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DENR

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR to ban plastic straws, coffee stirrers

[Rhodina Villanueva](#) (The Philippine Star) - February 4, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Plastic softdrink straws and plastic coffee stirrers will be included on the list of non-environmentally acceptable products (NEAP) to be banned as part of the implementation of Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act.

The draft resolution on the ban was approved during a virtual meeting of the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) on Tuesday.

The resolution was passed despite strong opposition from some members of the commission, such as the Department of Trade and Industry as well as manufacturing and recycling industries.

Representatives of the Department of Health, Metro Manila Development Authority, Department of the Interior and Local Government, Department of Agriculture, Department of Public Works and Highways, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, Philippine Information Agency, League of Municipalities of the Philippines, League of Cities of the Philippines and non-government organizations represented by the EcoWaste Coalition also attended the meeting.

“I am elated that after 20 years, the NEAP listing has commenced,” Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda said.

The NSWMC held multi-sectoral consultations on the NEAP list on Jan. 22 and Feb. 1, with 169 and 178 participants, respectively, from local government units, the private sector and stakeholders from civil society groups.

Meanwhile, EcoWaste Coalition urged authorities to adopt a more ambitious list to include materials, which contain toxic additives.

“The inclusion of all single-use plastics... along with other products and packaging materials containing toxic additives that can harm human health and the environment should be a top priority for the NSWMC to drastically reduce the volume and toxicity of residual garbage that we cannot reuse or recycle and only exacerbate environmental pollution,” EcoWaste Coalition national coordinator Aileen Lucero said.



DENR signals impending ban on plastic straws, coffee stirrers

February 3, 2021 | 8:34 pm

PHILSTAR

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Wednesday signaled a possible ban on plastic straws and coffee stirrers by putting them on a list of so-called non-environmentally acceptable products and packaging (NEAP) products.

In a statement Wednesday, the DENR said that the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) approved a resolution classifying the two products as NEAP, adding that they “may be banned soon.”

“The draft resolution declaring plastic soft drink straw and plastic coffee stirrers as NEAP was deliberated (in) a virtual en banc meeting... (which) concluded with 11 votes for approval and three votes (against),” the DENR said.

The department said the resolution passed “despite heavy resistance from some members of the Commission, such as the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the manufacturing and recycling industries.”

Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny D. Antiporda said that the plastic straws and stirrers were the “first products” to receive the NEAP classification.

He told BusinessWorld by phone Wednesday that the resolution “will be ratified by the heads of agencies. After the signature of all the Secretaries, that’s the time we will publicly release copies,” Mr. Antiporda said.

Once the resolution is published, businesses have one year to dispose of their plastic straws and coffee stirrers, he said, noting that the straw phaseout covers the products used in soft drinks, while some types like the white straws used by hospitals to feed their patients will be allowed to remain on the market.

The DENR will set specifications for products that can still be sold. “Product by product pinag-uusapan po iyan (We are discussing each type of product),” he said, citing as an example for further consideration the extra-large straws used by sellers of milk tea.

“(Businesses) will be given a year to... phase out the items and use the alternative or... (pursue) other business,” Mr. Antiporda said.

Mr. Antiporda said that there were different kinds of straws in the market — such as the portable white ones used in hospitals, and the thick ones seen in milk tea drinks.

Non-governmental organization (NGO) EcoWaste Coalition pushed the DENR to classify more single-use plastic products as NEAP.

“The EcoWaste Coalition... urges the authorities to adopt a more ambitious list that will include other single-use plastics (SUPs) as well as materials containing toxic chemical additives,” it said in an e-mail to BusinessWorld.

EcoWaste Coalition National Coordinator Aileen A. Lucero said the NSWMC must “make it a priority to list other SUPs and those with toxic additives in the NEAP.”

“The inclusion of all SUPs on the NEAP list, along with other products and packaging materials containing toxic additives that can harm human health and the environment, should be a top priority for the NSWMC in order to drastically reduce the volume and toxicity of residual garbage that we cannot reuse or recycle and only exacerbate environmental pollution,” Mr. Lucero said in a statement.

Sonia Mendoza, who chairs the NGO Mother Earth Foundation, also backs a broader phaseout.

“There are readily available alternatives such as paper straws or not using straws. Wooden or bamboo stirrers and teaspoons are always available in hotels and big establishments,” Ms. Mendoza told BusinessWorld in a mobile message. — **Angelica Y. Yang**



Plastic straws, stirrers to be banned in the Philippines —DENR

Published February 3, 2021 11:05am

As the world celebrates International Straw Free Day, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Wednesday said plastic soft drink straws and coffee stirrers will be banned soon in the country.

In a statement, DENR said these items have been included in the list of non-environmentally acceptable products (NEAP) as deliberated by the National Solid Waste Management Commission on Tuesday.

Under the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 or Republic Act 9003, items that will be included in the list should be prohibited as scheduled by the Commission.

"I am elated that after 20 years since the birth of RA 9003, the NEAP listing has now commenced," DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda said.

"This is long overdue and we need to catch up with the demand of solid waste management in our country."

According to DENR, the resolution was passed despite opposition from some members of the Commission like the Department of Trade and Industry, and the manufacturing and recycling industries.

"We have long been fighting for and we are committed in having a NEAP list to comply with the law to combat environmental damage," Antiporda said.

"The prohibition on these two single-use plastic items may be small steps in the NEAP listing, but it is a big leap when it comes to compliance with the provisions of RA 9003," he added. —**Joviland Rita/KBK, GMA News**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/774391/plastic-straw-stirrer-to-be-banned-in-the-philippines-denr/story/>



Plastic straws, coffee stirrer bawal na — DENR

By [Angie dela Cruz](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon) - February 4, 2021 - 12:00am



Ito'y makaraang aprubahan ng National Solid Waste Management Commission ng DENR ang pag-ban sa paggamit ng naturang mga plastic.

MANILA, Philippines — Ipinagbabawal na ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang paggamit ng plastic straw ng softdrinks at plastic stirrer o panghalo sa kape.

Ito'y makaraang aprubahan ng National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) ng DENR ang pag-ban sa paggamit ng naturang mga plastic.

Sa botong 11 pabor at 3 kumontra ay ipinasa ang resolusyon sa isinagawang virtual en banc meeting na pinangunahan ng DENR.

Itinuturing ito na isang milestone ni DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda dahil matapos ang mahigit dalawang dekada na pagkakapasa ng Republic Act 9003 o ang Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 ay ngayon lamang nakapaglabas ang komisyon ng listahan ng non-environmentally acceptable products.

Ani Antiporda, maraming dapat na habulin ang ahensya para makatugon sa solid waste management ng bansa.

Nataon ang desisyon na tuluyang pagbabawal sa paggamit ng straw kasabay ng pagdiriwang ng International Straw Free Day kahapon, February 3.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2021/02/04/2075205/plastic-straws-coffee-stirrer-bawal-na-denr/amp/>



DENR: Plastic straw, panghalo ng kape, ipagbabawal na sa Pilipinas

Pebrero 3, 2021 4:35pm GMT+08:00

Ipagbabawal na ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang mga plastic straw at panghalo ng kape sa bansa kasabay ng selebrasyon ng International Straw Free Day.

Sa isang pahayag nitong Miyerkules, sinabi ng DENR na isinama na ang naturang mga gamit sa listahan ng non-environmentally acceptable products (NEAP), matapos ang pagtalakay ng National Solid Waste Management Commission nitong Martes.

Sa ilalim ng Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 o Republic Act 9003, ang mga gamit na nasa NEAP ay ipagbabawal na.

"I am elated that after 20 years since the birth of RA 9003, the NEAP listing has now commenced," ayon kay DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda.

"This is long overdue and we need to catch up with the demand of solid waste management in our country," dagdag pa ng kalihim.

Ayon sa DENR, naipasa ang resolusyon sa kabila ng pagtutol ng ilang miyembro ng komisyon tulad ng Department of Trade and Industry, at mula sa manufacturing and recycling industries.

"We have long been fighting for and we are committed in having a NEAP list to comply with the law to combat environmental damage," ayon kay Antiporda.

"The prohibition on these two single-use plastic items may be small steps in the NEAP listing, but it is a big leap when it comes to compliance with the provisions of RA 9003," dagdag pa niya. —FRJ, GMA News

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/balitambayan/balita/774445/denr-plastic-straw-panghalo-ng-kape-ipagbabawal-na-sa-pilipinas/story/>



Plastic straw at coffee stirrer, bawal na — DENR

ni [Lolet Abania](#) | February 3, 2021

Ipinahayag ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na ang mga plastic straws para sa mga softdrink at coffee stirrers ay posibleng ipagbawal na sa bansa.

Sa isang statement, sinabi ng DENR na ang mga produktong ito ay nakabilang na sa listahan ng non-environmentally acceptable products (NEAP) na pinag-aralan ng National Solid Waste Management Commission.

Sa ilalim ng Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 o Republic Act 9003, anumang items na nakabilang sa listahan ng NEAP ay ipagbabawal, ayon sa itinatakda ng Commission.

"I am elated that after 20 years since the birth of RA 9003, the NEAP listing has now commenced," sabi ni DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda.

"This is long overdue and we need to catch up with the demand of solid waste management in our country," sabi pa ni Antiporda.

Ayon sa DENR, ang resolusyon ay pinasa sa kabila ng mga oposisyon mula sa ilang miyembro ng commission gaya ng Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), at ang mga sektor ng manufacturing at recycling industries.

"We have long been fighting for and we are committed in having a NEAP list to comply with the law to combat environmental damage," saad ni Antiporda.

"The prohibition on these two single-use plastic items may be small steps in the NEAP listing, but it is a big leap when it comes to compliance with the provisions of RA 9003," dagdag ng kalihim.

Plastic straws, stirrers malapit nang ipagbawal sa Pilipinas — DENR

February 3, 2021 2 min read

MANILA – Sa pagdiriwang ng International Straw Free Day, inanunsiyo ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na malapit nang ipagbawal sa bansa ang plastic na soft drink straws at coffee stirrers.

Sa isang pahayag, sinabi ng DENR na kasama ang plastic na soft drink straws at coffee stirrers sa tinatawag na listahan ng non-environmentally acceptable products (NEAP) batay sa ginawang deliberasyon ng National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC).

Sa ilalim ng Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 o Republic Act 9003, ang mga bagay na kabilang sa nasabing listahan ay ipagbabawal batay sa schedule na itatakda ng NSWMC.

“I am elated that after 20 years since the birth of RA 9003, the NEAP listing has now commenced,” wika ni DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda.

“This is long overdue and we need to catch up with the demand of solid waste management in our country,” dagdag pa niya.

Ayon sa DENR, naaprubahan ang resolusyon sa kabila ng pagtutol ng ilang miyembro ng NSWMC, gaya ng Department of Trade and Industry, at mga industriya ng manufacturing at recycling. (AI/FC/MTVN)

Source: https://maharlika.tv/2021/02/03/plastic-straws-stirrers-malapit-nang-ipagbawal-sa-pilipinas-denr/?fbclid=IwAR2jbTT3qdZQDZH1fnl3s9ohvqTrxjrLf_SN7_EZKrwTK-nfLqJkCg6Vu60



Government to ban plastic straw, stirrer despite resistance

posted February 04, 2021 at 01:00 am

by [Rio N. Araja](#)

The Philippines may soon ban plastic softdrink straws and plastic coffee stirrers, following the National Solid Waste Management Commission's approval, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources said Wednesday.

The NSWMC has approved adding plastic softdrink straws and plastic coffee stirrers in the list of non-environmentally acceptable products (NEAP), which may be banned soon as part of the implementation of Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns and NSWMC alternate chairperson Benny Antiporda presided over the virtual en banc meeting last Tuesday and came up with a draft resolution declaring plastic softdrink straw and plastic coffee stirrer as NEAP.

The resolution got 11 votes for approval and three votes for disapproval of the two items.

The resolution was passed despite heavy resistance from some members of the commission, such as the Department of Trade and Industry, and the manufacturing and recycling industries.

"I am elated that after 20 years since the birth of RA 9003, the NEAP listing has now commenced. This is long overdue, and we need to catch up with the demand of solid waste management in our country," Antiporda said.

"This is a significant milestone for NSWMC, and for the Filipino people. We have long been fighting for and we are committed to having a NEAP list to comply with the law to combat environmental damage," he added.

The approved resolution came at a perfect time as the world celebrated Wednesday the International Straw Free Day.

"The prohibition on these two single-use plastic items may be small steps in the NEAP listing, but it is a big leap when it comes to compliance with the provisions of RA 9003," the DENR official said.

"This global celebration aims to encourage the public to go straw-free and say 'no straw please' when ordering drinks," he noted.

Pursuant to Section 29 of RA 9003, "Within one year from the effectivity of this Act, the Commission shall, after public notice and hearing, prepare a list of non-environmentally acceptable products as defined in this Act that shall be prohibited according to a schedule that shall be prepared by the Commission."

Antiporda lamented that it was only two decades after the law was passed when the commission came up with a list of NEAP.

Plastic straw at stirrers, ipagbabawal na

Isay Reyes, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Feb 03 2021 08:03 PM | Updated as of Feb 04 2021 03:20 AM

Tuluyan nang ipagbabawal ang paggamit ng plastic softdrink straw at plastic stirrer sa loob ng isang taon sa bansa.

Inaprubahan na ang pagsama sa listahan ng non-environmentally acceptable products (NEAP) ang mga plastic straw at stirrer.

Sa loob ng isang taon, tuluyan nang ipagbabawal ang paggamit nito at magbabayad ang sinumang mahuling gumagamit pa rin nito.

Sa panayam ng ABS-CBN News kay Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda, sinabi nitong naisapinal Martes ang pagsasama ng dalawang plastic items sa ipagbabawal.

“Eleven approved the resolution of the inclusion of plastic softdrinks straw and the plastic coffee stirrer into the list of the non-environmentally acceptable products. Ang nag "no" is ang DTI (Department of Trade and Industry), second is the manufacturing and third is the recycling,” ani Antiporda.

Kasabay ng International Straw-Free Day ngayong Feb 3, masaya si Antiporda na kasama na ang straw sa ipagbabawal na gamitin ng publiko.

Nilinaw niya na ang tinutukoy nilang straw ay ang ginagamit sa paginom ng mga softdrinks sa bote na kadalasang nasa mga sari-sari store at karinderya dahil ito ang pumasok sa kategorya ng single-use plastic. Ang klase ng straw na tulad nito ay hindi na nagagamit ulit at diretsong tapon na lamang at kadalasang nakikitang palutang-lutang sa dagat.

Para maisama sa listahan ng NEAP, pinaliwanag ni Antiporda na dapat may alternatibong maibibigay sa publiko.

“For the plastic straw there are other straw that can be used also, mayroon naman bamboo straw, mayroon din 'yung stainless straw so kasama rin ito sa research na ginawa and these are reusable naman,” aniya.

“Sa stirrer naman, diba may popsicle stick tayo, 'yung kahoy but smaller than that para maging cheaper than that. 'Yung presyo niya ay ipinagtugma-tugma at akma naman sa isinasaad ng batas,” dagdag niya.

Ipaparati ang ipinasang polisiya ng batas sa mga ahensiya ng gobyerno at saka pa lamang ibababa sa publiko. Tinatayang isang taon ang gugugulin para dito.

“Iyan po ay mabibigyan pa po ng 1 year na phaseout period para ho 'yung mga natitira nilang stocks ay mai-dispose pa po nila and at the same time maitigil na po nila 'yung kanilang production at lumipat po ng ibang produkto naman,” ani Antiporda.

Sa ilalim ng pandemya, kailangan umano ding isaalang-alang ang mga posibleng mawalan ng trabaho dahil sa polisiyang ito, sa ilalim ng Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

Maglalabas ng IRR o ng implementing rules and regulations at dagdag guidelines pa ang DENR para maging gabay ng taumbayan.

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/02/03/21/plastic-straw-at-stirrers-ipagbabawal-na>

Pagbabawal sa paggamit ng plastic straw, inaprubahan na ng NSWMC

By [RadyoMaN Manila](#), -Feb. 3, 2021 at 3:06pm

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Photo Courtesy: Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Facebook Page

Malapit nang tuluyang ipagbawal sa buong bansa ang paggamit ng plastic softdrink straw at plastic coffee stirrer.

Kasunod ito ng ginawang pag-apruba ng National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) na isama ang mga plastic softdrink straw at plastic coffee stirrer sa listahan ng mga non-environmentally acceptable products.

Sa isinagawang virtual en banc meeting kung saan ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang presider, nakararaming miyembro ng komisyon ang pabor na ipagbawal ang mga ito.

Ayon kay Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny Antiporda, dalawang dekada matapos na malikha ang Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, ngayon lang ito maisasakatuparan.

Maituturing ding makasaysayan ang pag-apruba dito kasabay ng paggunita ng International Straw Free Day.

Source: https://rmn.ph/pagbabawal-sa-paggamit-ng-plastic-straw-inaprubahan-na-ng-nswmc/?fbclid=IwAR0Tz_VWgyVCmlbLhnuzWnDRhcRZkNyZx1gqqjAAasDFvjFdbMHFB L4muxM

Plastic straw tsupi na sa 'Pinas

B Abante News Online

Last update-d Feb 3, 2021

Shale



© 16 11/0

Ibabawal na ang paggamit ng plastic straw sa soft drinks at coffee stirrer bilang pagtupad sa itinakda ng Republic Act (RA) 90030 mas kilala sa tawag na Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

Alinsunod ito sa pag-apruba ng National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) at ilagay sa listahan ng non-environmentally acceptable products (NEAP) ang plastic soft drinks straw at plastic coffee stirrer.

Ang draft resolution na nagdedeklara sa plastic soft drink straw at plastic coffee stirrer bilang NEAP ay napag-usapan sa virtual en banc meeting noong Martes (Pebrero 2) na pinangunahan n Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units (LGUs) Concerns at NSWMC Alternate Chair Benny Antiporda.

Napagtibay ito sa pamamagitan ng 11 boto ng pagsang-ayon habang tatlo naman ang tumanggi

Napapanahon din ang pag-apruba sa resolusyon dahil ipinagdiriwang ng buong mundo ang International Straw Free Day kahapon, Pebrero 3. (Riz Dominguez)



Plastic straws, stirrers placed on list of 'non-environmentally acceptable' products

Published February 3, 2021, 7:29 AM

by [Ellson Quismorio](#)

Prepare to say goodbye to plastic soft drinks straws and coffee stirrers.

These two ubiquitous items were placed on the list of non-environmentally acceptable products (NEAP) by the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC). As a result, they may be banned soon as part of the implementation of Republic Act (RA) 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.



(UNSPLASH / MANILA BULLETIN)

The draft resolution declaring plastic soft drinks straw and plastic coffee stirrer as NEAP was deliberated upon during a Tuesday virtual en banc meeting, which was presided by Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units (LGUs) Concerns and NSWMC Alternate Chair Benny Antiporda.

In the end, 11 en banc members voted to list the two plastic items, while three voted against it. The approved resolution comes at a perfect time as the world celebrates International Straw Free Day on Wednesday, February 3.

"This global celebration aims to encourage the public to go straw-free and say 'no straw please' when ordering drinks," Antiporda said.

Reports said the resolution was passed despite heavy opposition coming from some members of the Commission, such as the Department of Trade and Industry, the manufacturing and recycling industries.

Other members who participated in the meeting were the Department of Health (DOH), Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), Philippine Information Agency (PIA), League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP), League of Cities of the Philippines (LGO), and non-government organizations represented by the EcoWaste Coalition.

Section 29 of RA 9003 states that, "within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act, the Commission shall, after public notice and hearing, prepare a list of non-environmentally acceptable products as defined in this Act that shall be prohibited according to a schedule that shall be prepared by the Commission."

However, it was only two decades after the Act was passed that the Commission came up with a list of NEAP.

"This is long overdue and we need to catch up with the demand of solid waste management in our country," Antiporda said.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/02/03/plastic-straws-stirrers-placed-on-list-of-non-environmentally-acceptable-products/>



"Our time is running out, we need to stop the plastic pollution at source. Our oceans are wallowing in plastics. We cannot and should not wait for another 20 years to ban single-use plastics nationwide," said Atty. Gloria Estenzo-Ramos

Ban on plastic straw, plastic stirrer good first step - groups

Published February 4, 2021 1:05am

Several groups welcome ban on plastic straws and plastic stirrers, propose wider program to stem plastic pollution at source.

"While this is a much welcome development, considering that this mandate has been sitting for 2 decades, banning straws and stirrers alone is not enough," said lawyer Gloria Estenzo-Ramos, Oceana Vice President.

"Our time is running out, we need to stop the plastic pollution at source. Our oceans are wallowing in plastics. We cannot and should not wait for another 20 years to ban single-use plastics nationwide," she added.

She was referring to the move of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to impose a [ban on the use of plastic straws and plastic stirrers](#).

In a statement, the agency said the items have been included in the list of non-environmentally acceptable products (NEAP) as deliberated by the National Solid Waste Management Commission on Tuesday.

Oceana Philippines International, the local government of Ormoc City, Youth Advocates for Climate Action Philippines, Ecowaste Coalition and 40 other civil society groups, in a statement, proposed other single-use plastic items to be included in the ban.

The proposed items for inclusion in the NEAPP are:

- plastic tabo
- plastic bags including oxo-degradable plastics
- plastic cutleries - spoon, fork and knives
- plastic bottles
- plastic cups and plates



- thin plastic take-out containers
- styrofoam or polystyrene food containers
- sachet, packaging, or products that are multilayered with other materials

The list, the groups said, was drawn from the NSWMC Resolution No. 1363 (Series of 2020) on the unnecessary single-use plastics, the five Gyres Better-Alternatives-Now Global Ban Recommendation, Ocean Conservancy's 2019 International Coastal Clean-up most common items found in the Philippines, 2020 Social Weather Survey Stations Survey, Break Free from Plastic Philippines Project 2020 Brand Audit Report, and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources 2020 Coastal Clean Up Data.

Councilor Lalaine Marcos of Ormoc City, which implemented a week-long ban on single-use plastics, called on the Commission to "expedite banning single-use plastics."

Ramos, meanwhile, said the NEAPP list should be updated every year.

Under section 48 of the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 (Republic Act 9003), the manufacture, distribution or use of non-environmentally acceptable packaging materials and importation of consumer products packaged in non-environmentally acceptable packaging are banned.

She added that the Commission has not disclosed the data on the production and trade of single-use plastics.

"These provisions, aimed at reduction at sources of plastic pollution, have been effectively suspended without the NEAPP list from the Commission," said Ramos.

The members of the NSWMC include the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Department of Health (DOH), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Agriculture (DA), Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA), League of Provinces, League of Cities of the Philippines, League of Municipalities of the Philippines, Liga ng mga Barangay, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), and Philippine Information Agency (PIA).

Oceana Philippines said that there are 53 local governments passed resolutions urging the Commission to include single-use plastics in the NEAPP list and publish it, including the Provinces of Cebu, Southern Leyte, Masbate, Davao Oriental, Aklan, Oriental Mindoro, and Bohol. -- **BAP, GMA News**

Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/774515/plastic-straw-plastic-stirrer-ban-good-first-step-groups/story/?just_in



Photo from Pixabay shows plastic drinking straws.

Image by Manfred Richter from Pixabay

Philippines may soon prohibit use of plastic straws, stirrers; groups seek wider ban

[Gaea Katreena Cabico](#) (Philstar.com) - February 3, 2021 - 12:37pm

MANILA, Philippines — The use of plastic soft drink straws and coffee stirrers may be banned soon in the Philippines but civil society and academic groups said this is not enough to address the “plastic pandemic” in the country.

In a statement released on International Straw Free Day, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources said plastic soft drink straws and coffee stirrers are now included in the list of non-environmentally acceptable products (NEAP).

This means these plastic products may be prohibited soon through the implementation of Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

“The prohibition of these two single-use plastic items may be small steps in the NEAP listing, but it is a big leap when it comes to compliance with the provisions of RA 9003,” said Benny Antiporda, DENR undersecretary for solid waste management and local government units.

Antiporda said inclusion of these plastic items was “long overdue.”

Under RA 9003, the National Solid Waste Management Commission “shall, after public notice and hearing, prepare a list of non-environmentally acceptable products as defined in this Act that shall be prohibited according to a schedule that shall be prepared by the commission” within one year from the effectivity of the law.

The law was passed in 2000 but it was only after two decades that the NSWMC came up with a list of NEAP.

The NSWMC approved the inclusion of these plastic items during a virtual en banc meeting Tuesday. Eleven voted for the approval of the resolution, while three voted against it. DENR said there was “heavy resistance” from the Department of Trade and Industry, and the manufacturing and recycling industries.

‘Welcome but not sufficient’

For environmental and academic organizations, the move is not enough to solve the country's plastic pollution problem.



“While this is a much welcome development, considering that this mandate has been sitting for two decades, banning straws and stirrers alone is not enough,” environmental lawyer Gloria Estenzo Ramos said.

“Our time is running out, we need to stop the plastic pollution at source. Our oceans are wallowing in plastics. We cannot and should not wait for another 20 years to ban single-use plastics nationwide,” Ramos, who is also the vice president of Oceana, added.

In a position paper, groups said single-use plastic items are harmful to marine organisms and ecosystems and even humans and aggravate climate impacts.

They strongly recommended the inclusion of the following items in the list of NEAP:

- plastic labo bags
- plastic bags including oxo-degradable plastics
- plastic cutleries - spoon, fork and knives
- plastic straws
- plastic stirrers
- plastic bottles
- plastic cups and plates
- thin plastic take-out containers
- styrofoam or polystyrene food containers
- sachet, packaging, or products that are multilayered with other materials

A survey commissioned by the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives last year found that seven out of 10 Filipinos want single-use plastics banned at all times.

In 2019, President Rodrigo Duterte floated the idea of banning the use of plastics. Prohibiting or regulating the use of plastics, however, would require legislative action.



NSWMC: PLASTIC SOFTDRINK STRAW AT PLASTIC COFFEE STIRRER IBABAWAL NA



February 4, 2021 @ 12:20 AM 6 hours ago

INAPRUBAHAN na ng National Solid Waste Management Commission ang pagbabawal ng paggamit ng plastic softdrink straw at plastic coffee stirrer kaya isinama na sa listahan ng non-environmentally acceptable products (NEAP).

Maaaring bawalan kaagad ito bilang bahagi ng pagpapatupad ng Republic Act (RA) 9003 o ang Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

Nilalaman sa draft resolution na ang plastic softdrink straw at plastic coffee stirrer ay isinama bilang NEAP, sa pamamagitan ng isang virtual en banc meeting noong Martes (Peb. 2), na pinamunuan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units (LGUs) at NSWMC Alternate Chair Benny D. Antiporda.

Ito ay nagtapos sa 11 boto para sa pag-apruba at tatlong boto para sa hindi pagsang-ayon sa pagsama sa dalawang item.

“I am elated that after 20 years since the birth of RA 9003, the NEAP listing has now commenced.

“This is long overdue and we need to catch up with the demand of solid waste management in our country,” pahayag ni Antiporda.

Ayon pa rin kay Antiporda: “This is a significant milestone for NSWMC, and for the Filipino people.

“We have long been fighting for it and we are committed in having a NEAP list to comply with the law to combat environmental damage.”

“The prohibition on these two single-use plastic items may be small steps in the NEAP listing, but it is a big leap when it comes to compliance with the provisions of RA 9003,” dagdag ni Antiporda.

Dagdag pa rito, ang inapubahang resolution ay dumating sa tamang oras habang ipinagdiriwang ng mundo ang International Straw Free Day nitong Pebrero 3.

“This global celebration aims to encourage the public to go straw-free and say “no straw please” when ordering drinks,” sabi ni Antiporda.

Naipasa ang resolusyon sa kabila ng mabigat na pagtutol mula sa ilang miyembro ng Komisyon, tulad ng Department of Trade and Industry, manufacturing at industriya ng recycling.



Ang iba pang mga miyembrong nakibahagi sa pulong ng banc ay ang Department of Health (DOH), Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), Philippine Information Agency (PIA), League of Municipalities of the Philippines, League of Cities of the Philippines, and non-government organizations (NGO) na kinatawan ng Eco Waste Coalition.

Pursuant to Section 29 ng RA 9003, "Within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act, the Commission shall, after public notice and hearing, prepare a list of non-environmentally acceptable products as defined in this Act that shall be prohibited according to a schedule that shall be prepared by the Commission."

Gayunman, nasa dalawang dekada pa lang matapos maipasa ang Batas nang maihain ng Commission ang listahan ng NEAP.

Ang NSWMC ay nagdaos ng multi-sectoral na konsultasyon ukol sa LISTAHAN NG NEAP noong Enero 22 at Pebrero 1, kung saan dinaluhang ng 169 at 178 na kalahok, ayon sa pagkakabanggit, mula sa mga lokal na yunit ng pamahalaan, pribadong sektor, at mga pangunahing stakeholder mula sa civil society groups.

Ang Department of Science and Technology, co-chair ng NSWMC Technical Working Committee, ang nagprisinta sa mga kalahok ng mga resulta ng kanyang pagtatasa sa plastic softdrink straw at plastic coffee stirrers sa parehong araw.

Xxxxxxxx

Good riddance

CROWD MANAGEMENT PLAN NEEDED BEFORE ISSUANCE OF SALES PROMOTION IN QC

THE Quezon City Council will require all sales promotion permit applicants to submit first their customer or crowd safety management plans to adhere to stringent health protocols especially amid the new Covid-19 strain.

"While we sincerely recognize all the efforts of small and large-scale enterprises to recover amid the pandemic and continue to support their employees, we also need to see to it that they will comply with all the necessary precautionary measures laid down by the Department of Health," according to District 2 Councilor Fernando Miguel "Mikey" Belmonte.

Councilor Belmonte said he filed a resolution for the purpose as he was assured by his colleagues at the local legislative council to pass the measure without delay citing its importance to oblige those seeking permits for sales promotion or similar activities in the city.

Once approved, the neophyte councilor said the Department of Trade and Industry, the Food and Drug Administration, and the Business Permits and Licensing Department will require permit applicants in the city to include in their sales promotion mechanics the appropriate customer or safety management plans and procedures that will help minimize risks of coronavirus disease transmission among business employees, as well as their consumers.

"The city government needs to be persistent in monitoring business activities to ensure the safety of the working men and women in Quezon City.



“We also want to guarantee that the customers who will be participating in these promotional pursuits are well-protected,” he said.

The additional requirement for the application of permit should be filed at least 30 days before the actual commencement of the sales promotion in conformity with the FDA memorandum circular, according to Councilor Belmonte.

“Of course, we cannot sacrifice public safety just to allow businesses to get back on their feet.

“The continuous spread of COVID-19 cases in the country – especially with a new strain – is more than enough for us to take the state policy to protect and promote the right to health of the people very seriously,” he stressed.

Moreover, the young local legislator said that workers, employers and clients who will take part in the sales promotion campaigns should abide by the workplace and safety guidelines provided in the joint memorandum circular of the DTI and the Department of Labor and Employment.

Minimum public health standards include wearing of masks, together with face shields covering the entire face; observance of at least one to two meters physical distancing; limiting the number of clients inside the premises of stores; imposing a designated traffic flow inside stores – especially near entrance and exit points, counters, and main aisles; and frequent disinfection.

Soap and sanitizers, hand washing stations, and hand drying equipment or supplies will also be made available.

Based on the Inter-Agency Task Force’s risk severity grading, urban areas under general community quarantine like QC should tightly follow the restrictions on mass gatherings.

Thus, only 10% of the seating capacity for confined spaces will be permitted while a maximum of 50% will be allowed for low-risk zones or open areas.

“The city government is firm with its decision to implement the mandated health protocols, most especially in the workplace.

“We want everyone to be able to go home to their families safe and healthy, despite the need to work or go out,” he said.

At the same time, Councilor Belmonte has urged the public to follow the health advice to help drive down the cases of COVID-19 transmissions.

“We need to work hand in hand to help the economy and the country recover. It’s our responsibility to look out for each other,” he said.

This young alderman deserves credit and admiration for working hard, true to his campaign promises to be active in legislating measures that would greatly benefit the interest and well-being of the local residents in particular.

~ ONE News
\\C) tgh-0

Are we going to say bye-bye to plastic straws and plastic coffee stirrers soon?

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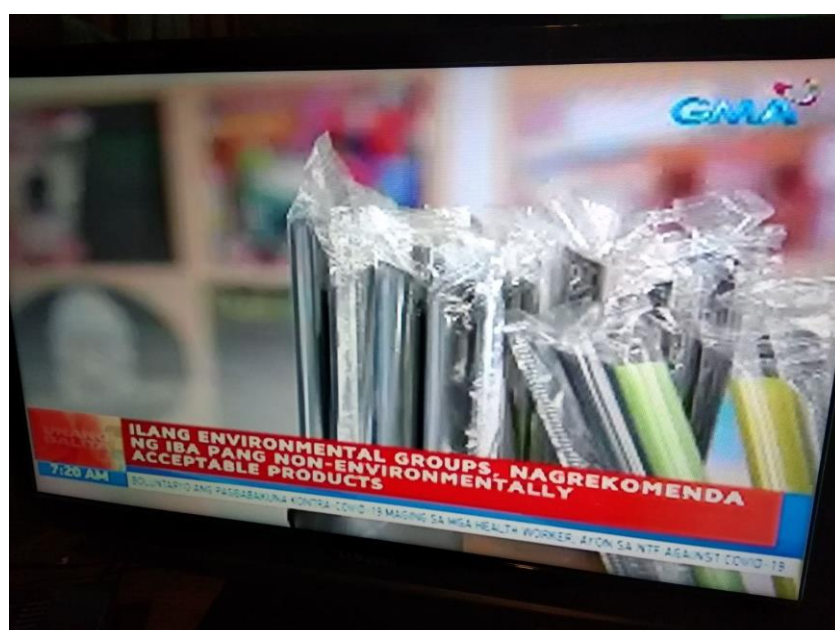
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- **Hh·O**

No more plastic straws and stirrers.⁷

00" Miguel Cortez and 3.6K others

406 Comments 384 Shares



DENR intensifies efforts to save Bulacan portion of Manila Bay

By Carlo Lorenzo J. DatuPublished on February 3, 2021

MALOLOS CITY, Feb.3 (PIA) -- About 1,300 cleanup drives on various rivers and coastal areas in Bulacan were conducted by Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) since the launch of #BattleForManilaBay in 2019.

Bulacan Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer Emelita Lingat said approximately 6,000 volunteers participated in these cleanup drives which resulted in the collection of over 357,000 tons of solid waste.

"We are serious in our program to clean the Bulacan portion of the Manila Bay area. We are now seeing the results of our collaborative efforts with local governments and communities, but still we need to do more to end this battle," she said.

DENR Bulacan has also recovered a total of 30 kilometers of easement or river bank along Marilao-Meycauyan-Obando river system.

"We need to protect our river easement from littering and illegal construction of structures to ensure the cleanliness of Manila Bay," she added.

Meanwhile, five floating trash traps measuring 120 linear meters were also installed in five barangays of Meycauyan to prevent solid waste from reaching the shoreline of Manila Bay.

About 1,300 cleanup drives on various rivers and coastal areas in Bulacan were conducted by Department of Environment and Natural Resources since the launch of #BattleForManilaBay in 2019. (DENR)

This is being monitored daily by about 100 estero rangers hired by DENR to help in the cleanup and rehabilitation of rivers.

Removal of submerged solid wastes along Marilao-Meycauyan-Obando river system were also conducted through mechanized cleanup or using back-hoe, a process known as grubbing.

"A total of 2,160 cubic meters of mixed silt and trash were grubbed. This process can facilitate the faster cleaning of rivers and tributaries especially those heavily polluted," Lingat shared.

In a statement, DENR Regional Executive Director Paquito Moreno Jr. said they will conduct more river and coastal cleanups; delineation and recovery of river easement areas; grubbing; installation of floating trash traps; conduct of information, education and communication activities; and resettlement of informal settlers this year in the Manila Bay areas of Central Luzon covering the provinces of Pampanga, Bulacan, Bataan, Tarlac and Nueva Ecija.

He also appealed to the public and local government units to support the national government initiatives in saving Manila Bay and encouraged them to strictly practice the proper solid waste management. (CLJD-PIA 3)

DENR pushes for intensified watershed management along Cagayan River basin

By Carlito C. DarPublished on February 3, 2021

BAGUIO CITY, Feb. 3(PIA) - - The Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Cordillera (DENR – CAR) will lead an intensified reforestation and watershed management programs for this year in support to the Build Back Better Task Force(BBBTF) created under Executive Order No. 120 signed by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte on November 18, 2020.

DENR – CAR Regional Director Ralph Pablo, in a virtual coordination meeting with the Cordillera Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (CRDRRMC), explained that the BBBTF was created for post – disaster rehabilitation and recovery phase in typhoon – affected areas beginning with those hit by typhoons Rolly and Ulysses last year.

DENR - CAR Regional Director Ralph Pablo outlines that Cordillera being the watershed cradle of the north plays an important role in forest and watershed protection and management. (CCD/PIA CAR)

Infrastructures, Stronger Shelter and Resilient Settlement, Improved Systems and Essential Services, Restored Sustainable Livelihood, Strengthened Governance thru broad-based citizens Input, and Intensified Watershed Management.

Pablo explained that typhoons Rolly and Ulysses had not much effect in the Cordillera region but with the massive flooding that happened in Cagayan Valley Region during the onslaught of Ulysses, CAR's support to the BBBTF will focus on intensified water management programs along the Cagayan River Watershed Basin especially along the provinces of Ifugao, Kalinga, Mountain Province and Apayao.

For Integrated Watershed Management KRA which DENR is the lead agency, Pablo reported that DENR – CAR has a total allocation of around P75.45 million for the enhancement of forest cover through reforestation and agroforestry including the Enhanced National Greening Program, Soil Conservation through Small Water Impounding System (SWIS) projects and Intensified forest protection and anti – illegal logging campaign.

For other partner agencies, the DSWD will be implementing Cash – for – Work on Risk Resiliency Program on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation and Disaster Risk Reduction; the Department of Science and Technology will work on community empowerment through science and technology transfer and commercialization of programs on DRR and CCA while the National Irrigation Administration will support through watershed tree planting projects; sediment control projects and development of small water impounding infrastructures, Pablo said.

Improving the ecological health of our watershed will eventually also help reduce flooding, soil erosion and sedimentation along the Cagayan Valley river, he stressed.

Cordillera watersheds are also contributory to the Cagayan Valeey River and other water resources in Northern Luzon.
(Photo by Redjie Melvic Cawis/PIA CAR)

For the other KRAs, Pablo reported that DENR – CAR as the focal agency, is also already collating their implementation plans, and this will all be submitted to the BBBTF chaired by DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu.

For the IMPLANS of partner agencies in each of the 6 KRAs, Pablo also explained that for this year, what they will be including are related programs and projects in their approved 2021 GAA or General Appropriations Act, then for the succeeding years, planning or inclusion of other projects must already be included in their agency proposed projects.

CRDRRMC Chairperson and Office of Civil Defense Cordillera Regional Director Albert Mogol called for the coordination meeting to determine the scope of the BBBTF in CAR and to align, if needed the KRAs in the Post Disaster Need Analysis framework that is incorporated in the Comprehensive Rehabilitation and Recovery Plan of the council. (JDP/CCD-PIA CAR)



Cagayan River rehabilitation begins

By [Jerico J. Kahulugan](#)

February 3, 2021

TUGUEGARAO CITY: The Build Back Better (BBB) Task Force has formally launched the Cagayan River Rehabilitation Project, which aims to end the flooding in the Cagayan and Isabela provinces.

On Tuesday, a ceremonial dredging of sandbars along the Magapit Narrows and bamboo planting along the riverbank in Barangay Bangag in Lal-lo, Cagayan was conducted in time for the celebration of the 25th World Wetlands Day on February 2.

The task force has identified 19 sandbars through the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), which include those in Barangay Bangag in Lal-lo town and in the villages of Casicallan Norte and Dummun in Gattaran — the sites for immediate dredging as these obstruct the floodwater flow to the Aparri Delta and Babuyan Channel.

These three sandbars, covering a total of 275 hectares, have a total estimated volume of 7 million cubic meters.

As a measure to rehabilitate the Cagayan River, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has led the planting of bamboo seedlings and other suitable species for riverbank stabilization.

During the launch, 185 bamboo propagules were planted in the 925-meter stretch of Cagayan Riverbank along Barangay Bangag.

The traditional “patuno” or groundbreaking was led by BBB Task Force Chairman Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, BBB Task Force Co-chairman Public Works Secretary Mark Villar, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, Transportation Secretary Arthur Tugade, Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello 3rd and Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff Gen. Gilbert Gapay. Cagayan Gov. Manuel Mamba and Isabela Gov. Rodolfo Albano 3rd were also present during the event.

In a demonstration, environment forester Pablo Agustin cited the bamboos’ help in curbing flooding by protecting riverbanks against erosions.

“This is a whole-of-government at its best with the support from almost all national agencies and the Cagayan provincial government,” Cimatu said, adding that the “reduced disaster impacts” would be seen through the rehabilitation and restoration programs.

DENR Regional Director Gwendolyn Bambalan said the dredging had just been one of the restoration activities because the river beds are already heavily silted.

“The intention of the dredging activity is to deepen, widen and protect the Cagayan River from further destruction, and not mining. If there are mineral contents to be assessed in the materials to be dredged, the dredging companies will pay the corresponding taxes due to the government,” she added.

Earlier, the DENR and DPWH officials had personally initiated site assessment of the sandbar along the Magapit Narrows. Mayor Florence Oliver Pascual has assured the DENR and the DPWH the full support of the local government of Lal-lo to the rehabilitation program.

Under the Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers program of the Department of Labor and Employment (DoLE), at least 100 villagers were initially hired for bamboo planting and maintenance in Tuguegarao City and the towns of Alcala, Enrile and Gattaran.



The 20 residents of Barangay Bangag were also contracted to engage in bamboo planting. There were 48 laborers and operators trained by the Technical Education and Skills were also tapped for the project.

As the lead agency in the activity, the DENR identified families living within or adjacent to the easement areas of Cagayan River and its tributaries displaced workers to initiate planting activity and maintenance. It will provide the bamboo seedlings for planting along the Cagayan River and its tributaries.

The DoLE will provide financial assistance in a form of daily subsidy to the selected planters for 14 days.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development will provide financial assistance through food packs to the planters for protection and rehabilitation of Cagayan River. It will also allocate funds for necessary and urgent projects within the Cagayan River under its Risk Resiliency Program-Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation.

The Cagayan and Isabela local governments and the cities and municipalities have been tasked to provide technical, financial and legislative support to the initiatives and will also take charge of clearing of obstructions such as illegal encroachments within the Cagayan River and within the river easements with the assistance of concerned agencies.

Barangay Bangag and the local government unit's environment offices will conduct periodic maintenance and protection activities of planted seedlings along the Cagayan River and submit a report to the nearest Community Environment and Natural Resources Office of any disturbance and the need for replanting.

With VINCE VISAYA

Rehabilitation of Cagayan River begins

February 3, 2021 11:07 PM by [Kristan Carag](#)

Photo from DZRH Grace Sansano

Cabinet secretaries Roy Cimatu, Mark Villar, Silvestre Bello III, and Arthur Tugade attended the launch of the Cagayan River Rehabilitation Project on Tuesday, February 2.

Cagayan Gov. Manuel Mamba, who also graced the event, expressed gratitude to the administration of President Rodrigo Duterte for initiating efforts to dredge the sandbars along the more than 500 kilometer-long river.

As part of the rehabilitation project, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will also plant bamboo canes along the riverbanks of Cagayan River to help address bank erosion and facilitate water flow.

“Ito ay momentous na occasion ng province of Cagayan. Parang ito yung dream come true namin yung pagdredredge ng Cagayan River, na nagiging problema namin dito every year,” Mamba told DZRH.

Floods devastated Cagayan province in 2020 after a series of typhoons caused the water in Cagayan River to overflow.

Villar, the incumbent secretary of public works and highways, said that his department has deployed heavy equipment, including 10 dredging equipment, to Cagayan Valley for the rehabilitation project.

The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) head also shared that the engineering brigade of the Armed Forces of the Philippines will help in the dredging activities.

“May mga projects kami na naka-design talaga para sa flooding, problema sa baha,” Villar said.

“Sa regular program namin, siyempre mag-aallocate kami ng pondo para sa rehabilitation. Gusto talaga ni Presidente na asikasuhin itong rehabilitation para maibalik na natin ang Cagayan region sa full capacity,” he added.



Rehabilitasyon ng Cagayan River, umarangkada na

By [RadyoMaN Manila](#) - Feb. 3, 2021 at 10:59am



Courtesy Cagayan PIO

Sinimulan na ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) ang rehabilitasyon ng Cagayan River sa lalawigan ng Cagayan.

Pinangunahan nina DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu at DPWH Secretary Mark Villar ang paglulunsad ng Cagayan River Rehabilitation Project sa bayan ng Lal-lo.

Ito'y bilang bahagi ng mga kongkretong proyekto ng Build Back Better Task Force na binuo ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte.

Bilang pagsisimula sa proyekto, pinangunahan ni Secretary Villar ang ceremonial dredging habang si Secretary Cimatu naman ang nanguna sa pagtanim ng kawayan.

Sa ilalim ng proyekto, ang mga sandbars sa Barangay Bangag sa Lal-lo at Barangay Casicallan Norte at Dummun sa Gattaran ang prayoridad na ma-dredge dahil pinipigilan nito ang pagdaloy ng tubig baha patungo sa Appari Delta.



Rehab sa Cagayan River sinimulan, black sand mining tutuldukan

By [Artemio Dumlao](#)(Pilipino Star Ngayon) - February 4, 2021 - 12:00am

BAGUIO CITY, Philippines — Pinangunahan nina Public Works Secretary Mark Villar at Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu noong Martes ang pagsisimula ng rehabilitasyon ng Cagayan River, ang pinakamahabang ilog sa bansa.

Bukod sa lulunasan ang palagiang malawakang pagbaha sa Cagayan Valley region, tutuldukan na umano ng Cagayan River Rehabilitation Project ang dekada nang isyu sa illegal black sand (magnetite) mining.

Sa giya ng Build Back Better (BBB) Task Force, isang multi-agency mechanism na pinangungunahan ni Villar at Cimatu, inumpisahan noong Martes ang dredging ng mga sandbar sa Magapit Narrows sa Brgy. Bangag, bayan ng Lal-lo.

Ayon kay DENR Cagayan Valley director Gwendolyn Bambalan, sa kabuuang 19 sandbars na tinukoy ng BBB Task Force, ang mga sandbars sa Brgy. Bangag at Casicallan Norte, at Dummun sa Gattaran ang nasa priority dahil ito diumano ang sagka sa daloy ng tubig-baha patungong Aparri Delta at Babuyan Channel.

MGB exec vows to keep tabs of Cagayan River magnetite quarry operations set to start in February

By Jonathan L. Mayuga

February 4, 2021

In this handout photo provided by the Malacanang Presidential Photographers Division, floodwaters brought about by Typhoon Vamco inundate Cagayan valley region in northern Philippines on Sunday Nov. 15, 2020. (Ace Morandante/ Malacanang Presidential Photographers Division via AP)

Mining regulators will strictly monitor the extraction of magnetite or black sand in the coastal waters and rivers of Cagayan province, an official of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said on Wednesday.

This as Apollo Global subsidiary JDVC Resources Corp. said it will start commercial operation of the country's largest offshore mining in the province this month.

A vessel capable of commercial extraction, testing, sampling and production of magnetite iron has arrived and more dredgers are expected to arrive within the next few months.

Under its mining permit, JDVC is allowed to extract mineral resources within an area of 1,902 hectares some 14 kilometers offshore near the coastal territory of Gonzaga, Cagayan.

The company specifically targets iron-oxide or magnetite sand, which is used to essentially produce steel—with China as a major buyer. Based on the company's estimate, probable ore reserve in the area is around 631.7 million metric tons (MMT).

The project may push through despite stiff opposition by cause-oriented groups, citing potential harmful effect of offshore mining of such a massive scale to the coastal environment and ecosystem, and the marine wildlife in the area.

Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) Director Wilfredo Moncano, in a telephone interview, however, defended the project, saying it has gone through an environmental impact assessment system processes and the company has secured an environmental clearance certificate (ECC) from the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB).

"JDVC has undergone environmental impact assessment and the company was issued an ECC, which means environmental issues have been considered by the EMB," Moncano stated.

While magnetite or black sand mining is supposed to be banned in the Philippines, the extraction of the said mineral offshore is allowed, he added.

"Mining in shoreline is prohibited but offshore mining is allowed. If it is at least 1,500 meters from the shoreline going out to the sea, it is allowed," Moncano said, even as he assured the company's operation will be monitored by the MGB and EMB. Any destruction or damage to the coastal or marine ecosystem, such as corals, by JDVC Resources Corp., will come with corresponding penalty and fine under the mining law.

“What is important is that the JDVC will not cause damage to the coastal or marine ecosystem,” he said.

Meanwhile, magnetite mining in rivers such as the Cagayan River is also allowed for as long as the primary purpose of the project is river rehabilitation or restoration, such as the plan to extract some 7 million metric tons of sand to remove three of the 19 sandbars along its stretch.

He said the DENR-MGB is also tasked to monitor the dredging operations because while the activity is primarily flood mitigation, the minerals to be extracted include magnetite sand.

“Black sand mining is also part of the purposes that’s why we will assess the mineral content of the river channel. If the magnetite sand contained surpasses the threshold of 6 percent, we will charge the company of 4-percent excise tax,” he said.

“He also said every shipment will undergo mineral assessment. Even before shipment, there will be mineral assessment,” Moncano added.

He said the regional directors of the DENR will undergo briefing to familiarize themselves on how to compute taxes based on a mineral assessment to be conducted on offshore mining or mining black sand incidental to river dredging as part of river restoration and flood mitigation projects.

“There is a formula for computing taxes to be imposed on minerals extracted for black sand and it depends on the market value of the mineral and the content of the ores,” he said.

In the massive Cagayan River dredging operation, the DENR said initially, around 7 million metric tons of sand is to be extracted in removing three of the 19 sandbars along the stretch of the country’s largest river. The contractors tapped to do the dredging will shoulder the cost of the dredging but eventually can dispose of the dredged materials outside Philippine territory or essentially, export them to other countries for its mineral content or value.

Cagayan gov denies black sand mining

By Leander C. Domingo, TMT

February 4, 2021

TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan: Gov. Manuel Mamba gave assurances that no black sand mining will take place in the dredging of the Cagayan River.



Cagayan Gov. Manuel Mamba. FILE PHOTO

“I will resign as governor of this province if there is any evidence of black sand mining in the Cagayan River during its rehabilitation. I am one among the few government officials who fought against black sand mining here in Cagayan province in the past,” he said, adding that he remained against it.

He started his fight against onshore black sand mining in Cagayan province while he was in Congress. He continued his fight against the mining operation with local government officials until it stopped while he was serving as presidential legislative liaison officer under then-President Benigno Aquino 3rd.

With two private contractors dredging the Cagayan River for free, the Build Back Better Task Force has formally launched the Cagayan River Rehabilitation Project (CRRP) on Tuesday with ceremonial dredging of sandbars along the Magapit Narrows and bamboo planting along the riverbank in Barangay Bangang in Lal-lo town in time for the celebration of the 25th World Wetlands Day.

He said he knew Cagayanos were worried about a possible repeat of what happened in the past black sand mining operations in parts of the Cagayan River and the beaches of Aparri, Buguey, Gonzaga, Camalaniugan, Sanchez Mira, Pamplona, Ballesteros, Abulug and Claveria, and even in the town of Lal-lo during the past administration in the province.

“The rampant and blatant desecration of Cagayan’s wealth is the reason why Cagayanos have doubts about the national government-sanctioned CRRP, which we have been pushing in the provincial government aiming to end the flooding in the Cagayan and Isabela provinces,” Mamba said.

According to the governor, he respects the views of the Cagayanos concerning the project. This is proof that Cagayanos care about what is happening in the province.

Mamba said together with the people of Cagayan he would make sure that there would not be any black sand mining involved in the CRRP so that it can be carried out properly and not be tainted by any illegal activities.

The governor also promised that the Cagayan provincial government with local government officials will not turn away from listening to the grievances of the people about those who are damaging the natural resources in the province.

Mamba said the government would not spend any money on the CRRP and instead, dredging companies will pay the province excise taxes, quarry fees and monitoring fees.



“The taxes and fees which will be collected from dredging will be shared by the villages and municipalities covered by the project, and the provincial government will also have its share,” he added.

Mamba is also appealing to the people of Cagayan to cooperate in the CRRP, which has no other purpose but to save the entire province for the generations to come from the various calamities that Cagayan may experience.

Meanwhile, Engineer Mario Ancheta, Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) Region 2 director, said all the materials that could be extracted from the Cagayan River would all be for the dredging companies to dispose of.

Ancheta said these companies would not be allowed to dump the sand to be extracted from the river in any parts of the province. The MGB will oversee the excavation and dredging operators would be asked to pay excise taxes if any precious metals will be extracted from the river.

Thursday, 4 February 2021
Daily Tribune

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On a mission Transportation Secretary Arthur Tugade returned to Cagayan with Labor Secretary Silvestre 8ello III and assistant secretary for procurement and project implementation Giovanni Lopez. Tugade was met at Lal-lo Airport by Isabela Governor Rodolfo Albano III and other local officials to get updated on the Cagayan River Rehabilitation Project.

Sasmuan Coastal Wetland in Pampanga gets int'l recognition

By Marna Dagumbay Del Rosario February 3, 2021, 5:15 pm

WETLAND OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE. The Sasmuan Pampanga Coastal Wetland (SPCW) is now a Ramsar Site or Wetland of International Importance upon declaration by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) – Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) based in Quezon City and the Ramsar secretariat based in Gland, Switzerland. The SPCW is the eighth Ramsar Site in the country and first in Central Luzon, covering more than 3,500 hectares of coastal waters and four barangays in Sasmuan, Pampanga. *(Photo courtesy of DENR-Region 3)*

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga – The Sasmuan Pampanga Coastal Wetland (SPCW) is now a Ramsar Site or Wetland of International Importance.

The declaration was made on Tuesday by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) – Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) based in Quezon City and the Ramsar secretariat based in Gland, Switzerland.

This was confirmed on Wednesday by DENR 3 Director Paquito Moreno Jr., who said the SPCW is the eighth Ramsar Site in the country and first in Central Luzon.

It covers more than 3,500 hectares of coastal waters and four barangays in Sasmuan town, this province.

“We are honored and fortunate that the annual celebration of World Wetland Day has become more significant and special because the SPCW is now officially declared as ‘Wetland of International Importance’,” Moreno said in a statement.

He said that SPCW met four of the nine criteria of Ramsar Site before it was considered as internationally important.

“We met criteria 2 and 3, which means that SPCW supports vulnerable, endangered, or critically endangered species or threatened ecological communities, and play a big role in maintaining the biological diversity of a particular biogeographic region,” he said.

Moreno added that SPCW also met criteria 5 and 6 indicating that SPCW regularly supports 20,000 or more water birds, and that it supports 1 percent of the individuals in a biogeographic population of one species or subspecies of waterbird.

“SPCW is a vital component of our environment and its declaration as Ramsar site is an integral part of our strategies in cleaning and rehabilitating our Manila Bay,” he said.

Laudemir Salac, head of the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer in Pampanga, said more than 80,000 migratory birds composed of 63 species have been observed in SPCW during the January 2021 Asian Waterbird Census (AWC).

“We really need to protect this important ecosystem because of numerous benefits to our local communities and to our biodiversity,” he said.

Moreno thanked the local government of Pampanga and Sasmuan for their support in all the DENR programs in Pampanga.

He also appealed to the public for their active collaboration to sustain the development and protection of SPCW.

DENR record shows that Chinese egret, spotted greenshank, Asian dowitcher, Philippine duck, and grey-backed tailorbird are some of the species frequently visiting SPCW.

A Jansen study in 2018 found out that 46 percent of the water bird species in the Philippines were observed in SPCW.

The 405-hectare Sasmuan Bangkung Malapad Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area (SBMCHEA) is one of the valuable ecosystems found within the SPCW which is an important habitat to migratory birds and mangrove species including the *Avicennia rumphiana* locally known as Api-api.

SBMCHEA which is part of the large and enclosed sea of Manila Bay, is a mangrove islet in Pasak River that was formed by the volcanic sediments from the Mount Pinatubo's devastating eruption in 1991.

The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands is an intergovernmental treaty of which the Philippines is a signatory. It provides the framework for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources.

The Convention was adopted in the Iranian City of Ramsar in 1971 and came into force in 1975. Since then, almost 90 percent of UN member states, from all the world's geographic regions, have acceded to become "Contracting Parties". **(PNA)**

Sasmuan Coastal Wetland in Pampanga gets int'l recognition

February 3, 2021 3 min read

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga – The Sasmuan Pampanga Coastal Wetland (SPCW) is now a Ramsar Site or Wetland of International Importance.

The declaration was made on Tuesday by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) – Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) based in Quezon City and the Ramsar secretariat based in Gland, Switzerland.

This was confirmed on Wednesday by DENR 3 Director Paquito Moreno Jr., who said the SPCW is the eighth Ramsar Site in the country and first in Central Luzon.

It covers more than 3,500 hectares of coastal waters and four barangays in Sasmuan town, this province.

“We are honored and fortunate that the annual celebration of World Wetland Day has become more significant and special because the SPCW is now officially declared as ‘Wetland of International Importance’,” Moreno said in a statement.

He said that SPCW met four of the nine criteria of Ramsar Site before it was considered as internationally important.

“We met criteria 2 and 3, which means that SPCW supports vulnerable, endangered, or critically endangered species or threatened ecological communities, and play a big role in maintaining the biological diversity of a particular biogeographic region,” he said.

Moreno added that SPCW also met criteria 5 and 6 indicating that SPCW regularly supports 20,000 or more water birds, and that it supports 1 percent of the individuals in a biogeographic population of one species or subspecies of waterbird.

“SPCW is a vital component of our environment and its declaration as Ramsar site is an integral part of our strategies in cleaning and rehabilitating our Manila Bay,” he said.

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Source: <https://maharlika.tv/2021/02/03/sasmuan-coastal-wetland-in-pampanga-gets-intl-recognition/?fbclid=IwAR2wD9Dng4Na3hUHi0pY6nQ43NyRPi-r0nPkSMM0uiNnZA5h1XRmabXMCjQ>

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Idinagdag aog Sasrnuan Pampanga Coastal Wetland bilang isang Ramsar Site o wetland of international importance sa ilalim og Ramsar Convention ng UNESCO.

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Villar: Wetlands need protection

posted February 03, 2021 at 11:00 pm

by [Macon Ramos-Araneta](#)

Noting that there is still no single Philippine legislation that deals specifically on wetlands, Senator Cynthia Villar on Tuesday filed a bill that seeks the protection of wetlands.

Villar, head of the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, underscored the need for a concise policy statement on wetlands to be adopted at the national level due to its importance.

The senator filed her proposed measure, Senate Bill 2036 or the “National Wetlands Conservation Act,” on February 2, which is the “World Wetlands Day.” The theme of this year’s celebration was “Wetlands and Water.”

The Convention on Wetlands was also signed on February 2, 1971, in Ramsar, Iran. The Philippines is a Contracting Party in the only international treaty focused on the wise use and conservation of wetlands. As a Contracting Party, the Philippines is committed to adopt and implement laws, policies, and plans to promote the wise use of wetlands.

Senate Bill 2036 “seeks to guide all concerned national government agencies and local government units in adjusting their sectorial or local policies, plans, and programs to be consistent with wetland conservation and wise use”. Macon Ramos-Araneta

“Some LGUs have made efforts to protect and conserve the wetlands in their areas. But the efforts should be on a national scale and all-encompassing to cover all the wetlands, even those not in the Ramsar list and lesser known ones,” Villar said.

Villar’s bill aims to enhance current efforts to raise awareness on the importance of wetlands as the “cradle of biodiversity”.

According to Villar, the role of wetlands cannot be taken for granted but instead promoted.

Villar has been behind the continued protection of the Las Piñas-Parañaque Wetland Park. It was earlier saved from the threat of reclamation. It is now thriving and is considered the “last remaining natural bastion in Metro Manila” with mangroves forest, native trees, and bird sanctuary.

In the Philippines, there are seven wetlands that have been declared as Wetlands of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention.

These are the Olango Island Wildlife Sanctuary in Cebu, Naujan Lake National Park in Oriental Mindoro, Agusan Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary in Agusan del Sur, Tubbataha Reefs Natural in the Sulu Sea, Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park in Palawan, Las Piñas-Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area, also known as Las Piñas-Parañaque Wetland Park, and Negros Occidental Coastal Wetlands Conservation Area.

Environment office worker slain in Zambo del Sur

By: [Leah Agonoy](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[Inquirer Mindanao](#) / 06:26 PM February 03, 2021

PAGADIAN CITY—An employee of the Zamboanga del Sur provincial environment and natural resources office (Penro) was shot and killed at a an anti-logging checkpoint in Labangan town on Wednesday (Feb. 3).

Maj. Olympus Wee Bas, chief of the Labangan police, said Darwin Lacerna Adamos, a deputy checker at Penro, was on duty at the checkpoint when two suspects on a motorcycle stopped nearby.

One of the suspects alighted and shot Adamos repeatedly with the attack caught on security camera video.

Bas said the assailants fled toward the town center after shooting Adamos.

Investigators found .45 caliber slugs on the crime scene.

Labangan police has launched a pursuit operation.

TSB

DOF chief calls for bolder collective action vs. climate crisis

February 3, 2021, 3:56 pm

DOF Secretary Carlos Dominguez III

MANILA – Department of Finance (DOF) Secretary Carlos Dominguez III has called for "bolder collective action" in realizing the Philippines' global commitment to reduce its carbon footprint, starting with the ambitious goal of banning single-use plastics, as it is among the countries most vulnerable to the adverse impact of the climate crisis.

Dominguez, who is the chairperson-designate of the Climate Change Commission (CCC), said the Philippines should "aim high" and strive to be a world leader in making a difference in the battle against the climate crisis by crafting a set of science-based, well-studied Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), as part of its long-term commitment under the 2015 Paris Agreement.

"In a word, we have higher stakes in this global effort than many other nations. I want us to be a world leader in making a difference in this battle against the climate crisis. I want us to pave the way in this area through our ambition," he said at Wednesday's opening of the second multi-stakeholder consultative meeting on the Philippines' NDC.

"This is precisely the reason why we need to take a bolder collective action in crafting our first NDC. It is better to be late and to have ambitious and well-thought out contributions, rather than poorly constructed ones submitted on time, without a general consensus behind it," he added.

NDCs embody the efforts by signatories to the Paris Agreement to reduce national emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

In 2017, the Philippines ratified the Paris Agreement, which outlines a global framework on climate change mitigation, adaptation and finance.

The second multi-stakeholder meeting on the NDC was led and organized by the CCC.

Dominguez said the second meeting held on Feb. 3 aimed to correct the lack of effort in the past to craft the country's NDC and build the broadest consensus among stakeholders behind it.

He reiterated the support of the CCC and the DOF to the enactment of a law banning the use of single-use plastics, which he described as "a crucial component of effective solid waste management and climate crisis action."

"Once passed, every Filipino, by not consuming plastics, is contributing to help save our environment," Dominguez said. **(PR)**

PH must take lead in battle vs climate crisis

By [Malaya Business Insight](#)

-February 4, 2021

Calling for a “bolder collective action” in realizing the Philippines’ global commitment to reduce its carbon footprint, Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez said the country should “aim high” and strive to be a world leader in making a difference in the battle against the climate crisis.

The Philippines can do this by crafting a set of science-based, well-studied Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), as part of its long-term commitment under the 2015 Paris Agreement, Dominguez said.

“In a word, we have higher stakes in this global effort than many other nations. I want us to be a world leader in making a difference in this battle against the climate crisis. I want us to pave the way in this area through our ambition,” he said at Wednesday’s opening of the second multi-stakeholder consultative meeting on the Philippines’ NDC.

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US-PH ink P7.25 B environment assistance pact

Published February 3, 2021, 6:36 PM

by [Roy Mabasa](#)

The United States and the Philippines on Wednesday announced the signing of a P7.25 billion (\$150 million) five-year bilateral assistance agreement to protect the Philippine environment by promoting the sustainable use of natural resources, expanding access to renewable energy, and reducing risks from natural disasters.

Signed by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA), the agreement deepens the commitment of the two countries to work together to strengthen government and community efforts, and achieve their shared vision for “safer and more resilient Filipino communities.”

USAID Philippines Mission Director Lawrence Hardy II said in a statement that the new agreement with NEDA, which includes partnerships with the Departments of Natural Resources, Energy, and Agriculture—Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, marks a “new era” in the US government’s longstanding support to the Philippines.

“Our assistance will help protect the forests, fisheries, and water and energy resources for millions of Filipinos, increase livelihoods and promote nature as an engine of sustainable growth,” he said.

The USAID will implement projects to increase access to clean energy and water; improve natural resource management; and protect the Philippines’ landscapes, wildlife, and fisheries.

These projects are also aimed to support the two countries’ shared goal of preserving the Philippines’ world-renowned natural treasures while improving the lives of Filipinos and ensuring sustainable jobs.

The latest agreement on the environment is one of four new, five-year USAID-Government of Philippines Development Assistance Agreements launching in 2020 and 2021, with an anticipated total value of Php32.7 billion (\$675 million) over the next five years.



Undated photo of a Filipino fisherman.

Released/US Embassy in the Philippines

US gives Philippines 7.25 billion in aid to safeguard environment — embassy

(Philstar.com) - February 3, 2021 - 3:34pm

MANILA, Philippines — Washington and Manila have signed a five-year bilateral assistance agreement worth P7.25 billion to protect the Philippine environment, the US Embassy in the Philippines said Wednesday.

The deal was made through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Philippine National Economic Development Authority (NEDA).

"In partnership with national, provincial, and local governments, USAID will implement projects to increase access to clean energy and water; improve natural resource management; and protect the Philippines' landscapes, wildlife, and fisheries," USAID Philippines Mission Director Lawrence Hardy II is quoted as saying in a statement released by the embassy.

"These projects support the Philippines' and United States' shared goal of preserving the Philippines' world-renowned natural treasures while improving the lives of Filipinos and ensuring sustainable jobs," Hardy added.

The US Embassy said the deal is one of four development assistance agreements — all with a duration of five years — between USAID and the Philippine government valued at P32.7 billion launched either in 2020 or to be launched in 2021.

Here are the three other agreements listed by the embassy:

- USAID - Department of Health: "To improve underserved Filipinos' well-being by strengthening health systems and improving the quality of health services, especially in treating tuberculosis and providing access to family planning services and community-based drug dependence treatment."
- USAID - Department of Finance: "To accelerate inclusive, market-driven economic growth by advancing policies that increase investment and trade, promoting private-sector led innovation, and increasing information and communications technology access for the digital economy."
- USAID - Department of Education: "To improve early grade reading; expand science and mathematics curricula; increase out-of-school youth access to education, professional training, and technical skills development that will lead to new job opportunities; and strengthen education governance."

"Over the past 20 years, USAID has provided over P216 billion (\$4.5 billion) to advance the country's development goals," the embassy also said.

— **Bella Perez-Rubio**

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/02/03/2075079/us-gives-philippines-725-billion-aid-safeguard-environment-embassy>

CCPO targets to plant 1K trees

By: Delta Dyrecka Letigio - CDN Digital|February 03,2021 - 11:56 AM

CEBU CITY, Philippines —The Cebu City Police Office (CCPO) is targetting to plant at least 1,000 trees in the mountain barangays here.

According to Police Colonel Josefino Ligan, the director of the CCPO, it is one of the movements of the Philippine National Police (PNP) to help protect the environment. Tree-planting activities align with the core values of the PNP to be “makakalikasan” and also serves as a contribution of the city police to the community.

With this, the CCPO conducted a [tree-planting activity in Barangay Mabini](#) on Wednesday morning, February 3, 2021.

“Dili ra ni kausa atong tree planting, padayon kini. Kada buwan na ni natong buhaton,” said Ligan.

(We won’t be doing this just once. We will continue doing this every month.)

The CCPO has planted at least 60 seedlings of different tree species such as fruit-bearing trees and Narra on Wednesday.

Mabini village chief Richard Adolfo said he appreciates the adoption of the CCPO of their barangay for their tree-planting program.

Adolfo said trees would help maintain a sufficient water supply as the roots would help absorb water into the soil and replenish the natural water wells.

The village chief assured the police that the planted seedlings will be nurtured until these grow to maturity.

Adolfo hopes people would help plant more trees in their village as the village has been experiencing water shortage in the past years due to deforestation.

/bmjo



Environmentalists lose case to save 259 trees in Pampanga

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:00 AM February 03, 2021



Trimming helped 259 trees rejuvenate along Fil-Am Friendship Road in Bacolor-Angeles boundary in Pampanga but a recent court order would pave the way for cutting these trees. (PHOTO BY TONETTE OREJAS)
ANGELES CITY—A court here has dissolved the temporary environmental protection order (Tepo) that saved 259 trees for almost a year from being cut by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) for the widening of a road leading to Clark Freeport.

Judge Maria Angelica Paras-Quimbao of the Regional Trial Court Third Judicial Region Branch 59 also denied the motion of leaders of the Save the Trees Coalition (STC) for a permanent injunction in the special civil action.

Permits valid

Quiambao's 88-page decision, dated Jan. 4, was received by STC on Feb. 2, according to one of the plaintiffs, Dina Zulueta. STC is appealing the case, she said in a phone interview.

While the group prevented the cutting of 486 trees from Barangay Sto. Domingo in Angeles City to Barangay Mabiga in Mabalacat City in 2012, they lost in the court this time due to technical issues raised by the DPWH.

The judge found the road-widening projects' environmental clearance certificate and two tree cutting permits to be valid.

According to Quiambao, the plaintiffs failed to prove there was no public hearing and that the DPWH violated the conditions of the tree cutting permit.

"The plaintiffs failed to rebut the defendants' position that the plaintiffs are not going to suffer grave and irreparable injury if the court will allow the cutting of the 259 trees," the decision read.

"Their (plaintiffs) questions as to the validity and effectiveness of the different laws and regulations being followed by the DPWH and DENR (Department of Environment and Natural Resources) in implementing the road-widening project are beyond the scope of a social civil action with a prayer for Tepo," it said. —TONETTE OREJAS

Source: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1391325/environmentalists-lose-case-to-save-259-trees-in-pampanga>

DPWH pinaboran ng judge sa putol puna

By Abante News Online

Last updated Feb 3, 2021

-: SI...

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BIGO ang mga environmentalist na isalba ang 259 puno sa Pampanga na gustong sibakin ng Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) para sa isang road widening project.

Nilusaw na ni Judge Maria Angelica Paras-Ouimbao ng Regional Trial Court Third Judicial Region Branch 59 ang temporary environmental protection order (Tepo) sa mga puna na balak putulin para sa pagpapalawak ng kalsada na patungo sa Clark Freeport sa Pampanga.

Binasura rin ng nasabing hukom ang mosyon ng mga pinuno ng Save the Trees Coalition (STC) para sa isang permanent injunction sa espesyal na aksyong sibil.

Natalo ang STC dahil sa technical issues na pinunto ng DPWH.

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Para sa hukom valid ang environmental clearance certificate at dalawang tree cutting permits ng nasabing proyekto.

Hindi napatunayan ng mga nagreklamo na walang public hearing at nilabag ng DPWH ang mga kondisyon ng tree cutting permit, sabi ni Quiambao.

Nabigo rin umano ang mga environmentalist na tablahin ang posisyon ng mga akusado na hindi daranas ang mga nagsasakdal ng "grave and irreparable injury" kung papayagan ng korte ang pagputol ng 259 puno.

Ayon naman sa Facebook page post ng Save the Trees Coalition, iaapela pa rin nila ang desisyon ng korte.

"Our plan is to file an appeal but legal actions involve money," ayon pa sa environmentalist group na mangangalap muna ng pondo para maipagpatuloy ang laban.

Source: <https://www.abante.com.ph/dpwh-pinaboran-ng-judge-sa-putol-puno/>

BREAKING: COVID-19 cases sa Pilipinas, higit 530,000 na

By Angellic Jordan February 03, 2021 - 04:14 PM



UPDATE AND MESSAGE OF THE DAY

UPDATE AND MESSAGE OF THE DAY
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Lagpas 1,000 ang panibagong kaso ng Coronavirus Disease o COVID-19 sa Pilipinas.

Sa huling datos ng Department of Health (DOH) bandang araw ng Miyerkules (February 3), umabot na sa 530,118 confirmed cases ng nakakahawang sakit sa bansa.

Sa nasabing bilang, 31,455 o 5.9 porsyento ang aktibong kaso.

Sinabi ng kagawaran na 1,266 ang bagong napaulat na kaso ng COVID-19 sa bansa.

88.8 porsyento sa active COVID-19 cases ang mild; 5.8 porsyento ang asymptomatic; 0.53 porsyento ang moderate; 2.4 porsyento ang severe habang 2.5 porsyento ang nasa kritikal na kondisyon.

Nasa 68 naman ang napaulat na nasawi.

Dahil dito, umakyat na sa 10,924 o 2.06 porsyento ang COVID-19 related deaths sa bansa.

Ayon pa sa DOH, 130 naman ang gumaling pa sa COVID-19.

Dahil dito, umakyat na sa 487,721 o 92 porsyento ang total recoveries ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas.

Source: <https://radyo.inquirer.net/284214/breaking-covid-19-cases-sa-pilipinas-higit-530000-na>



At a virtual briefing yesterday, Occupational Safety and Health Center director general Noel Binag said that after a thorough study, the OSHC recommended the declaration of COVID-19 as a work-related disease for certain professions and industries.

AFP/Michael Dantas

COVID-19 may be considered as work-related disease

[Mayen Jaymalin](#) (The Philippine Star) - February 4, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — COVID-19 may soon be officially declared as an occupational and compensable illness.

At a virtual briefing yesterday, Occupational Safety and Health Center director general Noel Binag said that after a thorough study, the OSHC recommended the declaration of COVID as a work-related disease for certain professions and industries.

“Last Monday, we had a meeting with the governing board and we recommended (that COVID-19) could be declared as a work-related disease,” Binag said in mixed English and Filipino.

“The (ECC) governing board will study our recommendation and probably in the soonest time, it will come out with a resolution adopting, probably, our recommendations,” he added, referring to the Employees’ Compensation Commission.

Binag, however, stressed that their recommendation to declare COVID as a work-related illness is only limited to high-risk groups.

Among jobs considered as highly at risk of acquiring COVID-19 are medical frontliners, military, police and grocery store workers.

“(Workers in) these jobs are known to be highly exposed to the public because of the nature of their work and are therefore prone to get infected with COVID,” the OSHC chief said.

Binag noted that the ECC had previously sought the assistance of the OSHC in conducting a study on the threat of COVID in the workplace.

If the ECC’s governing board issues the resolution, he said qualified beneficiaries could easily claim for compensation from the ECC.

Those who are not under the so-called high-risk groups may still apply for compensation, but just need to prove that they acquired the infection from their workplace. Binag, however, admitted that doing so is difficult.



“We cannot really ascertain that they have contracted this disease in the workplace or in the community. So unless it could be proven through evidence that it is work-acquired (they cannot claim for compensation),” he said.

Meanwhile, the Federation of Free Workers (FFW) has been pushing for the declaration of COVID-19 as an occupational illness to make it easier for workers to claim compensation from the ECC.

The FFW noted that workers have to carry the burden of proving that they acquired the infection at work when availing themselves of compensation if COVID is not considered as an occupational disease.

Binag stressed that employers are mandated to ensure the safety and health of workers from accidents and diseases, including COVID.



MGA REKLAMO NAGBUBUNGA



February 3, 2021 @ 11:29 AM 19 hours ago

SINUSUBAYBAYAN natin ang mga reklamo kaugnay ng mga maiinit na isyu, kasama na ang Land Transportation Office at bakuna laban sa coronavirus disease o COVID-19.

Nagbubunga ng maganda ang mga ito sa kabila ng sari-saring nauunang nakababahalang pahayag o pangyayari.

Hindi talaga maganda ang pananahimik at pagkikimkim ng problema.

Dapat ilabas ang mga ito upang malinawan o masolusyunan kaagad.

HULIHAN, PAGMUMULTA SA FACE MASK SA SASAKYAN

Noong una, nagkaroon ng matinding angal ang mga mamamayan ukol sa panghuhuli at pangmumulta ng Land Transportation Office sa hindi pagsusuot ng face mask sa pribadong sasakyan ng tsuper o pasahero nito.

May multa umanong P2,000 kung sakay o tsuper ka ng pribadong sasakyan.

Ibang usapan naman sa pampubliko dahil P5,000 naman umano.

Paliwanag naman ng isang taga-LTO, nilalaman umano ito ng Memorandum Circular No. 2020-2185 na pinalabas ng ahensya noong Mayo 2020 kaugnay ng mandatory o sapilitang pagsusuot ng face mask sa pribado o pampublikong sasakyan kaugnay ng paglaganap ng COVID-19.

Ang totoo umano, lalo na sa mga pampublikong sasakyan, itinuturing itong reckless driving na naaayon sa tadhana ng Joint Administrative Order Under 2014-01.

At ang multa sa PUV driver: P2,000 sa first offense, P3,000 sa second offense at P10,000 sa third offense.

NILINAW ANG BALITA

Dahil sa rami ng umangal at itinuring ng mga mamamayan na dagdag-pahirap ang mga multa sa gitna ng pandemya, nilinaw agad ni LTO chief Asec. Edgar Galvante ang isyu.

Kung tama ang narinig ng Ultimatum, pinag-aaralan pa ng Department of Health at Inter-Agency Task Force ang isyu.

Kaya dapat walang hulihan at wala ring multahan kundi pawang pagpapaalala lang sa lahat ang kahalagahan ng pagsusuot ng face mask sa gitna ng malaganap pa ring pananalasa ng COVID-19.



Kahit pa sinasabi naman ng Metro Manila Development Authority na kung mag-isa lang ang laman ng sasakyan, kagaya ng tsuper at lalo na kung pribado ang sasakyan, hindi dapat hulihin at pagmultahin ito.

Kaugnay ng posisyon ni Asec. Galvante, sakaling may mabuong desisyon ang DOH at IATF, lalo na kung may mga multa at/o kasamang kulong, hiling na lang natin ang malawakang information campaign ukol dito.

At magkaroon din ng malinaw na pasimula ng pagpapairal ng patakaran.

ANGAL NI PANG. DUTERTE VS EU SA BAKUNA

Isa rin sa mga nalutas ng angal mismo ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ukol sa pagkopo ng European Community sa bakuna laban sa COVID-19, lalo na ang AstraZeneca.

Nauna rito, inihayag ng European Union na hindi pupwedeng maglabas ng bakunang kontra COVID-19 ang mga gumagawa ng bakuna sa loob ng 27 miyembro ng EU.

‘Yun bang === dapat magkaroon muna ng sapat na suplay ng bakuna ang nasa 450 milyong mamamayan ng EU bago makapaglabas ang mga vaccine maker.

Ang siste, may mga bansa sa EU ang gustong magkaroon ng sobra-sobrang bakuna gaya ng Germany na nagsabing dapat itong magkaroon ng suplay, magamit man o hindi ng mga German.

Dahil sa angal ni Pang. Digong, naghayag ang EU delegation sa Pinas na hindi sakop ang ating bansa sa bawal na suplayan ng AstraZeneca at Pfizer na may planta sa EU.

Isa sa mga inihayag ng delegasyon na basta miyembro ng COVAX facility ang isang bansa, hindi ito pupwedeng isantabi sa program ng EU na tulungan ang mga 92 bansang mahihirap, kasama ang Pilipinas.

Itinayo ang COVAX facility ng World Health Organization para matiyak ang pantay-pantay na pagsuplay ng bakuna sa lahat ng bansa.

Gayunman, todo reklamo ang WHO sa pagkakaroon lang ng nasa 15-20 porsyento sa pandaigdigang suplay dahil kinokopo ng mayayamang bansa ang suplay at mas gusto ng mga vaccine maker ang magbenta sa mayayamang bansa na handang bumili ng bakuna kahit pinamahal ang mga ito.

MAGSUMBONG LANG

Karapatan ng sinoman ang magsumbong o magreklamo kung inaakala niyang siya’y agrabyado.

Maaaring mapikitan natin ang ilang problema pero may mga sadyang hindi pupwedeng pikitan gaya ng mga problemang makaaapekto sa maraming tao o bansa.

Kahit isang indibidwal lang din ang may problema, kung seryoso ‘yan, dapat na idulog nito ang kanyang problema o reklamo sa tamang tao o ahensya o bansa.

Siyempre pa, sa reklamo, may mga kokontra, may aayon at may nagnyu-nyutral o ayaw makialam.

Pero ang problema ay problema na kailangang lutasin, madali man o hindi.



Ang Malakanyang nga ay binuksan sa mga reklamo ng mga mamamayan laban sa kahit sino at ahensya ng pamahalaan.

Nariryan ang numerong 8888 na pwedeng tawagan o padalhan ng text at mismong si Pang. Digong ang aksyon kung patulog-tulog sa pansitan ang mga dapat na tutugon sa problema o reklamo.

Nandiyan din ang kautusan ng Pangulo sa lahat ng ahensyang ehekutibo mula Palasyo hanggang sa mga barangay na dapat kumilos ang concerned officials sa mga reklamong idinudulog sa mga ito.

At may parusa sa mga opisyal kung hindi sila aksyon, lalo na kung mali at hindi makatarungan ang kanilang pagpapasya at aksyon.



Seized dredger 'not China's'

Published 6 hours ago on February 4, 2021 12:20 AM

By [MJ Blancaflor](#) @tribunephl [MJB](#)



The dredging vessel recently seized in Bataan for “illegal and unauthorized presence” in Philippine waters was not a Chinese vessel, the Chinese embassy in Manila claimed Wednesday.

The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) and the Bureau of Customs earlier reported that it seized MV Zhonhai 68 identified as a Chinese dredger around 13 kilometers southwest off Orion Point in Bataan province.

In a statement, the embassy noted that the MV Zhonhai 68 was registered and sailing under the Sierra Leone flag, citing information from the International Maritime Organization.

“Initial investigation on the identity of MV Zhonhai 68 by relevant Chinese authorities has shown that the ship is NOT registered in China and NOT a Chinese ship,” the embassy said in a statement.

“It is also noted that there was NO Chinese national on the dredging ship when it was found,” the embassy added.

Commodore Armand Balilo, spokesperson for the PCG, earlier maintained that the Sierra Leone flag is among those used by the Chinese for convenience to take advantage of lower taxes and cheap labor.

“Its ownership is still China,” Balilo was quoted as saying in news reports.

The said vessel was issued a departure clearance in Aparri, Cagayan over a year ago, making its presence in Bataan illegal and unauthorized.

Its seizure triggered calls for the government to look into Chinese dredging vessels operating illegally in Philippine waters, an issue which has constantly raised suspicions among Filipinos.

In September 2016, the Philippine government released photos of Chinese ships capable of dredging, raising concerns that China could be planning another artificial island at Scarborough Shoal, known locally as Panatag Shoal.

The embassy, meanwhile, said Beijing is ready to render assistance to the Philippine authorities concerned in its investigation, should there be such a need.

“The embassy hopes that any responsible remarks and reports should be based on facts, rather than speculation and misinformation,” it said.



Previously, the embassy also slammed “false accusations” against Beijing’s coast guard law, which empowers its maritime force to use “all necessary means” to deter threats posed by foreign vessels in waters “under China’s jurisdiction.”

The legislation was subject of a fresh diplomatic protest lodged by the Department of Foreign Affairs and earned concerns from several Philippine lawmakers

Initial investigation on the identity of MV Zhonhai 68 by relevant Chinese authorities has shown that the ship is NOT registered in China and NOT a Chinese ship.

But the embassy insisted that the content of the law conforms with international conventions and is not targeted at any specific country.

The embassy also said Beijing’s new law, perceived to escalate tension among the claimants in the South China Sea, does not indicate any change to China’s maritime policy.

China, the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia, Vietnam, and self-governing Taiwan have overlapping claims in the resource-rich waters.

04 FEBRUARY 2021, THURSDAY



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