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**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**



In a virtual announcement on June 29, the Germany-based international body World Future Council named the Philippines, through the DENR, among the five winners of the Future Policy Award 2021. [twitter.com/DENROfficial](https://twitter.com/DENROfficial)

## DENR wins international award for policy vs lead

[Elizabeth Marcelo](#) (The Philippine Star) - July 5, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has won an international award for its policy against the use of lead and lead compounds.

In a virtual announcement on June 29, the Germany-based international body World Future Council (WFC) named the Philippines, through the DENR, among the five winners of the Future Policy Award 2021.

A total of 55 policies from 36 countries were nominated for the award. Only 12 were shortlisted by the WFC in May. The awardees were later narrowed down to five.

The Philippines is the first Southeast Asian country to receive the award.

“We cannot be any happier with this news. This is a landmark achievement of the DENR as we campaign for a lead-free country,” Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said yesterday.

Cimatu said the award is an indication that the Philippines is on the right track in regulating, phasing out and banning chemicals that pose threats to human health and the environment.

The WFC recognized the DENR for its Administrative Order No. 2013-24 or the Chemical Control Order for Lead and Lead Compounds.

The order mandates the prohibition on the use of lead and lead compounds in the production of packaging for food and drink, fuel additives, water pipes, school supplies, cosmetics and paints.

The policy specifically ordered the phaseout of lead in architectural, decorative and household paints on Jan. 1, 2017. The use of lead in industrial paints was phased out on Jan. 1, 2020.

The DENR has also banned the production of paints as a pigment, drying agent or for some other uses with more than 90 parts per million, which is set as the threshold limit.

The Philippines is among the three recipients of the special award along with Sri Lanka and Colombia for their policies against highly hazardous pesticides and environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants, respectively.



Winning the Gold Awards were Kyrgyzstan for its resolution on the approval of chemical hazard classification system and hazard information requirements, and Sweden for its phaseout lists for chemicals hazardous to the environment and human health.

Environmental watchdog EcoWaste Coalition has lauded the efforts of the Philippine government, private stakeholders and civil organizations in the successful implementation of the policy.

Dubbed the “Oscar on best policies,” the Future Policy Award is the only international-level award that recognizes legislation and policies that benefit the current and future generations.

The five winning policies will be recognized during an online awarding rites at 10 p.m. tomorrow.



## Anti-lead policy ng DENR nasungkit ang special award sa Future Policy Award 2021



July 4, 2021 @ 4:55 PM 13 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines – Dahil sa pagpapatupad ng Anti-lead policy nasungkit ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang Special Award para sa policy on lead in paint sa Future Policy Award 2021 na kilala rin sa tawag na “Oscar on Best Policies.”

Ayon sa DENR noong Hunyo 29 nang ianunsiyo ng German-based World Future Council (WFC) na ang DENR Administrative Order (DAO) No. 2013-24 o ang Chemical Control Order for Lead and Lead Compounds ay isa sa limang makatatanggap ng prestigious award.

Ang Pilipinas ang kauna-unahang bansa sa Southeast Asia na makatatanggap ng award.

Sa press release ayon kay Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, ang naturang pagkilala ay magmamarka bilang isang malaking tagumpay ng DENR para gawing lead-free ang Pilipinas.

“We cannot be any happier with this great news. This is a landmark achievement of the DENR as we campaign for a lead-free country,” sabi ni Cimatu.

Ipinaliwanag pa ng DENR chief na ang award na ito ay indikasyon lamang na nasa tamang landas ang Pilipinas sa “regulating, phasing out, at banning chemicals” dahil sa peligrong maidudulot nito sa katawan ng tao at sa kapaligiran.

“As I have mentioned before when we were announced to have been shortlisted, this just goes to show that we are doing right in our campaign to prevent the serious risks of materials with lead content could pose to public health and the environment,” pagdidiin pa ni Cimatu.

Kaugnay nito ayon sa DENR ang Section 4 ng DAO 2013-24 “mandates the prohibition of the use of lead and lead compounds in the production/manufacturing of packaging for food and drink, fuel additives, water pipes, school supplies, cosmetics, and paints.”

Batay sa polisiya, ipinagbabawal ang produksiyon ng pintura bilang “pigment, drying agent,” o intensiyunal na paggamit na may higit 90 parts per million o ppm na nakasaad na “threshold limit.”

Ang Pilipinas ang isa sa tatlong makatatanggap ng Special Award kasabay ang Sri Lanka at Columbia para sa kanilang polisiya para sa “highly hazardous pesticides and environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants.”

Samantala, ang resolusyon ng Kyrgyzstan para sa pag-apruba ng chemical hazard classification system and hazard information requirements at ang phase out lists ng Sweden ng mga kemikal na mapanganib sa kapaligiran at kalusugan ng tao ay kasama naman sa nabigyan ng Gold Awards.



Ang Future Policy Award ay ang natatanging kumikilala sa mga legislation at polisiya para sa benepisyo ng kasalukuyan at susunod na henerasyon sa international level.

Umabot sa 55 policies mula sa 36 na bansa ang nagkaroon ng nominasyon para sa award.

Ang WFC research team ay naglabas ng 12 shortlisted policies noong Mayo.

Ang limang nanalong polisiya ay kikilalanin sa pamamagitan ng online awarding ceremony sa Hulyo 6 dakong 10 pm (oras ng Pilipinas). **Santi Celario**

Source: [https://www.remate.ph/anti-lead-policy-ng-denr-nasungkit-ang-special-award-sa-future-policy-award-2021/?fbclid=IwAR2OqXvQEX80jF4DuiT19XBiczKtQsEajY1\\_4rhjhB1MScAjrmyOGNt1no\\_k](https://www.remate.ph/anti-lead-policy-ng-denr-nasungkit-ang-special-award-sa-future-policy-award-2021/?fbclid=IwAR2OqXvQEX80jF4DuiT19XBiczKtQsEajY1_4rhjhB1MScAjrmyOGNt1no_k)



## Cimatu-led task force begins dredging of Cagayan River's navigational lane

JUL 3, 2021, 6:32 PM

Santiago Celario  
Writer

***The dredging of an eight-kilometer navigational channel from the mouth of the Cagayan River in Aparri, Cagayan will not only reduce the likelihood of flooding in the province but also open up the river to additional maritime traffic.***

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has started dredging an eight-kilometer common navigational channel from the mouth of the Cagayan River, starting June 25.

In a press release, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary and Task Force Build Back Better (TF BBB) chair Roy Cimatu said the extraction of silt will enable the rehabilitation and reopening of the Aparri port, which has not been operational for over 10 years.

*"This forms part of the Duterte Administration's program to rehabilitate the country's important vital river systems in disaster prevention while restoring their importance as vehicles of progress to the country's economy," Cimatu said during the groundbreaking ceremony in Barangay Toran in Aparri, Cagayan.*

Last February 17, the DENR, through the Inter-Agency Committee on the Restoration of the Cagayan River has signed a tripartite memorandum of agreement with the Great River North Consortium and Riverfront Construction for the dredging and maintenance of the navigational lane.

*"The dredging activity targets to deepen the mouth of Cagayan River to about 12 meters from its present depth of only four meters to significantly improve the river flow from the upstream portion.*

Consequently, it will prevent or minimize the likelihood of flooding in areas along its path covering the provinces of Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino, Isabela, and Cagayan," Cimatu said.

The operation also complements TF BBB's efforts to clear the Cagayan River of sandbars, three of which are prioritized to be fully removed by August.



Cagayan River photo from PNA

The DENR chief, together with Public Works and Highways Secretary and TF BBB co-chair Mark Villar, inspected the sandbar clearing operations in Lal-lo, Cagayan before proceeding to the groundbreaking ceremony in Aparri.

The DPWH had identified a total of 19 sandbars for removal but immediate dredging was recommended for three sandbars, which considerably obstruct the flow of floodwater to the Aparri Delta draining to the Babuyan Channel.

The three sandbars have a total estimated volume of seven million cubic meters, covering 235 hectares.

These are located at Brgy. Bangag in Lal-lo town covering 11.4 hectares with 334,305 cubic meters of sand; Brgy. Casicallan Norte in Gattaran town covering 89 hectares with 2.7 million cubic meters of sand; and Brgy Dummun, also in Gattaran town, covering 174.70 hectares with 4.04 million cubic meters of sand.

*"Granting favorable weather conditions, we are optimistic to finish the removal of all three sandbars within the year or in August, at the earliest," Cimatu said.*

The removal of sandbars started in February 2021.

Cimatu said 86.33 percent of the sandbar in the Magapit Narrows in Lal-lo, Cagayan has been finished.

Meanwhile, the removal of sandbar in Dummun, Cagayan started last June 14. This involves the removal of an estimated 882,707 cubic meters of silt, which is expected to be completed within 170 days. (SC)



## [31 illegal wildlife traders nabbed amid pandemic](#)

JUL 1, 2021, 7:56 PM

Santiago Celario  
Writer

***The Department of Environment and Natural Resources said the Covid-19 pandemic – and “archaic” laws on wildlife protection – did not hinder the agency from its efforts to halt illegal wildlife trading.***

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) continues to enforce the law against illegal wildlife activities despite the Covid-19 pandemic.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said a total of 31 wildlife traders have been apprehended by the agency from March 2020 to May 2021.

*Cimatu said the arrest of illegal wildlife traders and poachers is "a testament to the DENR's effective enforcement of Republic Act (RA) 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2001."*

"While we admit that the 20-year old RA 9147 needs to be amended, we at the DENR are doing our best to equip our indefatigable wildlife enforcers who never ceased in apprehending illegal wildlife traders and poachers during the COVID-19 pandemic," he added.

He pointed out that the DENR's Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) continues to strengthen the capacity of its wildlife enforcers with training activities and seminars on various areas of wildlife law enforcement such as the national and international laws, intensifying the monitoring of seaports and airports, and buttressing cross-collaborative efforts with other law enforcement agencies.

DENR Undersecretary for Special Concerns and concurrent BMB Director Edilberto Leonardo also expressed the support of the BMB to amend RA 9147.

*"Illegal wildlife trade is considered a transnational crime. The current law that exists no longer impedes perpetrators in engaging in this act," Leonardo said.*

*"The technology brought about by the internet also serves as a new platform for these culprits, which a 20-year old law cannot penalize severely," he pointed out.*

### **Pending bills**

DENR said some bills were filed in Congress, resulting in a substitute House Bill titled "An Act Providing for the Conservation and Protection of Wildlife Resources and their Habitats, and Appropriating Funds Therefore, Repealing for this Purpose Republic Act No. 9147 or the "Wildlife Resources Conservation And Protection Act."





The bill, sponsored by Occidental Mindoro Rep. Josephine Ramirez-Sato and 15 other representatives, was approved at the House Committee on Appropriations last May 26.

Its salient features include defining and penalizing the crime on wildlife trafficking; calibrating and upgrading the penalties in general, especially the penalty for illegal acts such as killing or destroying wildlife species, trading or attempting to trade wildlife, collecting, hunting, or possessing wildlife and transporting of wildlife.

According to Leonardo, the measure also contains provisions "that each and separate distinct count of violation shall be prosecuted and penalized separately, regardless of intent, unity or connections of the acts resulting into the violation."

*"We also hope that the House Bill empowers us to penalize culprits based on the number of specimens involved in every illegal act and the circumstances surrounding each proven violation," Leonardo said.*

Counterpart Senate Bills 2078 and 2079 also known as the proposed Revised Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2021 were also filed by Senator Juan Miguel Zubiri and Senator Cynthia S. Villar, respectively. (SC)



## 6 KATAO ARESTADO SA ILLEGAL QUARRY

7 hours ago jake



PINAHINTO ni Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu ang lahat ng aktibidades sa pagka-quarry sa Lian, Batangas matapos malaman na wala itong permit mula sa lokal na pamahalaan.

Anim ang inarestong indibidwal noong Hunyo 24 dahil sa pagsasagawa ng quarry nang walang kaukulang dokumento mula sa gobyerno.

Sinabi ni Cimatu, bagama't mayroong Special Permit to Transport and Dispose mula sa Batangas Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office, wala naman itong permit mula sa bayan ng Lian.

Wala rin umangong naipakitang permit mula sa DENR-Mines and Geosciences Bureau sa Calabarzon na nagsabing walang valid Mineral Production Sharing Agreement MPSA ang naipagkaloob mula sa nasabing bayan.

Sinabi pa ni Cimatu, pagkakadakup sa anim na trabahador sa quarry ay nagpapatunay na ang DENR ay patuloy sa pagsugpo ng illegal na aktibidades.

“Despite the health crisis, we laud the continuing endeavors of the men and women serving the Environmental Law Enforcement and Protection Service to apprehend the culprits,” ani pa ni Cimatu.

Ang DENR-ELEPS, kabilang ang Environment Crime Division ng National Bureau of Investigation, Armed Forces of the Philippines at DENR Mines and Geosciences Bureau Calabarzon ay nagsanib-pwersa upang beripikahin at hulihin ang napaulat na patuloy ang pagsasagawa ng quarry sa Sitio Matuod, Brgy. Binubusan sa Lian bagama't nagpalabas na ng cease and desist order laban sa may-ari nito na si Francis Limjoco III.

Kumpiskado ang apat na unit ng backhoe, limang dump trucks, at minerals andesite na klase ng bato mula sa bulkan na tinatayang halos P32,038,500 ang halaga.

Nahaharap sa kasong paglabag sa Section 104 ng Republic Act 7942 o Philippine Mining Act of 1995 ang mga arestadong sina Rodel Marinduque, Francis Dacuya, Claudio Tamayo, Jovencio Malabanan, Roger Betonia at Sonny Marinduque. (CYRILL QUILO)

Source: [http://saksingayon.com/probinsiya/6-katao-arestado-sa-illegal-quarry/?utm\\_source=ReviveOldPost&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_campaign=ReviveOldPost&fbclid=IwAR2M1PgC8Qeuah4U80x\\_LaMEig7QsNDscc5AJQzMU7TIBz9nsQHlttrdLf4](http://saksingayon.com/probinsiya/6-katao-arestado-sa-illegal-quarry/?utm_source=ReviveOldPost&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=ReviveOldPost&fbclid=IwAR2M1PgC8Qeuah4U80x_LaMEig7QsNDscc5AJQzMU7TIBz9nsQHlttrdLf4)



## 44 families receive land titles in Legazpi City

July 4, 2021 13 min read

**LEGAZPI CITY** – A total of 44 families here have received the titles of the land they have been occupying for more than 50 years, under the government’s “Handog Titulo” program.

The distribution held on Friday was led by officials of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Bicol and the city government.

In an interview on Sunday, Mayor Noel Rosal said the title distribution was in line with the city’s commitment to give villagers the chance to own the public land they have been occupying for a long time.

He recognized the efforts of the city council for passing a resolution of support that expedited the land title distribution.

“Now that you are already holding the titles of your land, it means you are now the legitimate owners of your land,” Rosal said, addressing the recipients, whose houses sit along the coastline of Barangay Sabang that is facing the panoramic Albay Gulf.

Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer (PENRO) chief, Jerry Arena, on the other hand, said the 44 recipient families belong to the first batch of the total of 90 qualified beneficiaries of the program.

“The land titles for the remaining 46 families are now in the final processing. And maybe, next month, we will notify them for the distribution of their land titles,” he said in a statement.

Arena said his office is also taking the initiative of identifying potential recipients of their “Handog Titulo” program in other barangays of Legazpi.

Qualified for land titling are residents occupying not more than 500 square meters of public land, he noted.

William Orolfo, one of the land title recipients, admitted that he never had peace of mind through the years that they had been occupying their land.

“I was always anxious that anytime, we would be evicted since we did not have proof that we were the legitimate owner of the lot we were occupying. But this time, I am very happy that at last, we are now the owner of our land. Thanks to the ‘Handog Titulo’ program of the government,” the statement quoted him as saying in the local dialect.



Aside from Rosal and Arena, also present during the handing of land titles at the village's covered court, were DENR Regional Executive Director for Bicol Francisco Milla, Jr., Vice Mayor Bobby Cristobal, vice president of the Liga ng mga Barangay Ismael Santillan, and the city councilors. **(PNA)**



# Over 200 turtle hatchlings released in Tawi-Tawi island sanctuary

Published July 4, 2021, 2:39 PM

by [Richa Noriega](#)

Over 200 turtle hatchlings were released in Turtle Islands Wildlife Sanctuary in Tawi-Tawi, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) said on Friday, July 2.



PCG Commandant Admiral George Ursabia led the release of the turtle hatchlings on the coast of the turtle sanctuary on June 25, 2021. (Screengrabbed from the video courtesy of the PCG)



PCG Commandant Admiral George Ursabia led the release of the turtle hatchlings on the coast of the turtle sanctuary on June 25, 2021. (Screengrabbed from the video courtesy of the PCG)

In a [video](#) shared by the PCG on Friday, PCG Commandant Admiral George Ursabia led the release of the turtle hatchlings on the coast of the turtle sanctuary on June 25.

The PCG said, in cooperation with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the municipality of Turtle Islands, the initiative also aims to take care of the nesting grounds for the endangered Green Sea and Hawksbill turtles.

“Aside from upholding maritime law enforcement, the PCG is also mandated to protect the country’s marine resources, most especially vulnerable marine species and their habitats,” the Coast Guard said.

The wildlife conservation group World Wildlife Fund (WWF) said green turtles, classified as endangered, are threatened by “overharvesting of their eggs, hunting of adults, being caught in fishing gear and loss of nesting beach sites.”

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/07/04/over-200-turtle-hatchlings-released-in-tawi-tawi-island-sanctuary/>



# Lake Sebu women farmers boost income from biodiversity-friendly livelihood

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

JULY 4, 2021



Handicraft products made by KeWARB, a women farmers' group based in Lake Sebu, South Cotabato.

A group of women farmers in Lake Sebu, South Cotabato, weaves and sells uniquely Filipino handicrafts—bags, wallets, hats, baskets, food trays and lampshades—using the dried nito vine.

The craftsmanship of the rice and corn farmer-members of the Kestubong Women's Association Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries (KeWARB) is now in the spotlight as their biodiversity-friendly livelihood receives a much-needed boost from the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR).



KeWARB's indigenous products on display.

DAR recently granted KeWARB funding for the construction of its processing center, which is expected to increase the income of the women farmers by helping them “process and add value to their products.”

“We want to raise the level of competency of the KeWARB women farmers from mere producers to processors of the raw farm products themselves,” said DAR Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer Evangeline Bueno in a statement.

KeWARB farmer-members use indigenous materials, such as forest vines, for their small but growing livelihood.

They themselves grow and harvest these materials, a sustainable practice that does not affect their environment, particularly the forest surroundings of Lake Sebu from which the town got its name, nor their natural resources or wildlife.



## Big help to farmers, communities

Besides raising the endemic bamboo and rattan, farmers in Lake Sebu plant nito vine that they process and manufacture into handicrafts.

“This project is a big help to the farmers and nearby farm communities that depend on manufacturing products from [nito as their] source of livelihood,” Bueno said.

DAR Municipal Agrarian Reform Program Officer Frederick Pereyra and Municipal Agriculturist Zaldy A. Artacho led the groundbreaking rites for the construction of the center in Barangay Tasiman.

KeWARB is among the Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries (ARBs) organizations that utilize *nito* as raw material to produce its biodiversity-friendly products.

Nito, a vine species (*Lygodium circinatum*) from the fern family, commonly thrives in provinces where rain is evenly distributed throughout the year, such as Southern Tagalog and Mindanao.

Farmers in Oriental Mindoro, Marinduque and Romblon also produce various nito handicrafts. In Southern Tagalog, the indigenous peoples (IPs) of Mindoro are also known for their craftsmanship in using the indigenous material.

## Profitable agricultural product

Nito is fast becoming an agricultural product of Lake Sebu farmers that provides them with income-generating activities.

The children and people of the community help KeWARB manufacture assorted handicraft products and sell these to different markets.

The KeWARB project is being implemented under the Village Level Farm-focused Enterprise Development, which aims to enhance the products of the ARBs using appropriate facilities and equipment applicable to the agri-business enterprise of the ARBs.

Under the project, the farmers will undergo seminars and training on nito cultivation, product development and business marketing to develop their farm enterprise and make their business operations profitable.

## Harvesting restriction

Kate S. Pagayon of the DAR Regional Information Office XII told the BusinessMirror via Facebook Messenger on June 24 that currently most nito supplies come from Sarangani province because harvesting from the natural environment of Lake Sebu is prohibited.

Lake Sebu is rich in natural resources and its people are naturally very protective of their place, which the travel guide book publisher Lonely Planet said is located in a “bowl of forests and mountains.”

“Nito harvesting is prohibited in Lake Sebu,” Pagayon said.

The supplier from Sarangani, however, has secured a permit to harvest from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The use of *nito*, Pagayon said, has its advantage “because they say natural resource materials are eco-friendly.”

“Aside from nito, they also use bamboo and rattan that are abundant in the area compared to other raw materials like plastic,” Pagayon said.

## Targeting the export market

KeWARB products are made currently for the local market “only when there are orders,” according to Sayna Cafon, the group’s president, in a telephone interview on June 24.



“But we hope to enhance our products as we also wish to target the export market,” Cafon said in Filipino, acknowledging that “some of our buyers are selling them outside the country.”

In Lake Sebu, she said, basket-weaving is common, especially among women who make it a source of income.

She said their buyers include tourists, hotels and resorts and even locals who come to buy and sell them in the market.

While the group is also being helped by the Department of Trade and Industry, the distance and difficulty of bringing their products to the market have hampered their production, thus limiting their access to potential buyers.

Nevertheless, in the upland areas, gathering raw materials from the forest to make native products is more than just a tradition. This practice has become a way of life to help their families make ends meet.

### **Forest-friendly activities**

The DENR-Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) is promoting forest-friendly activities, encouraging communities to make products that pose less harm to the forests and wildlife.

This is not unique to the Philippines as the practice is also being done by its Southeast Asian neighbors and in other parts of the world.

Asean Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) Executive Director Theresa Mundita S. Lim told the BusinessMirror via Facebook Messenger on June 24 that the intergovernmental institution assists farmers and IPs living in and around Asean Heritage Parks (AHPs) to sustainably manage protected areas through livelihood program.

Under the Biodiversity-based Products project, ACB promotes BBP to improve livelihoods and protect biodiversity.

BBP is anchored on the belief that Asean’s rich natural resources and biodiversity offer significant potential for the region’s socio-economic development.

“We have honey, black ginger and bamboo [as] we work with communities living in and around selected AHPs,” Lim said, citing some biodiversity-friendly products that generate huge income without harming the environment.

### **Organic trade**

According to ACB, Asean member-states (AMS) want to harness the economic potential of the region’s rich biodiversity by further developing trade relations for bio-products or organic trade in the national, regional, and even global level.

Recognizing that the potential of BBP, especially for the indigenous population in the buffer zones of protected areas in the region, has yet to be sufficiently analyzed and is often unknown, the BBP as an economic source for the improvement of livelihoods and biodiversity protection project was launched.

The ACB said, however, that “AMS do not get sufficient support in promoting BBP.”

“To promote Asean national policies on conservation, particularly within the framework of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, Asean established the ACB to address the protection of biodiversity on a regional level, develop and disseminate joint strategies and explore win-win opportunities, merging biodiversity protection with livelihood,” ACB pointed out.

Images courtesy of Sayna Cafon and Kate S. Pagayon/DAR Region XII

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/07/04/lake-sebu-women-farmers-boost-income-from-biodiversity-friendly-livelihood/>





# Community service sa mga mahuhuling magtatapon ng basura sa ilog at kanal aprub sa Palasyo

On Jul 4, 2021



**SANG-AYON** ang Malakanyang na patawan ng multa o community service ng Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) ang mga mahuhuling magtatapon ng basura sa estero, ilog at kanal.

Sinabi ito ni Presidential Spokesperson Sec. Harry Roque matapos na matuklasan ng MMDA na ang mga hindi kanais-nais na gawaing ito ang dahilan kung bakit nagbabara ang mga pumping stations sa kalakhang Maynila.

Subalit ayon kay Roque, base sa kanyang pagkakaalam mayroon ng existing laws ukol dito.

Kung hindi aniya siya nagkakamali, nakasaad sa batas na ito na dapat mapatawan pa ng mabigat na parusa ang mga mahuhuling nagtatapon ng basura sa mga sa mga estero, ilog at karagatan.

Source: [https://www.policefilestonite.net/2021/07/04/community-service-sa-mga-mahuhuling-magtatapon-ng-basura-sa-ilog-at-kanal-aprub-sa-palasyo/?fbclid=IwAR3ZclHx3tCHxcK9GL\\_Hch5WEB7Jtfj47g3FdDUDJaJdOn-VHHXreuiJigs](https://www.policefilestonite.net/2021/07/04/community-service-sa-mga-mahuhuling-magtatapon-ng-basura-sa-ilog-at-kanal-aprub-sa-palasyo/?fbclid=IwAR3ZclHx3tCHxcK9GL_Hch5WEB7Jtfj47g3FdDUDJaJdOn-VHHXreuiJigs)



# Pasig River: A gauge of who we are

BY THOMAS M. ORBOS JULY 5, 2021



The DENR last week disputed a report by Oxford University's Our World Data, which estimated that the Philippines accounts for an appalling 26 percent of all ocean plastic refuse coming from rivers worldwide, with 6 percent purportedly being contributed by the Pasig River. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources, of course, acknowledges that plastic pollution is still a serious problem insofar as the Pasig River is concerned, but such condition had gotten better in recent years, with the national government, local government units and civic organizations pitching in to help. Whether the report is accurate or not, we still have a long way to go in reviving the beauty and life of our dear Pasig River. The good news is, it can be done and it will be done. All that is needed is the consciousness, cooperation and the will of everyone to see this through.

I happened to witness sometime last week a tributary clean up of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, with Chairman Abalos personally leading the efforts. Discussing with him his program, he said he will embark on an all out war on river waste, engaging not just in the river clean up but attacking the source as well—the residences of the more than 12 million Metro Manilans. In his plan, he will push for recycling at the source, something that we see as a norm in other countries but still an alien practice for us Filipinos. Yet, if we can do this, as Chair Abalos said, then we have already solved half of the problem of river garbage. Also, part of his strategy will be to engage the many barangays to strictly monitor and enforce such regulations and penalize violators if need be.

Also encouraging are the many private individuals and groups doing river cleanups, as well as promoting river consciousness. You have the local Greenpeace community and other river warriors who quietly do sustained physical clean ups. We also have the local artist who does murals and events on the Pasig River, promoting its historical, cultural and environmental importance. All of these will help in one way or the other. To push the envelope even further, companies can embark on such clean ups as a form of their CSRs, especially those companies that traverse the river as part of their business processes.

But really the heart and soul that could give life to the river are the citizens themselves. The only way for this to work is to make recycling and taking care of our environment a part of our lives. Just like all other long-term macro solutions, this starts with the simple things—the small efforts and low hanging fruits that matter. Besides, the bulk of the plastic trashes, unbelievably, are candy plastic wrappers, plastic bags and single-use plastic materials.

Throwing refuse out your car is just the same as throwing garbage into the river. Simple acts can make a big difference to a plastic pollution-free world. For example, there's no need to get plastic utensils for home deliveries of food. Bringing your own bag (BYOB) when you shop makes more sense than inconvenience.



The good thing is that such a mindset is a given insofar as the youth today is concerned. For our kids, taking care of the environment is a mantra already embedded in their persona. Tell me one instance that your son or daughter did not castigate you for being wasteful and doing harm to the environment. And rightly so, as it was our generation, and the generation before us, that did the most damage to our environment; then we want to leave it to our children at the point of no return.

It is not so much pronounced, but the maturity of development of cities can be seen by the state of the rivers and other bodies of water that run through them. Cities like Tokyo, Boston, London, Savannah, Shanghai, Seoul and many more take pride in their rivers and bodies of water, making them a landmark of their culture and their development. Manila, at one point in our history, was the Venice of the East. We still can reclaim that reputation that made Manila a famous tourist attraction. We just need the genuine consciousness, cooperation and will of everyone to make it happen.

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PHOTOGRAPH BY JOEY SANCHEZ MENDOZA FOR THE DAILY TRIBUNE

**WORKERS** from the city government clean up the Manila Bay dolomite sand area Sunday even as rehabilitation is still going on.



# DENR closes Alona Beach on coliform contamination

 **BYMA. STELLA F. ARNALDO**

JULY 5, 2021

ALONA Beach on Panglao Island in Bohol has been closed by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) from July 1 to 15 due to high coliform levels.

Named after a sexy actress popular in the 1970s, Alona Beach is the bread and butter of many resorts on Panglao Island, which is currently among the few destinations in the country open for leisure travel.

This underscores the urgent need for the Bohol provincial and municipal governments to resume their infrastructure projects including the construction of sewerage treatment plants, said a highly-placed government source.

The closure of Alona Beach was announced by Panglao Municipal Tourism Officer Leonides E. Senica in a letter to stakeholders on June 30, 2021. However, he only attributed the beach closure “to the scheduled conduct of scientific study or personnel from the [DENR] and the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB).”

Government and private sector sources, however, cited information from the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources of Bohol that analysis of water samples taken from the beach showed “high fecal coliform levels . . . at 700-800 most probable number/100 milliliters.” This far exceeds the fecal coliform standard of 100 mpn/100 ml. Coliform or e.coli bacteria are found in human feces.

Bohol Gov. Arthur Yap has been promoting Panglao Island for tourism, and undertaking steps to ensure guests will feel safe by pushing for the vaccination of its tourism workers. (***See, “[Island destinations gear up for entry of foreign tourists.](#)” in the BusinessMirror, June 21, 2021.***)

## ‘No swimming’

Separately, information received by Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo Puyat from the Bohol provincial government and shared with the BusinessMirror said, “The closure came about as an offshoot of the meeting with DENR-EMB and LGU Panglao. EMB recommended closing the Alona beach area for swimming (day and night) when they collected samples [because] there were picnickers/night swimmers in tents, and [there was no] CR so probably, their waste [were] directly discharged [to the sea] which may have contributed to the high count of fecal coliform in the sampling sites. Mayor [Leonila] Montero acted on the recommendation of the EMB, and thus the Notice PA, though the LGU [clarified that] only swimming is not allowed for two weeks. Restaurants and bars are open.”

In his letter, Leonides prohibited “picnicking, swimming or engaging in any sea-related activities along the shoreline of Alona Beach” during the closure period. He said diving, snorkeling, fishing “beyond 200 meters from the shoreline” may continue, along with the continued operation of restaurants and bars as well as as accommodation facilities along the beach. “We strongly encourage you to offer and bring your guests to other areas of the municipality like in Libaong, Bolod, Doljo, Tangnan, Balicasag, and in Momo beach,” he added.



From January to June 2021, visitor arrivals on Panglao Island reached 11,980, a fall of some 76.6 percent from the same period in 2020. Of total guest arrivals in the first half of the year, 11,754 were domestic travelers, and 226 were foreigners, as per data from DOT-Region 7.

This is not the first time high coliform levels were recorded in Alona Beach and the waters surrounding Panglao Island. A swimming ban was imposed in Panglao in November 2018 by the interagency task force composed of the heads of the DENR, Department of the Interior and Local Government and Department of Tourism, but was lifted just two days later. (See, [Swimming ban slapped on 2 Panglao, El Nido sites](#), "November 30, 2018.")

In an earlier press conference, Gov. Yap said the infrastructure activities to rehabilitate Panglao Island, including the construction of STPs, were put on hold due to Covid-19.



This aerial photograph taken on June 24, 2021 shows the Taal volcano crater.

AFP/Ted Aljibe

## Batangas gov laments limited authority in Taal's evacuation activity

[Arnell Ozaeta](#) (Philstar.com) - July 4, 2021 - 1:30pm

BATANGAS, Philippines — Batangas Gov. Hermilando Mandanas expressed his disappointment over the implementation of the Republic Act 11038 or the Expanded National Integrated Protected Area System (ENIPAS) Act of 2018.

Mandanas said in the said law, the provincial government of Batangas has no longer the authority over matters concerning Taal volcano and the identified areas within the Taal Protected Landscape.

"We have to ask permission first to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to help our people, we don't even have the authority to order evacuation," Mandanas lamented.

The ENIPAS Act signed by President Rodrigo Duterte in 2018 declared 94 protected areas as national parks that are now under government protection and management.

These protected areas, including the Taal Volcano area, have been put under the control and supervision of the DENR.

The Taal Volcano Protected Landscape has an area of 62,292.16 hectares, equivalent to 20% of the entire Batangas province land area.

All declared protected areas are managed by a Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) composed of the DENR regional director as chairman, the governor, a senator who is a duly registered resident of the city/province where the protected area is located.

Also included in the board are the district representatives of the congressional district, mayors and barangay chairpersons of the area.

When asked whether PAMB has more authority than the Governor and how it affects LGU jurisdiction over their constituents, Mandanas said "In areas like taxation, work permits, zoning and construction, livelihood in the area, etc PAMB is more powerful than LGUs in the Protected area."

While the governor agrees that the law is helpful, if you limit the area where protection of environment is needed.



The protected landscape vicinity of Taal volcano was originally 22,000 hectares but was increased to 62,000 hectares upon the passage of the ENIPAS law.

Aside from reduction of real property taxes previously collected by the provincial government, Mandanas feels the implication of the ENIPAS law gave DENR more than they can chew.

“It (is) the principle, the right, the authority over the big area and they cannot take the responsibility, handle the duty of serving our people. That cannot be quantified,” he added.

Despite this, Mandanas said the provincial government is exerting all efforts on the local level to work with the existence of the ENIPAS Act.

“We do what we can, this is a legislation concern, and our representatives, I am sure, should be more concerned,” he said.

PAMB members also include regional directors of the Department of Agriculture, the National Economic and Development Authority, the Department of Science and Technology, the Philippine National Police, the Department of National Defense, three representatives from either an NGO or PO, duly accredited both by the DENR and the provincial government, at least one but not more than three representatives from all the IPs/ICCs present in the area and recognized by the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples; One representative from an academic institution and one representative from the private sector.





## MOA ng DENR at construction company pinababasura LUPAIN NG TRIBONG DUMAGAT ISALBA

7 hours ago jake



SA bulubunduking bahagi sa hangganan ng lungsod ng Antipolo at bayan ng Baras sa lalawigan ng Rizal ay may isang construction company na inirereklamo ng mga katutubong Dumagat dahil sa umano'y pangangamkam ng kanilang ancestral domain kung saan sila nananahan daang taon na ang nakalipas.

Sa isang panayam, direktang inakusahan ng katutubong tagapamuno na si Ka Bador ang Blue Star Construction and Development Corporation ng panggigipit sa kanilang hanay gamit ang mga armadong grupong nagpapakilalang mga miyembro ng Philippine National Police at ng Philippine Army.

Aniya, pilit silang pinalalayas sa lupang sakop ng kanilang ancestral domain ng nasabing construction company gamit ang isang Memorandum of Agreement na may lagda ng dating Environment Secretary Gina Lopez.

Sa ilalim ng nasabing MOA, binibigyan ang Blue Star Construction and Development Corporation ng 2,700-ektaryang lupain na kanilang pangangalagaan.

Ani Ka Bador, nagkukubli sa imahe ng pagiging environmentalist ang nasabing kumpanya.

Sa isang pagbisita kamakailan sa Barangay Pinugay sa Baras ay tumambad ang kaawa-awang mga Dumagat na hindi na makuha pang umuwi sa kani-kanilang mga tahanan makaraan umanong bakuran ng Blue Star ang kanilang lupang tinitirhan at sinasaka bilang kabuhayan.

Bukod sa kanilang mga sakahan at tahanan, sinarhan din umano ng nasabing kompanya ang kanilang daan patungo sa kanilang sagradong pook kung saan sila nananalangin.

Sa pagsasaliksik ng SAKSI Ngayon, lumalabas na ang kabuuang lawak ng lupang nais mapasakamay ng nasabing construction firm sa hilagang bahagi ng Sierra Madre Mountain Range na sakop ng Rizal ay halos kasing laki ng lungsod ng Makati sa Kalakhang Maynila.

Bunsod nito, nagsampa ng kaso ang mga katutubong Dumagat sa Antipolo City Regional Trial Court sa hangaring patigilin ang Blue Star sa malawakang pagbabakod sa kanilang ancestral domain. Kabilang sa kanilang mga sinampahan ng kaso ay kinilalang sina Ben Dumaliang, Lilia Dumaliang, Annie Adeline Dumaliang, Billie Crystal Dumaliang, Sonia Oliveros at ilang mga opisyal ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources.



Sa ilalim ng mga umiiral na batas, ang mga katutubong nasa kani-kanilang ancestral domain ay pinoprotektahan laban sa mga mapagsamantala, lalo pa't karamihan sa mga katutubo ay salat sa aral at pag-unawa sa mga dokumentong kadalasang gamit ng mga nagsasamantala upang sila'y itaboy.

Sa dokumentong nakalap ng SAKSI Ngayon, hiling ng mga katutubo sa husgado na ipawalang bisa ang nasabing MOA lalo pa't wala umanong detalyadong lugar o "technical description" na tutukoy sa lugar na napapaloob sa nasabing dokumento. Wala rin itinakdang haba ng panahon.

"Salat kami sa aral pero hindi kami tanga. Nakakita na din kami ng titulo at tax declaration ng mga lupain. May mga technical description na andun para mawari ang hangganan ng sakop na lawak. Mantakin mo, wala ding nakasaad na panahon kung hanggang kailan sila pwedeng maghari-harian bilang mga panginoong maylupa sa ancestral domain namin," ani Ka Bador.

Wala ring probisyon sa nasabing MOA na makikinabang ang gobyerno mula sa Blue Star Construction and Development Corporation na batay sa pagtatala ng mga katutubo ay kumikita ng hindi bababa sa P30 milyon kada buwan mula sa paniningil nito ng P1,800 kada ulo sa mga nagnanais magisnan ang natural limestone formation sa Bundok ng Masungi. Hindi rin pwedeng isang tao lang ang papasok sa mala-hasyendang sakop ng Blue Star. Ang itinakdang minimum – lima katao kada grupo.

"Ganoon po kaganda ang lugar namin. Kaya siguro interesadong-interesado silang sakupin ang ancestral domain namin," dagdag pa ng lider-katutubo.

Sa pagpapatuloy na pagsasaliksik, lumalabas ding walang anomang pakinabang dito ang Antipolo City government at maging ang munisipyo ng Baras. Sa kabila ng nakalululang laki ng kitang pumapasok sa Blue Star Construction and Development Corporation, walang nakatalang buwis na pumasok sa kaban ng bayan mula nang ito'y magsimulang mag-operate taong 2017. (FERNAN ANGELES)

Source: [http://saksingayon.com/nasyunal/moa-ng-denr-at-construction-company-pinababasuralupain-ng-tribong-dumagat-isalba/?utm\\_source=ReviveOldPost&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_campaign=ReviveOldPost&fbclid=IwAR0A3KASj\\_T5upbc6MD\\_8l1eu10pu9FB1qA7Qtxawz579mbDFQ4hzeNrRug](http://saksingayon.com/nasyunal/moa-ng-denr-at-construction-company-pinababasuralupain-ng-tribong-dumagat-isalba/?utm_source=ReviveOldPost&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=ReviveOldPost&fbclid=IwAR0A3KASj_T5upbc6MD_8l1eu10pu9FB1qA7Qtxawz579mbDFQ4hzeNrRug)



# Pacquiao adds DSWD, DOE, DENR to his list of 'corrupt' agencies

By: [Melvin Gascon](#) - Correspondent / [@melvingasconINQ](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:40 AM July 04, 2021



Senator Manny Pacquiao. FILE PHOTO

MANILA, Philippines — Hours before he flew to the United States to train for his next ring appearance, world boxing champion-turned politician Sen. Manny Pacquiao responded to President Rodrigo Duterte's challenge to identify corruption-hit government agencies by naming three more.

Without directly accusing specific officials of committing graft, Pacquiao said he informed about alleged irregularities in the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

He said he was informed that up to P10.4 billion in aid to the poor during the pandemic had gone missing from the DSWD and that the Department of Health (DOH), which he first identified, was adding to the losses from state coffers through irregular purchases.

At an online press briefing where he was shown sitting at his desk behind stacks of documents, Pacquiao said the DSWD had entered into a questionable deal with a poorly capitalized company to handle the payout for 1.8 million beneficiaries of the second tranche of the government's social amelioration program (SAP).

He said only 500,000 had downloaded the application created by the company to use in collecting their cash aid, although the DSWD reported that the SAP money had been totally disbursed to all the 1.8 million beneficiaries.

## Duterte cleared

"It's really problematic because it's owned by a company that has a P62,000 paid-up capital, and yet, P16 billion had been downloaded to it," the senator said.

"So, my question is, what happened to the funds for the 1.3 million if they have not downloaded the application, but on record, received the cash aid?" he said.

The Inquirer was unable to reach the company and DSWD officials for comment.

Pacquiao, however, cleared the President of involvement in any irregularity. "I believe he does not know anything about these, or he is misinformed. This is why I am surprised why he is getting mad at me," he said.

Pacquiao dismissed insinuations that his exposés were connected to his political plans in 2022. The boxing champion is rumored to be preparing to run for president next year.

He said that it may have just been "coincidence" that his informants had relayed these alleged irregularities to him close to the election season.



“This issue of corruption has become really rampant...and they are saying they are coming out now because they could no longer stomach the extent of these anomalies,” he said.

Pacquiao said he also had documents showing that the DOH also was losing money in purchasing medicines that are nearing their expiry dates.

He did not say how much money was being lost and who may be involved.

“I will make full disclosure of all the details at the right time. I am doing this because I do not want to be embarrassed after I accepted the President’s challenge,” he said.

The DOH last October said that P2.2 billion worth of nearly expired and overstocked medicines, as well as medical and dental kits, procured by the government were already being distributed. Aside from the DSWD and the DOH, Pacquiao said he had also received documents of alleged corruption in other agencies, including the DENR and the DOE, which is headed by Secretary Alfonso Cusi, with whom he has had political differences within the ruling Partido Demokratiko Pilipino-Lakas ng Bayan (PDP-Laban).

He gave no details of alleged corruption at the DENR.

### **Startup company**

As in the DSWD, the DOE also awarded billions of pesos in contracts to a startup company with a P20,000 paid-up capital allegedly without going through a bidding, Pacquiao said.

“My staff is now busy trying to verify the veracity of all these documents before we turn them over to the (Senate blue ribbon committee). So, you watch out for that,” he told reporters.

He said he will submit a resolution on the alleged irregularities to the blue ribbon committee on Monday, by which time he would have already started his training for the fight against welterweight champion Errol Spence in August in Las Vegas.

The senator clarified that he was not starting a quarrel with the President or harboring any ill feelings toward the chair of PDP-Laban.

Cusi and his allies in the party are pushing the President to run for Vice President next year. Pacquiao said the meeting where this was announced by Cusi was not authorized by the party of which he is the acting president.

Pacquiao said he has been trying to to set up a meeting with Duterte for the past four to five months.

“I still maintain that high level of respect for our President, and I believe that either he does not fully understand [my intentions], or he has been fed with wrong information,” he said.

Smarting from Pacquiao’s remarks that corruption had worsened in recent years, the President said the senator should pay attention to Senate hearings and “do your job.”

On Thursday, he told the senator, “Do not go anywhere, finish and find out the corruption that you are talking about.”

“If you report [in the Senate] once or twice a month, then I would say that you are a shit. A shit is a shit,” Mr. Duterte said.

Source: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1455029/pacquiao-adds-dswd-doe-denr-%E2%80%8Dto-his-list-of-corrupt-agencies>



# Reclamation woes same in Manila as elsewhere

By ... -July 5, 2021

‘... THE PRESIDENT MAY NOT KNOW THAT 70 PERCENT OF SHIP MAINTENANCE FROM CEBU AND NORTHERN MINDANAO ARE BEING DONE IN THE SHIPYARD IN TAYUD, CONSOLACION.’

FOR five years now, no proposed reclamation project in Manila Bay moved ahead because President Duterte put his foot down on these proposals. The Chief Executive did not believe in all the well-written project proposals and videos made by proponents, curtly dismissing them as business schemes without regard to their impact on the environment.

No amount of convincing and assurances such as high-tech design, well-managed carbon footprints, big drainage mains, city revenue contributions, business growth, etc. could change the President’s mind.

In his speech at Camp Crame, QC last week, the President emphasized that he has stopped the processing of permit applications for Manila Bay reclamation projects due to reports of corruption.

“Thousands have applied but because of the corruption that I’ve heard early last year, there’s no more processing of papers,” Duterte said in a speech last month during the launch of the National Coalition of Lingkod Bayan Advocacy Support Groups and Force Multipliers at Camp Crame in Quezon City.

Duterte warned: “I told you, do not give money to the people in government. If I know you have given even a single centavo, I will throw your application to the waste basket.”

The Chief Executive’s objections to reclamation are as valid in Manila Bay as in Cebu or elsewhere. Duterte might not be aware that in Consolacion, Cebu, residents and shipping industry stakeholders are protesting a 235-hectare reclamation project reportedly because Mayor Joannes Alegado allegedly railroaded it without proper documents and skirting usual procedures.

The project, it was reported, will cause shipyards to lose an area where ships can stay during storms and emergencies. Ship maintenance facilities are not addressed, even as the President may not know that 70 percent of ship maintenance from Cebu and Northern Mindanao are being done in the shipyard in Tayud, Consolacion.

Cebu’s status as the shipping hub of the Visayas is at risk if shipyards are displaced by a reclamation project that allegedly serves only the officials.

Reclaiming land from the sea brings and shares the same headaches, whether in Manila or in Cebu — the reason why Duterte will have none of it.

Source: [https://malaya.com.ph/index.php/news\\_opinion/reclamation-woes-same-in-manila-as-elsewhere/](https://malaya.com.ph/index.php/news_opinion/reclamation-woes-same-in-manila-as-elsewhere/)



## Nalzaro: Consolacion reclamation: 'White elephant' in the offing?



[BOBBY NALZARO](#)

July 04, 2021

The shipyard operators in Tayud, Consolacion town have been granted a temporary legal relief in their cause in opposing the proposed reclamation project in the area by their local government unit (LGU). This, after the court ordered the continuance of their business operations in the area until the main case for certiorari shall have been decided by the court. The shipyard operators—Philippine Rigid Construction Corp., Fortune Shipworks Inc., Nagasaki Shipyard Inc., PKS Shipping Co. and Uni-Orient Pearl Ventures Inc.—filed a petition at the Mandaue City Regional Trial Court (RTC) asking for a 20-day temporary restraining order (TRO) and writ of preliminary injunction (WPI) against the LGU headed by Mayor Joannes Alegado and the town's business permit section and licensing office chief, Judith Pepito.

“Both parties agreed to maintain the status quo prior to the pending controversy, that is, for the petitioners to continue their business operations in the area until the main case for certiorari shall have been decided by the Court. Consequently, the present application for the issuance of a 20-day TRO and WPI is deemed withdrawn,” RTC Branch 83 Presiding Judge Allan Francisco Garciano said in his two-page order.

The petitioners went to court after the Consolacion LGU gave them only six months to operate, which expired last June 30, 2021 despite paying for their business permit for the whole year because of the proposed reclamation project. The shipyard operators can continue to operate sans business permit until the reclamation project will commence.

But Mayor Alegado said the shipyard owners cannot compel the LGU to issue them a business permit because they have not complied with requirements that were asked from them. One of the requirements is for the shipyard owners to produce a tenurial instrument (lease agreement) from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). However, this is not a basic requirement and not explicitly stated in the ordinance. But the LGU can ask for more requirements. The tenurial requirement would reflect the ownership of the land. Well, Mayor Alegado is making the shipyard operators' lives more miserable so they will be forced to stop their operations for his ambitious multimillion-peso reclamation project.

I have already written about this issue several months ago that the Consolacion LGU is planning to construct a Seafont Reclamation Project in the area through a public-private partnership under La Consolacion Seafont Development Corp., to draw more investors to put up their investments in the town. This 230-hectare mixed-use development features commercial and institutional zones as well as an area for tourism port facilities.

Consolacion and Liloan are considered the next big thing in the Cebu property market as development already starts to flock northward in the metropolis.



Reclamation projects can be beneficial if we want new establishments, such as businesses, to arise from a land area. However, these should not be pursued if they would harm low-income families in the long run. A case study in Barangay Tayud shows that 25 percent of the 25,000 people who lived there work in the shipyard industry. Most of the residents are fisherfolk. In Sitio Bagacay, there are residents who rely on fishing and the proponents have no concrete plans on how to address the concerns of these people. Don't tell me that they will just be thrown away like rags? Mayor Alegado just simply told the shipyard operators to relocate themselves anywhere in the Visayas or Mindanao. As simple as that, and these operators contributed to the town's economy and employment? Besides, there are various concerns that should be addressed and these concerns are compelling enough to say that the reclamation project must not be pursued.

The project proponents should consider the situation of the Tayud Fishersfolks Urban Poor Association who cried that the reclamation project would displace them. The project will definitely affect the shipyard operations that would lead to the job termination of some 302 employees and 539 contractors' employees.

Beyond the economic concerns, the effect of closing down the shipyards also involves national security concerns. This is because ships from the Philippine Navy would lose an area for maintenance work. That area is also the gateway of vessels going in and out of Cebu ports.

Are the benefits of land reclamation worth the environmental impact? Reclaimed lands are also to blame for the rise of the water level on the bay, which causes massive flooding and storm surges. They badly affect not just the lives of the residents, but also may shut down local economic activities particularly those in low-lying areas. It can also harm aquatic resources, the environment and heritage and historical sites.

In his Manila Times column, July 30, 2014 issue entitled "Reclamation: Pros and Cons," architect Felino A. Palafox Jr., a well-known urban planner, said: "One cannot resort to reclamation because it is the most convenient solution toward a lack of urban space and new urban land for real estate development when there are still potential areas that can be developed elsewhere in the metropolis. Reclamation should only be considered as the last resort."

Doesn't the town have enough urban areas where it can expand its economic development? And how sure is Mayor Alegado that there will be investors who will be interested in his seafront development once completed? Look at the South Road Properties (SRP) in Cebu City? It is more ideal for investments as it is strategically located within the city with complete infrastructure. But until now, it remains a white elephant. Is this Consolacion reclamation, a white elephant in the offing?



# CPPO cops focus on water activities as they kick off PCR month

By: Pegeen Maisie M. Sararaña - Multimedia Reporter - CDN Digital



CPPO personnel during their Scubasurero activity last July 2. | Photo from Engel Soriano FB page

CEBU CITY, Philippines — Tree and mangrove planting, and Scubasurero are among the activities lined up by the Cebu Police Provincial Office (CPPO) to celebrate their 26th Police Community Relations month this year.

Police Colonel Engelbert Soriano, the CPPO top official, said that they were targeting at least 1,000 trees or mangroves to be planted this month alone in all 54 city and municipal police stations in Cebu province.

Soriano said that since then, they had been reaching out to the community, whom they believed their best partner in securing the safety of the province.

Apart from this, he said that they would also align their activities as their contribution to the Philippine Environment Month Celebration held every June.

He also said that they would continue their 'barangayanihan' and other outreach programs in every barangay even to the islands that would be difficult to reach.

The nationwide kick-off of the Police Community Relations month celebration will happen on Monday, July 5, but the CPPO had already conducted their province-wide kick-off of activities for the PCR month last July 2.

"Last July 2, we made a province-wide kick-off activity while sa Monday pa lang ang national kick-off nya ay nag start na kami ng July 2 for a province-wide Kaligkasan activity. Lahat ng police stations and the provincial headquarter ng CPPO ay nagparticipate ng tree planting o mangrove planting at Scubasurero activities, yun po ang ating participation at form ng kick-off namin for the PCR month," he said.

(Last July 2, we made a province-wide kick-off activity while on Monday is the national kick-off. We started our province-wide Kaligkasan activity last July 2. All the police stations and the provincial headquarter of CPPO participated in tree planting and mangrove planting, also in Scubasurero activities. So fa, that was our participation for our PCR month.)

Kaligkasan is a program of the CPPO which means Kaligtasan (safety) and Kalikasan (nature or environment)





Soriano said that they always prioritize all PCR activities as they considered them at the forefront of all the PNP operations including intelligence, operations, and others.

He further said that PCR was also the primary thrust of PNP to bring the police closer to the community and vice versa.

“We have been gaining, dito sa mga ginagawa natin at nararamdam natin dito sa Cebu province ang cooperation po ng bawat isa at napakalakas ng suporta ng civilian community at the local police,” he said.

(We have been gaining [support], in what we are doing and we feel that the strong and full support and cooperation of the civilian community and the local police here in the province.)

Soriano said that they would continue to partner with the community in their activities as their previous programs were proof of their tight coordination with the people.

Recently, the Cebu City Police Office (CCPO) had also launched their Kasaligan sa Kabataan program as their way to win the children’s hearts following the alarming situation in the city where minors were rescued from being involved in illegal drug activities.

The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI-7) has recently expressed their concern after their recent drug operation in Barangay Punta Princesa in Cebu City where they rescued two minors whose mother allegedly let her two-year-old son play with a tooter, one used for snorting illegal drugs, by telling him that it was a lollipop.



# Canadian military on alert as wildfires rage

[By Agence France-Presse](#) July 4, 2021

**OTTAWA:** The Canadian military was on standby Saturday to help evacuate towns and fight more than 170 wildfires fueled by a record-smashing heat wave and tinder-dry conditions as the government in Ottawa warned of a "long and challenging summer" ahead.

At least 174 fires were active in the western province of [British Columbia](#), 78 of them sparked in the last two days, officials said. Most were caused by intense lightning storms.

The fires were north of the city of Kamloops, 350 kilometers (220 miles) northeast of [Vancouver](#).

"We saw 12,000 lightning strikes, roughly, yesterday," said [Cliff Chapman](#), the director of provincial operations for [British Columbia Wildfire Service](#), according to public broadcaster the CBC.

"Many of those lightning strikes were hitting near communities, (as) was seen in the Kamloops area."

While the immediate blame for the scorching heat has been placed on a high-pressure "heat dome" trapping warm air in the region, climate change is making record-setting temperatures more frequent.

Globally, the decade to 2019 was the hottest recorded, and the five hottest years on record have all occurred since 2012, according to [climate.gov](#).

"The dry conditions and the extreme heat in British Columbia are unprecedented," Public Safety Minister Bill Blair said Friday. "These wildfires show that we are in the earliest stages of what promises to be a long and challenging summer."

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau met Friday with an incident response group that included several ministers, after earlier speaking with local, provincial and indigenous leaders.

"We will be there to help," he told reporters.

The response group said it would establish an operations center in Edmonton, with up to 350 military personnel providing logistical support to the region, according to Defense Minister [Harjit Sajjan](#). Military aircraft are also being deployed.

Roughly 1,000 people have fled the wildfires in British Columbia, with many others still missing.

The British Columbia medical examiner's office said there had been 719 deaths in the past week, "three times more" than the average number recorded over the period.

[Lisa Lapointe](#), the province's chief coroner, said the extreme weather was likely "a significant contributing factor."

The village of Lytton, 250 kilometers (155 miles) northeast of Vancouver, was evacuated Wednesday after a fire flared up and spread quickly. Nearly 90 percent of the village was torched, according to [Brad Vis](#), an MP for the area.

"We really just had to get out there and we had no choice," resident [Gordon Murray](#) told CBC.



"We grabbed the pets that we could find. We had to leave one behind. We grabbed our wallets and got in the car. We didn't have time for anything else."

On Tuesday, the village set a Canadian record of 49.6 degrees Celsius (121 degrees Fahrenheit).



This handout photo courtesy of [BC Wildfire Service](#) shows a wildfire southwest of [Deka Lake](#), British Columbia on July 2, 2021, which is estimated to be 200 hectares. AFP PHOTO / BC WILDFIRE SERVICES

### Wide area affected

The heat wave continued to spread across central [Canada](#) on Saturday, also affecting the provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, as well as parts of the Northwest Territories and northern Ontario.

"A dangerous long-duration heat wave will continue," bringing "very warm temperatures over the next couple of days," Environment Canada warned in bulletins for British Columbia.

Lytton resident [Jeff Chapman](#) told the CBC he saw his parents die in the fire that engulfed the town.

With only minutes to react, the elderly couple sought shelter in a trench in their backyard, as Chapman ran for safety at nearby rail tracks. From that vantage, he said, he saw the fires sweep across and destroy most of the town.

British Columbia also warned of flooding from melting mountain snowcaps and glaciers.

Further south, the US states of Washington and [Oregon](#) have also suffered record temperatures.

The death toll in Oregon from heat-related causes has hit 94, the state's medical examiner said late Friday.

Three wildfires in drought-hit northern California have scorched nearly 40,000 acres (16,200 hectares), including a popular tourist lake preparing to welcome visitors for the July 4 holiday weekend. Evacuation orders were in place along stretches of Shasta Lake.

Around 40 structures were destroyed.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/07/04/latest-stories/canadian-military-on-alert-as-wildfires-rage/1805691>



# Water is disappearing in the West -- and not just during the summer

By Hannah Gard, CNN Updated 0204 GMT (1004 HKT) July 4, 2021



The Los Angeles Aqueduct carries snowmelt water from the Sierra Nevada mountains.

**(CNN)**Skiers and snowboarders pray for snow so they can shred the slopes. Climatologists and hydrologists have an entirely different and more critical reason to cross their fingers for the "white gold."

The West's historic drought has many impacts, including water shortages, more severe wildfire seasons and [unprecedented heat waves](#), to name a few. Intense droughts are a result of many factors, one of which scientists have recently begun to analyze with more scrutiny: snow drought.

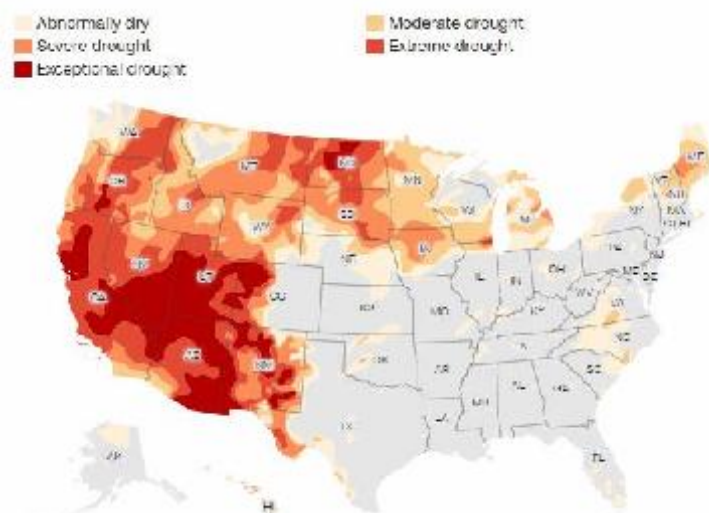
Though the impact is most intense in the summer months, when rain is sparse and temperatures are high, droughts actually start to take shape during the winter.

One of the West's largest and best water reservoirs is snow on mountaintops. Water falls as snow in the winter and stays frozen (ideally) through late spring. When the snow melts, the water runs down into rivers and fills human-made reservoirs, just in time for the summer heat.

Snow runoff is a critical fresh water source around the world; around a sixth of Earth's population uses runoff for drinking, farming, power and other uses, [according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#).

A snow drought in the West appeared early last winter, [according to the National Integrated Drought Information System](#). The paltry snowpack, paired with well-below normal rainfall and extreme heat, is at the core of the region's water-supply concerns.

On Thursday, the US Drought Monitor reported [93% of the West is in drought](#), the most expansive drought in that region in modern records.





The melt runoff is particularly critical in California, where snow on the Sierra Nevada provides about 30% of the state's water. And one of the areas hardest hit by snow drought this year was the Sierra range.

California has three major reservoir types, said Claudia Faunt, a hydrologist for the California Water Science Center: Surface reservoirs -- such as Oroville and Shasta -- groundwater, and snowpack, which "melts and feeds the surface water system."

Faunt told CNN the amount of water in the snowpack and the timing of when it melts is critical for surface reservoirs.

"Reservoirs are managed to have water available to meet the demands of farming and also recreation, and municipal supplies," Faunt said. "If there's not much snowpack or it melts a lot earlier, it impacts how reservoir operations are done and how much water is pumped from groundwater."

Michael Dettinger, a hydrologist for the US Geological Survey, said this year's snowmelt runoff was bad on several fronts.

The first was the snow drought itself. By April 1, winter precipitation was just 50% of normal, and the snow that did fall contained 40% less water than it normally does.

The second problem was that the air in California has been so dry, the runoff evaporated before it reached the reservoirs.

"After April 1, when the snow that was there started to melt in earnest, the runoff that you would normally expect to show up just didn't," Dettinger said. He added that even with the low snowfall, "if runoff had been normal ... we'd be in a drought, but maybe one that was only half as bad."

Snow that is typically sustained well into the summer was gone months before it should have been, Dettinger said. Now, all of California's major reservoirs are [well below their historical averages](#).



Oroville Dam in California.

SATellite IMAGE ©2021 MAXAR TECHNOLOGIES

Shasta Lake, the state's largest reservoir by volume, is about to break its low-water record. The current record was set in the 1924 water year, [according to the National Weather Service](#).



The water shortage is just one of the impacts of California's snow drought. The wildfire season is starting earlier and ending later each year, largely due to climate change.

"Warmer spring and summer temperatures, reduced snowpack, and earlier spring snowmelt create longer and more intense dry seasons that increase moisture stress on vegetation and make forests more susceptible to severe wildfire," [according to CalFire](#).

So far this year, more than 3,500 wildfires have sparked across California. That's more than 1,000 higher than what was normal over the [past five years](#). Fires are also starting more frequently, and much earlier.

Faunt says that one of the biggest problems Californians are facing is the ability to adapt to the changes in runoff due to the climate crisis.

"The increase in temperatures like we're having right now tends to make drought more severe and changes the type of precipitation to where we have a lot more heavy downpours," says Faunt. "The atmospheric rivers deliver most of California's annual rainfall and they're tending to become more intense as the atmosphere warms up."

Heavy downpours may sound like a good thing, but Faunt said that it's much more difficult to efficiently manage the downpours in California's water infrastructure to be able to make the water useful.

What's needed is an efficient way to conserve the available water sources, and better utilize steady sources like snowpack in years it is plentiful.

As the climate changes, the consistent, reliable nature of snowpack becomes more important. But warmer average temperatures and extreme heat waves are melting what is left of the California's snowpack more rapidly, and drier air is evaporating the runoff.

Water supply issues will continue to escalate as long as careful monitoring of snowpack and extreme heat events aren't considered in water management plans, according to [NOAA's Climate Program Office](#). As research expands into the types and impacts of snow drought, the understanding of one of the West's most important water resources will broaden with time.



# Taal Volcano sulfur emission highest on Sunday: Phivolcs

July 4, 2021, 5:50 pm



HELP. Relief operations are initiated by Tanauan City's Social Welfare and Development Office for residents of Sitio Mahabang-Buhangin on Saturday (July 3, 2021). A medical team also gives free consultations to those experiencing respiratory ailments due to the effects of volcanic smog. *(Photo courtesy of OCD Facebook)*

**MANILA** – Taal Volcano recorded “anomalously high” volcanic SO<sub>2</sub> (sulfur oxide) gas emission on Sunday, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said in its 4:15 p.m. bulletin.

The levels of volcanic SO<sub>2</sub> gas emission were recorded at an average of 22,628 tonnes per day, the highest ever recorded in Taal.

Since midnight, there have been a total of 26 strong and very shallow low-frequency volcanic earthquakes associated with magmatic degassing recorded beneath the eastern sector of the volcano island.

“Some of these earthquakes were reportedly accompanied by rumbling and weakly felt by fish cage caretakers off the northeastern shorelines of Volcano Island. These observation parameters may indicate that an eruption similar to the July 1, 2021 event may occur anytime soon,” the Phivolcs update read.

As Alert Level 3 still prevails and the current SO<sub>2</sub> parameters indicate ongoing magmatic extrusion at the main crater that may further drive succeeding explosions, Phivolcs strongly recommended that Taal Volcano Island and high-risk barangays of Bilibinwang and Banyaga in Agoncillo town; and Boso-boso, Gulod, and Bugaan East in Laurel, remain evacuated due to the possible hazards of pyroclastic density currents and volcanic tsunami should stronger eruptions subsequently occur.

The public is reminded that the entire Taal Volcano Island is a Permanent Danger Zone and entry into the island as well as high-risk barangays of Agoncillo and Laurel must be prohibited.

All activities on Taal Lake should not be allowed at this time, Phivolcs reminded.

“Communities around the Taal Lake shores are advised to remain vigilant, take precautionary measures against possible airborne ash and vog (volcanic smog) and calmly prepare for possible evacuation should unrest intensify,” the advisory read.



Local government units were likewise advised to conduct health checks on communities affected by vog to assess the severity of SO<sub>2</sub> impacts on their constituents and to consider temporary evacuation of severely exposed residents to safer areas.

Civil aviation authorities must advise pilots to avoid flying over Taal Volcano Island as airborne ash and ballistic fragments from sudden explosions and pyroclastic density currents such as base surges may pose hazards to aircrafts. **(PR)**



05 JULY 2021, MONDAY



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

# **COVID-19 NEWS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**

# 5,966 more Philippine COVID-19 infections logged; active cases at 52,708

By [MA. ANGELICA GARCIA](#)

Published July 4, 2021 4:05pm

**Department of Health** ✓  
@DOHgovph

Ngayong 4 PM, Hulyo 4, 2021, ang Department of Health ay nakapagtala ng 5,966 na karagdagang kaso ng COVID-19. Samantala ay mayroon namang naitalang 6,987 na gumaling at 86 na pumanaw.

Sa kabuuang bilang ng mga naitalang kaso sa bansa, 3.7% (52,708) ang aktibong kaso, 94.6%

**DOH COVID-19**  
CASE BULLETIN # 477

HULYO 4, 2021

Para sa kumpletong detalye at impormasyon, isulat sa mensahe ang ating pangangailangang e-mail: [kontra@doh.gov.ph](mailto:kontra@doh.gov.ph)

<p>PERSENTYO NG AKTIBONG KASO</p> <h2 style="margin: 0;">3.7%</h2> <p>TOTAL NO AKTIBONG KASO <b>52,708</b></p>	<p>PERSENTYO NG GUMALING</p> <h2 style="margin: 0;">94.6%</h2> <p>TOTAL NO GUMALING <b>1,358,512</b></p>	<p>PERSENTYO NG NAMATAY</p> <h2 style="margin: 0;">1.75%</h2> <p>TOTAL NO NAMATAY <b>25,149</b></p>
MGA BAGONG KASO <b>5,966</b>	MGA BAGONG GUMALING <b>6,987</b>	MGA BAGONG NAMATAY <b>86</b>
KABUUNANG BILANG NG KASO <b>1,436,369</b>		

MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING HULYO 2  
DATOS NGAYONG HULYO 4  
AYON SA REPORTS MOONG HULYO 2

11.5%

PERSENTYO NG MGA NAGPOSITIBO

43,999

BILANG NG TINEST

95.0%

HALOS  
ANG MILD AT  
ASYMPTOMATIC  
NA KASO!

KABUUNANG PILIPINAS PUNO NA SA ANO ATING MGA OSPITAL?	NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION PUNO NA SA ANO ATING MGA OSPITAL?	KALAGAYAN NG MGA AKTIBONG KASO
ICU BEDS (% OF TOTAL BEDS): <b>57%</b> Utilized	ICU BEDS (% OF TOTAL BEDS): <b>46%</b> Utilized	MGM 91.1%
ISOLATION BEDS (% OF TOTAL BEDS): <b>46%</b> Utilized	ISOLATION BEDS (% OF TOTAL BEDS): <b>38%</b> Utilized	3.8% Asymptomatic
WARD BEDS (% OF TOTAL BEDS): <b>44%</b> Utilized	WARD BEDS (% OF TOTAL BEDS): <b>33%</b> Utilized	1.4% Critical
VENTILATORS (% OF TOTAL CAPACITY): <b>34%</b> Utilized	VENTILATORS (% OF TOTAL CAPACITY): <b>29%</b> Utilized	2.1% Severe
		1.54% Moderate

RESBAKUNA KASANGGA NG BIDA UPDATE AND MESSAGE OF THE DAY

Tiyakin natin ang ating masasagang pagtatagap sa lahat ng lugar, oras, at sitwasyon. Luban sa tuluyang pagkakat ng COVID-19, nananatiling madisa ang ating **Minimum Public Health Standards**. Kasabay nito, apat tayong malipag-ughayan sa **BHERTS** o **One COVID Referral Center** sa oras na makaiamban ng anumang sintomas, upang lubos na mabawasan ang pagkakarating makahawa sa ng iba. Masabot ang **One COVID Referral Center** sa 1585, (02)886-965-90, 0919-777-7771, o sa 0919-977-3333.

Para sa iba pa nang pangangailangang medikal, tangkilikin ang ligtas na konsultasyong balid ng ating **Telemedicine Service Provider**. Puntahan ang <https://doh.gov.ph/telemed> upang malaman kung paano masabot ang ligtas na konsultasyong balid nito.

Guinangalagan sa sarap ng bagay para sa pagpapaligay sa mga komunidad.  
GMAFM: 0919-877-2222  
GLOBE: 0919-777-7777  
TEL NO: (02) 886-965-90

May tanong ukol sa COVID-19? I-click na sa **KIKAP!**  
**VIBER:** Kikap COVID by DOH  
**MESSAGE:** Department of Health PH  
**RETRACOVID PH:** kontracovid.ph

Masusilbing ligtas! I-download ang **DoSafe** App  
Sa app store at play store  
at [doh.gov.ph](https://doh.gov.ph)

SAFWALAN PANG SA TUBIG/MAY SA MANGGAGAWAN LAMANG SA SUNBATHING.

4:00 PM · Jul 4, 2021

👍 18

🔗 See the latest COVID-19 information on Twitter

The Philippines reported 5,966 new COVID-19 cases on Sunday, raising the country's total tally to 1,436,369.

The Department of Health said the new infections brought the number of active cases in the country to 52,708, of which 91.1% were mild, 3.8% were asymptomatic, 2.1% were severe, and 1.4% were in critical condition.

Total recoveries also climbed to 1,358,512 after 6,987 more people defeated the disease.



The death toll, meanwhile, rose to 25,149 with 86 new fatalities.

The DOH said 16 duplicates were removed from the total case count, while 130 cases previously tagged as recoveries were validated as active cases.

Twenty-seven cases previously tagged as recoveries were also reclassified as deaths after final validation.

The DOH also said one laboratory was not able to submit their data to the COVID-19 Document Repository System.

Data from the DOH showed that 57% of the country's intensive care unit beds and 34% of the mechanical ventilators were utilized.

In the National Capital Region, 46% of the ICU beds and 29% of the ventilators were in use. —  
**DVM, GMA News**



## ‘Green’ countries or not

[COMMONSENSE](#) - [Marichu A. Villanueva](#) (The Philippine Star) - July 5, 2021 - 12:00am

The Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-MEID) released last June 30 the list of 57 countries and jurisdictions that got the “Green” or go-signal for fully vaccinated travelers whether Filipinos or foreigners coming from these areas can now enter our country. The IATF classified as “Green” these “low-risk countries based on a set of incidence rate” of the deadly coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic still persisting around the world.

Notwithstanding there are COVID-19 variants that are more transmissible, President Rodrigo Duterte has approved IATF Resolution No.124-A providing the guidelines for inbound international travels to any ports of entry allowing “individuals fully vaccinated in the Philippines, regardless of travel history, and those vaccinated abroad who stayed exclusively in ‘Green’ countries/jurisdictions.”

From this list of 57 “Green” countries, many of them are notably neither popular nor familiar places to us Filipinos.

For example, where in the world are these places located: Benin, Eswatini, Sint Eustatius, Isle of Man? Pardon my being poor in world geography, or is it because there have been no entries from them yet in the Miss Universe or Miss World beauty pageants?

To date, however, it is not clear to the public what are the “science and data” from which the IATF based this recommendation. The same IATF Resolution merely stated the “Green” countries were recommended by the Department of Health (DOH) and the Technical Advisory Group. And that, they passed and “met the prescribed incidence rate and case trajectory” that the IATF considered on its monitoring of COVID-19 pandemic, presumably on worldwide basis.

But the only incentive to these fully vaccinated travellers to come to the Philippines is they can undergo a much shorter quarantine period of seven days.

Previously, 14 days of quarantine were required at the height of the outbreak of the pandemic last year when many COVID-impacted countries, including the Philippines, closed its borders and went into hard lockdowns. Swab test has since then been required upon arrival of all inbound travelers. While waiting for results, they will stay at designated quarantine facility for 14 days. If negative, no need to complete quarantine.

The IATF subsequently amended this, requiring only a 10-day quarantine upon arrival with a swab test on the 7th day. If tested negative, they will still spend the remaining quarantine days in isolation at the local government area they will proceed to.

Bureau of Immigration (BI) commissioner Jaime Morente explained only fully vaccinated passengers “who stayed solely in the 57 ‘Green’ countries within the past 14 days before their arrival” in the country are covered by the new IATF guidelines. These travelers need only to present during primary immigration inspection their respective booking to stay seven days in a government-accredited quarantine facility once they arrive here.

The BI clarified all un-vaccinated travelers, however, are still required to undergo 10-day isolation in a quarantine facility and swab test on the 7th day. If negative, they still must complete the 10-day isolation at the quarantine facility.

The IATF though still strictly maintains the policy that all fully vaccinated travelers are still required to undergo reverse transcription–polymerase chain reaction (real time RT–PCR) test



on their fifth day of the quarantine in a government-accredited facility, with their day of arrival already counted as the first day.

The RT-PCR, done through nasal and pharyngeal swab tests, is one of the most accurate laboratory methods for detecting, tracking and studying the COVID-19 infection. But it is the most expensive one, especially for travelers arriving via our Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Terminals 1, 2 and 3.

A friend who is immuno-compromised flew last May to Los Angeles, California where his children are living and secured for him anti-COVID jab using Johnson & Johnson (J & J) vaccine. Undergoing immuno-therapy for his nasal cancer for the past three years, he is found to be safe for J & J one-dose anti-COVID vaccine.

J & J is said to be effective against the highly contagious Delta variant of COVID-19 and supposed to have an immune response lasting at least 8 months, Janssen Research & Development at J & J declared last week. The Delta variant was traced as primary cause of thousands of deaths in India since April and has since spread around the world, including the 17 confirmed cases here in the Philippines.

After he and his wife got their J & J jabs, they returned home last June 14 thru a direct flight of the Philippine Airlines from LA to Manila and deplaned at NAIA-2. Each of them paid as much as P4,000 for RT-PCR test. The couple underwent swab tests not just once but twice. The second swab, they were told, was for the genome sequencing, obviously to detect possible foreign variants.

Fortunately, the couple turned in negative results. They got the clearance from the Bureau of Quarantine exactly on their 10th day stay in a hotel-designated quarantine facility. They missed the newest IATF guideline which took effect starting July 1.

With such additional expenses to keep a COVID-free travel, it would be very, very tough for our Department of Tourism (DOT) to revive our country's travel and tour industries, especially to bring back foreign tourists arrivals.

For domestic tourism, the DOT has partly been subsidizing our local travelers by giving a qualified domestic visitor to pay P750, or half the price of the P1,500 RT-PCR test cost.

Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat cited this subsidy program of the DOT is just one of their strategic steps to market and promote the Philippines as a safe tourism destination as we gradually reopen our country to the rest of the world.

To stay COVID-free, we must pay for the higher costs of these health and safety protocols. For now, "Green" countries or not, governments around the world are still giving free the anti-COVID vaccines to get all of us out of this pandemic.



# **#OneDENR**

**Covid-19  
Situation and Response**



**July 04, 2021**

## IATF Resolution No. 124-B

**An individual shall be considered as having been fully vaccinated for COVID-19:**

**i** More than or equal to **2 weeks after having received the second dose in a 2-dose series, or**

**ii** More than or equal to **2 weeks after having received a single-dose vaccine.**

**iii** The vaccines administered to the individual are included in any of the following:

1. EUA List or Compassionate Special Permit issued by the Philippine FDA
  2. Emergency Use Listing of WHO
-

## IATF Resolution No. 124-B

### Allowed

#### **Intrazonal movement of fully vaccinated senior citizens within areas under GCQ and MGCQ**

- Subject to the presentation of a COVID-19 domestic vaccination card duly issued by a legitimate vaccinating establishment, or certificate of quarantine completion showing the holder's vaccination status as may be issued by BOQ , whichever is applicable
  - Strict observance of minimum public health standards shall continue
- 

## IATF Resolution No. 124-B

### For interzonal travel

allowed under the pertinent resolutions of the IATF and provisions of the Omnibus Guidelines on the Implementation of Community Quarantine in PH, as amended

Presentation of a COVID-19 domestic vaccination card duly issued by a legitimate vaccinating establishment, or certificate of quarantine completion showing the holder's vaccination status as may be issued by BOQ, whichever is applicable, shall be **sufficient alternatives to any testing requirement** (before travel or upon arrival) which the local government unit of destination may require.

---



## IATF Resolution No. 124-B

May undergo a shortened 7-day quarantine period

### Fully vaccinated individuals who are close contacts of probable and confirmed COVID-19 cases

- Provided that the individual remains asymptomatic for the duration of the seven-day period with the first day being the date immediately after the last exposure
- 

## IATF Resolution No. 124-B

In the event that RT-PCR Test needs to be performed, it may be done **not earlier than the 5<sup>th</sup> day** after the date of the last exposure.



For close contacts who may have been **traced beyond the 7<sup>th</sup> day** from last exposure and who have remained asymptomatic, **no testing and quarantine shall be required.**

---

## IATF Resolution No. 124-B

Should the RT-PCR Test yield a **positive result**,  
or he/she becomes symptomatic, he/she shall follow the  
**prescribed testing and isolation protocols.**



DOH and other relevant agencies  
are directed to amend their issuances accordingly.

---



WE  
HEAL  
AS  
ONE

05 JULY 2021, MONDAY



# NEWS ALERTS

# VLOGS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



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whut'up mga kababayan welcome back to my Youtube channel.

ito mga ka tropa dagsa na naman ang ating mga kababayan sa Manila bay . ang lahat ay nag aantay ng pag bubukas ng Dolomite sand. please watch my usual update Godbless and please.

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