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DENR

NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Metro Manila nakahinga sa polusyong dulot ng paputok sa pagpasok ng 2021 – DENR



January 4, 2021 @ 7:16 PM 9 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines – Nakapagtala ng mas mababang air pollution levels sa Metro Manila ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa unang araw ng 2021.

Ayon sa datos ng DENR, bumaba ng 59 percent ang naitalang air pollution levels kumpara noong nakaraang taon.

Ayon kay DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, ito ay dahil na rin sa pakikipagtulungan at pagsuporta ng Metro Manila local executives at mga residente sa mahigpit na pagpapatupad ng Executive Order 28 na naglilimita sa paggamit ng paputok na naging epektibo noong 2017.

Sinabi ng DENR, na umabot sa 87 micrograms per normal cubic meter (ug/Ncm) ng Particulate Matter (PM 10) ang naitala ng DENR-Environmental Management Bureau batay na rin sa nakuhang data sa pagitan ng alas 12 ng hatinggabi noong Disyembre 31, 2020 at Enero 1, 2021 mula sa anim na AQMS sa mga lungsod ng Caloocan, Marikina, Navotas, Pasig, Paranaque at Taguig.

Nabatid pa sa DENR noong nakalipas na taon ay nakapagtala sa anim na AQMS ng 213 ug/Ncm na may 59-average percent ang ibiniba kumpara sa New Year's Eve (NYE) data noong Enero 1, 2020.

“This attests to the correctness of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte’s interest to put a nationwide total ban on firecrackers which I believe clearly speaks not only for the President’s strong policy agenda for health and safety, but for sound environmental governance as well,” sabi ni Cimatu.



Metro Manila nakahinga sa polusyong dulot ng paputok sa pagpasok ng 2021 – DENR

Ang pinakamataas na NYE percentage drop na naitala mula sa mga istasyon ng Naval St., Navotas City na mayroong 99 percent mula sa 209 ay naging 1.34 ug/Ncm; Oranbo, Pasig City, 95 percent (130 ay naging 7 ug/Ncm); Bicutan, Taguig City 78 percent (355 – 79 ug/Ncm); Marikina Justice Hall open compound, Marikina City 34 percent (189 – 124 ug/Ncm); Caloocan City Hall Annex, Caloocan City 29 percent (332 – 235 ug/Ncm).

Tanging sa station sa Don Bosco Barangay Hall Compound sa Paranaque ang nakapagtala ng 21-percent na pagtaas mula sa 62 ay naging 75 ug/Ncm.

Ang PM₁₀ mula sa mga paputok ay karaniwang nanggagaling sa residual ng explosive powders na ibinalot sa papel na binubuo ng sulfur (S) carbon (C) at potassium nitrate (saltpeter, KNO₃) at iba pang fine materials na mayroong heavy metals. Ang short-term limit ng PM₁₀ ay 150 ug/Ncm base na rin sa nakasaad sa National Ambient Air Quality Guideline Value (NAAQGV) ng Republic Act 8749 o ang Clean Air Act.

Iniulat din ng EMB na ang NYE 2021 ay nakapagtala ng mababang konsentrasyon ng PM_{2.5} kumpara sa NYE 2020 partikular na sa mga istasyon ng Muntinlupa Bilibid open ground sa Muntinlupa City na mayroong maximum concentration na 12 ug/Ncm sa pagitan ng alas 12 ng hatinggabi hanggang alas 2 ng madaling araw ng Enero 1, 2021. Bumaba ito ng 43-percent mula 22 ug/Ncm noong nakalipas na taon sa parehas ding oras.

Kaugnay nito samantala, nakapagtala naman sa Manila City Station ng mataas na 93.5 ug/Ncm ala-una ng madaling araw ng Enero 1, 2021 mula sa 40.9 ug/Ncm ng alas 11 ng gabi ng Disyembre 31, 2020. Ang short-term limit para sa PM_{2.5} ay 35 ug/Ncm base na rin sa NAAQGV ng DENR Administrative Order 2020-14 na may petsang Oktubre 21, 2020.

Ito ay dahil na rin sa mahigpit na hakbang na ipinatutupad ng Metro Manila Mayors sa ilalim ng Metro Manila Development Authority Resolution No. 20-17 na “Prohibiting Individual and Household Use of Firecrackers and Other Pyrotechnic Devices During General Community Quarantine”.

Kumpara sa PM₁₀, ang pollutant sa PM_{2.5} ay mas pinong particles na kadalasang nagmumula sa sasakyan at sinusunog na halaman.

Ang particles na ito ay kayang umabot sa baga kapag nalanghap na nagiging sanhi ng respiratory at circulatory diseases kabilang na ang brain damage at cancer. **Santi Celario**

178 LGUs bibigyan ng shredder-composter ng DENR



January 4, 2021 @ 7:45 PM 9 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines – Upang matagumpay na maisakatuparan ang Manila Rehabilitation, target ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na makapagbigay ng industrial-grade shredder-composter machines sa 178 local government units (LGUs) na nakasasakop sa Manila Bay region.

Ito ang sinabi ni DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and LGUs Concerns Benny D. Antiporda sa ginanap na turnover ng unang batch ng shredder-composter equipment para sa Pampanga LGU na kinabibilangan ng San Fernando City, Apalit, Candaba, Guagua at Magalang.

Ayon sa DENR ang Manila Bay region ay kinabibilangan ng National Capital Region, at walong probinsiya sa Region III at IV-A na kinabibilangan ng Bataan, Bulacan, Pampanga, Nueva Ecija, Tarlac, Laguna, Rizal at Cavite.

Sa ginanap na turnover ceremony na idinaos sa DENR Central Office sa Quezon City, sinabi ni Antiporda na patuloy ang ahensiya sa pagbibigay ng kaukulang tulong sa mga LGUs upang makatugon ang mga ito sa RA 9003.

“Sad to say, compliance is slow particularly where LGUs lack the means for full and prompt compliance,” pahayag ni Antiporda.

“This is where the DENR steps in, in line with its mandate to provide technical assistance and other capability-building assistance to LGUs,” dagdag pa nito.

Nabatid sa DENR ang shredder-composter set ay binubuo nang bagong composter na kayang magproseso ng isang toneladang compost material sa loob ng 24 oras at bagong shredder na kaya namang gumawa ng dalawang toneladang organic waste kada araw.



178 LGUs bibigyan ng shredder-composter ng DENR

Pinangunahan ang programa ni Senator Cynthia A. Villar, chair ng Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources. Ang pinaka-highlight sa palatuntunan ay ang pagpirma ng Memorandum of Agreement sa pagitan ngn DENR at mga LGUs na kinatawanan ng kanilang local executives.

Base sa statistics mula sa National Solid Waste Management Commission, sinabi ni Antiporda na umaabot sa 52 percent ng municipal waste sa bansa ay biodegradable.

Ayon pa kay Antiporda, ang pagbibigay ng equipment sa mga LGUs ay hindi lamang makatutulong upang mabawasan ang mga basurang napupunta sa sanitary landfills bagkus ay nagagawa din nitong maging organic fertilizer ang mga basura na maaring gamitin para sa agriculture at horticulture.

“Transportation na lang po ang gagastusin nila dito,” pahayag ni Antiporda patungkol sa mga magsasakang kukuha ng organic fertilizer mula sa equipment.

Sinabi pa ni Antiporda na makatutulong din ang kagamitang ito upang maragdagan ang makokolektang recyclable materials na may kabuuang 28 percent ng municipal waste ng ating bansa.

Ang kontaminasyon ng biodegradable materials mula sa food waste ang itinuturong dahilan kung bakit mahirap na marekober ang mga recyclable materials. **Santi Celario**



DENR MAGBIBIGAY NG 178 INDUSTRIAL-GRADE SHREDDER-COMPOSTER MACHINES SA MANILA BAY LGUs



January 5, 2021 @ 12:25 AM 4 hours ago

TARGET ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na makapagbigay ng industrial-grade shredder-composter machines sa 178 local government units (LGUs) na nasasakupan ng Manila Bay region upang makatugon ang mga ito sa nakasaad sa Republic Act 9003 o ang Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

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Remains of critically endangered leatherback sea turtle set to be preserved by NMP

Published January 4, 2021, 1:27 PM

by [Hanah Tabios](#)

The 212-centimeter-long specimen of the critically endangered leatherback sea turtle that died in July last year after having been entangled in a fishing net has now arrived in the National Museum of the Philippines (NMP) and will soon be put this on display at the Natural History Gallery of the National Museum Bohol.



National Museum of the Philippines ✓

on Friday



A leatherback turtle that died after having been entangled in a fishing net has now arrived at the #NationalMuseumPH.

Despite the challenges brought about by the pandemic, the National Museum of the Philippines (NMP) managed to obtain a 212cm-long specimen of a leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) that was entangled in a fishing net and found dead last 12 July 2020 in the coastal waters of Talibon, Bohol. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Community En…… [更多](#)





Remains of critically endangered leatherback sea turtle set to be preserved by NMP

With a signed tripartite Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) among the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Region 7, Provincial Government of Bohol, and the NMP, the process of preservation and taxidermy of the specimen was completed.

The process took over four months and the specimen has finally been air-freighted to the NMP's Taxidermy Laboratory in Manila for final processing and preservation.

"In the near future, we are aiming to put this on display at the Natural History Gallery of the National Museum Bohol," the NMP said.

Leatherback turtles (*Dermochelys coriacea*) belonged to the vulnerable population of sea turtles amid poaching and over-exploitation.

The NMP said the stranding incident in Bohol last year is also considered rare as "a fresh specimen of the species is rare to come by in the country."

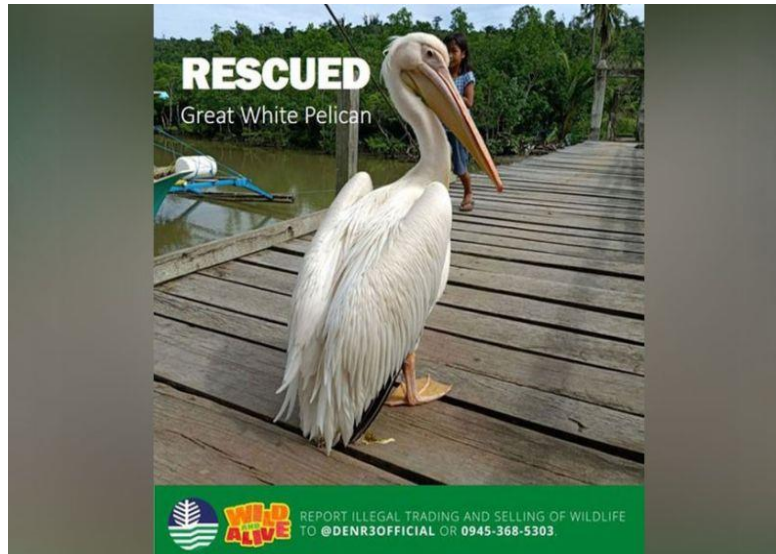
The leatherback turtle died last July 12, 2020 after it was entangled in a fishing net and found dead in the coastal waters of Talibon, Bohol.

The DENR – Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) of Talibon responded to the stranding report by promptly examining the leatherback turtle and coordinating with Talibon LGU for disposal.

The carcass was buried by the responders. It was later exhumed and transferred to the Talibon ice plant.



Great white pelican rescued in Casiguran



Contributed photo

IAN OCAMPO FLORA

January 04, 2021

THREE concerned citizens in Casiguran town in Aurora helped save rescue a great white pelican just before the end of 2020.

Francisco Calinog, Andy Ortiz and Francina Dasillo from Sitio Mahogany in Barangay Masagana, Dilasag, Aurora rescued a weak great white pelican (*Pelecanus onocrotalus*) in the said barangay.

Unsure of the reason why the migratory bird is in their area, they immediately reported it to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro) based in Casiguran town.

Measurement conducted by Cenro Casiguran wildlife personnel showed that the bird has a 35-centimeter (cm) veil, 61 cm wing span, 15 cm tarsus, 21 cm tail and a total of 87 cm for the whole-body length.

The pelican is now under the custody of a DENR accredited wildlife rescue center in Clark Free Port Zone in Pampanga where it will be cared and released back to the wild upon recovery.

The great white pelican, which lives in the shallow swamps in Africa, is one of the largest flying birds in the world and it has the abilities of multiple birds, such as long flights and swimming.

The research also revealed that this bird's unique characteristic is the "gular pouch" inside its beak while the legs are short and strong with fully webbed toes that allow it to propel itself in water and



Great white pelican rescued in Casiguran

to take off from the surface of the water. They are powerful fliers and often travel in flocks in a V-formation to reduce drag for the group, the study added.

Resident population of this bird can be found in the Sahara Desert in Africa while migratory population inhabits Eastern Europe and Asia during breeding and winter season. This bird occurs in fresh water lakes, marshes, swamps or deltas.



Hand-feeding 'butandings' impacts their behavior — study

Published January 4, 2021, 10:30 AM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

The “hand feeding” of whale sharks, locally called “butanding,” continues to impact the behavior of the endangered species in Oslob, Cebu, a recent study showed.

The study, led by researchers from the Large Marine Vertebrates Research Institute Philippines (LAMAVE) and published in the journal Royal Society Open Science on December 16, 2020, showed the continuous impacts of provisioning or “hand feeding” on the behavior of whale sharks in Oslob.

The research also noted how the tourism industry failed to comply with regulations to protect this endangered species.

Analyzing 358 in-water surveys conducted between 2015 and 2017, the study revealed that whale sharks have modified their behavior in response to the hand feeding and the tourism activities in Oslob.

It also showed high tourism pressure on whale sharks in Oslob, with significant levels of non-compliance to the code of conduct stated in Oslob Municipal Ordinance No. 091 of 2012.

Results revealed that 93 percent of tourists come closer than the minimum distance prescribed in the ordinance.

The researchers said the study is a continuation of long-term in-water research conducted by LAMAVE in 2012 which first showed that whale sharks changed their behavior in response to being hand-fed in the interaction area in Oslob, modifying their behavior in response to the novel food source.

The initial study showed a poor level of compliance to the code of conduct with 97 percent of tourists non-compliant with the minimum distance from the shark.

Despite the national and international pressure and the uplisting of the whale shark in the International Union for Conservation of Nature or IUCN Red List of Threatened Species from vulnerable to endangered in 2016, LAMAVE said the study goes to show that compliance to local guidelines has not improved over time and that the behavior change exhibited by resident whale sharks remains present.

While some changes have been made since 2012 to enhance tourist comfort and experience, the study further highlighted that no significant action or improvement has been taken to minimize the impact of tourism on the whale shark and the change in their natural behavior.

“Reducing the impacts of tourism on endangered species, such as the whale shark, must be a priority for the local and national government,” LAMAVE said.



Hand-feeding 'butandings' impacts their behavior — study

“The proper management of marine wildlife tourism, including whale shark interactions nationwide, should follow the Department of Tourism-Department of Agriculture-Department of Interior and Local Government-Department of Environment and Natural Resources Joint Memorandum Circular no.01 Series of 2020, which mandates minimum standards for the industry,” it added.



Tone-toneladang isda namatay sa Sampaloc Lake dahil sa 'overturn'

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jan 04 2021 04:44 PM | Updated as of Jan 04 2021 08:59 PM



Namatay ang mga isdang tilapya at ayungin sa Sampaloc Lake sa San Pablo City, Laguna dahil sa phenomenon na tinatawag na overturn. *Dennis Datu, ABS-CBN News*

Tone-toneladang isda ang namatay sa Sampaloc Lake sa San Pablo City, Laguna dahil sa "overturn," sabi ngayong Lunes ng Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA).

Ang overturn ay isang phenomenon kung saan bumababa ang mas malamig na tubig sa ibabaw ng lawa habang umaangat naman ang tubig sa ilalim, paliwanag ni Jonathan Nicolas, biologist ng LLDA.

Dahil dito, nagkakaroon ng kakapusan sa dissolved oxygen na nagreresulta sa pagkamatay ng mga isda, ani Nicolas.

Tatagal umano ang overturn, o tinatawag na "duong," hangga't malamig ang panahon.

Ayon kay Andrea Teodoro, fish cage owner at presidente ng Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council, gabi ng Biyernes nang mapansin nilang nagsisimula nang lumutang sa lawa ang mga naghihinalong isda.

Aabot sa higit 13 toneladang isda ang namatay, ani Teodoro.

Kumuha na rin ng water sample ang LLDA at Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) para masuri kung may iba pang dahilan ng pagkamatay ng mga isda.

Ayon naman kay BFAR-Calabarzon Director Sam Malvas, kailangan nang anihin ng mga fish cage owner ang lahat ng isda para hindi na madamay sa duong.



Tone-toneladang isda namatay sa Sampaloc Lake dahil sa 'overturn'

Ligtas naman aniyang kainin ang mga isda basta buhay pa nang anihin.

Problemado naman ang ilang fish cage operator dahil lugi umano sila sa nangyari.

Umaapela naman ang mga fish cage operator na bigyan sila ng pinansiyal na tulong o fingerlings.

— Ulat ni Dennis Datu, ABS-CBN News



WASTED



By [The Manila Times](#)

January 5, 2021



Workers clean a fishpond in San Pablo City where more than two tons of tilapia died. The fishkill in Sampaloc Lake was attributed to climate change.

PHOTO BY RENE H. DILAN



Globe sets up over 100 e-waste collection points nationwide

By ...

-January 5, 2021



Globe has set up over 100 collection points nationwide for electronic waste (e-waste) to encourage everyone to practice proper disposal of electronic or battery-operated devices and IT accessories and peripherals which are no longer working or wanted. The initiative is part of the telco's environmental protection advocacy,

Individuals who want to join the cause, may go to any participating Globe Stores nationwide such as SM North Edsa, Trinoma, UP Town Katipunan, Gateway Mall, SM East Ortigas, Ayala 30th, SM Southmall, Glorietta, Greenbelt 4, Ayala Manila Bay, SM Mall of Asia, SM Sucat, Robinsons Place Manila, SM San Lazaro, Market Market, and SM Aura.

For organizations interested in supporting the advocacy or for one-time hauling of bulky e-waste, a request for free door-to-door pickup can be made by emailing bridgecom@globe.com.ph.

Accepted e-waste are computer sets (LCDs, monitors, CPUs, keyboards), IT accessories (mouse, earphones, speakers, etc), printers and fax machines, old TV monitors, mobile phones, home appliances (washing machine, iron, oven, refrigerator, etc), cable wires (except fiber optic), car electronics, circuit boards, CDs and DVDs, and batteries (except for Lead-acid car batteries).

Globally, it is estimated that more than 50 million metric tons of e-waste is produced per year and its continued importation and the increased local generation in the Philippines has become a cause for concern. Roughly 80% of these e-waste end up in landfill which makes the informal community and adjacent environment susceptible to toxic hazards.

According to a recent study made by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and EcoWaste Coalition, only 28 out of the 135 registered TSD facilities in the Philippines process e-waste. While the informal sector benefits from these items, their methods of dismantling and recycling are against approved government standards and thereby, pose health risks.



Globe sets up over 100 e-waste collection points nationwide

Thus, Globe continues to positively influence consumer behavior, through its E-waste Zero program which advocates to extend the life of existing electronic gadgets and responsibly recycle those that are end of life.

The program, formerly known as Project 1 Phone, was launched in 2014 to provide a platform for businesses, organizations, and the general public to donate their old, out-of-use electronic and electrical devices. Raw materials from these e-wastes are then recycled, thereby conserving natural resources, preventing air and water pollution caused by hazardous waste disposal, and avoiding the production of new materials which contribute to energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.

In 2019 alone, the Globe E-waste Zero program has managed to collect over 343,000 kg of e-waste, bringing the total collection to more than 1.2 million kg. Globe has also worked with more than 52 corporations and organizations nationwide such as Unionbank of the Philippines, Huawei Philippines, Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Google, BPI, Honda, DLSU – College of St. Benilde, University of Nueva Caceres, and the entire Ayala Group of Companies, among others.

Collected e-waste are delivered by Globe to its partner Treatment, Storage, and Disposal (TSD) facilities — Total Environment Solutions – Asset Material Management Philippines (TES-AMM) and Maritrans Recycler, Inc. E-waste is segregated to recover plastic materials, electronic components, and precious metals in the Philippines, with the final recycling process being done in TES-AMM’s facility in Singapore. Proceeds from e-waste processing will be used to provide communication needs of public school teachers and students in collaboration with the Department of Education.

[Globe](#) puts into action its commitment to reduce its carbon footprint by actively supporting the Race To Zero global campaign spearheaded by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and COP26 Presidency and backed by the [GSMA](#), the global mobile industry body. This activity is part of the GSMA’s bid to lower greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to net zero no later than 2050 through the collective efforts of all mobile network operators around the world. Moreover, Globe joins over 9,600 companies demonstrating commitment to environmental transparency by disclosing through [CDP](#), a global non-profit organization that runs the world’s leading environmental disclosure platform.

As a purpose-driven company, Globe remains committed to the 10 UN Global Compact principles and contributes to 10 UN Sustainable Development Goals such as UNSDG No. 12 which is about achieving economic growth and sustainable development by urgently reducing ecological footprint. It is also about decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation, increasing resource efficiency and promoting sustainable lifestyles by changing the way goods and resources are produced and consumed.

To know more about Globe’s sustainability initiatives, visit <https://www.globe.com.ph/about-us/sustainability.html>



Batanes bans single-use plastics

Published January 4, 2021, 11:57 AM
by [Jhon Dave Ablat](#)

BATANES – The province of Batanes welcomed the new year with the implementation of a local ordinance banning single-use plastics in a bid to protect and preserve its environment and tourist spots against pollution.

Under Provincial Ordinance No. 302, series of 2020, that was introduced by Board Member Ferdinand Elica, the provincial government will start regulating the use of plastics in the islands.

It will prohibit the entry, sale, and use of PET (Polyethylene Terephthalate) bottles below 500mL, food cling wrappers, non-biodegradable plastic and garbage bags, plastic straws, stirrers, cutlery, cups, and Styrofoam for food packaging.

Moreover, it will limit the entry for sale and use of single-use plastics including PET bottles with content of 500mL and above, manufactured and DOST (Department of Science and Technology)-labelled “biodegradable” plastic bags for wet products, plastic pouch for the packaging of ice, ice candies, yellow ginger, sugar, salt, pepper and other ground local condiments and local bread and pastry products, biodegradable garbage bags, Styrofoam containers for cold storage, pre-packed manufactured juices with stirrers, labo plastic wrappers, and other plastic pre-packed food items.

The “Bring Your Own Bag” policy for shoppers will also be prescribed in the province.

The ordinance was signed last July 16, 2020 by Batanes Governor Marilou H. Cayco, and was implemented first day of 2021.



Cleanup drive in Talisay barangay

(The Freeman)

- January 5, 2021 - 12:00am

CEBU, Philippines — Employees of the Metropolitan Cebu Water District in cooperation with Jaclupan barangay officials and volunteers held a cleanup drive and community beautification in areas leading to MCWD's impounding and catchment facility, which produces around 33,000 cubic meters of water a day.

Known as Mananga Phase I Project, the water supply facility – which is worth P770 million – was completed in 1998. It has 15 wells, a seven-meter mini dam or diversion weir, a sedimentation and infiltration facilities.

The cleanup drive, spearheaded by Atty. Manolette Dinsay, a member of the MCWD Board of Directors (BOD), was attended by Talisay City Mayor Samsam Gullas.

Gullas was grateful that the Jaclupan was chosen to be the recipient of the first project of the MCWD Employees CSR Group because it is in line with his thrust to make the city cleaner and greener.

He revealed that when he assumed as mayor in July 2019, among the serious problems he had to face and solve is flooding. He created an action team and launched a cleaning and declogging program.

Monthly river cleanups were done from July to December of that year and they have gathered at least 200,000 kilos of wastes mostly plastic containers and bags.

“I want to show to the people nga aduna’y gobyerno nga willing molimpyo alang sa katawhan. Apan dili kaya sa gobyerno tanan. Dako ang akong kalipay niining initiative sa MCWD,” he said.

Dinsay, for his part, said this is the water district's way of giving back to the community because MCWD operates a facility in Jaclupan.

He also thanked all the volunteers for their commitment to help.

MCWD acting General Manager Stephen Yee, on the other hand, assured that there will be more CSR activities in the future. He added the cleanup drive is not only for the present generation but also for the children so that they will continue to enjoy clean rivers and aquifers.

Dr. Lagrimas Abarquez, head of Talisay City's Waste Management Program, is also very enthusiastic about the activity as it is her office's direction to tap different agencies to help them in the implementation of their waste management programs. They have already worked with different schools and government agencies like the Bureau of Fire and the PNP.

The MCWD Employees CSR Group turned over garbage bins and used tires to Mayor Gullas and Jaclupan Barangay Captain Marissa Orbiso.

The tires, which will be used as plant boxes, were lined up along the roadway to the Jaclupan river bank and were painted by the volunteers. — LPM (FREEMAN)

OK of law seeking fiscal rules for mining sought

By [Jovee Marie de la Cruz](#)

January 5, 2021



WITH a digital economy increasing demand for electronics, the chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means is pushing for the immediate approval of House Bill (HB) 6135 or the Fiscal Regime for the Mining Industry.

House Ways and Means Chair Joey Sarte Salceda emphasized the importance of HB 6135, “in view of the critical importance of the natural resource trust fund it creates, which could serve as a model for other resource-intensive and resource-seeking industries in the country as well as the opportunities it creates in this global period of higher prices for extracted resources.”

In his aide memoire to the House leaders, Salceda wrote that “gold will continue to be in high demand for as long as the period of post-Covid monetary expansion continues, as the metal is viewed as an inert store of value against inflation.”

The lawmaker further explained that nickel and copper (and their byproduct, cobalt) are poised to be in greater global demand with the rise of the electric vehicle sector.

“Most mineral resources abundant in the Philippines will continue to be in high demand as the digital economy increases the demand for electronics,” Salceda said. “There is no better time to maximize our mineral resources than now.”

According to the lawmaker, there are two ingredients to maximizing the benefits of mining for the economy: a trust fund that taxes the sector when global prices are high and domestic industries that use up the minerals for higher-value exports during periods of low mineral prices.

“The problem with the current Philippine mining sector is it exports most of its production instead of linking it with the domestic manufacturing sector,” Salceda said. “And we do not keep its windfall profits for the future.”



OK of law seeking fiscal rules for mining sought

The lawmaker said this results to straightjacketing mining communities in poverty “because the attribution of benefits is not direct, while the economy does not get to maximize value-added.”

As a result of this policy gap, Salceda said, “we mistake it [mining] for a low-value sector.”

“That’s not the right way to view it. The world will always need mining, because there is no digital economy without mining. Every essential part of the digital economy, from data storage to transmission to data generation, uses mineral products. Mining is an essential ingredient to the future,” Salceda added.

The bill has been approved by the Committee on Ways and Means on January 30, 2020, and has been included in the official business for the plenary since February last year.

Under the bill, revenues of margin-based royalties collected from large-scale mining operations shall accrue to a Natural Resource Trust Fund, a special account under the Bureau of Treasury. The trust fund’s proceeds can be used by local governments where mining operations are located to “support educational programs, technological research programs of local relevance, disaster risk management, rehabilitation of abandoned mines, health services programs of communities directly affected by mining activities.”

Stagnant industry

CITING a US State Department paper, Salceda estimated the Philippines to have \$840 billion in untapped metallic mineral reserves.

The lawmaker estimates that, under current production levels, it will take four centuries before the Philippines realize the potential of its reserves.

“Without a fiscal regime for mining, this stagnation in the sector will continue,” Salceda said.

The lawmaker pointed to Executive Order 79, series of 2012, as having prevented the grant of new mineral agreements “until a legislation rationalizing existing revenue sharing schemes and mechanisms shall have taken effect.”

“In the past, our approach was to just ignore the whole industry, because we couldn’t figure out how to manage it better. In fact, if we use our policymaking tools more wisely, we can also regulate this essential industry better.”

Salceda’s paper cites data that indicates gross production value for metallic resources has remained between P100 billion to 150 billion.

“At this rate, the country will take 400 years to realize the potential of untapped reserves—a waste of opportunity when our stage of development requires rapid economic growth within the next 10 to 20 years,” he added.

According to him, the country should strive, for one, for a robust ecosystem that has domestically-extracted mineral wealth as an input to higher-value exports. For another, the state should also strive to create a system of capturing surplus value in raw commodity exports during periods of



OK of law seeking fiscal rules for mining sought

global price hikes, “most plausibly through a natural resource trust funds that reserve such value for future use, especially in periods of low global commodity prices.”

That way, Salceda added, the country benefits from low prices through manufacturing exporters and from high prices through robust public revenues.



DBP inks P416-M credit deal with local iron ore mining giant

By Development Bank of the Philippines Published on January 4, 2021

State-owned Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) has granted a P416-million credit line to the country's first large-scale offshore mining company to augment its working capital requirements in its export production of iron ore, a top official said.

DBP President and Chief Executive Officer Emmanuel G. Herbosa said the bank's assistance to JDVC Resources Corporation (JDVC) is expected to boost local production efficiency of the essential mineral and meet the expected rise in demand in anticipation of a global economic recovery.

"Supporting businesses that are commercially viable yet ecologically sound form part of our aggressive drive to deliver and usher in further economic growth in the country," Herbosa said.

DBP is the seventh largest bank in the country in terms of assets and provides credit support to four strategic sectors of the economy – infrastructure and logistics; micro, small and medium enterprises; social services and community development; and the environment.

JDVC is the Philippines' first large-scale offshore iron sand (Fe_3O_4) mining company operating in Cagayan province.

It holds a 25-year Mineral Production Sharing Agreement with the National Government for a mining concession and commercial extraction of minerals such as magnetite iron sand, titanium, vanadium, and other valuable minerals.

Herbosa added that unlike onshore mining that involves heavy earth movements, offshore mining is done through the use of an environmentally-safe and ecologically-balanced siphoning vessel with an advanced technology system for the mining of minerals located under the sea.

He said JDVC is the first firm to be granted a Declaration of Mining Project Feasibility by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources which authorized the extraction and commercial disposition of magnetite sand and associated minerals in an initial area of over 1,902 hectares in Cagayan.

"We are confident about the long-term economic benefits that may be reaped from this notable project that will buttress the growth of the local steel industry. Rest assured that DBP will continue ensuring that its funded projects are always vetted in terms of potential environmental and economic impacts," Herbosa added. (PR)

Source: <https://pia.gov.ph/press-releases/releases/1062993>



Snap awaits NCIP notice; IP benefits given

MARIA ELENA CATAJAN

January 04, 2021

SN ABOITIZ Power Benguet Inc. (Snap)-Benguet attested to have been giving benefits to host communities.

In a statement, Snap said the firm is still awaiting formal notice from the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP)-Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) and clarified the company has been providing benefits since 2008 to the IPs and indigenous cultural communities (ICCs) that host the Ambuklao and Binga Hydro Electric Power Plants (HEPPs) located in Bokod and Itogon.

"The benefit is in the form of yearly funding provided to the IPs/ICCs, under the community investment program of the company, for priority projects identified by the IPs/ICCs themselves. The company also funds sustainability and special projects implemented in partnership with IPs," said Rhoda Santos, AVP for Public Affairs.

The statement sent December 29 said the IPs benefit from the operations of their HEPPs in Benguet.

"Snap-Benguet's continuing commitment is part of the Memorandums of Agreement (MOAs) entered into by the company and the Ambuklao and Binga IPs/ICCs in line with the privatization and transfer of the state-owned power plants to Snap-Benguet. To date, a total of P69 million worth of funds for community development, special, sustainability, and sponsorship projects have been provided to the IPs/ICCs out of the Ambuklao and Binga operations. The MOAs to provide benefits to the IPs/ICCs were the result of the consultation and dialogue with the IPs/ICCs held in 2008. Under Section 56 of the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act of 1997 (RA 8371), Ambuklao and Binga already have existing property rights in the Bokod and Itogon municipalities as they were constructed in 1956 and 1960 respectively, prior to the effectivity of the Ipra," Santos added.

The NCIP, before the year ended, issued show cause orders for companies in a bid to investigate allegations of irregularities filed by Indigenous Peoples groups in the region.

The orders were issued for mining companies, Benguet Corporation, Lepanto Consolidated Mining Corporation, and Itogon Suyoc Resources Inc., a subsidiary of the Davao-based Apex Mining Company Inc., as well as hydro firms, San Roque Power Corporation for San Roque Dam, Aboitiz Power Corporation for both Ambuklao and Binga Dam, and Hedcor, December 22 by the NCIP regional director, Marlon Bosantog due to non-payment royalties to host IP communities.

NCIP said in the orders that it has come to their attention that the cultural communities/IPs in the ancestral domain where the companies operate have not received royalties.



Gatchalian pushes establishment of natural gas terminals



By Javier Joe Ismael

January 4, 2021

SEN. Sherwin Gatchalian has set in motion deliberations in the Senate on a measure that seeks to further develop the natural gas industry.

Gatchalian said there has to be a replacement for the Malampaya gas project before its supply runs out to avert possible rotational brownouts in 2022.

Senate Bill (SB) 1819 was filed in anticipation of the nearing depletion of the gas output of the Malampaya-Camago wells.

The Senate energy committee chaired by Gatchalian will conduct its first hearing on the measure on Tuesday, January 5, 2021.

“The output of the gas will start going down by 2024. The direction of the Department of Energy is to encourage the private sector to build receiving terminals for imported liquefied natural gas (LNG),” the senator said.

“And because we haven’t discovered new sources of gas in our country, we have to resort to importing LNG just to make sure that those 3,200-megawatt gas-fired power plants keep on running,” Gatchalian explained.

The Malampaya project fuels five power plants which comprise 20.0% of the capacity of the Luzon grid. It serves 53.75% of Meralco’s electricity demand.



Coal share of power mix seen at 59% by 2029 despite moratorium

January 4, 2021 | 7:30 pm



COAL-FIRED POWER is expected to account for 59% of the country's generation mix by 2029 after production at the Philippines' sole gas field winds down, according to Fitch Solutions Country Risk & Industry Research.

The loss of supply from the Malampaya gas field will increase the Philippines' overall reliance on coal as a cost-effective power source, outweighing the moratorium on new coal-plant construction declared by the government last year, Fitch Solutions said in a report.

According to the Department of Energy, coal-based power accounted for 44.5% of the generation mix in 2015. In 2020, 86.51% of the Philippines' coal consumption was taken up by the power industry.



Coal share of power mix seen at 59% by 2029 despite moratorium

January 4, 2021 | 7:30 pm

Fitch Solutions said coal remains the cheap and reliable option to power the country's growth and help it achieve its 100% electrification goal by 2022.

In light of the depletion of Malampaya's reserves, "we expect the Philippines' power mix to remain dominated by coal over the coming decade, with the share of coal reaching approximately 59% by 2029, with considerable downside risks," Fitch Solutions said.

Advertisement

Fitch Solutions said that power supply mix in 2029 is expected to consist of 22% natural gas, 2% oil, 7% hydropower and 10% non-hydropower renewables.

Fitch Solutions said growth in coal generation is expected to be slowed by the moratorium on new build, which will create a ripple effect down the line because of the five-year timetable for building such plants.

"We now forecast coal-fired power generation to increase by an annual average of 5.2% between 2020 and 2029, amounting to approximately 93.6 TWh (terawatt-hours) by 2029," Fitch Solutions said.

It did not give comparative growth rates.

The main risks to growth in coal power generation are "very strong and increasing public opposition" from religious and other organizations. Increasing momentum behind climate solutions as well as the adoption of nuclear power could also be factors, it said.

In September, Fitch Solutions downgraded its forecast for the Philippines' power consumption to a decline of 5.9% in the use of power from all sources and a decline of 14% from coal. — **Angelica Y. Yang**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/coal-share-of-power-mix-seen-at-59-by-2029-despite-moratorium/>



Coal power projects in PH to face headwinds



By Jordeene B. Lagare

January 5, 2021

COAL capacity in the Philippines is seen to further slow down in the coming years after the government announced a ban on new coal plants, Fitch Solutions said on Monday.

“We have revised our coal generation forecasts from post-2026 and now expect it to grow at a much slower rate than we previously expected,” said the research firm in its analysis.

Fitch Solutions said it is now projecting coal-fired power generation to increase by an annual average of 5.2 percent between 2020 and 2029, amounting to approximately 93.6 terawatt-hours by 2029.

In October last year, the Department of Energy said it would no longer accept new endorsement applications for greenfield coal power plants or those coal facilities that are yet to be constructed.

Energy Secretary Alfonso Cusi said last month the agency is finalizing the guidelines that would outline the scope of the moratorium on new coal power plants in the country.

Yet, Fitch Solutions said such a move would limit the amount of new coal capacity coming online towards the back end of our forecasts, after those in the current project pipeline progress.

Citing government sources, the research firm said the coal ban would cause about 8 gigawatts of pre-permitted coal projects to be suspended, although specific projects were not mentioned.

“The majority of these projects are expected to come online over the coming years, by 2026,” it added.

Its forecasts, Fitch Solutions said, are subjected to significant downside risks as coal projects continue to face very strong and increasing public opposition, including the involvement of several religious associations.

It also mentioned Cusi being “a very strong proponent for nuclear power,” seeing it as an effective strategy to reduce coal-fired generation (despite controversies within both Congress and the public), which could influence energy policy toward this direction.

Furthermore, companies including AC Energy Inc. and Manila Electric Co. signaled intentions to shift away from coal in recent months.

“That said, we still expect a significant amount of coal capacity to be commissioned over the coming decade, with the impact felt only on a much longer term,” said Fitch Solutions.

“The government has said that coal will remain the dominant generation source for years to come, with several projects in the pipeline that were already approved prior to the announcement,” it added.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/01/05/business/business-top/coal-power-projects-in-ph-to-face-headwinds/822492/>



75 climbers join reopening trek to SoCot's Lake Holon

By Allen Estabillo January 4, 2021, 3:27 pm



The famed crater-lake Holon in Tboli town, South Cotabato (*Photo courtesy of the municipal government*)

GENERAL SANTOS CITY – South Cotabato province’s “crown jewel,” the famed crater-lake Holon in Tboli town, formally reopened to tourists and the public on Monday after a year-long closure due to its rehabilitation and the restrictions caused by coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic.

Rodel Hilado, senior tourism operations officer of Tboli, said a total of 75 climbers and adventure seekers from parts of the province joined the return trek amid the observance of strict health protocols.

He said the local government lowered the number of visitors at the site to 75 per day based on the allowed 50 percent of its projected capacity.

“As of now, we can only accommodate tourists coming from South Cotabato,” Hilado said in an advisory.

He said interested climbers must book in advance through the municipal tourism office to ensure their inclusion in the daily trek schedule.

The official said they opened the booking for the site last Dec. 15 and the slots for Monday’s return climb was filled up in just one day.

As a requirement, he said the climbers should be physically fit and strictly follow the minimum health protocols, especially when converging at the site.

These include the observance of safe physical distancing and the wearing of face mask and face shield as necessary, he said.



75 climbers join reopening trek to SoCot's Lake Holon

Hilado assured that they will strictly enforce the compliance to Covid-19 protocols by visitors to sustain the site's operations.

The municipal government of Tboli, through Mayor Dibu Tuan, closed down the Lake Holon to tourists from Jan. 6 to March 14 last year to pave the way for its annual rehabilitation and eventually extended due to the restrictions and control measures following the onset of Covid-19.

During the lake's closure, the local government conducted various rehabilitation activities, including the upgrade of existing facilities at the campsite area, the natural view deck and other portions of the site.

It also developed new pitstops, featuring food establishments and scenic spots in the villages and communities traversed by the upgraded access road leading to the area. (*PNA*)



Catanduanes declared nation's abaca capital

Published January 4, 2021, 3:28 PM

by [Ben Rosario](#)

The House of Representatives has declared Catanduanes as the abaca capital of the Philippines.



(PNA photo by Roel Amazona)

Under House Bill 6149 that was approved on third and final reading by the House last month, Catanduanes is recognized as the country's biggest producer of abaca fiber in the country, thus, deserving the title "Abaca Capital of the Philippines."

Approval of HB 6149 was strongly endorsed by the House Committee on Agriculture and Food chaired by Quezon Rep. Wilfrido Mark Enverga.

Authored by TGP partylist Rep. Jose Teves Jr., HB 6149 acknowledges the Bicol region province's contribution to the country's agricultural development.

"Considering Catanduanes as the top producer of abaca product in the Philippines, it highly contributed in the standing of the country as the world's largest producers of abaca, supplying 87 percent of the world's requirement in natural fiber," Teves said.

He explained that Catanduanes folk are "widely known in producing high quality fibers" and have made this imprint in the international market.

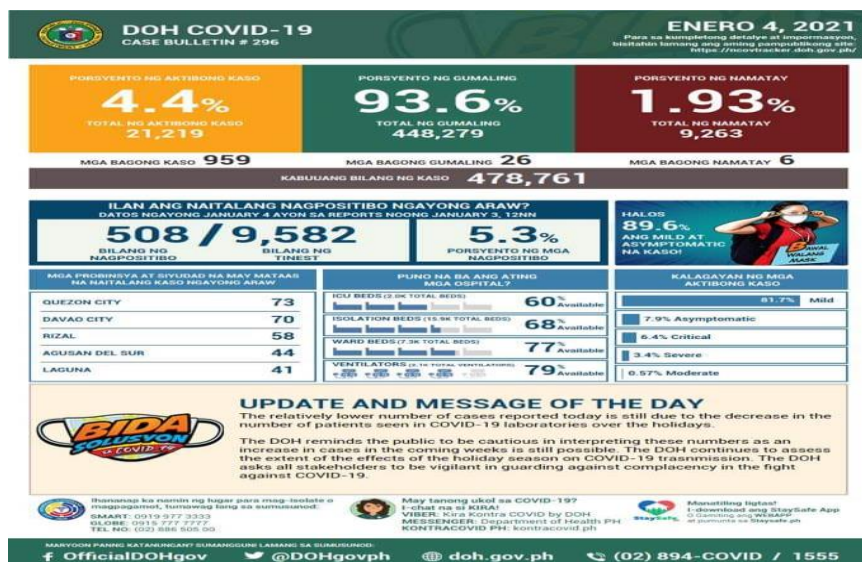
"The main source of livelihood of the greater population living in Catanduanes is farming and production of abaca, which constitutes 12,679 abaca farmers of total 33,097 hectares of land in 11 abaca-producing municipalities," noted Teves.

He recalled that a similar bill was approved during the 17th Congress but failed to win Senate action. Catanduanes Rep. Cesar Sarmiento authored the bill.

HB 6149 recognizes the importance of abaca production as "driver of rural development" and its tremendous contribution in increasing the country's export earnings.

BREAKING: Mga tinamaan ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas, nasa 478,761 na; Halos 1,000 ang nadagdag

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



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

Sa huling datos ng Department of Health (DOH) bandang araw ng Lunes (January 4), umabot na sa 478,761 ang confirmed cases ng nakakahawang sakit sa bansa.

Sa nasabing bilang, 21,219 o 4.4 porsyento ang aktibong kaso.

Sinabi ng kagawaran na 959 ang bagong napaulat na kaso ng COVID-19 sa bansa.

81.7 porsyento sa active COVID-19 cases ang mild; 7.9 porsyento ang asymptomatic; 0.57 porsyento ang moderate; 3.4 porsyento ang severe habang 6.4 porsyento ang nasa kritikal na kondisyon.

Nasa anim naman ang napaulat na nasawi.

Dahil dito, umakyat na sa 9,263 o 1.93 porsyento ang COVID-19 related deaths sa bansa.

Ayon pa sa DOH, 26 naman ang gumaling pa sa COVID-19.

Dahil dito, umakyat na sa 448,279 o 93.6 porsyento ang total recoveries ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas.

Read more: <https://radio.inquirer.net/282185/breaking-mga-tinamaan-ng-covid-19-sa-pilipinas-nasa-478761-na-halos-1000-ang-nadagdag#ixzz6icRbSlgj>

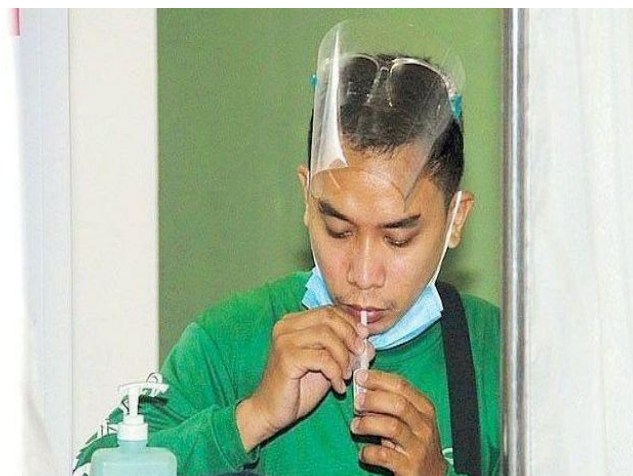
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COVID-19 test sa laway, 99.9% ang accuracy

By [Malou Escudero](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon)

- January 5, 2021 - 12:00am



Umaasa si Gordon, chairman at CEO ng Philippine Red Cross, na agad na irekomenda ng Health Technology Assessment Council (HTAC) sa Department of Health ang aplikasyon ng PRC tungkol sa paggamit ng saliva test.

Mas mura at mabilis

MANILA, Philippines — Isinulong ni Sen. Richard Gordon ang agarang paggamit ng laway para makita kung may COVID-19 ang isang tao na ayon sa kanya ay mas mura, mas mabilis at 99.9% na maaasahan.

Umaasa si Gordon, chairman at CEO ng Philippine Red Cross, na agad na irekomenda ng Health Technology Assessment Council (HTAC) sa Department of Health ang aplikasyon ng PRC tungkol sa paggamit ng saliva test.

Sinabi ni Gordon na noon pang Oktubre 17 isinumite ang aplikasyon pero natatagalan.

“Health Technology Assessment Council ang nag-e-examine. It’s taking them a long time, Oct. 17 pa sinubmit ‘yan at ginagamit na din ‘yan sa ibang bansa. Over one million COVID testing has been done using that, at 99.9% ang accuracy,” ani Gordon.

Ang HTAC ay isang independent advisory body na binuo upang magbigay ng “guidance” sa DOH at sa PhilHealth tungkol sa health interventions at technologies na popondohan ng gobyerno.

Ipinaliwanag ni Gordon na gagamitin din ang RT-PCR testing pero hindi na kailangan ang nasal at pharyngeal swab na ginagamitan ng test kits.

“Mas madali ito dahil hindi na kailangan ng swab sa ilong at lalamunan. Kailangan lang dumura sa test tube. Mas mabilis din mapa-process at mailalabas ang results,” sabi ni Gordon.

Wala ring machines na bibilhin at matatangal din ang test kits kaya mababawasan ang presyo ng testing.

“Hindi mabigat para sa ating mga kababayan na gustong magbayad dahil mas mura. Ganun din ang PhilHealth, bababa ang kanilang gastusin na babayaran sa testing,” ani Gordon.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2021/01/05/2068294/covid-19-test-sa-laway-999-ang-accuracy/amp/>



MINDFUL

By Jay Ledesma

New Year 2021: Road to recovery or relapse

January 4, 2021

HAPPY New Year! As to how we traditionally welcome the start of a new year, we are again full of hope and anticipation for a better one. And considering what we went through in 2020, we are one in praying and wishing that 2021 will be a better year for us, for our families, for the Filipinos, and for the whole world!

But is 2021 really going to be the year when we recover from the ill effects of the pandemic? Or will we see a relapse into our early COVID days?

Much of the optimism is coming from the fact that anti-Covid vaccines are already available or will be made available for many by the 1st or 2nd quarter of 2021. The United Kingdom was the first to administer the vaccines to its select citizens. Other countries have followed suit. Back home, it was recently announced that our own members of the Presidential Security Group (PSG) have been administered vaccines from China, though with some “drama” along the way. Though these vaccines should not be considered a panacea (cure-all), they are believed to prevent infectious diseases. With these vaccines administered to the majority of the Filipinos (and other nationalities, for that matter), we can be more comfortable and confident to totally open our economy again. More businesses will be operational which translates to higher employment which translates to better income in the pocket and more food on the table.

And that is why we need to observe all the health protocols so we can maintain our good health and ready for the vaccine. Regardless of the efficacy and effectiveness of those vaccines, they will not matter anymore if we are already infected.

Another metric that is making us optimistic about 2021 is the stock market performance. Even with our economy partially open, we see encouraging movements in our stock markets. Though they are still below the pre- COVID price range, we have seen growth from where it was at the onset of the pandemic. PSEI last March 19, which was the start of the lockdown, was at 4,623 and was down YTD at -38.06% (vs YTD 2019). As of this writing, the market has bounced back to 7,109 which is a 54% growth from the March 2019 level. Versus the same period last year, it's just now at -7.20%. Meaning, if you invested P 100,000 last March and stayed invested, your P 100,000 has grown to PhP154,000 by now. Imagine those who placed by the hundreds of thousands or millions. No wonder, the rich become richer during the crisis.

We have not seen the full recovery of the market. So much room for growth just to equal the pre-COVID level. With the vaccines and full opening of our economy, we can look forward to better days. But as all financial experts will say, we already have to be “IN” the market before it's full upswing...that means now.

But while we anticipate a bounce back this 2021, there are also some indications that things may take a turn to a relapse. Our health officials are expecting a surge in the number of new COVID cases after all the Christmas and New Year festivities. Left and right, we see all health protocols being violated and dismissed. Some are even initiated by our elected officials. More LGUs are concerned that they may not have enough isolation facilities and hospital beds to accommodate



New Year 2021: Road to recovery or relapse

new COVID patients There are even talks now that stricter quarantines will again be implemented in major cities in anticipation of the surge.

As if this expected surge is not enough, there is the fear of the new Covid-19 variant or strain reaching the country. The new strain/variant, which was first detected in the UK, is said to be more contagious. Unfortunately, the new variant has spread and has now reached some of our neighboring SEA countries. To prevent the new variant from landing in our country, effective Dec 30 and until January 15, 2021, our government has imposed a travel ban on all foreign nationals from 20 countries where the new variant is claimed to be already present.

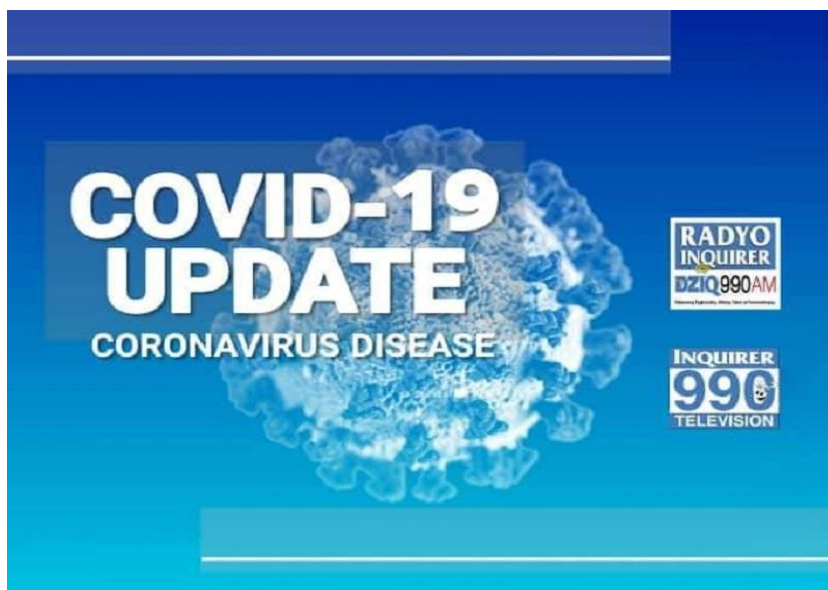
If we are not able to contain these two likely scenarios: the surge of locally transmitted new Covid-19 cases and the entry of the new Covid variant, we might again find ourselves back in the state where we were during the early months of the pandemic. Lockdowns here and there, restricted travels and minimal business operations, hospitals in full capacity, etc. With all these, one can already expect our economy to shrink again. Now, that is something we can no longer afford to happen.

The good news is...We can prevent a relapse! The government and some private companies have partnered to acquire the vaccines. The travel ban has been imposed. With these two measures, we can avoid the further spread of the virus. But what will really prevent us from a relapse and seal our road to recovery is our individual effort to strictly observe and follow the health protocols of social distancing, proper wearing of face masks and face shields, washing of hands, and limited gatherings. Many have proven that we can continue earning and living our everyday lives while observing the protocols. Why should we still choose to disobey?

Let us be mindful that fighting and winning against Covid-19 is within our control. We can all contribute and make our road to recovery this 2021 happen! Let this be on top of our New Year's resolutions!

Global death toll bunsod ng COVID-19, higit 1.85 milyon na

By Angellic Jordan January 04, 2021 - 03:01 PM



Pumalo na sa halos 1.85 milyon ang bilang ng mga nasawing COVID-19 patient sa buong mundo.

Batay sa huling tala, umakyat na sa kabuuang 1,850,719 ang nasawi sa iba't ibang bansa bunsod ng nakakahawang sakit.

Nangunguna pa rin sa may pinakamaraming naitalang nasawi dahil sa COVID-19 ang Estados Unidos na may 360,078.

Sumunod na rito ang Brazil na may 196,018 na pumanaw bunsod ng pandemiya.

Nasa 149,686 naman ang death toll sa India habang 127,213 ang napaulat na nasawi sa Mexico.

Narito naman ang naitalang COVID-19 death toll sa iba pang bansa at teritoryo:

- Italy - 75,332
- United Kingdom - 75,024
- France - 65,037
- Russia - 58,506
- Iran - 55,540
- Spain - 50,837
- Colombia - 43,965
- Argentina - 43,482

Samantala, lumabas din sa pinakahuling datos na umakyat na sa kabuuang 85,509,038 ang tinamaan ng nakakahawang sakit sa iba't ibang bansa.

Nasa 60,476,700 naman ang total recoveries ng COVID-19 pandemic sa buong mundo.

Read more: <https://radio.inquirer.net/282172/global-death-toll-bunsod-ng-covid-19-higit-1-85-milyon-na#ixzz6icSNQIEI>

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Senate inquiry may clear up so many issues

January 4, 2021 | Filed under: [Editorial, Opinion](#) | Posted by: [Tempo Desk](#)



THAT story about some Cabinet men and members of the Presidential Security Group (PSG) having themselves inoculated against COVID-19, using vaccines donated by China, has refused to die down, as various officials have come up with unexpected details about the case.

We have noted that there are at least two points that must be looked into. First is the use of vaccines not yet approved by our own Food and Drug Administration (FDA) – a violation of law. Second is the use of the donated vaccine by a select group to protect themselves – despite official government policy that the country’s health workers, along with the poor and vulnerable, should be the first to get vaccinated.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, chairman of the National Task Force (NTF) on COVID-19, has now said the vaccines in question had actually been smuggled into the country – another violation of law.

When it was pointed out that the health workers who vaccinated the PSG men could be charged with administering a vaccine without FDA approval, the PSG chief said the men actually vaccinated themselves.

With so many details coming out from various sources in the government – some reports contradicting other reports – with no one apparently on top of the whole situation, the Senate said it will convene as a Committee of the Whole to look into the entire government vaccination program.





Senate inquiry may clear up so many issues

This should include the very first question that came up months ago – Sen. Panfilo Lacson’s charge that Health Secretary Francisco Duque III “dropped the ball” when he failed to take action on Pfizer’s original offer as early as July to supply the Philippines with 10 million doses of its vaccine. Secretary Duque later said it was only in September that his department, not the Department of Science and Technology, was authorized to deal with Pfizer.

Mass vaccinations have now begun in countries which were able to acquire the approved vaccines early, including the United Kingdom in Europe, the United States in the Western Hemisphere, and India in Asia. The earliest the Philippines will have Pfizer vaccines is in May, five months from today.

Though all this time, we will have to rely on our own resources – mostly our own people protecting themselves with face masks and face shields and with physical distancing.



Flash floods submerge Bicol, Negros towns



By [Dempsey Reyes](#)

January 4, 2021

TORRENTIAL rains unleashed floods in towns in the Bicol Region and Negros Occidental anew, forcing more than 15,000 residents to evacuate, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) reported on Sunday.

Two people died in Camarines Sur and Sorsogon and four persons remain missing in the Bicol region, following incidents of heavy flooding, caused by the tail end of the cold front, the NDRRMC report said.

With the cause of death determined due to drowning from a capsized boat, the first fatality's cadaver was retrieved from Barangay Dangla in Garchitorena, Camarines Sur on Friday, January 1 while the second body was found the next day in Barangay Abucay in Pilar, Sorsogon.

Search and rescue teams have yet to find the missing persons. Of the four unaccounted for, three were reported in Garchitorena, Camarines Sur and one in Bulan, Sorsogon.

The NDRRMC also said a total of 2,409 families, comprising 9,158 individuals, have been evacuated.

Of the said figures, 166 families or 602 individuals were from the Mimaropa (Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon and Palawan) region.

A total of 1,259 families that include 5,405 persons were affected in Bicol while 984 families or 3,151 individuals from the Western Visayas region were ravaged by flooding.

The disaster council also recorded 54 damaged houses in the provinces of Camarines Sur and Negros Occidental as well as a damaged wall in Inocencio V. Ferrer School of Fisheries in Talisay City.

Flash floods forced 13,772 families from 42 villages in the third district in Negros Occidental to move to higher ground, showed a report from the Provincial Incident Management Team.

Zeaphard Caelian, head of the Provincial Disaster Management Program Division, said on Saturday that the hardest hit area was Victorias City with 8,976 families from 17 villages affected.

There was also one recorded death after Ramil Panes, 26, who was reported missing since New Year's Eve after a drinking spree with friends, was found dead in the shoreline of Barangay 6-A in Victorias City the next day.

A total of 37 houses were either washed out or totally damaged while 127 others were partially damaged, showed the PDMPD damage report.



Flash floods submerge Bicol, Negros towns

Flooding incidents were also monitored in four areas of Cagayan region, three in Mimaropa, 21 in Bicol and one in Western Visayas.

A maritime incident was also reported in Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro after a boat with five persons onboard capsized in the waters off Barangay Silonay. All passengers have been rescued by the Philippine Coast Guard, the NDRRMC said.

Lucy Cataneda, DPWH regional spokesperson, said the Sagñay-Tiwi Road has been shut for all types of vehicles as of 10 a.m. on Sunday, January 3 due to landslides.

The Sangay-Tiwi road network, which connects Camarines Sur and Albay, is at great risk due to falling rocks and debris that could endanger motorists.

Lahar is also tumbling down in low-lying areas of Guinobatan, specifically in San Francisco and San Rafael due to torrential rain. While the road network in Sitio Tagbakan in Estanza Legazpi City collapsed due to heavy downpour for four consecutive days.



Easterlies fan Region 10 flooding, landslide threat

By Catherine Teves January 4, 2021, 2:29 pm



MANILA – Flash floods and landslides are threatening Region 10 (Northern Mindanao) due to rains brought by the easterlies prevailing in the area.

Continuous rains can trigger such hazards, noted Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) hydrologist Max Peralta.

"It's been raining in Northern Mindanao since last month, saturating soil in this region, so additional rain from the easterlies can already cause flooding and landslides there," he said.

He said people living near waterways and mountain slopes across Region 10 must prepare for such hazards.

In its daily weather forecast on Monday, PAGASA said the easterlies may cause cloudy skies with scattered rain showers and thunderstorms in Northern Mindanao, Bicol, Eastern Visayas, Caraga, SOCCSKSARGEN, and Davao regions as well as Quezon province.

Some of these thunderstorms may bring moderate to heavy rainfall that can trigger flash floods and landslides, noted PAGASA weather forecaster Chris Perez.

He added that some areas in Northern Mindanao have been experiencing rains in the past days that can saturate soil -- making these locations already prone to both hazards.

"Even light to moderate rain there can already cause such hazards," he said.

Weather in Northern Mindanao may begin improving around Wednesday (Jan. 6), he noted.



Easterlies fan Region 10 flooding, landslide threat

According to PAGASA, Northern Mindanao areas to be likely affected by the rains are the waterways in Misamis Oriental such as in Gingoog City, Balatukan, Cabulig, Lower Tagoloan, Lower/Middle Western Cagayan, Iponan and Alubijid; Bukidnon province's Upper Tagaloan and Upper/Eastern Cagayan; Lanao del Norte province's Mandulog, Agus, Liangan and Maranding; as well as Misamis Occidental province's Clarin, Palilan and Aloran.

All rivers and respective tributaries in Camiguin province may also be affected, PAGASA noted.

Peralta said the expected rain in Northern Mindanao can raise water level in waterways and cause these channels to overflow and can spill into nearby communities and flood these areas.

He added that the expected rain can dislodge soil in water-saturated mountain slopes, causing landslides in the area. **(PNA)**



Amihan, ITCZ patuloy na magpapaulan sa ilang bahagi ng bansa

By Angellic Jordan January 04, 2021 - 07:08 PM



Photo grab from DOST PAGASA website

Mayroong dalawang weather system na nakakaapekto sa bansa.

Ayon kay PAGASA weather specialist Chris Perez, umiiral pa rin ang Northeast Monsoon o Amihan ang ilang bahagi ng Northern, Central at Southern Luzon kasama na ang Metro Manila.

Asahan aniya na magiging maulap pa rin ang kalangitan na may mahihinang pag-ulan sa Cagayan Valley, CAR, Aurora, at gayundin sa northern part ng Quezon sa Lunes ng gabi, January 4.

Samantala, apektado naman ng Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) ang Mindanao region.

Dahil dito, makararanas aniya ng maulap na papawirin na may kalat-kalat na pag-ulan, pagkidlat at pagkulong sa Davao region, Caraga at Soccsksargen.

Sa natitirang bahagi ng Luzon kasama na ang Metro Manila, sinabi ni Perez na magiging maaliwalas ang panahon maliban na lamang sa ilang pulo-pulong pag-ulan.

Sa nalalabing parte naman ng bansa, maalinsangang panahon pa rin ang aasahan ngunit posible pa ring makararanas ng isolated rainshowers o thunderstorm.

Read more: <https://radyo.inquirer.net/282217/amihan-itcz-patuloy-na-magpapaulan-sa-ilang-bahagi-ng-bansa#ixzz6icQUvifU>

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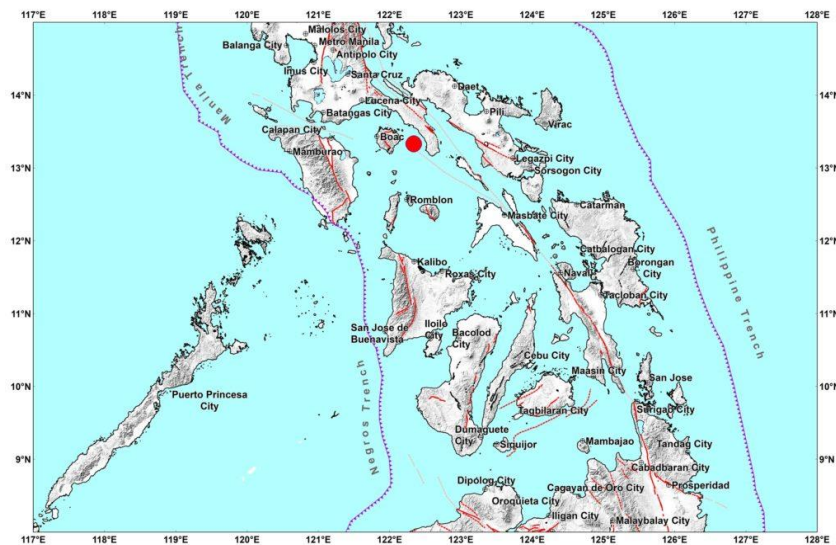


Magnitude 4.4 aftershock jolts Quezon province

Published January 4, 2021, 12:56 PM

by [Alexandria Dennise San Juan](#)

Aftershocks continue to rock San Francisco town in Quezon province with up to magnitude 4.4 quake recorded on Monday morning, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said.



(PHIVOLCS / MANILA BULLETIN)

In the latest earthquake information bulletin of Phivolcs, it said that the magnitude 4.4 earthquake struck 20 kilometers southwest of the municipality of Bayabas at 8:05 a.m.

The tremor had a depth of one kilometer and was tectonic in origin, meaning it was caused by ground shaking primarily due to the sudden movement in the Earth's plates, Phivolcs said.

According to Phivolcs, the quake was felt with a maximum intensity of Intensity III or "weak shaking" in the towns of San Francisco and Mulanay.

It was also "slightly felt" at Intensity II in Lucena City, while Intensity I or a "scarcely perceptible" shaking was recorded in the municipality of Gumaca.

The state seismology bureau said the quake was among the aftershocks that have been recorded after a magnitude 5.2 earthquake jolted the same town on Christmas Day last year.

No damage, as well as aftershocks, are expected from the earthquake, Phivolcs added.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/01/04/magnitude-4-4-aftershock-jolts-quezon-province/>



10 easy ways to 'Go Green' in 2021

By Allison Chinchar, CNN meteorologist
Published Jan 3, 2021 5:33:37 PM



(CNN) — Have you noticed an increase in extreme weather events? With wildfires growing in size, hurricanes getting stronger and mass flood events becoming more commonplace, it's the Earth's response to the way humans treat it.

When setting your New Year's resolutions, try making those that help our planet and better the environment. It will impact everyone in a positive way.

It doesn't need to be hard either. Simple steps to reduce, reuse and recycle can add up. Often many of these changes take little effort and can often save you money.

Here are some ideas:

1. Love aluminum more

Did you know that recycling just one aluminum can saves enough energy to power a television for three hours? The current [amount of energy](#) saved in one year just from recycling aluminum cans in the United States could light the entire city of Denver for more than 10 years, according to the Action Recycling Center in Colorado.

That's because aluminum is infinitely recyclable, making it an ideal container. In fact, about 75% of all aluminum ever produced in the US is still in use today. Aluminum is one of the only materials in the consumer disposal stream that more than pays for the cost of its own collection.

"Americans throw away more than \$700 million worth of aluminum cans every year," according to [the Aluminum Association](#).

Think of how much of an impact it would make if we recycled more cans.

Action Recycling points out that the amount of aluminum Americans throw away every three months could rebuild our entire commercial air fleet.



10 easy ways to 'Go Green' in 2021

2. Say no to single-use plastics

No one wants to hate plastic entirely. It has its purpose. In many instances it is a vital material.

For example, bicycle helmets, child safety seats, medical equipment and cell phones are all made with plastic parts. It's the single-use plastics such as plastic water bottles, straws and grocery bags that raise the biggest concerns.

Plastic water bottles. Try using a reusable bottle instead, and only use the single-use bottles in emergencies, or when you do not have access to reusable bottle.

Plastic straws. When you go to a restaurant, unless you actually need it, tell them you don't want a straw. This alone can impact reducing plastic in our oceans.

Grocery bags. Most stores now sell their own reusable grocery bags or you can ask for a paper bag which can easily be recycled or composted -- We'll get to composting a little later.

Besides these options, you can help remove plastic in the ocean from the comfort of your couch. When you answer a trivia question on the [Free the Ocean website](#), the company will remove a piece of plastic from the ocean.

Advertising on the site funds the cause to actually remove the plastic.

You can go back each day to answer a new question, and hey, you might learn something new in the process.

3. Power down devices

We all love our devices. They help us when it comes to needing directions, staying connected with friends and family and providing the ability to work from home.

When you're not using devices, appliances or you're not in a room, simply turn off the lights and other electronics.

4. Don't prewash dishes

If everyone stopped rinsing their dishes before placing them in the dishwasher America could save 150 billion gallons of water in just one year, according to Reckitt Benckiser, the parent company to brand Finish. How much water is 150 billions exactly?

"That is roughly the equivalent to 230,000 Olympic swimming pools," says Pedram Javaheri, CNN meteorologist. "Or it would take you 39,800 years of continuously running the shower to use that much water."

The company believes in this so much that they have started what they call the [Skip the Rinse Pledge](#). The campaign states that for every person taking the pledge, Finish donates \$1 to the Nature Conservancy.



10 easy ways to 'Go Green' in 2021

"The reason is that most dishwashers costing \$500 or more, sold in the past five years or so have a sensor that determines how thorough a wash is needed," explains Consumer Reports on using your dishwasher efficiently. "At the start of the cycle, it rinses the dishes and then checks how dirty the water is to determine the proper amount of time and water to get everything clean. If you've already rinsed off much of the muck, the sensor misreads the dishes as already fairly clean."

That means prewashed dishes only get a light wash. So if you have a relatively new dishwasher, let it do its job.

5. Make your home more energy efficient

By simply adjusting your thermostat by a few degrees — especially if you aren't home — will not only reduce your bill, but will help reduce energy use.

Another tip to make your home more energy efficient: swap out old bulbs with more efficient ones.

Albeit a little more expensive initially, swapping out old bulbs saves you money in the long run. Typically, more energy efficient bulbs shine brighter, so you won't need to turn on as many lights. Plus, they can last up to five times longer than regular light bulbs, so you don't have to replace them as often.

Adding insulation or double paned windows can also make your home more efficient since your heating and air conditioners won't need to run as frequently.

6. Opt for email receipts when available

You can cut down on paper waste by asking for email receipts. Many companies now offer email receipts as a secondary option to paper ones including Apple, Macy's and Home Depot, to name a few.

It's also more convenient if you have to make returns. How many times have you had to go back and search through desk paperwork, or your purse or wallet to look for a receipt in order to return something? Now you just pull up the email and voila!

Another easy way to reduce paper waste is to pay your bills online, if possible. Not only is this more convenient, some companies even offer auto-pay so you don't have to set a reminder to pay on time. Just make sure the company you're paying still lists the full bill they would normally send so that you can check it over.

One additional way to cut paper waste is to opt out of junk mail. Many people don't like getting junk mail anyway.

The Federal Trade Commission provides information [on their website](#) on how to get yourself removed from the lists.

7. Plant a garden

One great thing about a planting a garden is that size doesn't matter.



10 easy ways to 'Go Green' in 2021

You can create a giant garden bed full of fruits and vegetables in your backyard, or have just a few small potted plants inside your home. Either way, you are [benefiting the environment](#) in multiple ways.

For starters any time you plant a tree, flower, shrub, or place a potted houseplant in your home, you are adding a natural resource that reduces carbon and produces oxygen.

Planting a garden allows you to grow some of your own vegetables and fruits, versus buying produce and that reduces your overall carbon footprint as well.

8. Swap your coffee filters and coffee pods

Coffee drinkers delight in this daily ritual. But it also means accruing waste daily.

By simply switching your coffee filters or single use coffee cup or pods with more sustainable or reusable ones, you can help cut down on frivolous waste.

9. Consider gift wrap alternatives

Some gift wrap is recyclable when it doesn't use foil or glitter or any other such additives that interfere with the recycling process. But so many other alternatives exist for wrapping gifts.

Natural baskets are a great alternative, not only because they are pretty, but they are easy to carry if you are gifting heavier items.

Fabric scraps and old scarves make for pretty alternatives, and can also add a little padding to more delicate gifts.

However, if you prefer the more traditional look of paper, try paper grocery bags, tissue paper, old calendar pages or even newspapers. Not a fan of the black and white look of a newspaper? Comics work.

10. Create a Home Compost Bin

Banana peels, egg shells, apple cores, coffee grounds and vegetable scraps usually end up in your trash bin. But scraps can also be recycled into black gold, or free compost for your garden.

Composting lowers the amount of garbage that ends up in a landfill. It also creates nutrient rich soil that can be used later in and around your home.

The biggest deterrent for many when composting is the smell. If you have the room, move the composter outside. Also, when collecting the compost inside your house, use a container with a lid or seal to keep your kitchen from smelling until you can place the items inside your composter.

If you don't have room for composting in your space, try connecting with a compost pick-up service in your local area such as [CompostNow](#). These services — for a fee — will pick-up your compost with a chance to earn compost later.

This story was first published on CNN.com, "[10 easy ways to 'Go Green' in 2021.](#)"



Bali's Kuta Beach cleared of tons of plastic waste

Rhea Mogul, CNN • Published 4th January 2021



(CNN) — Tons of trash have washed onto Bali's famous Kuta Beach, prompting locals to spend the first day of the new year staging a cleanup.

Residents from the Badung area on the Indonesian island cleared 30 tons of marine debris from the beach, [according to](#) the state-run Antara news agency.

"Some 70% of the marine debris is plastic waste," Colonel Made Mahaparta from the Udayana Regional Military Command told Antara.

The trash was reportedly loaded onto trucks and transported to a landfill site.

Plastic trash and other marine debris washes onto Kuta Beach every year during the monsoon season, said Badung's head of the Environment Office, Wayan Puja, Antara reported. The official blamed the problem on garbage mismanagement.



Workers clean up piles of debris and plastic waste brought in by strong waves at Kuta Beach in Bali, Indonesia, on January 1, 2021.

Made Nagi/EPA-EFE/Shutterstock



Bali's Kuta Beach cleared of tons of plastic waste

Plastic pollution is a [serious issue](#) in Indonesia. In November 2018, a [dead whale](#) was found near Kapota Island in Wakatobi National Park, near Sulawesi, with 13.2 pounds (6 kg) of plastic waste in its stomach.

In April, the Indonesian government [launched a plan](#) to dramatically reduce plastic waste in the country, Antara reported. It plans to cut ocean plastic waste by 70% by 2025, and go plastic pollution free by 2040.

Though Kuta Beach faces the issue annually, unlike past years, far fewer travelers are around to see it at the moment. Like many popular destinations, Bali has been hit hard by the Covid-19 pandemic and remains closed to international tourists.

During an interview in August 2020, Tjokorda Oka Artha Ardana Sukawati, Bali's vice-governor and former chair of the island's hotel and restaurant association, [told CNN Travel](#) that reopening is critical to the island's economy.

"The Covid-19 pandemic is the most devastating disaster for Bali tourism," he said. "It is much worse than the Bali bombings, both the first and the second, and worse than all the Mount Agung eruptions combined."

Brazil wildfires surge again in 2020

posted January 04, 2021 at 08:00 am

by [AFP](#)

The number of wildfires in Brazil increased 12.7 percent last year to a decade-high, according to official figures likely to add to pressure on President Jair Bolsonaro's government over the destruction of the Amazon rainforest.



In this file photo taken on August 15, 2020 Idelia Lima Lisboa, wife of a farmer who set fire to rainforest around his property looks on as the fire approaches their house in an area of Amazon rainforest, south of Novo Progresso in Para State, Brazil. - The number of wildfires in Brazil increased 12.7 percent in 2020 to a decade-high, according to official figures likely to add to pressure on President Jair Bolsonaro's government over the destruction of the Amazon rainforest. There were a total of 222,798 wildfires across Brazil in 2020, the highest number since 2010, according to the Brazilian space agency, INPE. Carl De Souza / AFP

There were a total of 222,798 wildfires across Brazil in 2020, the highest number since 2010, according to the Brazilian space agency, INPE.

That included more than 103,000 fires in the Brazilian Amazon, an annual increase of nearly 16 percent, said INPE, which uses satellite images to track fires and deforestation.

It also included more than 22,000 fires in Brazil's share of the Pantanal, the world's largest wetlands, which were devastated last year by an annual increase of more than 120 percent.

The Amazon and Pantanal are two of Earth's most valuable ecosystems.

The Amazon, the world's biggest rainforest, is considered vital to curbing climate change because of the carbon dioxide it absorbs from the atmosphere.

About 60 percent of the rainforest is in Brazil.

The Pantanal, further south, is a paradise of biodiversity that stretches from Brazil into Bolivia and Paraguay.



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January 5, 2021

Date

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Brazil wildfires surge again in 2020

Nearly a quarter of the Brazilian Pantanal was devastated by fires last year, amid the region's worst drought in nearly half a century.

Images of charred landscapes strewn with animal carcasses shocked the world, drawing criticism of Bolsonaro's government for failing to stop the destruction.

Bolsonaro, a far-right climate change skeptic, also faces attacks over the sharp rise in Amazon deforestation on his watch.

Activists say his push to open protected Amazon lands to agribusiness and mining and his government's funding cuts for environmental protection programs are fueling the destruction.

Deforestation wiped out an area larger than Jamaica in the Brazilian Amazon in the year to August, a 12-year high, according to the space agency's PRODES monitoring program.

Experts say the fires in the Amazon are mostly set by people clearing land for farming and ranching.

The number of fires in the Brazilian Amazon had already risen by 48.7 percent in 2019, Bolsonaro's first year in office, triggering global outcry.

Topics: [Brazil](#) , [Jair Bolsonaro](#) , [Wildfire](#) , [Brazilian Pantanal](#) , [Amazon](#)

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