance and support to the intensified border control and protection priority agenda of Commissioner Rey Leonardo Guerrero.

Source: <https://journal.com.ph/news/metro/p2-4m-agarwood-intercepted-at-fedex-warehouse-in-pasay/?fbclid=IwAR1p6po9vPUOhbbkUXRjRrUOpNXkyQ6FXLUaan9vJa1g3gPA3DxNSIImOSY>

P2.4 milyong halaga ng agarwood, nasabat sa warehouse sa Pasay

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Dec 03 2020 07:24 PM | Updated as of Dec 04 2020 03:36 AM



Aabot sa P2.4 milyong halaga ng agarwood ang nasabat ng Bureau of Customs sa warehouse sa Pasay. Iligal ang pagbebenta nito sa bansa. *Photo Courtesy: Bureau of Customs*

MAYNILA — Nasabat ng mga tauhan ng Bureau of Customs (BOC) Environment Protection Compliance Division sa isang warehouse sa Pasay City ang 28-kilo ng agarwood o lapnisan na nagkakahalagang P2.4 milyon, sabi ng ahensiya ngayong Huwebes.

Pinalabas sa mga dokumento na face masks, mga damit, sapatos, hand bags, at leather jacket ang mga nasabat na agarwood.

Nakapaloob ang mga ito sa tatlong packages mula sa Davao at patungo sanang United Arab Emirates (UAE), sabi ng BOC sa isang pahayag.

Ayon sa BOC, ang agarwood ay classified sa ilalim ng "Appendix 2" ng Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES).





Sinasabing ang agarwood o lapnisan ay isa sa mga maituturing na "rarest" at isa sa pinakamahal na uri ng puno sa buong mundo. Base anila sa mga report, naibebenta ang kada kilo nito nang hanggang P750,000.

Ayon sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), ibinebenta sa mahal na presyo ang agarwood dahil sa kakaiba nitong amoy.

Ginagamit daw ang resin ng agarwood sa paggawa ng insenso, pabango at medical products partikular sa Middle East at Asya.

"Agarwood... is formed when the host tree becomes infected with a mold called *Phialophoraparasitica*. The mold infection makes the tree produce a dark aromatic resin called aloes or aga in its heartwood," paliwanag ng BOC.

Giit ng ahensya, iligal ang pagbebenta sa bansa ng agarwood, na matatagpuan sa mga kabundukan ng Mindanao at Visayas.

Hindi naman tinukoy ng Customs kung sino ang nagpadala nito at sino ang dapat sana'y tatanggap sa UAE.

Pero kakasuhan ang nagpadala ng paglabag sa Republic Act 10863 o Customs Modernization and Tariff Act, at Republic Act 9147 o ang Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act.

Ang DENR naman ang mangangasiwa sa nasamsam na kontrabando.

— **Ulat nina Johnson Manabat at Zhander Cayabyab, ABS-CBN News**

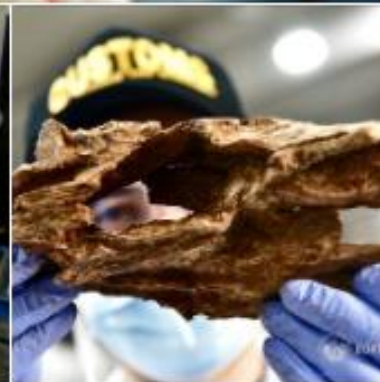


News5
13h · 🌐

...

Naharang ng Bureau of Customs kasama ang Port of NAIA ang P2.4-M halaga ng endangered na agarwood o lapnisan sa isang warehouse sa Pasay City. Iligal ang pagbebenta nito sa bansa, ayon sa DENR.

Bureau of Customs



👍 🤔 😬 317

140 Comments 59 Shares



14 NCR estero pasiklaban sa DENR makeover challenge

By Abante Tonite — Last updated Dec 3, 2020

METRO



Pinagpipilian ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang 14 na estero sa buong Metro Manila bilang may pinakamalinis na daluyan ng tubig para tanghaling Most Improve Estero.

Ang Gawad Taga-Ilog ay naglalayong kilalanin ang pagsisikap ng mga lokal na pamahalaan kabilang na ang mga barangay na inaalagaan ang mga estero, kanal at ilog sa kanilang nasasakupan. Nabatid na ang programang ito ay bahagi pa rin ng nagpapatuloy na paglilinis at rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay.

Kabilang sa mga finalist ang Amorsol Creek sa Makati City, Bangkulasi River ng Navotas City, Pinagsabugan Creek ng Malabon, Sapang Alat River ng Caloocan, Park Creek 22 ng Marikina City at Magdaong River ng Muntinlupa City.

Kasama ang Tartar Creek ng Las Piñas City, Ermitano Creek ng San Juan City, Estero de Paco ng Maynila, Parian Creek ng Pasig, Lingunan Creek ng Valenzuela, Ilang Ilang Creek ng Quezon City at Estero de Sto. Nino ng Paranaque.

Ang mga netizen ang gagawing judge sa naturang patimpalak dahil paramihan ng likes at shares ang batayan sa tatanghaling panalo. Hanggang Disyembre 26 maaaring bomoto sa DENR Facebook page. (Dolly Cabreza)



#ManilaBayBeachNourishment #ManilaBayWhiteSand

HINAHANDANG MGA GEOBAGS PARA SA PHASE-2 NA BA?

2,737 views · Dec 2, 2020

161 2 SHARE SAVE ...



engr. berto
129K subscribers

SUBSCRIBE

#ManilaBayBeachNourishment #ManilaBayWhiteSand

Source:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Izoh1bozQyI&feature=youtu.be&ab_channel=enr.berto



#BattleForManilaBay

MANILA BAY DAMBUHALANG PANGBOMBA NG TUBIG IBINAON SA PANGATLONG PUMPING STATION!

6,957 views • Dec 2, 2020

👍 245 💬 3 ➦ SHARE ≡+ SAVE ⋮



engr. berto
129K subscribers

SUBSCRIBE

#BattleForManilaBay

Source:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ieku_LU0UNg&feature=youtu.be&ab_channel=enr.berto



SHOW CHAT REPLAY

MANILA BAY

DOLOMITE TULOY!

4,419 views • Streamed live 18 hours ago

255 3 SHARE SAVE ...



ESME TVKo
124K subscribers

JOIN

SUBSCRIBE

Source:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=15vqhLCDueE&feature=youtu.be&ab_channel=ESMETVKo



CNN Philippines @cnnphilippines · Dec 2

Mahar Lagmay, executive director of the UP Resilience Institute shares seven key actions to respond to climate change: First is to mainstream nature-based solutions in disaster risk reduction efforts. Let's veer away from a lot of infrastructure.



1 3 11



CNN Philippines @cnnphilippines · Dec 2

Lagmay: Number two. Institutionalize integrated natural resources and environment management. What is important is that we have an ecosystems-based approach, taking into consideration as well the human systems.

1 5



CNN Philippines @cnnphilippines · Dec 2

Lagmay: Number three. Invest in safer and durable evacuation centers. Schools and basketball courts as well as churches cannot be our go-to places for shelter forever.

1 1 6



CNN Philippines @cnnphilippines · Dec 2

Lagmay: Number four. Enhance inter-agency collaboration for early warning and response. When the government and the public become entrenched in blame games, the opportunity for assessment, evaluation, and learning is potentially lost.

1 1 6



CNN Philippines @cnnphilippines · Dec 2

Lagmay: Number five. Promote inter-LGU cooperation in planning, response, and recovery. Not in my backyard approaches must be abandoned.

2 7



CNN Philippines @cnnphilippines · Dec 2

Lagmay: Number 6. Strengthen the national focal agency for disaster risk management. It is crucial for the PH to establish a stand-alone department or an Office of the President-attached authority with the resources, (1/2)

1 5



CNN Philippines @cnnphilippines · Dec 2

Lagmay: ...functions, and authority to manage future disaster and climate change scenarios. (2/2)

1 1



CNN Philippines @cnnphilippines · Dec 2

Lagmay: The last one is to declare a climate emergency which is being done now in Congress to put the climate agenda at the forefront of policies and in the consciousness of the Filipino people.

1 6



CNN Philippines @cnnphilippines · Dec 2



CNN Philippines @cnnphilippines · Dec 2

Lagmay: Planning is very, very important. Don't fight nature where it is strong.

1



4



CNN Philippines @cnnphilippines · Dec 2

Lagmay: If you're able to plan well the communities, once you identify the problem, you veer away from it.



On protecting our environment

[ROSES AND THORNS](#) - [Pia Roces Morato](#) (The Philippine Star) - December 4, 2020 - 12:00am

Typhoons and floods continuously teach us the value of protecting our environment. It is a fact that when we do, the foundation of our own human civilization and the sustainability of our economy are both protected and preserved. Our disaster response through the years has considerably improved and local governments are stepping up constantly in every crisis.

There is one very important factor, however, that still needs persistent educating and it is instilling in the mindset of every Filipino that every part in preserving our natural resources and keeping our communities clean is vital not only to our survival but more so to the quality of lives passed on from one generation to the next. We need to understand that healthy ecosystems are crucial as this keeps our water clean, purifies the air we breathe and maintains the lands that provide us with proper nutrients.

The Philippines is so rich in natural resources. So rich that our local plants have been proven to provide us with medicine that not only support our daily sustenance but also have healing qualities that fight against disease. The raw materials provided by our lands enable us to enrich both our health and grow our economy and this is seen in every staple yet unique crop found in the different regions all over the country.

The Philippines needs champions – those who not only advocate but who also have the political will to preserve the rich land and resources throughout the nation. I say political will as we turn to our leaders who have been given the authority to do so. President Duterte most recently pointed out that illegal logging, mining and even quarrying are all to blame for the devastating floods experienced most recently.

Therefore, while we have been able to respond to our crisis more effectively, there indeed still remains the underlying problem or the root cause of it all. The DENR continues to champion the task of preservation and investigation of all the root causes and it should indeed expose the sources of devastation. Our communities need to be aware of the effects of waste and ruin as they educate themselves on the wealth of the very lands they reside in. There must be convergence in both government and civic society where good governance not only affects people but develops them for the better.



Republic Cement looks to co-process 10M plastic sheets, bags

December 4, 2020 | 12:05 am



THE RESOURCE RECOVERY arm of Republic Cement Services, Inc., ecoloop, plans to co-process a minimum of 10 million plastic sachets or bags per day by next year as part of its efforts to alleviate the country's waste problem, officials said on Thursday.

Republic Cement President and CEO Nabil Francis said this is an "ambitious" target that they hope to achieve.

"(We) would like to commit to a very ambitious target next year, and this target is to co-process not less than 10 million equivalent (of) plastic sachets or plastic bags per calendar day starting from the very beginning of next year," Mr. Francis said in a virtual briefing with reporters.

Angela Edralin-Valencia, ecoloop director, said the new target is twice the amount of plastic waste which is being co-processed by the firm.

"It's going to be double what we are currently doing, and it's just the beginning," Ms. Valencia said.

Although the co-processing plant has been working with private organizations such as Nestlé Philippines as of early this year, ecoloop was only introduced to media on Thursday. The resource recovery group of Republic Cement has since participated in more than 30 private and public sector partnerships across the country.

Co-processing involves the reuse or recovery of thermal and mineral properties of qualified waste materials for manufacturing cement.

The method uses heat to destroy residual waste, which would otherwise end up in landfills and waterways, Republic Cement said.

"The recovered heat content from the qualified wastes partially replaces the heat from traditional fossil fuels such as coal and petcoke. Recovered minerals similar to the chemical composition of sand and clay also replace raw materials used in cement production," the firm said in a separate statement.

Mr. Francis said this is a "proven and viable waste management solution."

Asked how different co-processing is from incineration, the firm said in a statement that the former had safeguards to contain emissions.



“ecolooop utilizes the cement kiln co-processing method, where emissions are contained and managed within the kiln and any ash produced fully integrated into the stable microstructure of clinker, a key ingredient of cement. On the other hand, some forms of incineration are purely for waste disposal without any energy or material recovery aspects,” Republic Cement said.

However, a representative from No Burn Pilipinas, an alliance of environmental, justice, climate, rights and health groups against waste incineration, said otherwise.

“Co-processing in cement kiln process and other processes in cement manufacturing is the same and in fact worse than incineration within the context of waste conversion to energy,” No Burn Pilipinas Senior Campaigner Glenn Ymata said in an email interview with BusinessWorld.

Mr. Ymata explained that co-processing still involved burning and this “emits pollution, greenhouse gases, and poisonous toxic fumes such as dioxins and furans.”

“(T)ake note also that these furnaces have no/limited pollution/emission control devices, otherwise, the cost of the final product (cement) will skyrocket because maintaining air pollution/emission control devices, especially for dioxins and furans, is very, very expensive,” he said.

Republic Cement is owned by Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc. and Irish building materials company CRH. — **Angelica Y. Yang**



Fishpond inventory for mangroves needed

By Eireene Jairee Gomez

December 3, 2020

Experts on Wednesday called on the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) to conduct a full inventory of fishponds in Manila Bay that can be used for the reversion and rehabilitation of mangroves, whose number has been declining for decades.

During the “Reverting Abandoned, Underdeveloped, Unutilized Fishponds into Mangroves” webinar, Wilfredo Yap, executive director of the Santeh Aquaculture Science and Technology Foundation, said “priority should be given to update mangrove and fishpond area statistics and harmonize terminologies,” as data currently used by the government was “not in harmony.”

“[The] BFAR should make [a] full inventory of fishponds and determine how many have been titled and how many are patently illegal,” he added.

According to Rene Rollon, director of University of the Philippines Institute of Environmental Science and Metereology, many mangroves around Manila Bay have been lost over the years.

As of 2015, only 1,256 hectares of mangroves remain, primarily because of their conversion into aquaculture ponds.

As a result of the conversion of these mangroves areas for industrial use, Rollon said people “are permanently disconnecting [them] to [their] function with the open sea forever.

This is something to seriously think about... if we are into protecting and reforming our mangrove coverage.”

He also said mangroves served as a “greenbelt” for storm surges, particularly for those living in coastal areas. Mangroves are a natural protection for communities vulnerable both to rising sea levels and intense weather events caused by climate change.

He added that mangroves are essential to maintaining water quality, explaining that their dense network of roots and surrounding vegetation help filter and trap sediments and other pollutants.

Jurgenne Primavera, chief scientific mangrove adviser at Zoological Society of London, said rehabilitating degraded areas of mangroves included seafront planting and reversion of abandoned ponds.

Mangroves, she added, also play an important role in ensuring food security, waste disposal, flood regulation, erosion control and promotion of forestry products, among others.

According to her, downgrading fish ponds need capital and investors to operate benefitting only aquafarmers, pond operators and aquaculture industries, whereas mangroves can be run solely municipal or small-scale fishermen and families, extending benefits among populations in coastal towns and cities.

“The money should all be for ponds reversion, pero (but) this is political will,” Primavera said, noting that the government should make mangrove rehabilitation a top priority.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/12/03/business/business-top/fishpond-inventory-for-mangroves-needed/804262/>



Red tide contamination expands in Eastern Visayas

By Sarwell Meniano December 3, 2020, 11:59 am



CONTAMINATION. Fishermen harvesting cultured milkfish in the coastal waters of Guiuan, Eastern Samar in this undated photo. The coastal area along with several bays in Eastern Visayas has been contaminated with red tide. (Photo courtesy of Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources)

TACLOBAN CITY – Red tide continues to thrive in Eastern Visayas with one more bay added to the long list of affected coastal areas in the region this year, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources has reported.

In an advisory issued Wednesday night, BFAR confirmed that red tide toxins are present in the coastal waters of Calubian, Leyte.

BFAR identified red tide contamination in the coastal waters of Guiuan, Eastern Samar; Villareal Bay in Samar; Cambatutay Bay in Tarangnan, Samar; coastal waters of Zumarraga, Samar; and coastal waters of Leyte, Leyte; Cancabato Bay in Tacloban City; Matarinao Bay stretching across the towns of General MacArthur, Hernani, Quinapondan, and Salcedo in Eastern Samar.

Also hit by red tide are coastal waters of Biliran in Biliran province; Carigara Bay — Babatngon, San Miguel, Barugo, Carigara, and Capoocan in Leyte; Irong-irong Bay in Catbalogan City, Samar; San Pedro Bay in Basey, Samar; Maqueda Bay in the towns of Jiabong, Motiong, Paranas, San Sebastian, Calbiga, Pinabacdao, and Hinabangan in Samar; and the coastal waters of Daram, Samar.

BFAR Assistant Director for Operations Juan Albaladejo said what has been happening in the Pacific Ocean has a direct impact on unpredictable weather conditions in Eastern Visayas.

“This started in the third quarter of the year where a mild El Niño causes a long dry out season with occasional heavy rainfall event triggers the upwelling of inner shallow bays bringing up the sediments laden with red tide microorganism cysts and then use the organic load that comes with the sediments to start the bloom,” Albaladejo said in a phone interview on Thursday.

“This occurred as a series of events in different inner bodies of water and further intensified by the ever-changing current patterns in these areas, hence, spreading the red tide blooms. These unusual but natural episodes continued until the rainy season,” he added.

BFAR said it issued the warning as precautionary advice to the public to refrain from gathering, selling, and eating all types of shellfish.

The fisheries bureau also banned the trading and consumption of *Acetes* sp. locally known as "alamang" harvested from said bays to avoid possible shellfish poisoning.

Local government units are advised to regulate the gathering, marketing, and transport of shellfish from the infested areas.

"Fish, squid, shrimp, and crab are safe to eat provided that they are fresh and washed thoroughly and internal organs such as gills and intestines are removed before cooking", the advisory added.



At least two children died and four of their family members were hospitalized last September after eating red tide infected green mussels in Bagacay village, Daram, Samar.

Killed by paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP) were an eight-year-old boy and his three-year-old brother while four other family members were admitted at a hospital in Catbalogan City, Samar.

Red tide is a term used to describe a phenomenon where the water is discolored by high algal biomass or the concentration of algae. PSP occurs from ingesting bivalve shellfish (such as mussels, oysters, and clams) that contain toxins. (PNA)



- Headline
- Editorial
- Column
- Opinion
- Feature Article

BREAKING: Kaso ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas, umabot na sa 435,413

By Angellic Jordan December 03, 2020 - 04:08 PM

DOH COVID-19
CASE BULLETIN # 264

DISYEMBRE 3, 2020
Para sa kompletong detalye at impormasyon, bisitaha rin ang ating pangpublikong site: <https://ncotracker.doh.gov.ph/>

PORSYENTO NG AKTIBONG KASO

6.3%

TOTAL NG AKTIBONG KASO
27,642

PORSYENTO NG GUMALING

91.7%

TOTAL NG GUMALING
399,325

PORSYENTO NG NAMATAY

1.94%

TOTAL NG NAMATAY
8,446

MGA BAGONG KASO **1,061**

MGA BAGONG GUMALING **328**

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY **10**

KABUJANG BILANG NG KASO 435,413

ILAN ANG NAITALANG NAGPOSITIBO NGAYONG ARAW?
DATOS NGAYONG DISYEMBRE 3 AYON SA REPORTS NOONG DISYEMBRE 2, 12NN

1,087 / 24,429

BILANG NG NAGPOSITIBO BILANG NG TINEST

HALOS 92.1% ANG MILD AT ASYMPTOMATIC NA KASO!

4.4%

PORSYENTO NG MGA NAGPOSITIBO

<small>MGA MINSIDNYA AT SIBUDAS NA MAY MATAAS NA NAITALANG KASO NGAYONG ARAW</small>	<small>PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?</small>	<small>KALAGAYAN NG MGA AKTIBONG KASO</small>																												
<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;"><small>DAVAO CITY</small></td> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: right;">92</td> </tr> <tr> <td><small>QUEZON CITY</small></td> <td style="text-align: right;">92</td> </tr> <tr> <td><small>RIZAL</small></td> <td style="text-align: right;">50</td> </tr> <tr> <td><small>PAMPANGA</small></td> <td style="text-align: right;">44</td> </tr> <tr> <td><small>QUEZON</small></td> <td style="text-align: right;">43</td> </tr> </table>	<small>DAVAO CITY</small>	92	<small>QUEZON CITY</small>	92	<small>RIZAL</small>	50	<small>PAMPANGA</small>	44	<small>QUEZON</small>	43	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;"><small>ICU BEDS (1.5K TOTAL BEDS)</small></td> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: right;">59% Available</td> </tr> <tr> <td><small>ISOLATION ROOMS (3.5K TOTAL ROOMS)</small></td> <td style="text-align: right;">61% Available</td> </tr> <tr> <td><small>WARD BEDS (5.3K TOTAL BEDS)</small></td> <td style="text-align: right;">71% Available</td> </tr> <tr> <td><small>VENTILATORS (1.1K TOTAL VENTILATORS)</small></td> <td style="text-align: right;">81% Available</td> </tr> </table>	<small>ICU BEDS (1.5K TOTAL BEDS)</small>	59% Available	<small>ISOLATION ROOMS (3.5K TOTAL ROOMS)</small>	61% Available	<small>WARD BEDS (5.3K TOTAL BEDS)</small>	71% Available	<small>VENTILATORS (1.1K TOTAL VENTILATORS)</small>	81% Available	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;"><small>85.2% Mild</small></td> <td style="width: 50%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td><small>6.9% Asymptomatic</small></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><small>5.0% Critical</small></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><small>2.6% Severe</small></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><small>0.28% Moderate</small></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	<small>85.2% Mild</small>		<small>6.9% Asymptomatic</small>		<small>5.0% Critical</small>		<small>2.6% Severe</small>		<small>0.28% Moderate</small>	
<small>DAVAO CITY</small>	92																													
<small>QUEZON CITY</small>	92																													
<small>RIZAL</small>	50																													
<small>PAMPANGA</small>	44																													
<small>QUEZON</small>	43																													
<small>ICU BEDS (1.5K TOTAL BEDS)</small>	59% Available																													
<small>ISOLATION ROOMS (3.5K TOTAL ROOMS)</small>	61% Available																													
<small>WARD BEDS (5.3K TOTAL BEDS)</small>	71% Available																													
<small>VENTILATORS (1.1K TOTAL VENTILATORS)</small>	81% Available																													
<small>85.2% Mild</small>																														
<small>6.9% Asymptomatic</small>																														
<small>5.0% Critical</small>																														
<small>2.6% Severe</small>																														
<small>0.28% Moderate</small>																														

UPDATE AND MESSAGE OF THE DAY

Kompletuhin ang proteksiyon ng ating kabataan sa mga bakuna tulad ng TB, polio, pulmonya, tiqdas, at iba pa. Sa **BakunATION**, lehat ng chikiting ay may proteksiyon. Pabakunahan ang inyong mga anak para sa isang **#Healthy Pilipinas**.

Ngayong paparating ang **holiday season**, isapuso't isaisip natin ang kaligtasang dala ng pagsunod sa **minimum public health standards!** Sama-sama tayong imaging **BIDA** sa isang ligtas na kapaskuhan!

Itinatagap ka namin ng lugar para mag-isolate o magagamet, tumawag lang sa sumusunod:

SMART: 0919 977 8888

GLOBE: 0915 777 7777

TFI No: (09) 888 505 00

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

VIBER: Kira Kontra COVID by DOH

MESSANGER: Department of Health PH

KONTRACOVID PH: kontracovid.ph

Monahiling ligtas!

↳ download ang StaySafe App

↳ Getolug ang WTSAPP

at pumunta sa [doh.gov.ph](https://www.doh.gov.ph)

MARVONI PANINI KATAIB RILAMP INAGARRING I AMANG SA NIMORRINO

[f OfficialDOHgov](#) [@DOHgovph](#) [doh.gov.ph](#) [\(02\) 894-COVID / 1555](#)

Mahigit 1,000 ang panibagong kaso ng Coronavirus Disease o COVID-19 sa Pilipinas.

Sa huling datos ng Department of Health (DOH) bandang araw ng Huwebes (December 3), umabot na sa 435,413 ang confirmed cases ng nakakahawang sakit sa bansa.

Sa nasabing bilang, 27,642 o 6.3 porsyento ang aktibong kaso.

Sinabi ng kagawaran na 1,061 ang bagong napaulat na kaso ng COVID-19 sa bansa.

85.2 porsyento sa active COVID-19 cases ang mild; 6.9 porsyento ang asymptomatic; 0.28 porsyento ang moderate; 2.6 porsyento ang severe habang 5.0 porsyento ang nasa kritikal na kondisyon.

Nasa 10 naman ang napaulat na nasawi.

Dahil dito, umakyat na sa 8,446 o 1.94 porsyento ang COVID-19 related deaths sa bansa.

Ayon pa sa DOH, 328 naman ang gumaling pa sa COVID-19.

Dahil dito, umakyat na sa 399,325 o 91.7 porsyento ang total recoveries ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas.

Source: <https://radyo.inquirer.net/278179/breaking-kaso-ng-covid-19-sa-pilipinas-umabot-na-sa-435413>



Duterte to attend UN General Assembly on Covid-19

By Azer Parrocha December 3, 2020, 1:02 pm



President Rodrigo Roa Duterte (File photo)

MANILA – President Rodrigo Duterte will be participating in the 31st special session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic from Dec. 3 to 4 via video conference.

Duterte is expected to deliver the Philippine Statement on Dec. 3, New York time.

“The President will further amplify his call for global solidarity in addressing the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic,” a statement from Malacañan Palace read.

He is expected to raise universal access to anti-Covid-9 technologies and products and the need for global efforts to ensure the availability of safe and effective vaccines to peoples of developing nations.

At the 75th session of the UNGA held in September this year, Duterte stressed that access to safe and effective vaccines should be made available to all, “rich and poor nations alike”.

He also said the Covid-19 vaccine “must be considered a global public good” in joining the collective voice of partners in Asean and the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

The Special Session is being held under Resolution 75/4 adopted by the General Assembly on Nov. 5.

It was first proposed by the NAM, where the Philippines is a member.

The Special Session aims to reaffirm the key role of the United Nations in maintaining global order especially in the face of an unprecedented global public health crisis.

According to its website, the Special Session will allow many stakeholders to share their experiences in fighting the pandemic, reflect on the global response to date, and forge a united, coordinated, and people-centered path forward.

The first day of the special session on Dec. 3, consisting of an opening segment followed by a general debate will focus on the experiences of Member States.

The interactive dialogue on Dec. 4, will entail a series of moderated panels covering key aspects of the impact of, and response to, the Covid-19 pandemic, including the UN system’s health and humanitarian response to date; the road to a Covid-19 vaccine; and the socio-economic impact and recovering better. (PNA)

PHL access to COVID-19 vaccine possibly sooner than expected

December 3, 2020



The Philippines may access COVID-19 vaccines earlier than the expected second quarter of 2021 after President #Duterte authorized the FDA to issue emergency use authorization for effective vaccines.

FDA Director General Eric Domingo said the authority granted can shorten the processing time of vaccines from six months to 21 days.

“Ang ine-expect po natin actually ang UK or ang US magbibigay ng EUA mga end of the month pa, mga December. Kaya ang ine-expect ko po talaga, mga January pa magkakaroon tayo ng applications dito sa Pilipinas (We have been expecting the UK or US to grant EUA by the end of the month. That is why I was expecting the applications to come around January),” Domingo shared.

Domingo said there is a great chance that the vaccine being developed by Pfizer-BioNTech which was recently granted EUA by the United Kingdom will also be granted EUA in the Philippines. Vaccination may begin as early as March 2021 in case the German biotechnology company applies for an authorization.

Approved applications must ensure completion of processing for full registration. The FDA will monitor if the products will bring about complications.

Health Secretary Francisco Duque III clarified that such vaccines will no longer undergo certification for product registration to avoid delay in access.

“Siguro four weeks mabibigay na `yung EUA. Pwede nang gamitin, pwede nang umangkat. As against four months... four to six months malaking deperensya (The EUA may be given in 4 weeks. This may be used already, we could import. As against four months... four to six months, that’s a big difference),” Duque explained.

The FDA assured that the quality and efficacy of the product is guaranteed amid the easing of processing time. It will also assure that Asians and Filipinos are included in the trials. It is now finalizing guidelines on the matter. – Report from Mark Fetalco



Virgin coconut oil nakakapawi ng COVID-19 symptoms: pag-aaral

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Dec 03 2020 10:44 PM

MAYNILA — Lumabas sa pag-aaral ng Department of Science and Technology (DOST) na maaaring gamitin ang virgin coconut oil (VCO) sa mga pasyenteng inoobserbahan para sa COVID-19 dahil napapabilis umano nito ang paggaling mula sa mga sintomas.

Sa loob ng 28 araw, inobserbahan ng DOST at Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI) ang 57 probable at suspect cases para sa COVID-19 sa Sta. Rosa, Laguna. Lahat sila nasa 20 anyos at mahigit ang edad, at walang problema sa puso.

Ang kalahati sa kanila binigyan ng VCO kasama ng kanilang pagkain, habang ang kalahati pa na nagsisilbing control group ay walang VCO na natanggap.

"Symptoms in the VCO group significantly declined at day 2 and no symptoms were observed at day 18... VCO could be used as an adjunct supplement to probable and suspect COVID-19, and patient cases. It could prevent COVID-19 cases from becoming severe," ani DOST Secretary Fortunato dela Peña.

Bukod sa mas mabilis nilang paggaling mula sa sintomas, mas mababa rin ang kanilang c-reactive protein o CRP levels na tumutukoy umano sa lebel ng inflammation o infection ng isang tao.

"We actually tested this statistically. If you ask us if this can be recommended, yes. The results speak so loud. If we give VCO, the CRP has actually significantly declined. That means to say that our VCO has really improved in terms of condition or the presence of infection," ani Dr. Imelda Angeles-Agdeppa ng FNRI.

"In a way it's prophylaxis, if assuming na mababa pa yung viral load mo. It's good protection. Maybe that's the word... protection against the virus. But we have not really studied it on high viral load," ani Dr. Fabian Dayrit, chemist mula sa Ateneo de Manila University.

Sa ngayon, patuloy pa ang pag-aaral sa VCO para naman sa mga pasyenteng may COVID-19 sa Philippine General Hospital. Dito malalaman kung maganda din ang epekto ng VCO sa mga mayroong moderate at severe COVID-19.

Ayon sa Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) at mga eksperto, magandang pagkakataon ito para mapakita ang kagandahan ng pag-inom ng VCO lalo't mayroon itong monolaurin at lauric acid na may antiviral properties.

"The VCO market has not even explored the 1% of the health and wellness market globally. There really is a big room for us to fill if we are able to maximize the potentials of VCO to improve... especially the coconut industry," ani PCA administrator Benjamin Madrigal Jr.

Nagpaalala din ang PCA na dapat ay Food and Drug Administration-registered ang gagamiting VCO para masigurong ligtas at maganda ang kalidad nito.

Bilang top exporter ng VCO sa buong mundo, umaasa ngayon ang Pilipinas na mahikayat ang iba pang bansa na magsagawa din ng kanilang sariling pag-aaral para mapalakas ang ebidensiya tungkol sa antiviral properties ng VCO.

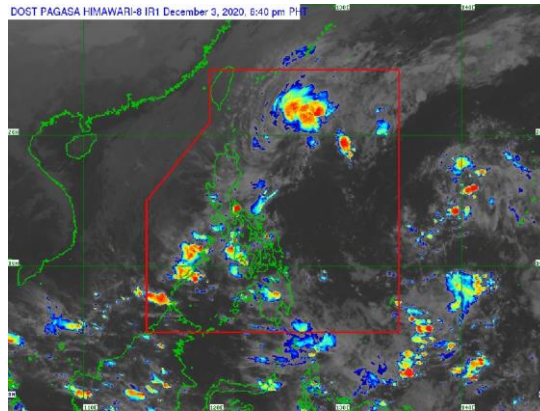
—Mula sa ulat ni **Kristine Sabillo**, ABS-CBN News

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/12/03/20/virgin-coconut-oil-nakakapawi-ng-covid-19-symptoms-pag-aaral>



LPA sa Albay, nalusaw na; Panibagong LPA, binabantayan sa labas ng bansa

By Angellic Jordan December 03, 2020 - 07:12 PM



Nalusaw na ang low pressure area (LPA) sa bahagi ng Albay.

Ayon kay PAGASA weather specialist Ana Clauren, nalusaw ang LPA bandang 2:00 ng hapon.

Ngunit, may panibagong binabantayang LPA sa labas ng teritoryo ng bansa.

Huli itong namataan sa layong 1,710 kilometers Silangan ng Mindanao.

Sinabi ni Clauren na malayo pa ang LPA sa bansa ngunit may posibilidad na pumasok sa Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR).

Samantala, patuloy pa ring umiiral ang Tail-end of Frontal System at Northeast Monsoon o Amihan sa iba pang parte ng bansa.

Ani Clauren, magdudulot ang Tail-end of Frontal System ng maulap na kalat-kalat na katamtaman hanggang malakas na pag-ulan sa Cagayan Valley, Kalinga, Apayao, Mountain Province, Ifugao at Aurora.

Nakakaapekto naman ang Amihan sa nalalabing bahagi ng Hilagang Luzon na nagdudulot ng isolated light rains sa Ilocos region, Abra, Benguet, Zambales at Bataan.

Dahil sa maninipis na kaulapan, posible aniyang makaranas ng mga panandaliang pag-ulan sa Metro Manila at nalalabing bahagi ng bansa.

Source: <https://radyo.inquirer.net/278208/lpa-sa-albay-nalusaw-na-panibagong-lpa-binabantayan-sa-labas-ng-bansa>

Pandemics, climate change ‘intensify’ global health threats

By Agence France-Presse

December 3, 2020



Ethiopian Jewish immigrants making their Aliyah (Immigration to Israel) arrive mask-clad as a protection against the coronavirus pandemic at Ben Gurion International Airport, on the eastern outskirts of Tel Aviv, on December 3, 2020. AFP PHOTO

PARIS: From small island states to urbanized powerhouses, every country on Earth faces “multiplying and intensifying” threats to human health as climate change renders future pandemics and system collapses ever more likely, a major study concluded on Thursday.

A deadly mix of extreme heat, air pollution and intense farming are combining to produce the “worst outlook for public health our generation has seen,” according to the Lancet’s fifth annual report on the links between health and climate.

The assessment showed that the last two decades have seen a 54 percent increase in heat-related deaths among older people, with extreme heatwaves claiming close to 300,000 lives in 2018 alone.

While climate-linked phenomena such as tropical storms remain for now problems overwhelmingly faced by developing nations, the authors said extreme heat was already inflicting devastating damage to health in wealthier countries.

During 2018, France alone experienced 8,000 heat-related deaths among over-65s, inflicting an economic cost equivalent to 1.3 percent of GDP that year, the report found.



Two women wait outside a Covid-19 testing site adjacent to Terminal 1 of Manchester Airport in Manchester, northern England on December 3, 2020. AFP PHOTO

“The threats to human health are multiplying and intensifying due to climate change and unless we change course our healthcare systems are at risk of being overwhelmed in the future,” said Ian Hamilton, executive director of the Lancet Countdown report.

Heat and drought are driving sharp increases in human exposure to wildfires, with 128 countries seeing an increase in the population injured, killed or displaced by blazes since the early 2000s, the report found.

It said that projected sea level rises caused by fossil fuel, farming and transport emissions could threaten to displace up to 565 million people by 2100, in turn exposing them to a range of health problems.



In this file photo taken on November 04, 2020, Men walk along a flooded road after the River Chirichil overflowed following heavy rains caused during the passage of Hurricane Eta in Toyos, Honduras on November 4, 2020. AFP PHOTO With more than nine million deaths attributable to poor diet each year, the expert panel behind the report found that mortality linked to excess red meat consumption had risen 70 percent in just three decades.

Excess red meat eating was behind at least 13,000 deaths in France in 2017, out of nearly 90,000 deaths that year attributable to poor diet.

The authors warned that continued urbanization, intensive agriculture, air travel and lifestyles powered by fossil fuels would render future pandemics such as Covid-19 far more likely.

They called for urgent action to mitigate emissions in order to stave off the worst effects of climate change and reduce its impact as a health threat multiplier.

“Now is the time for all of us to take the environmental determinants of health more seriously,” said The Lancet’s Editor-in-Chief Richard Horton.

“We must address the climate emergency, protect biodiversity, and strengthen the natural systems on which our civilization depends.”



Flames are seen near homes off the 71 freeway at the Blue Ridge Fire in Chino, California on October 27, 2020. AFP PHOTO

‘Align recoveries’

The report comes near the five-year anniversary of the Paris climate accord, which enjoins nations to limit global temperature rises to well below 2 Degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels through sweeping emissions cuts.

The agreement also envisages a safer warming cap of 1.5C.

While lockdowns and travel restrictions are likely to mean that greenhouse gas emissions fall in 2020, there are fears that fossil fuels will be lent on by governments to power their pandemic recoveries.



Firefighters look out over a burning hillside as they fight the Blue Ridge Fire in Yorba Linda, California, October 26, 2020. AFP PHOTO

The Lancet panel called for an “aligning of climate and pandemic recovery” to deliver near- and long-term health and economic benefits.

It said that the health benefits from lower levels of air pollution and fewer extreme weather events as well as improved diets alone would more than pay for the costs of climate mitigation.

“With trillions being invested globally in economic support and stimulus there is a genuine opportunity to deliver a triple win—one that improves public health, creates a sustainable economy and protects the environment,” said Maria Neira, director of the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Health at the World Health Organization.

“Failure to tackle these converging crises will lock in huge amounts of fossil fuels... condemning the world to a future of climate-induced health shocks.”



In this file photo taken on July 20, 2020 A woman washes her cooking pot in the flood waters outside her house in Sreenagar on July 20, 2020.

AFP/Munir Uz zaman

Pandemics, climate change 'intensify' global health threats

(Agence France-Presse) - December 3, 2020 - 4:59pm

PARIS, France — From small island states to urbanized powerhouses, every country on Earth faces "multiplying and intensifying" threats to human health as climate change renders future pandemics and system collapses ever more likely, a major study concluded on Thursday.

A deadly mix of extreme heat, air pollution and intense farming are combining to produce the "worst outlook for public health our generation has seen," according to the Lancet's fifth annual report on the links between health and climate.

The assessment showed that the last two decades have seen a 54 percent increase in heat-related deaths among older people, with extreme heatwaves claiming close to 300,000 lives in 2018 alone.

While climate-linked phenomena such as tropical storms remain for now problems overwhelmingly faced by developing nations, the authors said extreme heat was already inflicting devastating damage to health in wealthier countries.

During 2018, France alone experienced 8,000 heat-related deaths among over-65s, inflicting an economic cost equivalent to 1.3 percent of GDP that year, the report found.

"The threats to human health are multiplying and intensifying due to climate change and unless we change course our healthcare systems are at risk of being overwhelmed in the future," said Ian Hamilton, executive director of the Lancet Countdown report.

Heat and drought are driving sharp increases in human exposure to wildfires, with 128 countries seeing an increase in the population injured, killed or displaced by blazes since the early 2000s, the report found.

It said that projected sea level rises caused by fossil fuel, farming and transport emissions could threaten to displace up to 565 million people by 2100, in turn exposing them to a range of health problems.



With more than nine million deaths attributable to poor diet each year, the expert panel behind the report found that mortality linked to excess red meat consumption had risen 70 percent in just three decades.

Excess red meat eating was behind at least 13,000 deaths in France in 2017, out of nearly 90,000 deaths that year attributable to poor diet.

The authors warned that continued urbanization, intensive agriculture, air travel and lifestyles powered by fossil fuels would render future pandemics such as COVID-19 far more likely.

They called for urgent action to mitigate emissions in order to stave off the worst effects of climate change and reduce its impact as a health threat multiplier.

"Now is the time for all of us to take the environmental determinants of health more seriously," said The Lancet's Editor-in-Chief Richard Horton.

"We must address the climate emergency, protect biodiversity, and strengthen the natural systems on which our civilisation depends."

'Align recoveries'

The report comes near the five-year anniversary of the Paris climate accord, which enjoins nations to limit global temperature rises to well below 2 Degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels through sweeping emissions cuts.

The agreement also envisages a safer warming cap of 1.5C.

While lockdowns and travel restrictions are likely to mean that greenhouse gas emissions fall in 2020, there are fears that fossil fuels will be lent on by governments to power their pandemic recoveries.

The Lancet panel called for an "aligning of climate and pandemic recovery" to deliver near- and long-term health and economic benefits.

It said that the health benefits from lower levels of air pollution and fewer extreme weather events as well as improved diets alone would more than pay for the costs of climate mitigation.

"With trillions being invested globally in economic support and stimulus there is a genuine opportunity to deliver a triple win—one that improves public health, creates a sustainable economy and protects the environment," said Maria Neira, director of the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Health at the World Health Organization.

"Failure to tackle these converging crises will lock in huge amounts of fossil fuels... condemning the world to a future of climate-induced health shocks."



Virus, climate change biggest health threat, says group

By Agence France-Presse

December 4, 2020

NEWARK: From small island states to urbanized powerhouses, every country on Earth faces “multiplying and intensifying” threats to human health as climate change renders future pandemics and system collapses ever more likely, a major study concluded on Thursday.

A deadly mix of extreme heat, air pollution and intense farming are combining to produce the “worst outlook for public health our generation has seen”, according to The Lancet’s fifth annual report on the links between health and climate. The assessment showed that the last two decades have seen a 54 percent increase in heat-related deaths among older people, with extreme heatwaves claiming close to 300,000 lives in 2018 alone.

While climate-linked phenomena such as tropical storms remain for now problems overwhelmingly faced by developing nations, the authors said extreme heat was already inflicting devastating damage to health in wealthier countries.

During 2018, France alone experienced 8,000 heat-related deaths among over-65s, inflicting an economic cost equivalent to 1.3 percent of the gross domestic product that year, the report found.

“The threats to human health are multiplying and intensifying due to climate change and unless we change course our health care systems are at risk of being overwhelmed in the future,” said Ian Hamilton, executive director of the Lancet Countdown report.

Heat and drought are driving sharp increases in human exposure to wildfires, with 128 countries seeing an increase in the population injured, killed or displaced by blazes since the early 2000s, the report found.

It said projected sea level rises caused by fossil fuel, farming and transport emissions could threaten to displace up to 565 million people by 2100, in turn exposing them to a range of health problems.

With more than 9 million deaths attributable to poor diet each year, the expert panel behind the report found that mortality linked to excess red meat consumption had risen 70 percent in just three decades.

Excess red meat eating was behind at least 13,000 deaths in France in 2017, out of nearly 90,000 deaths that year attributable to poor diet.

The authors warned that continued urbanization, intensive agriculture, air travel and lifestyles powered by fossil fuels would render future pandemics such as the coronavirus far more likely.

They called for urgent action to mitigate emissions in order to stave off the worst effects of climate change and reduce its impact as a health threat multiplier.

“Now is the time for all of us to take the environmental determinants of health more seriously,” said The Lancet’s Editor-in-Chief Richard Horton.



“We must address the climate emergency, protect biodiversity, and strengthen the natural systems on which our civilisation depends.”

The report comes near the five-year anniversary of the Paris climate accord, which enjoins nations to limit global temperature rises to well below 2 degrees Celsius or C (3.6 Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels through sweeping emissions cuts. The agreement also envisages a safer warming cap of 1.5 C.



Nestlé to invest \$3.6 billion in climate-change fight

By [Bloomberg News](#)

December 4, 2020



A bird's nest logo sits on display at the Nestlé SA headquarters in Vevey, Switzerland, on Wednesday, February 12, 2019.

Nestlé SA, the world's largest food company, said it will invest 3.2 billion Swiss francs (\$3.6 billion) over the next five years in an effort to fight climate change.

The company will plant 200 million trees over the next decade and help farmers and suppliers shift toward regenerative agriculture, the KitKat maker said Thursday. Nespresso, Perrier and San Pellegrino will become carbon-neutral by 2022, with the rest of its bottled water portfolio doing so by 2025.

The food industry is stepping up attempts to burnish its reputation amid criticism for environmental damage and packaging waste. Nestlé is already spending as much as 2 billion francs in an attempt to promote more food-safe recycled plastics. PepsiCo Inc. pledged Wednesday to only use recycled plastic in its namesake brand's bottles in nine European markets by 2022. And Danone, which bottles Evian, has announced a 2 billion-euro (\$2.4 billion) sustainability investment over the next three years.

"Business leaders can no longer afford to be skeptical and interminably patient," Nestlé Chief Executive Officer Mark Schneider said in an op-ed in *Fortune* magazine. "We should not expect comprehensive public policy and unanimity to do the job for us."

Schneider compared the situation to what executives in the car industry faced in the 1970s and 1980s, choosing to invest billions of dollars to make smaller, more fuel-efficient cars that were less profitable.

Nestlé said it plans to get 100 percent of its electricity from renewable sources at its 800 factories within the next five years, and will expand its offering of plant-based food and beverages.

When Nestlé set a target to reach zero net greenhouse-gas emissions by 2050 last year, Schneider said climate change is one of the greatest risks to the company's future business.

Nestlé said the measures it's taking will help halve carbon emissions by 2030. ***Bloomberg News***
Image credits: [Stefan Wermuth/Bloomberg](#)

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2020/12/04/nestle-to-invest-3-6-billion-in-climate-change-fight/>



FOR SALE

Namibia to sell 170 live elephants to save them from drought

Published December 3, 2020 9:58pm

Namibia is putting 170 live elephants up for sale to curb rising tusker populations under pressure from drought and territorial conflict with humans.

An advertisement for the sale of 170 "high value" elephants was carried Wednesday by a state-owned daily newspaper, New Era.

The ministry says the elephants are being sold "due to drought and increase in elephant numbers coupled with human-elephant conflict incidences."

The sparsely-populated semi-arid southern African country is home to some 28,000 elephants, according to official estimates.

Environment Minister Pohamba Shifeta told AFP that the government backed the policy of selling live animals after being criticized for shooting elephants to control overpopulation.

"We decided -- after research -- to sell them instead," he said.

The elephant population had dwindled to about 5,000 animals at independence in 1990, but increased phenomenally thanks to a globally-lauded conservation program.

The advertisement said pachyderms on sale would comprise entire herds in order to preserve the important social structure in elephant communities -- infants or juveniles will not be left behind.

Shifeta warned that Namibia would not recklessly sell the elephants to buyers, saying "we have to make sure that the country is conducive."

For export purposes, the buyers must ensure that CITES requirements are met by both exporting and importing states for the trade to be authorized, according to the notice.

In October, 100 wild buffalo went up for sale in Namibia.

Last year the government offered for sale around 1,000 animals including 600 buffalo, 150 springboks, 60 giraffes and 28 elephants. **-Agence France-Presse**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/world/766717/namibia-to-sell-170-live-elephants-to-save-them-from-drought/story/>



Australian inquiry into sacred cave destruction seen recommending mining reforms

December 4, 2020 1:27 AM by [DZRH News Online](#)



FILE PHOTO: A sign adorns the building where mining company Rio Tinto has their office in Perth, Western Australia, November 19, 2015. REUTERS/David Gray/File Photo

By Melanie Burton

MELBOURNE (Reuters) – An Australian inquiry into Rio Tinto’s destruction of ancient rock shelters is likely criticise the miner’s procedures and recommend legal and sector reforms when it issues its findings next week, according to legal, Indigenous and mining sources.

The inquiry into the lawful destruction of the 46,000-year-old Juukan Gorge rock shelters for an iron ore mine expansion in May has heard dozens of testimonies and seen more than 140 submissions from miners, heritage specialists and Aboriginal and civil society groups. It is due to report on Dec. 9.

By shining a light on outdated industry practices and the laws that support them, the inquiry has already sparked change, even though its recommendations may well fall short of demands from Aboriginal groups for a right of veto, lawyers and Indigenous advocates say.

“From an Aboriginal rights and social licence to operate perspective, the world has turned and if anyone in the resources industry... is wanting to impact country, they ignore that at their peril,” said Marcus Holmes, principal of Land Equity Legal, who has negotiated more than 250 native title and heritage agreements in the past 25 years.

Already, Rio has acknowledged procedural failings and its chief executive and two other senior leaders have lost their jobs. It is expected to announce its new leader any day.

The inquiry has exposed practices including ‘gag’ clauses in land use agreements that restrict Aboriginal groups from publicly objecting to mining developments and from using some Australian laws to protect their land. Some of these are now being unwound.

OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Among changes by Australia’s iron ore giants, Rio has increased its oversight and accountability to include reviews of its heritage management by board committees.

Rival BHP Group has found ways to preserve more heritage sites at a mine expansion in the same region and now requires more senior level approval before any site is harmed. It has also stepped up discussions with Indigenous groups.

Fortescue Metals Group said it will now inform Aboriginal groups when it plans to impact their sites in case they have new information to offer.

Institutional investors are also demanding greater accountability.

“Particularly this year, investors are learning that you have to look behind a company’s reporting and statements if you want to know the truth about ESG performance,” said legal counsel James Fitzgerald of activist shareholder the Australasian Centre for Corporate Responsibility.



Whether the committee would go as far as to recommend veto rights was the big question, said Jamie Lowe, chief executive of land rights body the National Native Title Council.

“We don’t need to be scared of this question of veto. In ethical organisations, if (an Aboriginal landowner group) says ‘See that sacred site over there, don’t go there’, most say ‘OK, we won’t go there’. It will be protected,” he said.

“First Nations people, they are not adverse to development. We just want our heritage protected at the same time.”

(Reporting by Melanie Burton; Editing by Lincoln Feast.)