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**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**



## Aid, social safety nets for poor in Boracay vowed

Published December 4, 2020, 5:38 PM

by [Chito Chavez](#)

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy A. Cimatu vowed Friday to provide aid and social safety nets to indigent families affected by ongoing enforcement activities on Boracay Island.



Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, chief coronavirus disease (COVID-19) response implementor in the Viayas (NTF AGAINST COVID-19 / MANILA BULLETIN)

“We have to balance our duty to strictly enforce environmental laws on the island with the social aspect of our task,” said Cimatu following a meeting of the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF) at the world-renowned resort island.

“As the BIATF completes its rehabilitation targets pursuant to an executive order issued by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, it will make sure that aid will be given to indigent families affected by the implementation of the easement laws in Boracay,” he added.

Cimatu explained that the concerned families will be provided “cash assistance and relocation sites.”

Also in the meeting, the Boracay Inter-Agency Rehabilitation and Management Group (BIARMG) reported that there are still 90 structures on the island that need to be demolished for violating the 25+5-meter beachfront easement rule.

In her report, BIARMG General Manager Natividad Bernardino said occupants of the illegal structures include 40 indigent families.

She noted that a working group has been formed to assess the type of social assistance that each affected indigent family will need in terms of relocation and or cash assistance.

The working group is composed of representatives from the BIARMG, the DENR, the municipal government of Malay, Aklan and barangays chiefs of Manoc-Manoc, Yapak, and Balabag.

“We provided the group with a list of families for profiling to determine and identify the social assistance they need,” Bernardino said.



## Aid, social safety nets for poor in Boracay vowed

Aklan Gov. Florencio Miraflores assured that the provincial government will also extend help to the affected families.

To ensure the completion of critical projects in Boracay, the BIATF has been authorized to undertake the demolition of remaining establishments encroaching on forest lands and wetlands, as well as enforce beach and road easement rules.

Meanwhile, Cimatu commended the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) for the series of successful operations it carried out in October and November that led to the eviction of big establishments illegally occupying the forestlands in Barangays Balabag and Manoc-manoc.

The NBI has lodged a complaint before the Office of the Provincial Prosecutor of Aklan against the illegal occupants for violation of Presidential Decree (PD) 705 or the Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines, PD 1067 or the Water Code of the Philippines, and Municipal Order 2000-131 which regulates the construction of buildings and other structures in Boracay.

“The establishments have repeatedly ignored the notices to vacate, notices of demolition, and show cause orders issued against them by authorities,” the DENR said.



## Poor families displaced by Boracay rehab to get aid, says task force chief

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Dec 4, 2020 6:02:40 PM



Boracay in 2018 (FILE PHOTO)

**Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, December 4)** — Poor residents in Boracay who have been forced to vacate their homes due to the ongoing rehabilitation on the island will receive aid and access to "social safety nets", Boracay task force chairman Roy Cimatu assured on Friday.

Cimatu, also the environment secretary, said the Boracay task force convened to discuss establishments that continue to disobey the island's 25 plus 5 meter beachfront easement rule or no-build zones. Task force general manager Natividad Bernardino said some of the 90 structures that have yet to comply are housing 40 indigent families.

"As the BIATF completes its rehabilitation targets... it will make sure that aid will be given to indigent families affected by the implementation of the easement laws in Boracay," said Cimatu in a statement, referring to the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force.

Bernardino also assured that a working group composed of local and environment officials has been tasked to assess what specific assistance can be given to the affected residents.

On Tuesday, Cimatu [acknowledged that not all locals can leave their homes](#) immediately due to economic challenges brought by the pandemic. But at the same time, he commended the arrest of several violators and noted that demolitions of erring buildings and other structures will continue to improve Boracay.



## Pagbaba ng coliform level sa Boracay, ikinatuwa ng DENR

By [Bombo Radyo Kalibo](#)

-December 5, 2020 | 2:04 AM

KALIBO, Aklan – Ikinatuwa ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Sec. Roy Cimatu ang ipinarating sa kanyang balita na lalo pang bumaba ang coliform level sa isla ng Boracay noong buwan ng Nobyembre sa 6.8 o most probable number (mpn) per milliliter.

Ang mga samples aniya ay kinuha mula sa iba't ibang lugar sa isla.

Aniya bago isinara ang Boracay noong 2018, ang coliform level ay umaabot sa libo-libo o milyon.

Ang standard coliform level ay 100 mpn per 100 milliliter.

Siniguro ni Cimatu na magpapatuloy ang sinimulang rehabilitasyon ng pamahalaan sa isla gayundin ang paglilinis sa mga iligal na istraktura.

Sa kabuuang siyam umanong wetlands sa isla, lima na ang kanilang nalinis mula sa mga iligal na naninirahan dito.

Si Sec. Cimatu kasama ang Department of Tourism at Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) ay bumibisita sa isla noong araw ng Miyerkules upang kausapin ang ilang residente at mga negosyanteng nangangambang mapapalayas sa sariling lupain matapos na matukoy na protected forest land.



## MGB seeks lifting of Mayon quarry halt order



By [Eireene Jairee Gomez](#)

December 5, 2020

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) has recommend lifting the suspension order against 91 quarry operators around Mayon Volcano in Albay province because of the need to empty and restore the capacity of river channels in the area.

In a statement on Thursday, MGB Director Wilfredo Moncano said these operators were found "compliant" following a probe by the MGB-led task force earlier formed by Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu.

The investigation revealed that only 15 out of the 106 suspended quarry operators have permit violations, he added.

Cimatu had ordered all quarry operations around the volcano suspended and created the task force to look into the possible liability of quarry companies for the lahar flow during the onslaught of Super Typhoon "Rolly" (international name: Goni) last month.

There is a compelling need to lift the suspension on the compliant firms, according to Moncano.

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

These companies, the MGB chief said, may be allowed to continue operations, but will be subject to strict monitoring under the terms and conditions of their existing permits.

"These quarry firms were proven to have followed quarry regulations, such as not operating beyond their permit area and having an active environmental compliance certificate," he added.

Moncano also debunked claims that the quarrying operations were largely to blame for the lahar floods that buried some 180 houses and killed at least six people at the height of "Rolly."

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

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

Moncano said his office would forward to the Environmental Management Bureau the case of the 15 erring quarry operators for "technical review and possible sanction or payment of penalty," noting that the immediate rehabilitation of the areas they quarried would also be implemented.



## MGB recommends lifting quarry suspension around Mayon

By [Elizabeth Marcelo](#)(Philstar.com)

- December 5, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) has recommended the lifting of the suspension order against 91 quarry operators around Mayon Volcano in Albay.

MGB director Wilfredo Moncano said lifting the suspension order is necessary to restore the waterflow capacity of river channels around the volcano.

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

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu ordered the suspension of quarrying operations in Mayon after lahar buried around 300 houses and killed six villagers in Guinobatan during the onslaught of Typhoon Rolly last month.

Moncano said their investigation showed that quarry operations around Mayon Volcano should not be blamed for the lahar flow.

“Quarrying has an insignificant contribution to the lahar flow... It was a combination of huge volume of water with stocked lahar that came from the slope and foot of Mayon Volcano,” he said.

Moncano said 91 of the 106 quarry operators that they investigated were found compliant with quarrying rules and regulations.

He said these operators should be allowed to continue quarry activities subject to strict monitoring of the terms and conditions of their permits.





## MGB proposes lifting of quarry suspension around Mayon Volcano

December 4, 2020, 2:49 pm



**MANILA** – The Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) has recommended the lifting of quarry suspension order around Mayon Volcano in Albay province to empty and restore the capacity of the river channels in the area.

MGB director Wilfredo Moncano on Thursday said the 91 quarry operators were found to be “compliant” following a probe by the MGB-led task force formed by Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu.

Moncano said the same investigation showed that only 15 out of 106 suspended quarry operators have permit violations.

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

Moncano said there is a need to lift the suspension order for “compliant” quarry firms.

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

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

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

Moncano dismissed claims that quarrying operations around Mayon Volcano was largely to blame for the lahar flooding that buried some 180 houses and killed at least six people at the height of Super Typhoon Rolly.





## MGB proposes lifting of quarry suspension around Mayon Volcano

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

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

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

He said immediate rehabilitation of the areas quarried by the violators will also be implemented.  
**(PR)**



## Lapnisan, world's most expensive tree, threatened by poaching

Published December 4, 2020 10:30pm

Lapnisan or agarwood, the most expensive tree in the world, is being threatened by armed poachers, a forest ranger said Friday.

According to Marvin Baroso's report on "Stand for Truth," the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Philippine National Police found numerous cut agarwood in a dense forest of Mindanao during an operation.

"Based sa monitoring namin, talagang nagkakaubusan na. Pag merong nagka-cut ng lapnisan kasi mga armado 'yun kadalasan, may mga itak. 'Yung iba sa monitor namin may mga baril pa," Baroso said.

"Yun ang mahirap bilang isang forest ranger na pumapasok ka sa ganoon. Kami wala naman kaming baril. 'Yung dala namin cellphone lang," he added.

First-grade agarwood, also called the Wood of the Gods, costs \$100,000 per kilo while its pure essential oil, called liquid gold, costs \$80,000 per liter.

Baroso said the poachers cannot be immediately stopped due to their number.

"Yung malungkot kasi parang bihira lang kasi makita 'yung lapnisan at saka ang problema niyan, madatnan namin putol na," he said.

An official of the DENR-Centro Bunawan, meanwhile, said that today's agarwood have become too small.

"Masyadong maliliit na po 'yung mga lapnisan natin na makikita dito sa ating area. At saka in terms doon sa mga tao, alam nila kung ano 'yung epekto lalo na sa ating kalikasan," Jerome Albia, OIC, said.

The sap of the agarwood is used as an ingredient in expensive perfumes and incense around the world.

"It's really the luxury brands or luxury fragrances na gumagamit nito kasi sila lang talaga 'yung nakaka-afford to use this essential oil because nga it is very expensive," Bernadette Lim Baricaua, a perfumer, said.

"It is used as a base note, when we say base note, ito 'yung pinaka nagtatagal na notes sa perfumes. So ito 'yung naga-add ng longevity to a scent. So because the characteristic of agarwood is it is very powerful," she added.

Watch the video to know more.—**Joahna Lei Casilao/LDF, GMA News**



GMA Public Affairs ✓

1 hr · 🌐

### PUNONG KAHOY NA MAS MAHAL PA SA GINTO, NANGANGANIB NANG MAUBOS?

Endangered o nanganganib na raw maubos ang puno ng Lapnisan o Agarwood sa bansa dahil sa hindi mapigil na ilegal na pagputol ng mga ito. Ang kahoy kasi mula sa punong ito, maaari raw pumalo sa \$100,000 ang halaga kada kilo!

Ang buong kuwento, abangan sa report ni Marvin Barroso! | [Stand For Truth](#)

FULL WOOD MORE EXPENSIVE THAN GOLD, DANGEROUS OF RUNNING OUT? The Lapnisan or Agarwood tree in the country is endangered or in danger because of the unstoppable illegal cutting of them. The wood from this tree can hit \$ 100,000 per kilo! The whole story, watch out for Marvin Barroso's report! | @[106657204274550:274:Stand For Truth]

Translated





## DENR releases rescued python in Dipolog



ZAMBOANGA. Personnel of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources released on Tuesday, December 1, a reticulated python in Cogon Ecotourism Park in Dipolog City. A photo handout shows the python being sent back to its natural habitat. (SunStar Zamboanga)

December 4, 2020

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) through the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (Penro) of Zamboanga del Norte released earlier this week a reticulated python in Cogon Ecotourism Park in Dipolog City.

Rosevirico Tan, DENR regional information officer, said the python was released on Tuesday, December 1, 2020, after initial assessments by Penrp personnel revealed that it was healthy and in good condition.

Tan said Police Executive Master Sergeant Rev Marcojos, and Police Corporals Louie Magsanay and Philip Eguia of the Dipolog City Police Station turned over the snake to the Penro after it was surrendered to them by concerned citizens.

The wildlife was spotted and rescued on November 28 by fisherfolks along the shore of Sunset Boulevard in Miputak village, Dipolog City.

The python has an estimated length of 353 centimeters and a diameter of 12.5 centimeters, weighing 20.4 kilograms.

Tan said the turnover of the wildlife is an indication of the effectiveness of the information dissemination campaign on Republic Act 9147 also known as the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act. (SunStar Zamboanga)





## Coastal clean-up drive for 13 areas in Cebu City starts at dawn on Saturday

By: Delta Dyrecka Letigio - CDN Digital Multi-Media Reporter|December 04,2020 - 04:31 PM



This is a photo of the massive clean-up drive in Kinalumnsan River and the coastal area of Barangay Mambaling taken last August 11, 2020.

CEBU CITY, Philippines — The Cebu City Coastal Management Task Force (CMTF) will be conducting another clean-up drive in seven major coastal and river mouth areas in Cebu City on Saturday, December 5, 2020 dawn.

The task force has set up 13 major areas for the clean up where volunteers from the private sector and the barangays will be removing accumulated trash.

Reymar Hijara, the subcommittee chairperson for the CMTF, said that at least 2,254 individuals have registered to join the cleanup drives in the various stations.

The teams will focus their efforts at the Mahiga and Tejero Creeks including the Tejero Bridge; the mouth of the Guadalupe River, along the coastal areas of Pasil, Mambaling, and the South Road Properties (SRP); and the river systems passing through Sawang Calero and Colon Street.

Hijara added that a group of divers has volunteered to help in the coastal clean-up. The diving team will be deployed at the sea surrounding the Pasil to SRP to collect submerged trash.

Certain areas like the Pasil Fish Market will be supplemented with heavy equipment as the area is overrun with trash, which will make it difficult for the volunteers to clear out.

“Grabe naman ang basura ana nga area so kailangan gyod ang heavy equipment. (The garbage in the area is thick so it needs heavy equipment),” said Hijara.

Although the task force is not expecting all volunteers to attend the clean-up on Saturday, each area will be properly marshaled for the implementation of health protocols.

The volunteers are asked to wear face masks and face shields, as well as bring their own gloves for the clean-up drive. Social and physical distancing must be observed at all times.

Vice Mayor Michael Rama, the chairperson of the task force, said that the clean-up drive is an offering to God and a reminder to the residents that everyone is a steward of the environment.

Although only a few people can join the actual clean up in the coastal areas, the vice mayor urged the residents to take the time to clean up their own areas and canals at home as well. /rcg



- Headline
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## Capas mayor shuts down waste treatment plant

posted December 04, 2020 at 08:50 pm

by [Jess Malabanan](#)

Capas, Tarlac—The local government has suspended the operations of the waste processing plant of Clean Leaf International Corporation here due to the health risk it poses to residents in its surrounding communities at Barangay Cutcut II here and in nearby Bgy. Anupul in Bamban town.

“When I received the complaints from residents in September, I quickly called the management of Clean Leaf and directed them to shut down its operations due to mounting complaints of residents there,” said Mayor Rey Catacutan.

He said Clean Leaf ceased its operations since October and it would be “impossible” for residents to experience foul smells from the plant.

The suspension order was covered by Executive Order 97 Series of 2020 issued by the mayor three months ago.

The company has not responded to the report, issued a statement, or answered queries from the Standard as of press time.

In their complaints posted on social media, one resident stated that Clean Leaf operates at midnight up to 3 a.m. It releases black smoke from its chamber only during the wee hours to avoid being detected by the local authorities.

“We have been experiencing dizziness, stomachache and headache due to noxious odor coming from the lagoon and smoke being emitted by Clean Leaf,” stated in a post of another resident, whose home is adjacent to the hazardous waste processing plant.

Catacutan said the Capas LGU environmental officer conducted an inspection at Clean Leaf as early as September, or shortly after the mayor received complaints against the waste treatment plant.

A technical investigation team was also sent to Clean Leaf to determine its waste treatment procedure of hazardous substances being dumped inside the plant

“I ordered the waste processing plant management to cover the lagoon with sand to trap the fumes being emitted from it,” said Catacutan, while flashing the suspension order he issued to Clean Leaf last September in a press briefing.

The local chief executive said it is impossible for residents at Cutcut to experience foul smell as the plant’s exhaust chamber is more than 40 feet high and the smoke released to the air is already processed and filtered.

“It’s impossible for them to inhale foul smell. Ang taas ng stack and the smoke that is being released are already processed,” Catacutan pointed out.

He added that the lagoon and chamber of Clean Leaf is situated some 1.5 kilometers away from residential areas.

“It’s hard to believe, but nevertheless I have ordered the suspension of its operations,” he said.



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## Capas mayor shuts down waste treatment plant

Catacutan noted that Clean Leaf was to able secure a permit from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for the construction and expansion of its sanitary landfill within the waste processing facility.

Three waste processing plants are operating within sitio Kalangitan, including Clean Leaf.

“Anyone is open to do waste processing business in my town as long as they comply with the necessary permits from concerned government agencies,” said Catacutan.



## Ex-Pangasinan gov, co-accused acquitted of graft over black sand mining issue

By: [Gabriel Pabico Lulu](#) - Reporter / [@GabrielLuluINQ](#)  
[INQUIRER.net](#) / 05:04 PM December 04, 2020

MANILA, Philippines — Former Pangasinan governor Amado Espino Jr. and other provincial government officials have been acquitted from graft charges that stemmed from the black sand mining controversy in 2011.

In a decision handed down by the Sandiganbayan's Sixth Division Thursday, the graft charges against Espino, then-provincial administrator Rafael Baraan, housing officer Alvin Bigay, and other private individuals were dismissed for failure of the prosecution to establish evident bad faith when the provincial government tapped companies to excavate black sand or magnetite sand.

The issue came from the controversial [black sand mining](#) program in Lingayen, which the government claimed was for the purpose of creating a golf course for their eco-tourism ventures. However, the prosecution believed that the golf course project was a mere cover for the real purpose, which was black sand mining.

The anti-graft court agreed with the prosecution that the officials involved may have given unwarranted benefits to Alexandra Mining and Oil Ventures Inc (AMОВI) and Xypher Builders, Inc. — the companies tasked to extract black sand — as the companies transported the magnetite sand allegedly worth P10.75 million to China.

However, Sandiganbayan said that this does not prove that the government was subjected to undue disadvantage, as the two companies did the work — extracting black sand — for free, in part of the golf course project. Neither does it assert that the officials charged acted with manifest partiality in favor of the companies.

“From the testimonial and documentary evidence presented by the prosecution, the Court finds no scintilla of proof that accused Espino, Baraan, and Bigay [...] acted with evident bad faith. The only circumstance established in this case is that the subject permits failed to meet the requirements of law,” the court said in the decision penned by Associate Justice Kevin Narce Vivero.

“In this case, there is no showing that accused Espino, [Baraan](#), and Bigay were motivated by malice or bad faith in failing to comply with the provisions of the law. Absent any showing of bad faith and malice, the presumption of regularity in the performance of official duties will work in their favor,” it added.

Sandiganbayan added that not even the questions on the legality of mining permits issued to the companies can prove that there was collusion between the officials and the companies mentioned.

“The court is not prepared to convict the accused public officers over their neglectful non-compliance or misapplication of mining laws, that was caused in part, too by the lapses of the mining authorities themselves,” it claimed.

The court also took note that it is hard to believe that the golf course project was merely a front as there was sufficient planning and reason to pull out the black sand from the area that was being developed.



## Ex-Pangasinan gov, co-accused acquitted of graft over black sand mining issue

“[...] The Court is convinced that the excavation, soil remediation, black/ magnetite sand extraction and other earth-moving activities in the subject area were all part and in pursuit of preparatory works for the 18-hole golf course, which is part of the Province of Pangasinan’s eco-tourism development,” Sandiganbayan noted.

“We cannot simply turn a blind eye to the extended efforts and detailed plans, programs, maps, and studies undertaken by the provincial government for the said golf course project. We thus found no basis to rule that the golf course project is all but a ploy to hide illegal mining activities,” it added.

Sandiganbayan however agreed with the prosecution over lapses in the extraction and transportation of black sand — even if it was necessary in the development of the golf course.

With the developments, the hold departure orders for Espino and the other officials for this case have been lifted and set aside, while their bail bonds were also ordered released.

EDV

Read more: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1367913/ex-pangasinan-gov-co-accused-acquitted-of-graft-over-black-sand-mining-issue#ixzz6fggi56Lq>

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## Benguet mining town posts 69 new COVID-19 cases

Published December 4, 2020, 10:14 AM

by [Zaldy Comanda](#)

**LA TRINIDAD, Benguet** – The Provincial Health Office (PHO) here posted record-high in the number of new coronavirus disease (COVID-19) cases with 82 on Thursday, December 3.

According to the Benguet PHO, 69 of the new cases were recorded in the mining town of Mankayan, which now has a total of 159 active cases.

Of the new cases, 12 were minors.

There were also 32 recoveries, and one death in the province on Thursday.

The new infections came from Barangay Paco (40), Barangay Sapid (26), and one each from Barangays Cabiten, Poblacion, and Tabio. These barangays are all located inside the mining camp of Lepanto.

The PHO said the sharp increase in the number of cases could be attributed to the more expansive contact tracing and testing being conducted by the medical team, which has focused its efforts on the mining camp.

This capital town also recorded its eighth COVID-19-related death on Thursday, bringing the total of fatalities in the province to 19.

The patient was a 92-year-old female from Barangay Ambiong, who was admitted on Dec 1 at the Pines City Doctors Hospital. Based on a report, the patient had severe pneumonia and multiple organ failure. She also had cardiac arrest.

La Trinidad also posted seven new cases, while Itogon town had three new infections. Tuba had two, while Kapangan had one.

As of 12 p.m., December 3, the province already has a total of 2,162 confirmed cases, 328 of which are still active, and 1,815 recoveries.



## Bagong COVID-19 cases sa bansa '934 lang' ngayong nahawaan nasa 436,345 na

By [James Relativo](#)(Philstar.com)  
- December 4, 2020 - 4:00pm



Litrato ng mga mamimili sa Blumentritt Market, Maynila habang iniikot ng SWAT sa gitna ng COVID-19 pandemic, Agosto 2020  
The STAR/Edd Gumban, File

MANILA, Philippines — Lalo pang bumaba ang bilang ng nadadali ng coronavirus disease ngayong araw sa Pilipinas, bagay na dumaig sa record na naitala ng Department of Health eksakto isang buwan na ang nakalilipas.

Nasa 934 lang kasi ang sariwang kaso na iniulat ngayong araw ng Kagawaran ng Kalusugan, mas mababa nang husto sa mahigit 1,000 hanggang 2,000 daily average nitong mga nagdaang buwan at araw.

Ito na ang pinakakaonting naitalang daily increase ng DOH simula noong ika-4 ng Nobyembre, kung kailan 987 lang ang nakumpirmang kaso sa isang araw dulot ng mga kahirapang dala ng Super Typhoon Rolly.

Itinataas ng panibagong datos ang kabuuang bilang ng tinatamaan ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas sa bilang na 436,345.

**May kaugnayan:** [Bagong kaso ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas '987 lang.' tinamaan lagpas 388,000 na](#)

"Asahan niyo po na patuloy na ating palalakasin ang pagtugon kontra COVID-19, lalong-lalo na sa mga rehiyon mayroong malalaking bilang ng kaso," ayon kay Health Secretary Francisco Duque III, Biyernes, hinggil sa paborableng datos sa pagtatapos ng Nobyembre.

"Ang ating departamento po ay laging handang magbigay ng tulong pangkalusugan at walang-tigil na serbisyo para sa ating mga kababayan."



## Bagong COVID-19 cases sa bansa '934 lang' ngayong nahawaan nasa 436,345 na

Sa ngayon, natagpuan ang pinakamaraming bagong kaso ng COVID-19 sa mga sumusunod na lugar sa bansa:

- Quezon City (75)
- Laguna (59)
- Baguio City (34)
- Bulacan (34)
- Davao City (34)

Sa kabila ng mababang bilang, nasa 11 laboratoryo pa ang hindi nakapagsumite ng kanilang datos sa COVID-19 Data Repository System (CDRS) noong ika-3 ng Disyembre.

Samantala, tanging 28,379 na lamang ang maituturing na "active cases" sa ngayon, o yaong mga patuloy pa ring nagpapagaling sa COVID-19.

Samantala, 63 naman ang mga bagong talang namatay kaugnay ng kinatatakutang virus. Inaakyat niyan ang kabuuang local death toll sa 8,509.

Mas marami pa rin naman ang gumagaling dito sa ngayon sa bilang na 399,457., Mas marami 'yan ng 148 kumpara kahapon.

"Patuloy po ang ating pagpapaigting ng ating health system capacity upang palakasin ang ating COVID-19 response at tugunan ang pangangailangang medikal ng ating mga kababayan," sabi pa ni Duque.

"Makakaasa po tayo na hindi tayo mapapagod at patuloy na gagampanan ng gobyerno ang tungkulin nito na paglingkuran ang sambayanan at tugunan ang krisis na ating kinahaharap."

Sa ngayon, halos 64 milyon na ang nahahawaan ng kinatatakutang virus disease buong mundo. Sa bilang na 'yan, mahigit 1.5 milyon na ang patay, ayon sa [World Health Organization](#).



## Duterte sa UN: Bakuna sa COVID-19 dapat para sa lahat

By [Malou Escudero](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon)  
-December 5, 2020 - 12:00am



Sa kanyang pre-recorded na mensahe sa United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) sinabi ni Duterte na hindi makatarungan o “gross injustice” kung hindi makakakuha ng bakuna ang mahihirap na bansa.

AFP/Johannes Eisele, file

MANILA, Philippines — Muling iginiit ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte sa international community na dapat makakuha ng bakuna sa COVID-19 ang lahat ng bansa.

Sa kanyang pre-recorded na mensahe sa United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) sinabi ni Duterte na hindi makatarungan o “gross injustice” kung hindi makakakuha ng bakuna ang mahihirap na bansa.

“If any country is excluded by reason of poverty or strategic unimportance, this gross injustice will haunt the world for a long time,” ani Duterte.

Muli ring binanggit ng Pangulo ang kahalagahan nang pagkakaisa ng mga bansa upang matugunan ang hamon ng pandemiya.

Binanggit din ng Pangulo na mababalewala ang layunin nang pagkakatatag ng United Nations kung may bansa na maiiwan at hindi makakabangon mula sa COVID-19.

“We cannot let this happen. No one is safe unless everyone is safe,” dagdag ni Duterte.





## PRRD renews call for universal vaccine access

By Joyce Ann L. Rocamora December 4, 2020, 1:42 pm



President Rodrigo Duterte (*Presidential Photo*)

**MANILA** – President Rodrigo Duterte has renewed his call for universal access to coronavirus disease (Covid-19) vaccine during his address at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), telling the international community that leaving poor countries out would be "gross injustice".

"If any country is excluded by reason of poverty or strategic unimportance, this gross injustice will haunt the world for a long time. It will completely discredit the values upon which the United Nations was founded," he said in his pre-recorded message for the UNGA 31st Special Session in Response to the Covid-19.

"We cannot let this happen. No one is safe unless everyone is safe," he added.

He asked that life-saving services and products be made accessible to the most vulnerable: "The most to the least".

Meanwhile, he reaffirmed that the Philippines will do its part by contributing to the pooling of global resources and helping other countries without preconditions.

He underscored Manila's strong support to the global medical and scientific initiatives of the World Health Organization such as the COVAX facility, an alliance to ensure access to the global Covid-19 vaccine supply.

"Together with our brothers in Asean and the Non-Aligned Movement, the Philippines supports a global health agenda with adequate resourcing and policy space for the World Health Organization," he said.

Duterte acknowledged that the Covid-19 pandemic has worsened the threats against peace and security and underscored Manila's support to the Secretary General's report for a global ceasefire.

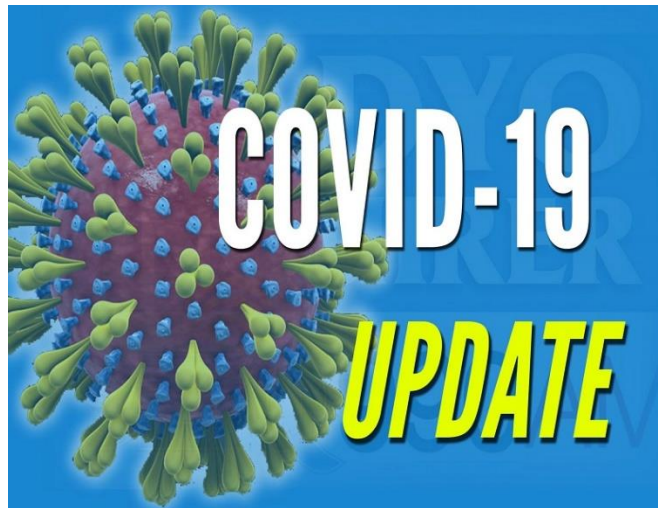
"In many parts of the world, the pandemic has worsened threats to peace and security. The lawless weaponize this health crisis. They cripple the state's ability to respond. They leave Covid-19 to wreak its worst on the population," he said. "This is an inconvenient truth – but one that we must face head-on."

While the pandemic is still far from over, Duterte urged the international community to draw up a "bounce back strategy", one that would aim for a comprehensive and inclusive recovery. (*PNA*)



## Global cases ng COVID-19 mahigit 65.5 million na

By Dona Dominguez-Cargullo December 04, 2020 - 10:48 AM



Umabot sa mahigit 663,000 pa ang naitalang bagong kaso ng COVID-19 sa buong mundo sa nakalipas na magdamag.

Batay sa pinakahuling datos na nakalap ng Radyo INQUIRER hanggang umaga ng Biyernes, (Dec. 4) ay 65,501,601 na ang global cases ng COVID-19.

Sa magdamag, mahigit 213,000 ang bagong kaso na naitala sa US.

Habang mahigit 31,000 naman ang bagong kaso sa India at mahigit 50,000 ang bagong kaso sa Brazil.

Nakapagtala naman ang Russia ng dagdag na 28,000 na mga bagong kaso.

Narito ang datos ng COVID-19 sa mga bansang may pinakamaraming kaso:

USA – 14,530,497  
India – 9,564,565  
Brazil – 6,487,516  
Russia – 2,375,546  
France – 2,257,331  
Spain – 1,693,591  
UK – 1,674,134  
Italy – 1,664,829  
Argentina – 1,447,732  
Colombia – 1,343,322

Read more: <https://radyo.inquirer.net/278306/global-cases-ng-covid-19-mahigit-65-5-million-na#ixzz6fgygpIAJ>

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## QUARANTINE PROTOCOLS SA BANSA POSSIBLENG TANGGALIN NA SA 2021

written by [Ashley Jose](#) December 4, 2020



Target ng pamahalaan tanggalin na ang mga umiiral na health quarantine protocols sa bansa sa susunod na taon.

Ito ang naging reaksiyon ni Health Usec. Maria Rosario Vergeire kaugnay ng naging pahayag ni NEDA Dir. General Karl Kendrick Chua, matapos nitong sabihin na posibleng manatili pa sa quarantine ang bansa hanggang sa susunod na taon.

Ayon kay Vergeire, posibleng alisin na sa quarantine sa ikatlong quarter ng 2021.

Gayunman, sinabi naman ni Vergeire na hindi pa rin naman malinaw ang posibleng mangyari at kailangan pa rin namang pag-aralan ang mga dapat na ipatupad sa bansa.



## Increased spilling possible again in three Luzon dams

By Catherine Teves December 4, 2020, 4:00 pm



*(PNA file photos of Ambuklao, Binga, and Magat Dams)*

**MANILA** – Ambuklao, Binga, and Magat dams in Luzon may reintensify respective spilling operations in the forthcoming days.

"We're not discounting that possibility as rainfall there may increase," said Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) hydrologist Edgar dela Cruz.

He said such rainfall can increase flow of water into the dams, causing these facilities to spill or release more excess water.

Intensified spilling operation aims to prevent the dams' water from rising to dangerous levels, he said.

Rain from the successive onslaught of tropical cyclones since October 2020 significantly raised water level in Ambuklao, Binga, and Magat dams, resulting in spilling operations more intense than what these facilities did during the 24-hour period ending 6 a.m. Friday (Dec. 4).

PAGASA data showed that volume of water each of the dams released then was constant, said dela Cruz.

However, he said there wasn't much rainfall nowadays so the dams didn't have to release more water.

That can change as PAGASA said the northeast monsoon or "amihan" and tail-end of a frontal system are prevailing in Luzon, he noted.

On Friday, PAGASA said "amihan" is affecting northern Luzon.





## Increased spilling possible again in three Luzon dams

"We see 'amihan' will persist there this weekend," said PAGASA weather forecaster Raymond Ordinario.

Generally fair weather is likely in northern Luzon then but the area can also experience some drizzle due to "amihan", he added.

He said "amihan" will mostly affect the area's western portion during the weekend.

Ambuklao and Binga dams are located in Benguet province while Magat Dam in Isabela province lies near the eastern portion.

Tail-end of a frontal system can bring light rains to Luzon's eastern portion this weekend, Ordinario said.

Continuous light rains can already have an impact on Magat Dam, he added. (**PNA**)

## Apayao, Cagayan at Ilocos Norte inuulan pa rin dahil sa Amihan – PAGASA

By Dona Dominguez-Cargullo December 04, 2020 - 11:29 AM



Nakataas pa rin ang heavy rainfall warning sa ilang lalawigan sa northern Luzon dahil sa nararanasang patuloy na pag-ulan.

Sa inilabas na rainfall warning ng PAGASA, alas 11:00 ng umaga ngayong Biyernes, December 4, yellow warning na ang umiiral sa sumusunod na mga lugar:

### APAYAO

- Flora
- Luna
- Pudtol
- Calanasan

### CAGAYAN

- Claveria
- Pamplona
- Sta. Praxedes
- Sanchez Mira

### ILOCOS NORTE

- Pagudpud

Ang nararanasang pag-ulan ay dulot ng Northeast Monsoon.

Samantala, nakararanas din ng mahina hanggang katamtaman at kung minsan ay malakas na ulan sa mga bayan ng Allacapan, Santa Ana at Sto. Nino sa Cagayan.

Pinayuhan ang publiko at local disaster risk reduction and management offices na imonitor ang lagay ng panahon at mag-antabay sa susunod na abiso ng PAGASA.

Read more: <https://radio.inquirer.net/278315/apayao-cagayan-at-ilocos-norte-inuulan-pa-rin-dahil-sa-amihan-pagasa#ixzz6fgxCmXJh>

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## 11 volcanic earthquake naitala sa Mt. Kanlaon

By Dona Dominguez-Cargullo December 04, 2020 - 09:11 AM



Republic of the Philippines  
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
PHILIPPINE INSTITUTE OF VOLCANOLOGY AND  
SEISMOLOGY

### KANLAON VOLCANO BULLETIN

04 December 2020  
08:00 A.M.

Kanlaon Volcano's monitoring network recorded eleven (11) volcanic earthquakes during the 24-hour observation period. Weak emission of white steam-laden plumes that rose 300 meters before drifting northwest was observed. Sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) emission was measured at an average of 336 tonnes/day on 24 November 2020. Ground deformation data from continuous GPS measurements indicate slight inflation of the lower and mid slopes since June 2020, while short-term electronic tilt monitoring on the southeastern flanks recorded inflation on the lower to mid slopes that began on 21 June 2020. These parameters may indicate hydrothermal or magmatic processes occurring beneath the edifice.

DOST-PHIVOLCS would like to remind the public that Kanlaon Volcano is at **Alert Level 1**, which means that it is at an abnormal condition and has entered a period of unrest. The local government units and the public are strongly reminded that entry into the 4-kilometer radius Permanent Danger Zone (PDZ) must be strictly prohibited due to the further possibilities of sudden and hazardous steam-driven or phreatic eruptions. Civil aviation authorities must also advise pilots to avoid flying close to the volcano's summit as ejecta from any sudden phreatic eruption can be hazardous to aircraft. DOST-PHIVOLCS is closely monitoring Kanlaon Volcano's activity and any new development will be relayed to all concerned.

### DOST-PHIVOLCS

*Prepared by:*

*G. Malipot & N. Sena*

Nakapagtala ng 11 volcanic earthquake sa Bulkang Kanlaon sa nakalipas na magdamag.

Batay sa Kanlaon Volcano Bulletin ng Phivolcs na nakalap ng Radyo INQUIRER, may naitala ring mahinang steaming activity sa bulkan na umabot sa 300 meters ang taas.

Ang sulfur dioxide na naitala sa bulkan noong Nov. 24 ay umabot sa 336 tonnes/day ang average.

Nakataas pa rin ang Alert Level 1 (Abnormal) sa Mt. Kanlaon at pinayuhan ang publiko na iwasan ang pagpasok sa permanent danger zone ng bulkan.

Read more: <https://radyo.inquirer.net/278285/11-volcanic-earthquake-naitala-sa-mt-kanlaon#ixzz6fgyolwif>

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## Bicycles are the future



By [Robert Siy](#)

December 5, 2020

On Wednesday, the Departments of Health (DoH), the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Transportation (DoTr), and Public Works and Highways (DPWH) announced their plans for making the Philippines a bicycle-friendly country.

The DoH kicked off the discussion by citing the fundamental importance of daily walking and cycling for improving health outcomes. The DPWH talked about its plans for bike lanes in all major road and bridge projects going forward. Many ongoing infrastructure projects were being modified to add bike lanes, especially in tourism zones. For its part, the DILG committed to working with local government units (LGUs) so that they have the tools and capacity to promote more walking and cycling. And the DoTr described the budget and timetable to create a dense network of protected bicycle lanes in three metropolitan areas — Manila, Cebu and Davao — as well as a novel bike-sharing program in Metro Manila.

To support these efforts, the government has approved a budget of P1.3 billion under the Bayanihan 2 law. If these plans materialize in the next 12 months, we would see a vastly different mobility environment in Philippine cities.

The directive to promote active transport has been around for several years, but it took a pandemic to trigger meaningful change. The National Transport Policy, approved in September 2017, directs all agencies to design and manage roads and bridges to maximize the throughput of people, rather than of vehicles. It also asks all units of government to give the “highest priority to the development of proper sidewalks and networks of bicycle lanes that will encourage active transport and provide safe and direct access to priority destinations” (Section 24 of the Implementing Rules and Regulation of the National Transport Policy).

In implementing these directives, the challenge is to overcome traditional mindsets that favor private motor vehicle use on our roads over more sustainable and environment-friendly travel modes, like cycling. More people on bicycles is better for all of us, even for people using private motor vehicles.

Bicycles provide Filipinos with the means of low-cost, zero-emission, independent travel with physical distancing. People on bicycles have more predictable travel times while getting their daily dose of physical exercise.

If a person gives up using a car or motorcycle and switches to using a bicycle, it means cleaner air, reduced carbon emissions, safer roads and less traffic. If a person switches from using public transport to using a bicycle, it means less crowding and shorter queues on our public transport systems. A win-win for society.





## Bicycles are the future

Bicycles are also a tool for disaster preparedness and recovery, especially in these times when natural disasters have become more frequent. When roads are blocked or fuel is not available, a person on a bicycle can travel where other modes cannot. And for a person in need of a job or livelihood, having a bicycle opens up opportunities that would otherwise be closed to those without means of independent travel.

A lane of road dedicated to bicycles will move five to 10 times more people than the same lane used by cars — and in a more efficient and climate-friendly manner. In contrast, private motor vehicles offer the most inefficient use of road space and are the biggest source of harmful emissions. Because we are concerned with moving people rather than vehicles, prioritizing our roads for bicycles makes total sense.

Today, bicycles are getting many of our essential workers to their jobs, including doctors and nurses in the front lines in our fight against the pandemic. The problem they face is that cycling, in the absence of protected bike lanes, exposes cyclists to risks of colliding with motor vehicles. With the number of cyclists growing every day, there are more frequent reports of cyclists being injured or killed on our roads. We need to make cycling safe for all users.

Because roads in our cities are filled with cars, we often think of car owners as the primary client for our road infrastructure. The mistaken presumption is that cars have priority in the use of road space. This is where mindset change is needed.

The reality is that car owners are only a small minority in the population. Only about 12 percent of households own cars in the Greater Manila Area and less than 5 percent of them nationwide. And during the pandemic, we should recognize that car users are already privileged to travel in relative comfort and isolation. The focus of the government should be on the travel needs of the vast majority who are not car owners. Those who have less in wheels should have more in road.

Bicycle infrastructure development may just be the most direct way to deliver improved mobility for the greatest number in the next 18 months — which is the time left in the Duterte administration. Low-cost, quick-gestation, employment-generating, highly visible, socially just, environmentally sustainable, climate-friendly and health-enhancing. Bicycles are the future of Philippine mobility.



## Waste sub-sector posts top employment growth rate

By Catherine Teves December 4, 2020, 6:08 pm



**MANILA** – October year-on-year employment growth rate among sub-sectors nationwide was highest in water supply; sewerage, waste management, and remediation activities in 2020.

The sub-sector registered a 23.2 percent growth rate, according to the data released by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) on Thursday.

Agriculture's fishing and aquaculture sub-sector and services' education sub-sector had the second and third highest growth rates at 5.4 percent and 5.2 percent, respectively.

According to PSA, about 39.84 million people were employed nationwide in October 2020.

The services sector had 22.78 million employed people then, surpassing the agriculture sub-sector (9.76 million people) and industry sector (7.30 million people).

Such sectors' corresponding year-on-year employment growth rates in October 2020 were -7.9 percent, 0.7 percent, and -10.2 percent. (**PNA**)



## Republic Cement to co-process 10 million plastic bags, sachets daily next year

posted December 04, 2020 at 07:18 pm  
by [Manila Standard Digital](#)

Republic Cement aims to double the volume of plastic bags and sachets it co-processes to at least 10 million every day next year to boost efforts to address the country's waste management crisis.



“Our target is to co-process not less than 10 million sachets or plastic bags per calendar day by 2021,” said Republic Cement President and CEO Nabil Francis in an online press briefing.

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

Francis noted that of the 40,000 tons of waste generated daily nationwide, of which almost a fourth comes from Metro Manila, 50 percent are biodegradables, 30 percent are recyclables, and 20 percent are residual wastes – the target of Republic Cement's resource recovery arm, ecoloop, for co-processing.

“We are trying to close the waste loop by recovering as much as we can. It really requires a change in mindset – to change the way we look at waste and see it as a precious resource,” said ecoloop director Angela Edralin-Valencia.

Key to closing the waste loop is the role of local government units in ensuring proper waste segregation.

Since Republic Cement began co-processing almost two decades ago, it has since partnered with 30 LGUs and private companies, including Nestle Philippines.

“Co-processing is a vital alternative that manufacturing industries can and should take toward the long-term goals of waste management as well as ultimately building our nation's resilience against climate change challenges through sustainable practices,” said Edralin-Valencia.

While co-processing involves the application of heat to destroy waste, it is distinct from the traditional waste management practice of incineration, according to Valencia.



## Republic Cement to co-process 10 million plastic bags, sachets daily next year

She explained that the cement kiln co-processing method contains emissions and any ash produced is fully integrated into the stable microstructure of clinker, a key ingredient of cement.

### More than 18 Years of Co-Processing Experience



“Republic Cement is proud to do its part in providing a viable waste management solution while continuously working towards a greener and more sustainable cement manufacturing process. Through this, we are confident that we are on the right path in moving toward a greener, stronger, plastic-neutral Republic,” Francis added.





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

December 4, 2020 | 12:05 am



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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



## House panel OKs bill recognizing conserved IPs' communities

[December 4, 2020](#) 2 min read

**MANILA** – A measure seeking to recognize the indigenous cultural communities and indigenous peoples (ICCs/IPs) community conserved territories and areas (ICCA) hurdled committee level at the House of Representatives on Thursday.

The House Committee on Indigenous Cultural Communities and Indigenous Peoples approved a substitute bill which aims to establish the National ICCA Registry.

The National ICCA Registry shall contain records of all pertinent information voluntarily submitted by the concerned ICC/IP regarding their respective ICCAs.

ICCA recorded in the proposed registry shall be included in the comprehensive land use plan of the concerned local government unit.

Deputy Speaker Loren Legarda, a principal author of the bill, said it is time the national government gives due importance and role to the indigenous communities as partners in the conservation of protected areas found within their ancestral domains.

“Indigenous Peoples communities have always played an important role in the conservation and preservation of the country’s protected areas,” Legarda said.

Bukidnon Rep. Maria Lourdes Acosta-Alba, another author, said the measure would enhance and strengthen the interface between the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act and the National Integrated Protected Areas System.

The measure would further provide for a system of recognition, registration, protection, and promotion of covered lands as well as penalize acts of desecration of the aforementioned areas.

Committee chair Kalinga Rep. Allen Jesse Mangaoang said the conservation of ancestral lands and domains would help ensure the establishment of preventive measures against flooding and landslides during typhoons, thereby protecting indigenous Filipinos as well as the whole country. *(PNA)*



# Duterte's Via Dolorosa

December 5, 2020 | Filed under: Echoes From, Opinion | Posted by: Tempo Desk

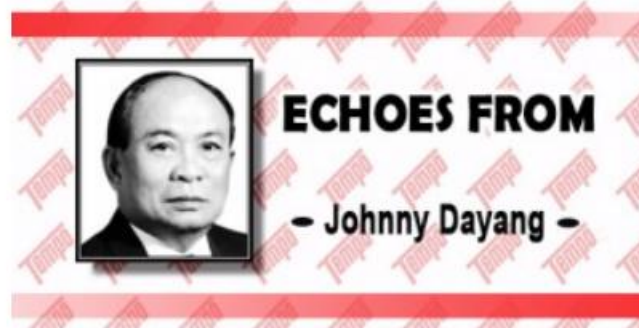
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BY JOHNNY DAYANG

Recently, over a six-week period, Luzon was battered with four devastating storms that cost lives, ruined properties, and flooded hundreds of villages. State managers valued the destruction, including public works and infrastructure, in the billions. These calamitous events and its trail of devastations happened at time when the country is in a pandemic.



Disasters are at times used as occasions for lies to be peddled. Some use them as channels in magnifying flawed political projections in the hope that a well-rehearsed oratorical fanfare can spell points for the government. But in this time of social media, trolls, and fake news, there are also people who employ tragedies in adding misery to the lives of the wretched.

Always in a hurry to parry attacks and innuendoes, presidential embouchure Harry Roque, at the height of emergency, has added hysteria to the disillusioned victims of calamities who strongly felt the government slow acted in addressing their immediate needs.

Roque's careless take at public issues has further distorted public understanding on how the State has approached the recent catastrophes. At times, he telegraphs the notion all is not well in the Palace, which is not exactly a good impression. Even if the Filipinos are noted for their resilience, government complacency should not add tactlessness to the situation.

Recent events have not been particularly good for the national leadership. Since assuming, the litany of calamities that have shaken the Duterte presidency continues to extend, and there is no arguing that more challenges are coming soon.

So far, the misfortunes and tragedies that form part of President Duterte's Via Dolorosa include the Marawi siege, North Cotabato and Davao del Sur earthquakes, Category 5 typhoons, COVID-19 pandemic, rise in corruption cases, inundations, and Taal eruption, to name just a few.

Instead of imputing people for their efforts in lessening the effect of calamities among the victims, the national leadership should instead adopt a well-disposed attitude towards individuals and institutions that are working even without government support.

Political jealousy, distortion of facts, wrongful allegations, and outright partisan vitriols only add fuel to the perception that Filipino leaders have not matured, which is quite clear.

Worse, Roque and his ilk, by justifying government absence during emergency, have produced an impression that no matter what, presidential oversights and missteps, even if they amount to deceiving the public, have to be hidden behind a façade. If only for that, the presidential ambition of Duterte's daughter to succeed his father is already jeopardized.

Justifying what cannot be substantiated is an anomalous gambit Roque should do away.





## MAKABAYAN AT BAYAN MUNA 'LEGAL FRONTS' NG CPP-NPA



December 4, 2020 @ 9:02 AM 21 hours ago

KUNG mayroon mang mga grupo na sukduhan ang pagiging sinungaling sa ating lipunan, isa na rito ang Makabayan bloc kung tawagin na kinabibilangan ng Bayan Muna.

Halimbawa sa usaping red-tagging o pagtatak ng pagiging pulahan.

Ang totoo, maliwanag pa sa sikat ng araw at buwan na kitang-kita ito sa kanilang mga pagkilos sa mga lansangan.

Kung may rally ang mga ito, pangunahing pula ang kulay ng kanilang mga bandila at streamer.

Sa totoo lang, sa kanilang sariling bulong-bulungan, karangalan para sa kanila ang pagiging pulahan.

Nakapagtataka lang na kinatatakutan nila ngayon ang pagtatak sa kanila bilang pulahan.

Pinagmumulan umano ang pagtatak sa kanila bilang pulahan ng pagpatay sa kanilang hanay ng iba, maliban pa sa mga harassment na kanilang nararanasan, maging sa pulitika.

At ang gusto pa yata nilang mangyari, gagawa ang Kongreso ng batas na magiging krimen ang red-tagging o pagsasabing sila'y mga pulahan.

Sinuwerte naman ang mga ito.

### LANTAD KAY PANG. DIGONG BILANG LEGAL FRONT

Kung may mga tao mang hindi mapaglilihiman ng Makabayan bloc at Bayan Muna kung ano at sino sila, kasama na ryan mismo si Pangulong Rodrigo 'Digong' Duterte.

Mahaba-haba ang panahon at malalim ang naging ugnayan mismo ng ilang personalidad sa Makabayan bloc at Bayan Muna kay Pang. Digong bilang mayor ng Davao City, congressman ng nasabing lungsod at bilang isang prosecutor o piskal.

Gayundin ang mga miyembro ng New People's Army at Communist Party of the Philippines.





## **MAKABAYAN AT BAYAN MUNA ‘LEGAL FRONTS’ NG CPP-NPA**

Maraming pabor ang nahingi ng mga militanteng grupong ito mismo sa pamilya Duterte bilang mga lider sa nasabing siyudad.

Kaya walang lihim mismo kay Pang. Digong kung sino ang mga militanteng ito, kanilang mga grupo at paniniwala at gawaing pampulitika na taglay-taglay o isinusulong ng mga ito.

Kung sasabihin nila kay Pangulong Digong na wala silang kaugnayan sa rebolusyong komunista, lantarang kasinungalingan na ‘yan.

Hindi magsasalita nang direksahan ang Pangulo kay Bayan Muna Partylist Representative Carlos Isagani Zarate ukol sa panghihingi nito ng ayuda sa una noon nang walang malalim na dahilan.

Nang mag-isyu mismo si Pang. Digong ng Proclamation No. 374 na tumutukoy sa Communist Party of the Philippines at New People’s Army bilang isang teroristang grupo, sa palagay n’yo ba, nababatay lang ito sa hangin at laway?

Nauna rito, idineklara ng United States of America na “dayuhang terorista” para sa kanila ang CPP-NPA noong 2002 at ng European Union noong 2005, sa palagay ba ninyo walang malalim na pinagbabatayan ang mga ito?

At sa palagay ba ninyo, walang kaugnayan ang mga nasa Makabayan bloc at Bayan Muna bilang legal front ng CPP-NPA?

Kung gusto ninyo ang mas malinaw na sagot, magtanong na lang kayo kay Bayan Muna Partylist Eufemia Cullamat na namatayan ng isang anak na NPA kamakailan sa Marihatag, Surigao del Sur.

Ang isang napakalaking kaipokrituhan dito, kung may napatay na miyembro ng NPA, iginigiit ng Bayan Muna, gaya ng sa kaso ni Jevilyn, na may paglabag sa karapatang pantao.

Pero alam ba ninyo na nagpipiyesta nang lihim ang mga militante kung may napatay na mga sundalo, maging mga pulis at iba pang alagad ng batas?

Hmmmm! Bato-bato sa langit, ang tamaan, huwag magagalit.

### **WALANG MAKITANG MAGANDA**

Meron lang din tayong napansin.

Itong dolomite project na ginagawa sa Manila Bay ang isa sa mga idinadamay ng Makabayan bloc at Bayan Muna na lunsaran ng kanilang pag-atake sa pamahalaan.

Kaunting pagbabago sa nasabing proyekto gaya ng pagdating ng bagyo na magsasampa ng dumi sa proyekto, sasabihin na nilang walang patutunguhan ang proyekto at isa lang itong pinagkakagastusan nang walang kapararakan.

Nito ngang dumating ang bagyong Ulysses, anak ng tokwa, nagbantay mismo ang isang news team ng nabuwag na istasyon ng telebisyon para tutukan lang ang dolomite project na masira o ma-washout sa lakas ng mga ulan, hangin at alon.



## **MAKABAYAN AT BAYAN MUNA ‘LEGAL FRONTS’ NG CPP-NPA**

Nanatili ang dolomite at nabokya ang news team kaya nawalan ng mapagkukunan ng paninira ang nasabing mga grupo.

Nga pala, bakit kaya todo-kayod noon ang Makabayan bloc at Bayan Muna habang isinasagawa ang hearing kung mabigyan ng ekstensyon o bagong prangkisa ang nasabing nabuwag na television station?

Dangan kasi, nagmistulang pakner ang istasyon noon ng nasabing mga grupo para siraan ang administrasyong Duterte at mismong si Pang. Digong.

Bilang dagdag na usapin, bakit kaya wala si Rep. Zarate nitong hearing sa Senado ukol sa red-tagging samantalang always present siya noon sa hearing ukol sa istasyon ng telebisyon.

Wala kaya itong itinatago kaya naging “no-show siya” sa Senado at kasamang “no show” si ex-Bayan Muna Rep. Teddy Casiño na sa pagkakaalam ng ating Uzi ay inimbitahan din ng Senado para maging resource person?

### **SADYA KANG PABABAGSAKIN**

Ngayon naman ay kabilang sa mga malaking puhunan ng administrasyong Duterte para sa pag-unlad ng mahal kong Pinas ang programang Build, Build, Build o paggawa ng mga malalaking imprastraktura sa iba’t ibang larangan.

Kabilang na rito ang transportasyon, teknolohiya at komunikasyon, edukasyon at iba pa.

Upang magawa ang mga ito nang mabilis, kinakailangan nila ang 24 oras na trabaho, kahit sa gitna ng gabi na malaki ang pangangailangan ng kuryente upang tuloy-tuloy na magawa ang mga ito.

Hindi man nila aminin, ang pagkwestiyon nila sa Meralco sa presyuhan ng kuryente ay makaaapekto nang malaki sa pag-arangkada ng Build, Build, Build.

Kinukwestyon nila ang ilang Power Supply Agreement ng Meralco dahil pinataas umano nito ang presyo ng kuryente.

Pero kung tatanungin mo naman ang Meralco at mismong mga tao, may pagbaba pa nga ang bayarin sa kuryente at sinasabing isang pinagmumulan nito ang PSA.

Sa ibang salita, mga Bro, gusto nilang mapawalambisa ang PSA at pinagsama ang mga rally, propaganda sa media at kaso sa hukuman bilang aksyon nila rito.

Magtatagumpay kaya sila?

Abangan na lang natin ang susunod.

Pero sa estilong ginagawa nila na lahat ng paraan ay ginagawa para siraan ang pamahalaan at sirain ang mga pribadong kompanya na pinagmumulan ng tulong para maisagawa ang mga magagandang proyekto gaya ng Build, Build, Build, aba’y nakasasawa o nakauumay na.

Sabi nga ng ating Uzi, bakit daw hindi pag-isipan ng mga Makabayan bloc at Bayan Muna na higit na tutulong sa pagbabago at pag-unland ng bayan sa halip na magsilbing harang at panira?



## MAKABAYAN AT BAYAN MUNA 'LEGAL FRONTS' NG CPP-NPA

### TAUMBAYAN ANG MAGPAPASYA

Sa ngayon, mga Bro, napakataas ang kumpiyansa ng taumbayan sa liderato ni Pang. Digong at pagtitiwala sa paggampan nito sa tungkulin.

At nakikita ito sa mga sarbey ng Social Weather Station at maging sa Gallup na nakabase sa US, napatunayan nilang gusto ng tao ang ginagawa ng Pangulo at pamahalaan lalo na ukol sa ligtas na buhay mula sa krimen at mapagsilbi at mapagprotektang mga alagad ng batas.

Sa kabilang banda, itinodo ng mga Makabayan bloc at Bayan Muna ang paninira nitong nakaraang 2019 elections.

Anak ng tipaklong, nag-boomerang ang resulta – zero ang kandidato nila sa Senado at zero rin ang mga kakampi nilang mga nasa oposisyon at bibihira ang nanalo para sa Kamara.

Gusto lang nating sabihin na taumbayan ang dapat na magpasya sa malalaking usapin sa ating bansa, maging sa pulitika man.

Ang paninira at walang patumanggang paggawa nito ay hindi nagbubunga ng maganda, lalo na sa mga gumagawa nito.

Hindi mo madaraan sa mapanirang propaganda ang magandang gawa dahil hindi bulag ang sambayanan sa mga nagaganap sa bayan, lalo na ang pagsisikap ng pamahalaan at mismo ni Pang. Digong na bigyang-kalutasan ang mga problema sa bansa at iangat ang buong bayan sa dapat nitong kalagyan na matagal na nilang inaasam-asam.



## Shift to renewables to save P13.5B a year



By [Jordeene B. Lagare](#)  
December 5, 2020

Shifting from diesel power plants to renewable energy (RE) facilities can generate savings of more than P13 billion a year, according to the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA).

In a report e-mailed to reporters on Thursday, the IEEFA said should the Small Power Utilities Group (SPUG) of state-run National Power Corp. (NPC) move away from diesel plants, the savings realized can reach P13.5 billion (\$275 million) annually.

But financial challenges facing small grids would require a policy response, it added.

Electric cooperatives (ECs), IEEFA said, have been hit with at least P3.16 billion (\$65 million) in infrastructure damages over the last six months due to climate-fueled disasters.

“With working capital funds totalling P10.1 million (\$206,000), there is no likelihood that the electric coops can cover P730 million in damages,” it added.

Citing its analysis of small and isolated grids, IEEFA said solar photovoltaic plus lithium-ion batteries can now reliably deliver power at a significant discount to the price-performance potential of the current diesel-power fleet.

With less transport costs due to importing diesel, ECs could see savings from a shift to decentralized, modular renewables between \$66 million (P1.38 billion) and \$82 million (P1.7 billion) over the next decade, it added.

“Renewable energy is now up to 60 percent cheaper than diesel-fired power but the isolated and island grids are dominated by diesel power. This is unsustainable from a financial viability and energy security standpoint,” said IEEFA energy finance analyst Sara Jane Ahmed, author of the report.

“The expertise of the Department of Finance, whose Secretary is the chair-designate of the Climate Change Commission, the ex-officio chairman of NPC, can help realize the Department of Energy’s vision to provide not only clean, but also reliable, secure and affordable power for residents of small island grids,” the report said.

IEEFA outlined seven recommendations to better deliver energy access, reliability, resilience and affordability in small island and isolated power grids.

These include halting new diesel power investments immediately and accelerate hybridization; redirecting universal charge for missionary electrification (UCME) subsidies to enable long-term savings and efficient investment in renewable energy and storage, rather than locking-in long-



## Shift to renewables to save P13.5B a year

term liabilities through diesel-generated power; and results-based financing of UCME subsidies to realize both savings and delivery.

It also proposes training by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, sustainable insurance facility for electric cooperatives affected by climate-induced disasters for improved access to liquidity, support from multilateral development banks to accelerate NPC-SPUG's modernization, and carbon pricing economic benefit for power cooperative as a financing tool that can generate at least \$393.6 million over the next 10 years.





## With the youth, we can advance our climate agenda



By [Ludwig O. Federigan](#)  
December 5, 2020

Climate change is the most daunting development challenge our world faces today, as it has the most far-reaching impact and requiring the most urgent action from all.

The phenomenon is so complex and overreaching in its impacts that we should now begin calling it the “climate crisis.” It threatens to take away the things we love and value, and this is the challenge that brings us to where we are today.

The Philippines is no longer stranger to climate change. Our vulnerable communities bear the brunt of its continuously intensifying impacts, such as typhoons, droughts, flooding, landslides, storm surges, and other extreme weather and slow-onset events that have caused too many deaths and damaged our livelihoods and natural resources.

Even having been identified as one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change, the country can still benefit from exploring and leveraging on the opportunities that synergize efforts in adaptation and mitigation that will also accelerate climate action.

We have proven, time and again, that in the face of disasters, the Filipino spirit does not falter. We have manifested that on so many occasions. We are climate-vulnerable, but we have always come out stronger than before. We are resilient. But our Filipino spirit will not be enough to effectively address climate change.

We already have extensive science and data about climate change — how it is caused and how it can impact our communities. Therefore, our actions should match the level of our understanding of climate change.

We should stop addressing climate change in isolation. Our efforts to adapt and mitigate should not be fragmented. We should foster convergences among all stakeholders, so we ensure that we have a cohesive action plan.

### **Advancing the country’s climate agenda forward**

People of all ages are responsible for creating a sustainable and healthy planet. But it is our young people who have the most at stake in whether we achieve targets for sustainable living. Our young people must raise their voices and take action to assure that their future continues to be safe and sustainable.

With the world set to have the largest youth population ever in the coming years, we need to start thinking about how to mobilize their talents and capacities to make better evidence-based and risk-informed decisions and influence the government when they become leaders of this nation.



## With the youth, we can advance our climate agenda

They will be the ones who will find solutions to the problems the older generations have failed to solve.

How can our youth do this very challenging task?

First, they must understand what climate change is, its effects, and how, in their ways, can address it. Continuously search for methodologies and strategies to not contribute to the prevailing crisis.

Second, they must help raise awareness. There is now a momentum — discussions and peaceful demonstrations have already commenced. All they have to do is learn how to sustain it and move it forward. As mentors, we must guide them every step of the way.

With their wide access to social media, those born in the digital era have the power to act and mobilize others to move into action.

Third, they must innovate. Our young people can identify and challenge existing efforts and breakthrough barriers as they can bring fresh perspectives to multiple platforms.

Fourth, they must communicate. Our young people can initiate dialogues, events and workshops that would enable people from different sectors to work together in creating more efficient, practical and innovative solutions towards achieving a common goal for the greater good.

Fifth, they must engage the local government. Our young people should bring the “climate crisis” to the attention of the sangguniang kabataan (youth council) in every barangay (village) or the Local Youth Development Office of every town, city and/or province, and discuss and collaborate on ways on how to address the impacts in their communities.

Undoubtedly, the climate emergency is unequivocal. And the only fitting response is to change our ways — from our way of thinking and living to our way of pursuing development.

We have no other choice now but to adapt to a fast-warming world fraught with danger.

We have no other choice but to wean our economies from over-dependence on coal and fossil fuels in the shortest time possible.

We have no other choice but to act together bolder and faster to rein the runaway global warming to our resilience threshold of 1.5 degrees Celsius.

The low carbon revolution is at hand. We must green all the sectors of our economy with green jobs and just transition.

Heeding the demands of our young people is not a choice but a moral imperative — our moral responsibility for the generation of today and of the future.

We must call on Congress to heed the call of our young people to rise to the climate challenge, and to uphold all the climate-related, ecological and environmental laws of our land.

We must call on all national and local government leaders to implement our climate change laws and policies and to ensure that climate change adaptation and mitigation is mainstream in all their policies, plans and programs.



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## With the youth, we can advance our climate agenda

We must also call on the developed world to deliver on their commitments under the Paris Agreement and to lead the low carbon revolution for a carbon-neutral world by mid-century.

Together with my colleagues in the climate movement, we must stand in echoing the call of our young people for climate justice.

The latest climate science must inform and guide us in every decision that we make as we continue to unite for global and local climate action, for everybody's action matters.

We must unite for climate resilience, for, despite the odds, we shall survive and thrive in this trying era of climate change. Our future is not in anybody's hand — it lies in our hands.



## Climate change biggest threat to natural World Heritage sites

Published December 4, 2020, 8:57 AM  
[by Agence France-Presse](#)

Climate change has become the biggest threat to UN-listed natural world heritage sites like glaciers and wetlands, and has pushed Australia's Great Barrier Reef into "critical" condition, conservationists said Wednesday.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) revealed in a new report that shifts due to the changing climate now imperil a full third of the 252 UNESCO-listed natural sites around the globe.



This file photo taken on November 20, 2014, shows an aerial view of the Great Barrier Reef off the coast of the Whitsunday Islands, along the central coast of Queensland. – Climate change has become the biggest threat to UN-listed natural world heritage sites like glaciers and wetlands, and has pushed Australia's Great Barrier Reef into "critical" condition, conservationists said December 2, 2020. (Photo by Sarah LAI / AFP / MANILA BULLETIN)

Overall, 94 of the sites are facing significant or critical risk from a wide range of factors — including tourism, hunting, fire and water pollution — marking an increase from the 62 listed in the previous study published in 2017.

The study also hinted that the Covid-19 pandemic was taking a toll on some of the world's most beautiful and precious natural places.

However, climate change is by far the biggest single threat.

It constitutes a high or very high risk factor at 83 of the sites, and has thus overtaken invasive and non-native species, which topped the threat list three years ago.

The report "reveals the damage climate change is wreaking on natural World Heritage, from shrinking glaciers to coral bleaching to increasingly frequent and severe fires and droughts," IUCN director-general Bruno Oberle said in a statement.

"This report signals the urgency with which we must tackle environmental challenges together at the planetary scale."



## Climate change biggest threat to natural World Heritage sites

The coronavirus crisis had showed the need for the global community to “stand together and work as one for the common good,” the IUCN report said.

### Covid impact

Since its assessment had begun before the novel coronavirus first surfaced late last year, IUCN said it had systematically recorded how the crisis was affecting the World Heritage sites.

But the report said it was becoming clear that the pandemic and associated restrictions were impacting or had the potential to impact more than 50 of the sites.

Some of the effects were positive, “most notably a decrease in pressure from tourism visitation on natural ecosystems,” it said, warning though that “negative factors are numerous.”

It pointed to how the closing of sites to tourism were causing a significant loss of revenues and livelihoods, as well as how limits on in-person staffing had led to reduced control over illegal activities.

“These factors are increasing the risk of wildlife poaching and illegal use of natural resources, with incidents recorded in some sites since the pandemic,” the report said.

Overall, the study found that 30 percent of the sites faced “significant” threats, and seven percent are considered “critical”, meaning they “require urgent, additional and large-scale conservation measures” to be saved.

Alarmingly, two new sites have been moved up into the critical category since 2017, including the world’s largest coral reef.

Australia’s Great Barrier Reef has seen dramatic coral decline amid ocean warming, acidification and extreme weather, which in turn has resulted in shrinking populations of marine species, the report found.

Protected areas in Mexico’s Gulf of California are also among the sites now deemed in critical condition, joining the likes of the Everglades National Park in the United States and Lake Turkana in Kenya, which already figured on the list.

The IUCN report said climate change had also exacerbated the spread of invasive species in a number of areas, including South Africa’s Cape Flora Region Protected Areas.

Brazil’s Pantanal Conservation Area was meanwhile badly damaged by unprecedented wildfires in 2019 and 2020.

Meanwhile, the rapidly-melting Kaskawulsh Glacier had altered the river course, depleting fish populations in the Kluane site in Canada and the United States.

The IUCN report found that eight sites had improved since 2017, but double as many have deteriorated in that time.





## The race is on for zero emissions



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on December 5, 2020 03:00 AM  
By [TDT](#) [@tribuneph](#)



photograph courtesy of UN National governments are the main drivers of change to reduce harmful emissions.

A host of countries have recently announced major commitments to significantly cut their carbon emissions, promising to reach “net zero” in the coming years. The term is becoming a global rallying cry, frequently cited as a necessary step to successfully beat back climate change, and the devastation it is causing.

Put simply, net zero means we are not adding new emissions to the atmosphere. Emissions will continue, but will be balanced by absorbing an equivalent amount from the atmosphere.

Practically every country has joined the Paris Agreement on climate change, which calls for keeping the global temperature to 1.5°C above pre-industrial era levels. If we continue to pump out the emissions that cause climate change, however, temperatures will continue to rise well beyond 1.5, to levels that threaten the lives and livelihoods of people everywhere.

This is why a growing number of countries are making commitments to achieve carbon neutrality, or “net zero” emissions within the next few decades. It’s a big task, requiring ambitious actions starting right now.

Net zero by 2050 is the goal. But countries also need to demonstrate how they will get there. Efforts to reach net-zero must be complemented with adaptation and resilience measures, and the mobilization of climate financing for developing countries.

The good news is that the technology exists to reach net zero — and it is affordable.

A key element is powering economies with clean energy, replacing polluting coal — and gas and oil-fired power stations — with renewable energy sources, such as wind or solar farms. This would dramatically reduce carbon emissions. Plus, renewable energy is now not only cleaner, but often cheaper than fossil fuels.



## The race is on for zero emissions

A wholesale switch to electric transport, powered by renewable energy, would also play a huge role in lowering emissions, with the added bonus of slashing air pollution in the world's major cities.

Electric vehicles are rapidly becoming cheaper and more efficient, and many countries, including those committed to net zero, have proposed plans to phase out the sale of fossil-fuel powered cars.



## Trash tracking satellites help Indonesia tackle marine waste

Published December 4, 2020, 3:46 PM

by [Agence France-Presse](#)

Every year, pounding rains wash away mountains of plastic waste from the streets of Jakarta, with some of it ending up as far away as Bali's beaches. So scientists are turning to satellites to trace the rubbish and figure out how to tackle the problem.



Every year, pounding rains wash away mountains of plastic waste from the streets of Jakarta, with some of it ending up as far away as Bali's beaches. So scientists are turning to satellites to trace the rubbish and figure out how to tackle the problem. (Bagus SARAGIH, Agnes ANYA / AFPTV / AFP)

Indonesia allows more waste to enter the ocean than any other country apart from China.

The archipelago of nearly 270 million people dumps a whopping 620,000 tonnes of plastic into its waterways annually, a figure the government says it wants to cut by two-thirds over the next five years.

Scientists hope following the waste's movement will help them understand the full extent of the problem and decide how best to collect it based on seasonal, wind and water current patterns.

The World Bank-backed project is a collaboration between a team from Indonesia's maritime affairs ministry and CLS, a subsidiary of France's space agency.

It is an indication of the issue's global importance — today, there is an estimated 150 million tonnes of plastic circulating in the world's oceans, with more being dumped every minute, according to US-based Ocean Conservancy.

– **'Still in the ocean'** –

Since February, the team have deployed satellite beacons at the mouths of rivers around Jakarta, Bandung in Central Java and Palembang on Sumatra island.

"Today we're launching GPS beacons to learn how the plastic debris gets into the sea," says CLS tracking manager Ery Ragaputra, as he tosses a yellow device wrapped in a waterproof cover into the Cisadane river, which empties into the Java Sea near Jakarta.



## Trash tracking satellites help Indonesia tackle marine waste

“These trackers will follow where the trash gathers and where it lands.”

Data collected by the beacons, which have a one-year battery life, are transmitted hourly to a satellite that pings the information to CLS headquarters in France, and then back to screens at Indonesia’s maritime affairs ministry.

Initial figures are promising, researchers said.

“Ninety percent of the beacons we have released are beaching after a few hours or a few days, which is relatively good news as it makes it easier for the Indonesian authorities to collect (the rubbish),” said Jean-Baptiste Voisin, director of CLS’s local subsidiary.

“(But) some waste released six months ago is still drifting, so the debris is still in the ocean,” he added.

Among the beacons launched near Jakarta, some have travelled 1,100 kilometres (680 miles) east to the holiday island of Bali, while others from Indonesia’s second-biggest city Surabaya have floated all the way to fragile mangroves in westernmost Sumatra.

The goal is to release up to 70 beacons by the end of next year.

### – Migration threat –

Cleaning up Indonesia’s waters is an immense challenge and these efforts may take years to bear fruit.

While the capital Jakarta has banned single-use plastics, public awareness remains low and waste recycling is only in its infancy. The vast city’s rivers are a waste-choked eyesore.

Authorities hope that by identifying plastic drift and how it accumulates, they will be able to collect it more efficiently — for example by deploying boats to key rubbish sites or equipping the locations with waste-collecting traps.

They think it will also mean they can better anticipate its impact on the environment.

There are concerns about the impact of ingesting microplastics on human health; and plastic waste is a threat to hundreds of marine species and birds.

A sperm whale was found dead in Indonesia two years ago with some 115 plastic cups and 25 plastic bags in its stomach, among the nearly six kilograms (13 pounds) of plastic rubbish discovered in its carcass.

And plastic near Bali is a high risk for turtles migrating across the Java Sea to the island, said Aulia Riza Farhan, the maritime ministry’s deputy director for surveillance and fleet operations.

“The most important thing is to know when the marine debris comes into contact with the migration of marine animals like turtles and whales,” he added.



## Ecuador finds nest of huge, endangered sea turtle

Published December 4, 2020, 1:00 PM

[by Agence France-Press](#)

Conservationists in Ecuador have found a nest of endangered leatherback sea turtles, a whopper of a species that can weigh up to a tonne and be three meters (10 feet) long.



The lute turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*), it is the world's largest species of sea turtle. (Jody Amiet / AFP / File photo)

Also known as the lute turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*), it is the world's largest species of sea turtle.

The Environment Ministry said the nest was found in Manabi province but did not say how many eggs were in it. They should hatch in about 60 days, it said.

A protective perimeter has been set up around the nest and a thermometer was installed.

This is the third time a nest of these creatures has been found since 2015 on the coast of Ecuador.

Its status is listed as "vulnerable," and in the eastern Pacific experts say it in danger of disappearing altogether.

The leatherback lives in tropical, subtropical and subarctic waters of the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian oceans.

"If we manage to hatch these eggs, this would be a historic event because this species is very special due to its vulnerability," said Paco Castro, the Environment Ministry director in the region where the nest was found.

In the earlier finds in 2015 and 2017 the eggs in those nests did not hatch.