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DENR

NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



3 open dumpsite sa CALABARZON, kinandado ng DENR

By [Mer Layson](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon)
- February 5, 2021 - 12:00am



Una nang ipinag-utos ni Secretary Roy Cimatu na dapat ay sarado ang lahat ng open dumpsite bago mag-Marso ngayong taon.
STAR/ File

MANILA, Philippines — Tatlong open dumpsite sa Calabarzon ang ipinasara ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), alinsunod na rin sa kautusan ni Secretary Roy Cimatu.

Una nang ipinag-utos ni Cimatu na dapat ay sarado ang lahat ng open dumpsite bago mag-Marso ngayong taon.

Ayon sa DENR, ang tatlong ipinasarang dumpsite ay matatagpuan sa mga bayan ng Nasugbu at Sto. Tomas sa Batangas, at sa Tanza, Cavite.

Ang mga open dumpsite ay ang lugar kung saan ang mga basura ay dinideposito nang walang maayos na proseso.

Dahil dito, maaaring magdulot ito ng panganib sa kalikasan at sa kalusugan ng mga tao.

Alinsunod sa Republic Act 9003 o ang Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, mahigpit na ipinagbabawal ang operasyon ng mga open dumpsites.

Kaugnay nito, nananawagan ang DENR-CALABARZON sa publiko na maging responsable sa pagtatapon ng basura.

Payo nila, dapat na ugaliin ng mga residente ang paghihiwalay, pag-recycle, at pagbabawas ng basura.

Tiniyak naman ni DENR-CALABARZON Regional Executive Director Nonito Tamayo na mas paiigtingin pa nila ang pakikipagtulungan sa iba't ibang lokal na pamahalaan para sa mas pinatibay na pagpapatupad ng batas.



3 open dumpsite sa CALABARZON, kinandado ng DENR

Kasabay naman nito, tuluy-tuloy rin ang pagsasagawa ng mga clean-up activity at information, education, and communication campaign.

Hinihikayat naman ng DENR Calabarzon ang publiko na ipagbigay-alam sa kanila ang mga ilegal na gawain na may kaugnayan sa kalikasan.

Anila, maaaring magbigay ng impormasyon sa 8888 hotline numero 09561825774/ 09198744369, o di kaya ay ipadala sa email r4a@denr.gov.ph.



3 open dumpsite sa Calabarzon, ikakandado ng DENR



February 4, 2021 @ 2:22 PM 15 hours ago

CALABARZON – Ipasasara ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources Calabarzon ang tatlong open dumpsite sa rehiyon, base na rin sa kautusan ni DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu.

Napag-alaman na matatagpuan ang mga dumpsite na ito sa Nasugbu at Sto. Tomas sa Batangas at sa Tanza, Cavite.

Ayon sa Republic Act 9003 o ang Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 ang mahigpit na pagbabawal sa operasyon ng open dumpsites.

Ang open dumpsite ay pinagtatapunang ng basura nang walang proseso at nakasasama sa kapaligiran.

Panawagan naman ng DENR Calabarzon sa publiko ang pagiging responsable sa pagtatapon ng basura.

Dahil dito ay paiigtingin pa ng kagawaran ang pagbabantay sa kalikasan at pakikipagtulungan sa lokal na gobyerno, ayon kay DENR Calabarzon Regional Executive Director Nonito Tamayo.

Hinihikayat ng DENR Calabarzon ang publiko na magsumbong ukol sa mga indibidwal na lumalabag sa batas sa pagtatapon ng basura.

Maaaring magbigay ng impormasyon sa 8888 hotline numero 09561825774/ 09198744369, o ipadala sa email r4a@denr.gov.ph. **RNT**

Source: https://www.remate.ph/3-open-dumpsite-sa-calabarzon-ikakandado-ng-denr/?fbclid=IwAR3nPAM8_jO5ORBXJs7dYNOQxGA4xCfjI65NbkUJoer36W7kqIWIX4AD3UFg



DENR kinandado 3 dumpsite sa Batangas, Cavite

By Abante News Online — Last updated Feb 4, 2021

METRO



Kabilang sa mga ipinasarang dumpsite ay matatagpuan sa Nasugbu at Santo Tomas sa Batangas, at sa Tanza, Cavite.

Base ito sa kautusan ni DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu na dapat ay sarado ang lahat ng open dumpsite bago sumapit ang Marso ngayong taon.

Ipinasara ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang tatlong open dumpsite sa Calabarzon.

Sa open dumpsite ay tinatapon ang mga basura nang walang maayos na proseso at maaaring makaapekto sa kalikasan at sa kalusugan ng mga tao.

Nakasaad sa Republic Act 9003 o Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 ang mahigpit na pagbabawal sa operasyon ng mga open dumpsite.

Kaugnay nito, nanawagan ang DENR-Calabarzon sa publiko na maging responsable sa pagtatapon ng basura. (Riz Dominguez)



3 open dumpsite sa Calabarzon, ipinasara ng DENR

ABS-CBN News
Feb 04 2021 11:16 AM



Tatlong open dumpsite sa Batangas at Cavite ang ipinasara ng DENR Calabarzon. Larawan mula sa DENR Calabarzon

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna - Tatlong open dumpsite ang ipinasara ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa Calabarzon.

Ito ay alinsunod na rin sa kautusan ni DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu na dapat ay sarado ang lahat ng open dumpsite bago mag-Marso ngayong taon.

- [DENR vows to close all open dumpsites by end of March](#)

Ang tatlong ipinasarang dumpsite ay sa bayan ng Nasugbu at Sto. Tomas sa Batangas, at sa Tanza, Cavite.

Ang open dumpsite ay lugar kung saan ang mga basura ay dinideposito nang walang maayos na proseso at maaaring makaapekto sa kalikasan at sa kalusugan ng mga tao.

Nakasaad sa Republic Act 9003 o ang Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 ang mahigpit na pagbabawal sa operasyon ng open dumpsites.

Nananawagan ngayon ang DENR Calabarzon sa publiko na maging responsable sa pagtatapon ng basura. Dapat daw na ugaliin ang paghihiwalay, pag-recycle, at pagbabawas ng basura.

- [DENR seeks to shut down all open dumps by March](#)

Ayon kay DENR Calabarzon Regional Executive Director Nonito Tamayo, mas paiigtingin pa nila ang pakikipagtulungan sa iba't ibang lokal na pamahalaan para sa mas pinatibay na implementasyon ng batas.

Kasabay naman nito ang patuloy na pagsasagawa ng mga clean-up activity at information, education, and communication campaign.



3 open dumpsite sa Calabarzon, ipinasara ng DENR

Hinihikayat ng DENR Calabarzon ang publiko na ipagbigay-alam sa kanila ang mga ilegal na gawain na may kaugnayan sa kalikasan.

Maaaring magbigay ng impormasyon sa 8888 hotline numero 09561825774/ 09198744369, o ipadala sa email r4a@denr.gov.ph.

Ang mga retrato, bidyo, at iba pang impormasyon ay maaari ring ipadala sa opisyal na Facebook page ng DENR CALABARZON:

- **Ulat ni Andrew Bernardo**



Matapos ang ban sa plastic straw, stirrer: Tabo, i-ban na rin – grupo



February 4, 2021 @ 8:10 AM 21 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines – Ikinatuwa ng ilang mga grupo ang nakatakdang pag-ban sa plastic straws at plastic stirrers ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources ngayong taon.

Itinuturing din nila itong unang hakbang para sa mas malawak pa na programa kontra plastic pollution.

“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,” ani 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,” dagdag pa niya.

Ayons a DENR na ang plastic straw at stirrer ay kabilang sa listahan ng non-environmentally acceptable products (NEAP) na tinukoy ng National Solid Waste Management Commission, Martes.

Suhestyon naman ng Oceana Philippines International, local government ng Ormoc City, Youth Advocates for Climate Action Philippines, Ecowaste Coalition at 40 pang civil society groups, na isama na rin ang mga sumusunod na single-use plastic items sa ban:

- plastic tabo
- plastic bags including oxo-degradable plastics
- plastic cutleries – spoon, fork and knives



Matapos ang ban sa plastic straw, stirrer: Tabo, i-ban na rin – grupo

- 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

Ayon sa mga nasabing grupo na ang listahan ay ibinase sa NSWMC Resolution No. 1363 (Series of 2020) sa unnecessary single-use plastics, sa 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, at sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources 2020 Coastal Clean Up Data.

Giit pa ni Ramos na dapat ina-update kada-taon ang NEAPP. **RNT**



Inilabas ng grupong Oceana Philippines ang listahan ng 10 plastic polluters na dapat ipagbawal sa Pilipinas. Sinabi ng DENR kamakailan na posibleng ipagbawal na ang paggamit ng plastic straws at stirrers.

📷: Oceana Philippines



Source: <https://www.facebook.com/163550757135020/posts/2402019836621423/>



Groups doubt NSWMC's resolve to control rising 'plastic pandemic'

By [Jonathan L. Mayuga](#)

February 4, 2021



In file photo: A worker wearing protective mask to prevent the spread of the new coronavirus pulls a plastic container full of debris washed ashore after tropical storm Saudel, locally called Pepito, hit the country on Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2020 in Manila, Philippines.

Environmental groups belittled on Wednesday the announcement of the National Solid Waste Management Council (NSWMC) to include plastic softdrink straw and plastic coffee stirrer on the list of Non-Environmentally Acceptable Products and Packaging (NEAPP).

Green groups, including those representing civil society and academic sectors, said the inclusion of only two single-use items—plastic straws and stirrers in the NEAPP—won't be enough to address what they described as “mounting plastic pandemic” in the Philippines.

“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. 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,” Atty. Gloria Estenzo Ramos, Oceana vice president said in a news statement.

In a position paper, Oceana Philippines International, the local government of Ormoc City, Youth Advocates for Climate Action Philippines, Ecowaste Coalition and 40 other civil society groups listed a proposed top 10 single-use products for inclusion in the NEAPP.

“With the worsening of the climate crisis, we can't respond to environmental concerns with the current speed we are doing right now. The turtle-pace formation of the NEAPP list shows the lack of urgency and sincerity of the DENR [Department of Environment and Natural Resources] and other members of the commission to actually address the problem. We, the youth – with our future at stake, stand firm in our call to expand and release the NEAPP list now!”, Xian Guevarra of Youth Advocates for Climate Action Philippines said for his part.



Groups doubt NSWMC's resolve to control rising 'plastic pandemic'

The NEAPP determines the products that may soon be banned for manufacturing because of the hazard they pose to human health and environment.

The NEAPP listing of the two products was deliberated through a virtual en banc meeting on Tuesday, February 2, 2021, 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 chairman Benny D. Antiporda.

The NSWMC concluded with 11 votes for approval and three votes for disapproval of the two items.

In a news statement, Antiporda expressed elation that after 20 years RA 9003, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, which took effect in 2021, the NEAPP listing has finally begun. "This is long overdue and we need to catch up with the demand of solid waste management in our country," Antiporda said.

Although long-delayed, he said, the development is a significant milestone for NSWMC.

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

Incidentally, the approval of the NSWMC resolution comes at a perfect time as the world celebrates International Straw Free Day on February 3.

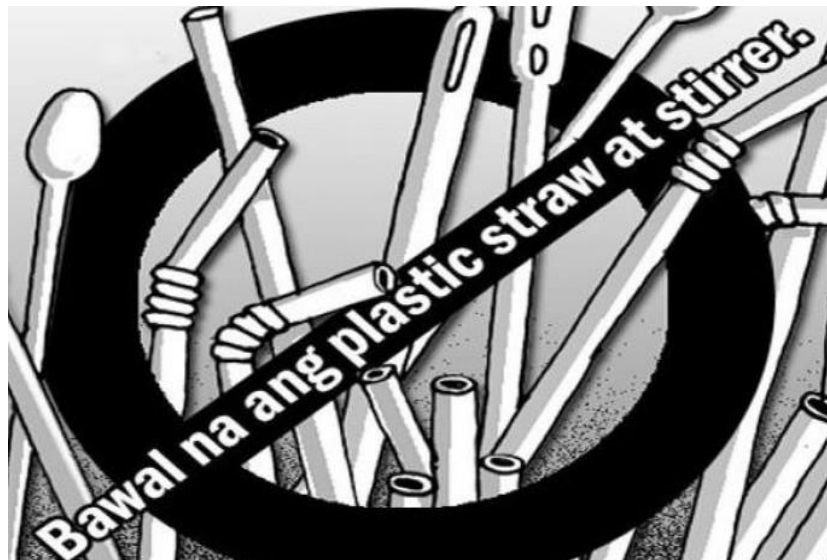
"This global celebration aims to encourage the public to go straw-free and say 'no straw please' when ordering drinks," Antiporda said.

The passage of the resolution came not without strong resistance from some members of the commission, such as the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the manufacturing and recycling industries.



EDITORIAL - Plastic straw at stirrer, ipagbabawal na

(Pilipino Star Ngayon)
- February 5, 2021 - 12:00am



Kasama na sa ipagbabawal gamitin ang plastic straw at stirrer. Ang straw ay ginagamit sa softdrink at juices samantalang ang stirrer ay panghalo sa kape. Inaprubahan noong Martes ang pagbabawal sa mga ito pero sa isang taon pa magkakabisa ang phaseout. Pumasok sa kategoryang single use plastic ang straws at stirrer.

Sabi ni DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda, isang taon ang binigay na phaseout period sa mga kompanyang gumagawa ng plastic straws at stirrer para ang mga natitirang stocks ay mai-dispose at saka titigil sa kanilang production. at lumipat po ng ibang produkto naman,” ani Antiporda. Ayon pa kay Antiporda, pagkalipas ng isang taon at may mahuling gumagamit pa nito ay pagmumultahin na. Hindi nilinaw ni Antiporda kung sino ang pagmumultahin – ‘yung consumer ba o ‘yung manufacturer ng straw at stirrer.

Magandang hakbang ito na dapat noon pa ipinatupad sapagkat grabe na ang problema sa plastic na basura. Nagbabala ang environment group na kapag hindi pa itinigil ang paggamit ng plastic, malulunod ang tao sa rami nito sa darating na panahon. Hindi lamang tao ang napipinsala sa pagdami ng basurang plastic kundi ang iba pang lamandagat. Lahat nang basurang plastic na itinapon sa kanal, estero, at ilog ay humahantong sa dagat. Napagkakamalan ng mga balyena na pagkain ang plastic at kinakain dahilan para bumara sa bituka at mamatay.

Ang mga single-use plastic ang karaniwang dahilan nang pagbabara ng mga drainage sa Metro Manila at nagdudulot ng pagbaha. Hindi nabubulok ang mga plastic na ito tulad mga sachet ng shampoo, hair conditioner, 3-in-1 coffee, catsup, at marami pang iba. Ang mga ito ay karaniwang makikitang lulutang-lutang sa mga estero gaya sa Binondo at Quiapo.

Hindi maliit na problema ang pagdami ng mga plastic na basura. Kapag hindi ito nasolusyunan ngayon, ga-bundok na problema ang haharapin ng bansa. Makipagtulungan naman ang mamamayan sa hindi paggamit ng single-use plastic. Puwede namang gumamit – halimbawa ng straw o stirrer na gawa sa kawayan na hindi makasisira sa kapaligiran.



Pampanga LGUs participate in cement-for-trash program



By [The Manila Times](#)
February 5, 2021



Representatives from nine Pampanga LGUs and Republic Cement inspect collected residual wastes for the latter's Cement-for-Trash program.

NINE local government units (LGU) in the province of Pampanga— Lubao, Sasmuan, San Fernando, Mexico, Guagua, Floridablanca, Macabebe, Mabalacat and Porac—have successfully reduced their residual plastics going into landfills and instead diverting these to a more sustainable and environment-friendly recovery and disposal process via cement kiln co-processing, in partnership with Republic Cement's resource recovery group, Ecoloop.

Through Ecoloop's Cement-for-Trash program, these LGUs received cement, which they can use for environment or social development projects, in exchange for qualified residual plastic wastes. These include waste that cannot be recycled or reused, which are usually plastic packaging such as sachets, plastic cutlery, grocery bags, food packaging and straws, among others.

"Republic's Cement-For-Trash program not only helps save the environment but also helps LGUs save on landfilling and transport cost, as well as provides employment to support the Materials Recovery Facility operations," said Lubao Municipal Environment & Natural Resources Office (MENRO) Engineer Dan Aquino.

Ecoloop's LGU partners diverted the equivalent of 100 dump trucks or 120 million sachets from landfills in the second half of last year.

Republic Cement is backed by the global expertise of CRH, a leading building materials company headquartered in Ireland, and diversified Filipino business conglomerate Aboitiz, recognized as one of the best-managed companies in Asia.

LGUs interested to participate in ecoloop's Cement-for-Trash Program may contact ecolooop@republiccement.com.



Nestlé PH, WWF tackle plastic waste in Donsol



By [The Manila Times](#)
February 5, 2021



Recycled plastic waste is turned into souvenir items in Donsol.

FOOD and beverage manufacturer Nestlé Philippines has entered into an agreement with World Wide Fund for Nature – Philippines (WWF-PH) to tackle plastic waste in Donsol, Sorsogon, where whale shark watching is an ecotourism industry, and its coastal location includes many pathways for waste to end up in the sea.

Under the agreement and in line with its urgent priority to tackle plastic waste towards a waste-free future, Nestlé Philippines will support the Plastic Smart Cities project of WWF-PH, an initiative that works with Philippine cities and municipalities to push circular solutions to stop plastic waste leakage in nature. WWF is currently working in five project sites where it generates and pilots solutions to increase waste reduction, segregation, collection, and recycling.

Specifically, Nestlé Philippines will strengthen KALIPI operations and the pilot implementation of Nakamoto in six barangays in Donsol.

Kalipi or Kalipunan ng Liping Pilipina was launched in September of 2013 to empower Filipino women through community activities and the development of livelihood practices. Last October, KALIPI Donsol launched a line of souvenir products made from recycled plastics together with WWF-PH.

The province of Sorsogon shares a border with the Ticao-Burias Pass Protected Seascape (TBPPS). The TBPPS, a critical habitat, is home to the endangered whale shark. WWF-Philippines has been working with the municipal local government unit (LGU) of Donsol on the conservation of whale sharks since 1998.

Meanwhile, Nakamoto is a pilot solution to collect wastes through motorcycles in barangays that are not serviced by the municipal waste collection system.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/02/05/public-square/nestle-ph-wwf-tackle-plastic-waste-in-donsol/837208/>



NAKOLEKTANG SEPTAGE DADALHIN SA MAYNILAD TREATMENT FACILITY



February 5, 2021 @ 12:20 AM 5 hours ago

KAMAKAILAN lamang, isinasagawa ng West Zone concessionaire Maynila Water Services, Inc. (Maynilad) ang pagproseso ng 150 barrels ng solid waste mula sa portable, container-based toilets, sa loob ng isang linggo ibibigay sa mga pamilya ng informal settler sa Parola, Tondo, Maynila, sa ilalim ng “Project Kubeta Ko” Movement, na naghahangad pigilan ang open defecation sa Metro Manila waterways.



Ipinakikita ng larawan ang isang kawani ng Maynilad na naglo-load ng nakolektang septage sa Loowatt Processing Machine sa isa sa mga Lift Station ng Maynilad para maiparating sa treatment facility.



NAKOLEKTANG SEPTAGE DADALHIN SA MAYNILAD TREATMENT FACILITY

Ang “Proyekto Kubeta Ko” ay isang joint undertaking ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources, pamahalaan ng Maynila at Metropolitan Waterworks at Sewerage System.

Sinusuportahan nito ang patuloy na Mandamus ng Korte Suprema upang i-rehabilitate at i-preserve ang Maynila Bay.



Game changers for the environment

Published February 4, 2021, 6:00 AM

by [J. Albert Gamboa](#)



**BUSINESS
OPTION**
J. ALBERT GAMBOA

Rio Grande de Cagayan is the longest and largest river in the Philippines. Popularly known as the Cagayan River, its total length is 505 kilometers traversing the provinces of Cagayan, Isabela, Quirino, and Nueva Viscaya.

For several decades now, Region 2 or the Cagayan Valley region, has been suffering from floods. Late last year, Isabela and Cagayan were both devastated after the onslaught of two succeeding super-typhoons when massive volumes of rainwater were released from Magat Dam straddling the boundaries of three provinces. The dam drains down to the Cagayan River and its tributaries, which have been heavily silted as a result.

The government has identified dredging as the solution to this perennial problem. Earlier this week, the Cagayan River Rehabilitation Project (CRRP) was launched during the 25th World Wetlands Day to once and for all address the ever-growing deluge in that part of northeastern Luzon.

Spearheading the CRRP is the Build Back Better Task Force (BBBTF) led by Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu along with Public Works and Highways Secretary Mark Villar. Last Feb. 2, they were joined by three other Cabinet members at the ceremonial start of the river rehabilitation in the town of Lal-lo, Cagayan.

DENR Regional Director Gwendolyn Bambalan said a total of 19 sandbars have been pinpointed by the BBBTF, of which three are the priority sites for immediate dredging as they obstruct the flow of floodwater to the Aparri Delta and ultimately to the Babuyan Channel as the final destination.

CRRP is the pilot implementation of a landmark game-changing river restoration policy for the environment and river ecosystem protection while undertaking flood control dredging. It is seen to be replicated across other river systems in the Philippines as a pro-forma strategy in river protection and rehabilitation.

Another issue that can be resolved by CRRP involves illegal black sand mining. It may be recalled that since 2019, local dredger Pacific Offshore Exploration Inc. has been the subject of calls for investigation by Congress for its alleged black sand mining activities in the Cagayan River together with its Mainland Chinese partner, Zhong Hai Gravel Group Ltd.

Zhong Hai is the owner of a dredging vessel that has been cited for illegal and unauthorized presence in Philippine waters more than one year after it was cleared to leave the country. Last week, joint operatives from the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) and the Bureau of Customs (BOC) aboard BRP Panglao seized the undocumented MV Zhonhai 68 around 13 kilometers off Orion Point in Bataan province.



Game changers for the environment

PCG spokesperson Commodore Armand Balilo confirmed that Zhonhai 68 is a Chinese dredging ship flying the flag of Sierra Leone in West Africa. The BOC found out that in 2018, a departure clearance had been issued to the dredger by its customs field office in the town of Aparri, Cagayan. Later, the Aparri municipal council approved a resolution asking the DENR to issue a cease-and-desist order against Pacific Offshore for its involvement in the extraction of black sand from the Cagayan River for export.

On record, the only mining activity allowed by the DENR in Cagayan province is the offshore magnetite mining being conducted by JDVC Resources, a subsidiary of Philippine Stock Exchange-listed Apollo Global Capital.

As the first large-scale deep-sea mining firm in the country, JDVC has secured environmental, mining, and social permits as well as licenses, certifications, and satisfactory community acceptance from neighboring local government units and communities. Its exploration and extraction activities will start this month within its almost 1,900 hectares of mining tenement located 14 kilometers offshore from the municipality of Gonzaga, Cagayan.



Pagbaha at illegal black sand mining sa Cagayan, tapos na!

By [Artemio Dumlao](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon)

- February 5, 2021 - 12:00am

Mabuti't kumilos na ang pamahalaan para matigil na ang taun-taong pagbaha at masupil ang illegal black sand mining sa Cagayan na matagal nang ginagawa.

Pinangunahan ni DPWH Sec. Mark Villar at DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu ang unang bugso ng implementasyon ng Cagayan River Rehabilitation Project noong Martes sa pinakamahabang ilog sa bansa.

Inumpisahan na ng multi-agency Build Back Better (BBB) Task Force ang dredging ng mga sandbar sa Magapit Narrows sa Bgy. Bangag, Lal-lo. Ang sandbars sa Bgy. Bangag at Casicallan Norte at Dummun sa Gattaran ang priority dahil ayon sa DENR, ito ang hadlang sa agos ng tubig patungong Aparri Delta at Babuyan Channel. May 19 na sandbars ang tinukoy ng BBB Task Force.

Una nang tinukoy na dredging ang tanging solusyon para hindi bumaha sa Cagayan at Isabela.

Sana suportahan ng mamamayan na malunasan ang taun-taong pagbaha dahil sa pinakakawalang tubig ng Magat Dam at matigil na ang illegal na black sand mining na pumipinsala sa kapaligiran at walang pakinabang ang pamahalaan.

Ang Cagayan River Restoration Project ay magiging halimbawa sa iba pang malalaking ilog sa buong bansa.

Noong nakaraang linggo, hinuli ng Philippine Coast Guard at Bureau of Customs ang dredging vessel Zhonhai 68 sa Orion Point sa Bataan ng Zhong Hai Gravel Group, Limited. Partner ng local dredger Pacific Offshore Exploration, Inc. (POEI) ang Zhong Hai Gravel Group Ltd.

Ito ang patunay na may illegal black sand mining sa Cagayan at sa iba't ibang lugar sa bansa

Ang tanging pinayagan ng DENR na large-scale offshore magnetite mining sa buong bansa ay ang JDVC Resources ng Apollo Global Capital, na mag-uumpisa na ngayong buwan sa bunganga ng Cagayan River sa Gonzaga.

Bilang kauna-unahang large-scale deep-sea mining sa bansa, kumpleto ang JDVC ng kaukulang environment, mining at social permits, iba pang lisensya at certifications. Nasungkit na rin ng JDVC ang "satisfactory community acceptance" ng lokal na pamahalaan at mga komunidad.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/opinyon/2021/02/05/2075438/pagbaha-illegal-black-sand-mining-sa-cagayan-tapos-na/amp/>



Gov't agencies join hands in restoration of Cagayan River after Typhoon Ulysses

By DOTr Published on February 4, 2021

LAL-LO, CAGAYAN, Feb. 4 -- The promise of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte to normalize the lives of Cagayan residents and those in nearby provinces after the onslaught of Typhoon Ulysses was further realized as government agencies pooled resources to restore the Cagayan River.

Department of Transportation (DOTr) Secretary Arthur Tugade joined Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu, Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Secretary Mark Villar, and Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Secretary Silvestre Bello III in launching the Cagayan River Restoration project in Lal-lo, Cagayan on Tuesday, 2 February 2021.

The river restoration work is an effort of the 'Build Back Better' (BBB) Task Force which is composed of officials from the DENR, DPWH, DOLE, and the DOTr.

Assisting the task force is the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the local government units of Cagayan Region. The restoration work involves the dredging of the Cagayan River, as a solution to the flooding woes in the Cagayan Valley area, as well as the planting of bamboo, which will not only help stabilize the riverbanks but will also create livelihood for residents, who were displaced by flooding.

Secretary Tugade said the rehabilitation initiative fulfills the promise of President Duterte to the people of Cagayan during his visit in November.

“Kaya nga ‘ho nandirito kami ngayon upang pasinayaan at bigyang katotohanan ang mandato ng Pangulo sa aming apat - to help rebuild Cagayan, to help bring back hope and restore the beauty and glorious past of Cagayan,” Secretary Tugade said.

The Transportation Chief added that aside from the dredging of the Cagayan River, the planting of bamboo will help the residents earn a living over the next few years.

“Kaya nga ba’t i-dredge [ang ilog], kaya nga ba’t magtanim ka ng kawayan, kaya nga ba’t magbigay ka ng kabuhayan, ‘pagkat gusto naming bigyang-katuparan ang pangako ng ating mahal na Pangulo,” Secretary Tugade added.

During the event, Secretaries Tugade and Bello also announced the granting of a P30 million livelihood assistance for Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) in the region who were affected by Ulysses.

In January, the two Secretaries distributed fiberglass motorized bancas to 100 fishermen in Claveria, Cagayan and “Negosyo Karts” franchises to 100 ambulant vendor-beneficiaries in Ilagan, Isabela.

Secretary Villar meanwhile assured residents that the government is working as a whole to solve the issue of flooding in the Cagayan region. Focus of the restoration work is the dredging of some 7 million cubic meters of sand from 19 sandbars on the river that cover 235 hectares.

He said dredging of the Cagayan River is only a short-term solution, with the long-term solution involving the construction of diversion channels. Secretary Villar has assured that the diversion



Gov't agencies join hands in restoration of Cagayan River after Typhoon Ulysses

channels, as well as other infrastructure projects in Cagayan will be finished before President Rodrigo Duterte ends his term.

“Asahan n’yo po na full support ang DPWH sa ating mga infrastructure programs sa Cagayan,” Secretary Villar, also Vice Chairman of the BBB Task Force, stressed.

For his part, Secretary Cimatú, who serves as chairman of the ‘Build Back Better’ Task Force, highlighted that the government is giving priority to the dredging of the Cagayan River.

“Today we are here on a mission, to reduce the perennial flooding in the region of Cagayan Valley. Our government is taking the matter seriously. The equipment and assets of the government are now ready to start the mission,” the DENR Secretary said.

Dredging equipment from the DPWH have been positioned in the priority areas of Lal-lo, Casicallan Norte and Gattaran, Secretary Cimatú said. (DOTr)



Pasig River Coordinating and Management Office - PRCMO

8h · 🌐

This Season of Love, the ever-dedicated PRCMO River Warriors continue to show their big heart and burning passion for a cleaner and healthier Pasig River System.

Recently, cleanup and maintenance activities were conducted in portions of the 2-kilometer stretch of #EsterodePaco, one of the Pasig River's several tributaries in the City of Manila.

The Warriors were able to recover 31 sacks of mixed wastes from their cleanup along United Nations Avenue Bridge up to Apacible Bridge which are under the jurisdiction of Barangays 671, 672, 673, 677, and 679 of Paco district.

Our deepest gratitude to our River Warriors for their exemplary performance through showing small acts of kindness and love that make a huge positive impact to our waterways, our environment, and our community.

Cheers to a better #PasigRiver!

#PRCMO #DENR #PusoParaSallogPasig



Source: <https://www.facebook.com/639299032777917/posts/5388276224546817/?app=fbl>

LOCAL STUDENTS: PROTECT MASUNGI 🧑

During Typhoon Ulysses, local families in Baras experienced massive flooding first-hand. Lowland homes, property, and even public spaces were submerged for weeks. It was a reminder that climate change is upon us, and if we continue to destroy our forests, we will fall victim to more of these disasters. More and more people, youth, and communities are realizing the urgency of the situation. We need to choose between the future we want, and the future that we are made to accept. This is why together, we will fight destructive interests in our mountains and forests, and save our collective future. 🇵🇭 [#SaveMasungiTogether](#) [#RestoreTogether](#)

Sign the petition: bit.ly/savemasungi

Collaborate for campaigns and more: communications@masungigeoreserve.com

Note: Masks were on hand for these photos. ❤️ Photos by Pau Villanueva, National Geographic Explorer.



Source: <https://www.facebook.com/1591599464459612/posts/3019051578381053/?app=fbl>



44 agriculture graduates to receive land under Duterte's CARP Phase 2

By [Jonathan L. Mayuga](#)

February 4, 2021



The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) has identified 44 graduates of agriculture-related courses from the provinces of Cagayan and Palawan as beneficiaries of the Duterte administration's agrarian reform program.

On February 5, DAR will hold an inaugural distribution of certificates of landownership award (CLOAs) to the fresh graduates of agriculture-related courses, an initiative to encourage the youth to engage in farming with the hope of keeping the country's food security on course.

In a news statement, DAR Secretary John R. Castriciones said this is the first time that the agency would give free lands to agricultural graduates to enable them to practice their profession on their very own farm and encourage the youth in general to embrace farming and reinforce the aging sector, in which the average age of some 11 million Filipino farmers is 57.

Castriciones cited a recent study indicating that the country may face shortage of farmers if the agricultural work force would not be replenished amid a decline in the number of students in agricultural courses by at least 1.5 percent a year.

"I believe that this incentive of awarding them lands will make the fresh graduates harness the farm lots they will receive since these will serve as their 'farm laboratories' on which they could apply the theories and best practices that they learned from their schooling and that would benefit millions of Filipinos in ensuring food security," he said.

The agrarian reform chief said the land for distribution are unused government-owned lands [GOLs], pursuant under Executive Order [EO] 75, Series of 2019.



44 agriculture graduates to receive land under Duterte's CARP Phase 2

EO 75, Series of 2019, was signed by President Duterte on February 1, 2019, to facilitate the process of subjecting GOLs under the Duterte administration's Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP), or CARP Phase 2.

"The DAR has identified about 230,000 hectares of unused GOLs in the country. Portions of lands in the Cagayan State University (CSU) in Lallo, Cagayan and the Busuanga Pasture Reserve (BPR) in Busuanga, Palawan, will be awarded to the graduates," Castriciones said.

The recipients of farmlands in the Cagayan State University include Gilmar Jay Acebedo, Ivin Agcaoili, Juanito Agluba Jr., Noel Comprá, Julius John dela Cruz, Welfredo Gacusan Jr., Victorino Lagudoy, Murphy Maingag, Manuel Kriston, Adones Ohayas, Fernando Rabut, McReymart Rabut, Sherwin Ramos, Jarren Ador Raquepo, Hener Ribis, Leonardo Sumauang, Ryan Paul Uson, Angelito Vagay Jerome Usabal, Angelica Adatan, Marife Allag, Analyn Bugnalón, Rica Enorme, Vanessa Gacusan, Jemimah Guzman, Melissa Joy Israel, Karen Grace Justo, Pauline Ordillo, Roshel Torrena, and Vanessa Usabal.

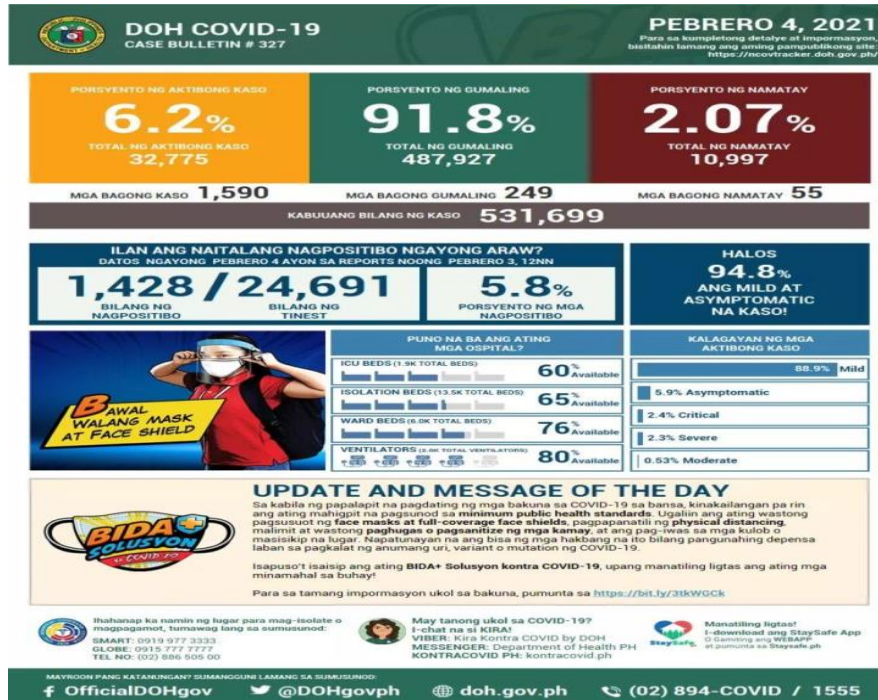
While the recipients of farmlots in Busuanga Pasture Reserve are Gensefil Manginsay, Rommel Cagmat, Abigail Lagrada, Sunshine Araza, Florelyn Gutib, Bethel Joy Libarra, Arman Bacnan, Marydel Llanillo, Shahanie Diacasin, Dexter Edonga, Grecia Nimorca, Ronalyn Olanas, Necille Onayan, and Necca Juanerio Cabajar.

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/02/04/44-agriculture-graduates-to-receive-land-under-dutertes-carp-phase-2/>



BREAKING: Mga tinamaan ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas, nasa 531,699 na

By Angellic Jordan February 04, 2021 - 04:08 PM



Lagpas 1,500 ang panibagong kaso ng Coronavirus Disease o COVID-19 sa Pilipinas.

Sa huling datos ng Department of Health (DOH) bandang araw ng Huwebes (February 4), umabot na sa 531,699 confirmed cases ng nakakahawang sakit sa bansa.

Sa nasabing bilang, 32,775 o 6.2 porsyento ang aktibong kaso.

Sinabi ng kagawaran na 1,590 ang bagong napaulat na kaso ng COVID-19 sa bansa.

88.9 porsyento sa active COVID-19 cases ang mild; 5.9 porsyento ang asymptomatic; 0.53 porsyento ang moderate; 2.3 porsyento ang severe habang 2.4 porsyento ang nasa kritikal na kondisyon.

Nasa 55 naman ang napaulat na nasawi.

Dahil dito, umakyat na sa 10,997 o 2.07 porsyento ang COVID-19 related deaths sa bansa.

Ayon pa sa DOH, 249 naman ang gumaling pa sa COVID-19.

Dahil dito, umakyat na sa 487,927 o 91.8 porsyento ang total recoveries ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas.

Read more: <https://radio.inquirer.net/284333/breaking-mga-tinamaan-ng-covid-19-sa-pilipinas-nasa-531699-na-ixzz6lXXdkKxi>

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MAGPABAKUNA PO TAYONG LAHAT



February 5, 2021 @ 12:30 AM 5 hours ago

GAANO ba karami ang pupwedeng mabakunahan laban sa coronavirus disease 2019 o COVID-19 sa Pilipinas ?

Kabilang ba tayo sa mga pupwedeng mabakunahan?

Itong dalawang katanungang ay ilan lamang sa mahahalagang katanungan ukol sa pagbabakuna pagdating ng mga bakunang laban sa pandemya.

Kung kabilang tayo sa pupwedeng mabakunahan, obligahin natin ang ating sarili na magpabakuna.

Ito'y para magkaroon tayo ng tinatawag na herd immunity o sapat na bilang ng tao na makaliligtas sa impeksyon mula sa COVID-19 at makatulong na rin nang malaki laban sa pagkahawa ng iba.

Kung maging malusog tayo at hindi makahahawa sa iba, aba, pupwede nang magbukas nang buo ang ating ekonomiya at mabawasan nang husto ang ating paghihirap at kagutuman na dala ng mga patakaran laban sa pandemya.

'Yun bang === pupwede na tayong maghanapbuhay nang normal sa loob at labas ng bansa sa pagiging obrero o negosyante at overseas Filipino worker na panlaban natin sa hirap at gutom.

Mapadala na rin natin ang nasa 27 milyong mag-aaral sa mga eskwela na sa kanilang paglaki at pagtatapos ng pag-aaral ay magiging sandalan naman natin sa ating pagtanda at maging malakas na pwersa ng pag-unlad ng ating lipunan o bansa.

140M DOSAGE PARA SA 70M PINOY

Target ng pamahalaan na iniksyunan ang nasa 70 milyong Pinoy ng dalawang beses upang maging mabisa ang mga bakuna bilang proteksyon natin laban sa pandemya.



MAGPABAKUNA PO TAYONG LAHAT

At kung mababakunahan ang 70 milyon, makakamit natin ang herd immunity.

70M lahat dahil ang nalalabing bilang mula sa kabuuang populasyon natin na nasa 110M ay 40M ang kabataang edad 18 pababa.

Itong mga edad 18 pababa ay hindi binabakunahan sa ibang bansa dahil hindi pa umano buo ang kanilang immune system at baka masira lang ang kanilang resistansya laban sa virus, bakterya at iba pang sanhi ng mga sakit.

Buo naman ang immune system ng mga 18 anyos pataas hanggang sa mga senior citizen.

Magkagayunman, ang mga matatanda ay aalamin kung may mga sakit na malala na kung mabakunahan ay magiging sanhi pa ng maagang pagtawag sa kanila ni Lord.

LABAN NA RIN SA COVID-19 VARIANT

Sa ibang bansa gaya ng United Kingdom, South Africa at Brazil, hindi na lang ang orig na COVID-19 ang sanhi ng kanilang pagkakasakit at pumapatay sa kanila kundi pati ang mga variant o bagong anyo nito.

Ang matindi sa mga variant, mas nakahahawa ang mga may tama nito nang mahigit 50 porsyento kumpara sa orig o lumang virus.

‘Yun bang === kung may matamaan ng orig na virus 500,000 gaya ng bilang ng mga biktima sa Pinas, aba, madaragdagan ito ng 250,000.

Kaya naman, habang dumarami ang magkakasakit, darami rin ang mamamatay.

KAYA MAGPABAKUNA TAYO

Magsisimulang dumating ang bakuna anomang araw mula ngayon.

Maaaring mauna ang Pfizer/BioNTech at Astrazeneca at maaaring susunod na darating ang iba pang uri ng bakuna.

Sana naman hindi mabubulilyaso dahil mismong ang World Health Organization ang nagsasabing may darating na.

Magkagayunman, maaaring hindi talaga ganoon karami dahil ang WHO mismo ang nagsasabing hanggang 15-20 porsyento lang ng kabuuang suplay sa bakuna ang nakararating sa COVAX facility kung tawagin.

Itong COVAX facility ay inorganisa ng WHO, kasama ang iba, para matiyak ang pantay-pantay na distribusyon ng mga bakuna lalo na sa 92 bansa na mahihirap na kinabibilangan natin.

Hanggang 15-20 porsyento lang sa suplay ang nakukuha nito dahil kinokopo ng mayayamang bansa ang nasa 80-85 porsyento nito.



MAGPABAKUNA PO TAYONG LAHAT

Gusto naman ng mga vaccine maker o kompanya ng gamot ito dahil tiyak silang kikita, lalo't may mayayamang bansa ang bumibili nang mas mahal para lang matiyak na magkaroon sila ng sapat o sobrang suplay.

Iniiisip ng mga mayayamang bansa na hindi magtatagal ang epekto ng bakuna, maaaring hanggang anim na buwan lang, samantalang ang pandemya ay maaaring abutin ng hanggang 2022 o higit pa.

Ngayon, kahit kakapiranggot ang darating sa atin, kung sino-sino ang mga nakatakdang mabakunahan nang mauna, aba, magpabakuna na sila.

Ang importante, masimulan ang pagbabakuna para naman darami ang magiging protektado sa virus at kung gayon, darami ang hindi makahahawa sa iba at mapigilan na rin ang pagdami ng nagkakasakit ng COVID-19.

50% EPEKTIB, OKS NA

Ayon sa WHO at mismong United States Food and Drug Administration, sapat nang makapipigil sa COVID-19 sa pananalasa ang bakunang may bisa na 50 porsyento pataas.

Ang AstraZeneca, may 62% at ang Pfizer, may 90%.

Ang iba pang darating na bakuna gaya ng Sinovac ay may katamtalang epekto na 50.4 sa Brazil, 78% sa Indonesia at 91% sa Turkey.

Maaaring may darating ding Sinopharm na may epektong 79-85%.

Kung saka-sakali, may darating ding Moderna na umano'y 95% at Sputnik V na nasa 90-95% din umano.

Alinman sa mga ito ang darating, kung kwalipikado tayo, magpalista na.

Alalahanin, may babakunahan ang mga pribadong kompanya gamit ang mga bibilhin nilang bakuna.

May mga babakunahan din ang mga local government unit.

Gayundin na may babakunahan ang pambansang pamahalaan.

Kung mabakunahan tayo nang maaga, epektib na rin umano laban sa mga variant o ibang anyo na kinatatakutang habang nagtatagal ang panahon ay maaaring hindi na kaya ng mga bakuna ngayon.

Ang isang mahalaga pa, mga Bro, initsapwera ni Pangulong Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang mga matataas na opisyal ng Malakanyang na mauna sa mga babakunahan.



Is there a way to recycle used face masks?

Published February 4, 2021 8:25pm

Every day, billions of people wear face masks to protect themselves from the coronavirus. However, as the world fights off a health crisis, it may also be leaving a negative impact on the environment.

According to a study published on the Science of the Total Environment journal this week, the use of personal protective equipment dramatically increased during the pandemic, with an estimate of 6.8 billion disposable face masks being used globally each day.

With this large amount of waste being produced every day, is there a way to recycle all these used face masks?

[Researchers from RMIT University-Australia](#) said yes, and in fact, these could be recycled and used in the most shocking way possible: [building roads](#).

Mohammad Saberian, Jie Li, Shannon Kilmartin-Lynch, and Mahdi Boroujeni discovered that used face masks could be recycled and used to build roads.

By shredding the face masks and mixing it with processed building rubble, a new road-making material that meets civil engineering safety standards, and at the same time addresses environmental challenges, is made.

The study said mixing 1% shredded face masks to 99% processed building rubble had been identified as the “optimal mixture” and delivered “strength while maintaining good cohesion between the two materials.”

It also performed well when tested for stress, acid and water resistance, strength, deformation, and dynamic properties.

According to Li, who leads the RMIT School of Engineering research team, the team was inspired to study the possibility of mixing face masks onto construction materials after seeing so many discarded masks littering on the streets.

“We know that even if these masks are disposed of properly, they will go to landfill or they’ll be incinerated,” he said. “The COVID-19 pandemic has not only created a global health and economic crisis but has also had dramatic effects on the environment.”

He added: “If we can bring circular economy thinking to this massive waste problem, we can develop the smart and sustainable solutions we need.”

Despite the new discovery, other experts said this usage of face masks in building roads could lead to microplastic pollution, another environmental problem. – **Kaela Malig/RC, GMA News**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/lifestyle/content/774653/is-there-a-way-to-recycle-used-face-masks/story/>



Mga gamit nang face mask, puwede raw pakinabangan sa kalsada

Pebrero 4, 2021 9:08pm GMT+08:00

Natuklasan sa isang pag-aaral sa Australia kung papaano pa mapapakinabangan ang mga gamit nang face mask para hindi makadagdag sa tone-toneladang basura sa mundo.

Ayon sa ulat ng GMA News Feed, lumabas sa pag-aaral ng mga researcher sa RMIT University, na nailathala sa journal na Science of the Total Environment, na nasa 6.8 bilyong disposable face mask ang ginagamit sa buong mundo kada araw.

At lumabas sa kanilang pagsusuri na ang face mask ay puwedeng nakadagdag ng tigas at tibay kapag inihalo sa processed building rubble o recycled concrete aggregate (RCA), na ginagamit sa paggawa ng base layer ng mga kalsada.

Pumasa rin sa civil engineering safety standards ang panibagong paghahalo.

Kung kaya naman, maaari nang gamitin ang nasa tatlong milyong face mask sa isang kilometrong linya na may dalawang kalsada para hindi na makadagdag pa ang mga ito sa 93 tonnes ng basura na napupunta sa mga landfill.

Lumabas din sa pag-aaral na epektibo ang pinaghalong face mask at RCA sa stress, acid at water resistance.

"This initial study looked at the feasibility of recycling single-use face masks into roads and we are thrilled to find it not only works, but also delivers real engineering benefits," sabi ni Dr. Mohammad Saberian, isa sa mga akda ng pag-aaral.

Inilahad naman ng ibang eksperto na kailangan pang suriing mabuti ang pag-aaral dahil maaaring makapagdulot ng problema sa kapaligiran ang mga kalsadang may halong face masks, tulad ng microplastic pollution.--**Jamil Santos/FRJ, GMA News**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/balitambayan/talakayan/774660/mga-gamit-nang-face-mask-puwede-raw-pakinabangan-sa-kalsada/story/>



'Shift' to plant-based diets is key to saving world's wildlife

By Amy Woodyatt, CNN

Published Feb 5, 2021 3:45:46 AM



Photo courtesy: Mark Wilson/Getty Images

(CNN) -- The global food system is the primary driver of biodiversity loss and species extinction, and a shift to plant based diets is needed to curb the damage being done to nature, according to a new report.

Biodiversity, which is crucial to both human well-being and a healthy planet, is declining faster than at any time in human history, the report from think tank Chatham House said.

Agriculture is driving this destruction, threatening 86% of the 28,000 species at risk of extinction, researchers said in a report launched Wednesday with the UN's environment program.

Cheap food is at the center of this devastation, researchers said: Low cost food is reliant on our use of fertilizer, pesticides, energy, land and water, and use of unsustainable farming methods.

But the low cost of food production creates a "vicious circle," creating a demand for further cheap food, which must be produced through intense and harmful methods, researchers warn.

"The more we drive food production, the cheaper food becomes, and the more our diets become dominated by a smaller number of crops grown intensively and at scale," Tim Benton, Chatham House's research director in emerging risks and one of the report's authors, told CNN in an email.

Intensified agricultural production also degrades soils and ecosystems, rendering land less productive and requiring even more intensive methods of farming to keep up with demand.

"As we grow more food, it becomes economically rational to waste it, over eat the calories and feed grain to livestock so we can eat more meat. Fueling demand further leads to the expectation that supply will grow and prices will fall, leading to more land conversion and more intensification," he said.



'Shift' to plant-based diets is key to saving world's wildlife

The way we produce food isn't only threatening the Earth's biodiversity, researchers warn. Accounting for around 30% of human-produced emissions, our food systems are also driving climate change.

The planet needs more 'plant-heavy' diets

In order to counter biodiversity loss, researchers say that we need to shift towards plant-heavy diets because of the disproportionate impact that animal agriculture has on biodiversity, land use and the environment.

"Eating healthily is about eating the right amount of the right foods," Benton said, adding that a healthy diet is rich in plants like fruit, vegetables, leafy greens and pulses, whole grains, and limited livestock produce and low in ultra processed fats, sugars and starches.

"With under 50% of the world a healthy weight, and overweight and obesity becoming the main determinants of long term health, eating less on average reduces the land footprint of diets.

"Eating more plant protein reduces it further," he said, adding that 100 grams (3.5 ounces) of tofu takes on average 1/75th the land to produce than 100 grams of beef.

The researchers also said that more land should be preserved for nature, and protected from use for agriculture.

Farming must be done in a way that supports biodiversity, experts said, moving away monoculture practices -- creating areas that are covered by a single crop -- and limiting inputs.

Almost a third of the Earth will need to be protected by 2030 and pollution cut by half to save our remaining wildlife, as we enter the planet's sixth era of mass extinction, a United Nations agency has warned.

Time and again, scientists, experts and environmentalists have warned that the Earth has reached a crucial tipping point -- recent research from the World Wildlife Fund found the world's wildlife populations have fallen by an average of 68% in just over four decades, with human consumption behind the devastating decline.

In 2010, leaders from 196 countries gathered in Japan and agreed on a list of biodiversity targets designed to save the Earth -- but in September, 10 years later, a UN panel concluded that the world had collectively failed to fully achieve a single target.

"Biodiversity provides an enormous range of things upon which we depend in subtle and not so subtle ways. From the way soil microbes break down organic matter and build soil fertility, to natural enemies eating pests or pollinators enabling much of our fruit and veg supply; trees generating oxygen and sucking up carbon dioxide," Benton said.

"Biodiversity also is important for mental well-being, as lockdown has emphasized: the sound of birdsong is enough to lift our moods."

This story was first published on CNN.com, "[Shift' to plant-based diets is key to saving world's wildlife](https://cnnphilippines.com/world/2021/2/5/-Shift--to-plant-based-diets-is-key-to-saving-world-s-wildlife.html)"



Copper demand climbs

By [Reuters](#)

-February 5, 2021

LONDON- Soaring sales of consumer goods such as washing machines, fridges, freezers and cars in the world outside China are expected to invigorate copper consumption and create shortages later this year.

For years now, copper prices have fluctuated with demand in top consumer China. But this year, consumption elsewhere such as in Western European countries will also be important.

Coronavirus lockdowns have meant many consumers who in previous times would have spent money on holidays, restaurants and other leisure activities are now choosing to buy electrical appliances and durable goods.

This trend is likely to hold for some months.

“We are seeing some outright growth in developed market metals consumption in the construction, consumer appliances, and automotive sectors, as COVID-19 drives home renovations and new home demand,” said Citi analyst Oliver Nugent.

Nugent expects the copper market to shift into a deficit in the second half of the year. He sees a small surplus overall for 2021, followed by deficits in 2022 and 2023.

“In 2021, the market will pay more attention to the world ex-China demand than it has arguably done for the past decade,” Nugent said. “A data point people are talking about more and more is housing starts in the United States.”

US housing starts and building permits have been rising since September.

05 FEBRUARY 2021, Friday



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Will the Philippines bid goodbye to plastic straws and coffee stirrers soon? The Department of Environmental and Natural Resources (DENR) is planning to ban these items by 2022 as they are now considered non-environmentally acceptable products.

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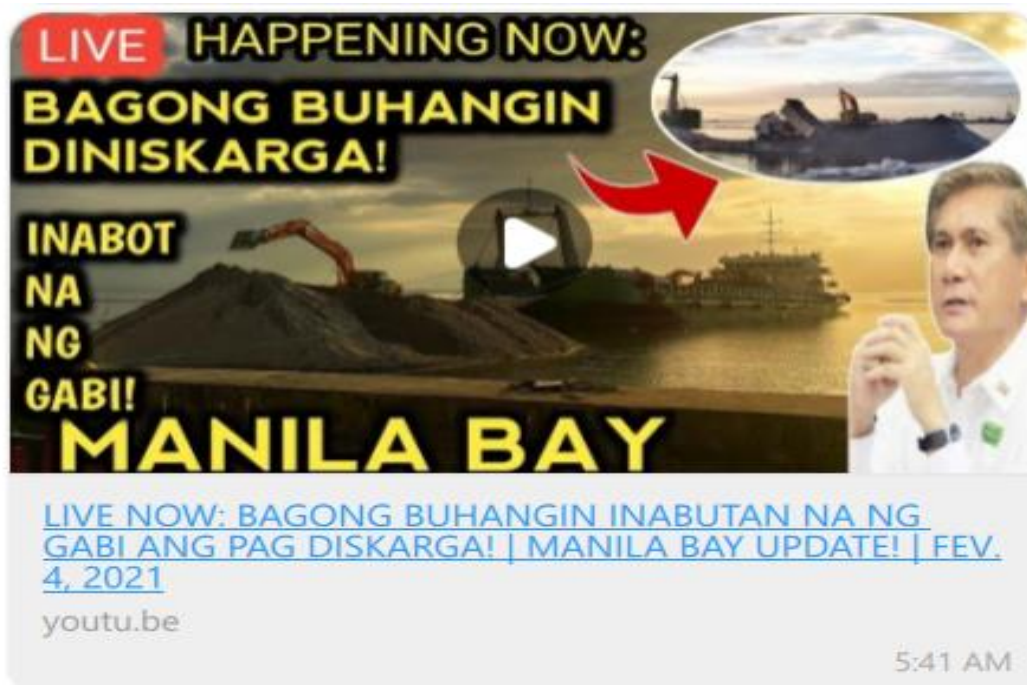
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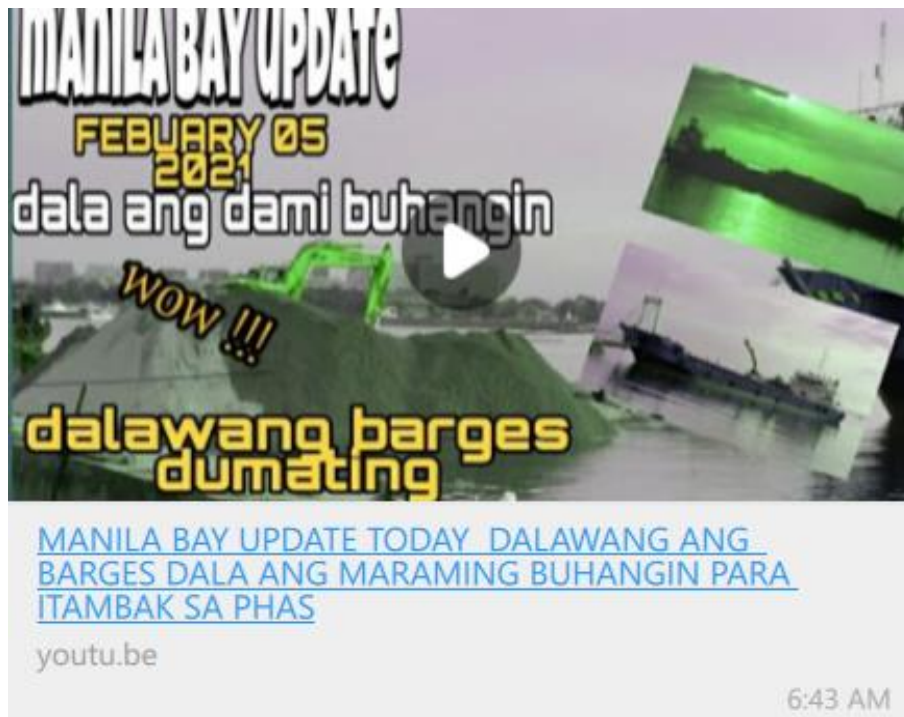
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