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# NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



# Wastewater from docked vessels could be polluting Manila Bay, too

Published June 4, 2021, 6:20 PM

by [Ellson Quismorio](#)

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary Benny Antiporda is looking into the possible contamination of Manila Bay via wastewater coming from dilapidated vessels at local shipyards.



(Photo from DENR)

Antiporda, the head of the Manila Bay Anti-Pollution Task Force, visited on Friday, June 4 the marine vessels docked at the Navotas fish port as well as the batil or wooden cargo vessels in Delpa, Port Area, Manila.

The inspection was carried out with the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) and Philippine National Police-Maritime Group (PNP-MG) ahead of Saturday's celebration of World Environment Day.

While in Navotas, Antiporda observed the shipyards where large marine vessels undergoing repair and maintenance were docked. He said that the wastewater coming from the shipyard could include toxic compounds and may cause harmful effects to the ocean particularly the organisms there.

"There is no clear protection for our oceans from what we have seen in the shipyards that we have visited," Antiporda pointed out.

"When it rains, the rust removed from the vessels will go directly to the ocean, thus contaminates the water," he added.

Antiporda said the DENR will be calling the attention of the owners of the marine vessels from the Navotas shipyard, including those operating within the Manila Bay region. "We will summon the respective owners of the shipyard in Navotas area," he said.

"Of course, within the Manila Bay area where there are established shipyards, we will also get their attention and ask for their support in our campaign to address the pollution in Manila Bay," he added.



(Photo from DENR)

Should the owners ignore or fail to follow the orders of the DENR, the agency will be left with no choice but to file charges against them, he said.

Meanwhile, Antiporda also met with the captains of the batils docked at Delpan Port Area in Manila to discuss the crew's wastewater and solid waste management system. The batils transport cargo to and from Palawan.

“Despite our campaign to clean our oceans, if the sea vessel operators will not help in this endeavor, we will not be able to clean it up,” Antiporda said.

The DENR-Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) conducted water sampling in Navotas fish port to find out if chemical components such as lead, iron, and copper are present in the waters near the shipyards.

They also took water samples from Delpan Port to assess the water quality in the area based on its fecal coliform content.



# DENR calls on sea vessel owners to explain dumping of waste in Manila Bay

Aileen Cerrudo • June 4, 2021



**MANILA, Philippines** — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will summon the owners of sea vessels that dock at the Navotas Fish Port in Baseco, Manila through the Anti-Pollution Task Force.

The DENR, along with the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), conducted an inspection at the Navotas Fish Port on Friday (June 4) to check for metal content, fecal coliform, and grease present in the water.

According to DENR Usec. Benny Antiporda, several sea vessels docked at the Fish Port are dumping waste in Manila Bay.

Antiporda said the department will summon the concerned individuals to explain the issue.

“We will talk to them immediately after this kasi ipasu-summon natin sila sa Anti-Pollution Task Force para magkaroon ng dialogue between sea vessels and the government,” he said.

According to the captain of one of the cargo vessels, Angelito Balitaan, there are instances that they would throw waste in Manila Bay because their vessel does not have a sewage system and they do not have enough funds for sewage repairs.

“Starting na natuto ako nang ganiyan iyan na kinagisnan ko, minana na din iyan wala pang implementation ng mga sewage sewage,” he said.

Meanwhile, the test results of the water samples will be released in a week. **AAC (with reports from JP Nuñez)**

# DENR educates, challenges key stakeholders to spur passion for environment protection

By Ma. Alaine P. Allanigue Published on June 4, 2021



QUEZON CITY, June 4 (PIA) -- The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has presented a challenge to the Boy Scouts of the Philippines, teachers, as well as the DENR utility personnel, to promote care for the environment in their own ways, during the learning session for the Month of the Ocean (MOO) celebration.

DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu explained that presenting a challenge to these stakeholders will "awaken their passion and awareness about the current situation of our oceans and the biodiversity that thrives in it."

"It is important that we educate all the sectors, including the teachers, who will mold the minds of the next generations, the Boy Scouts of the Philippines, who is tasked as one of the stewards of our environment, and even the maintenance personnel of the DENR, as they are the custodians of our institution," Cimatu said.

The learning event for the MOO, hosted by the DENR's Strategic Alliance and Environmental Partnership Division of the Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service (SCIS), is in line with this year's MOO theme, "The Science We Need for The Ocean We Want."

A total of 569 participants attended the four-day learning event: 155 rovers and 113 senior members of the Boy Scout of the Philippines on May 26-27; 196 elementary and high school teachers on May 28; and 105 men and women from D'Triumph, the janitorial manpower agency of the DENR, on May 29.

DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny D. Antiporda, who is concurrently the Supervising Undersecretary for SCIS and Task Force Tayo ang Kalikasan, pointed out the need to act now. "Humankind is racing against time in saving the oceans because we might lose it one day," he said.



"We at the DENR are challenging you to contribute in your own way and work to protect the ocean and the environment," Antiporda told the participants.

He said the stakeholders' contribution is significant to achieve the department's goal "to care for and enrich our oceans, and the creatures and plants that live beneath them."

During the learning event, the participants were taught about the importance of the oceans, heard success stories through the DENR regional offices, and discovered how they can save the natural aquatic resources.

The Month of the Ocean is celebrated annually in the Philip



# Cleanup drive on Boracay to welcome tourists for World Environment Day

By [Jeline Malasig](#) - June 4, 2021 - 8:02 PM



Bolabog Beach in Boracay on this photo from the Malay Tourism Office's Facebook page on June 4, 2021. (Photo from Malay Tourism Office via Facebook)

Different groups participated in the beach clean-up drive in **Boracay** a day before the global community commemorates the **World Environment Day**.

The “#LoveBoracay Beach Clean-up Drive” was launched on Friday early morning after the island opened its borders to tourists from the Greater Manila Area or the so-called “NCR Plus” at the start of June.

The drive is spearheaded by **PCO (Pollution Control Officers) Boracay** and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources’ the **Boracay Inter-Agency Rehabilitation Management Group** and the **Community Environment and Natural Resources Office**.

The clean-up drive coverage area is from Angol Beach to the tip of Station 1 to Diniwid Beach to Puka Beach. The Manocmanoc and Cagban Beach areas were also included.

It also a way to commemorate the **Philippine Environment Month** which is in June.





The top tourist destination on Tuesday announced that it is now [accepting visitors](#) from the Greater Manila Area (Metro Manila, Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna, Rizal) until June 15.

Other tourists from areas under general community quarantine and modified general community quarantine are also welcome.

This is in accordance with Resolution 118A of the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases.

### **For Mother Nature**

The World Environment Day is commemorated by the global community on June 5, as declared by the **United Nations**.

It aims to bring awareness about the protection and health of the environment and to reaffirm people's commitment to its preservation and enhancement.

For this year, the theme is "[Ecosystem Restoration](#)" which gives attention to initiatives like tree planting, making cities green and cleaning up rivers or coastals, among others.

Source: <https://interaksyon.philstar.com/trends-spotlights/2021/06/04/193227/cleanup-drive-on-boracay-to-welcome-tourists-for-world-environment-day/>





# Report distressed Philippine Eagles to PNP, PA

By Catherine Teves [June 4, 2021, 4:42 pm](#)



(PNA file photo)

MANILA – The public can seek assistance from the Philippine National Police (PNP) and Philippine Army (PA) in rescuing Philippine Eagles (*Pithecophaga jefferyi*) and in apprehending individuals who violate laws that protect this endangered bird.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary Edilberto Leonardo, also Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) OIC Director, said the PNP and PA are more than willing to help people who will provide information about distressed Philippine Eagles that they encounter or know of.

"Don't be afraid to report to them so they can act on the matter," he said Friday during a webinar that kicked off BMB's 2021 observance of the annual Philippine Eagle Week (PEW).

He noted there is a need to protect and conserve Philippine Eagles as these birds are vital in maintaining ecological balance in forest habitats within Luzon, the Visayas, and Mindanao.

"Those birds are part of the Philippine environment," he said.

Protecting and conserving such birds is a race against time and needs the cooperation of all sectors as the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) already listed the Philippine Eagle, the country's national bird, as being critically endangered.

IUCN's assessment warned about a decreasing trend in Philippine Eagle's population, noting this species had only around 180 to 500 remaining mature individuals.

Agriculture and aquaculture, energy production and mining, pollution, as well as climate change, and severe weather threaten Philippine Eagle's existence, noted IUCN.

Biological resource use through logging, wood harvesting, hunting, and trapping is also a threat, IUCN said.

Non-profit organization Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) reported that of the 89 eagles it rescued since the 1970s, around 26 percent had gunshot wounds while the rest were victims of trapping and poaching.



"Only 16 of the eagles that were shot were able to survive after admission," continued PEF which focuses on saving the Philippine Eagle and its habitat.

Proclamation 79 series of 1998 declared June 4 to 10 of every year as PEW to promote concerted efforts for ensuring the Philippine Eagle's protection and perpetuation.

"There is a need to instill into the minds of the Filipino people the importance of the Philippine Eagle as a biological indicator of the forest ecosystems, as a national symbol, and as a unique heritage," Proclamation 79 said.

PEW's 2021 theme is "The Philippine Eagle and Indigenous Peoples (IPs): Protecting our Forests, Protecting our Future."

The theme highlights the IPs' contribution to protecting and conserving forests and Philippine Eagles in their area.

"We're proud IPs are one with us in this endeavor," Leonardo said in a video message BMB aired during the webinar.

Most habitats of Philippine Eagles are within ancestral domains where IPs live, he noted.

Leonardo is looking forward to further collaboration between BMB, IPs and other sectors regarding the protection and conservation of the Philippine Eagle and its habitat.

"PEW reminds each and everyone of us that conservation of wildlife is every Filipino's duty," he added. (PNA)



## Cenro head: Landfill might reach full capacity in 2023



File photo

[RALPH LAWRENCE G. LLEMIT](#)

June 04, 2021

AN OFFICIAL from the Davao City Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro) said the city's sanitary landfill might only last until 2023 unless Dabawenyos will continue to practice waste segregation.

"With continuous segregation, ma-maintain lang gihapon nako ang istorya nga (we might maintain our previous projection that the landfill will be filled) within two years," Cenro head Marivic Reyes said in an interview on 87.5 FM Davao City Disaster Radio Thursday, June 3.

Since the 11.75-hectare New Carmen sanitary landfill in Tugbok district opened in 2008, former Cenro head Elisa Madrazo said in a previous report that the area has been projected to reach its full capacity in 2015.

But Reyes said the projected timeline was based on a study.

She added that most life spans of landfills range between five to eight years.

The feared exhaustion of the landfill also comes with the increase of subdivision and other residential developments.

But because of the rehabilitation efforts, and some households continuously complying with the waste segregation, she said this had contributed to the extended lifespan of the landfill.

Reyes also said there is an ongoing rehabilitation at the landfill.

The official said they already have an alternative area for the proposed expansion of the landfill. She said the city is planning to purchase an additional 10 hectare lot for the expansion.

"We are considering the lot adjacent to the existing para duol lang pud gani siya, and then magamit pa nato ang amenities sa existing landfill karon (so it would be near, and we could utilize the amenities of our existing landfill) like waybridge, katong (our) road network, ug kanang (and) facility," she said.



The Cenro head said they are targeting to start the expansion project within two years.

Despite the proposed waste-to-energy (WTE) project, which is the city's solution to solve the solid waste problem, Reyes said there is still a need to rehabilitate the sanitary landfill as the ashes emitted in the incinerator will be buried there.

Reyes previously said the city's average volume of collected garbage is around 600 to 650 tons per day since the Covid-19 pandemic hit the city in March 2020 until present.

The figure is slightly lower compared to the average 900 tons of garbage per day in 2019, during pre-pandemic.

Reyes said that despite the closure of large establishments, including hotels, the volume of waste collected remains high due to waste generated within households.

Despite continuous information drive, Reyes admitted that there are still Dabawenyos who do not practice waste segregation, which is mandated under Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

Reyes said it is important to practice solid waste management, including the non-throwing of biodegradables, as Cenro will only collect residuals.

Currently, the sanitary landfill in New Carmen, Tugbok has accumulated around 900,000 tons of garbage since 2016, exceeding its maximum capacity level of 700,000 to 800,000 tons.

With the passage of the "No to Single-Use Plastics Ordinance of 2021" in the 19th City Council early March this year, which regulates the sale, distribution, and use of single-use plastics in the city, Reyes said they will be intensifying the information campaign down to the barangays.

Reyes told SunStar Davao in a previous interview that the regulation on single-use plastic could help decongest the city's landfill.



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## Hazardous waste volume sa bansa, tumaas

#FrontlineSaUmaga | Higit 400% ang itinaas ng volume ng hazardous waste sa bansa, ayon sa DENR. Malaking factor dito ang disposable face shields at face masks.

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# Businesses seek relief over water quality, effluent standards

[Louella Desiderio](#) (The Philippine Star) - June 4, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Local and foreign business groups are urging Congress to include in the proposed Bayanihan 3 a moratorium on the lifting of the grace period to comply with water quality and general effluent standards (GES) as a form of support to companies given the ongoing pandemic.

In a joint statement, the American, Australian-New Zealand, Canadian, European, Japanese and Korean chambers in the Philippines, the Philippine Exporters Confederation Inc. and Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippines Foundation Inc. said they are seeking a moratorium on the lifting of the grace period to comply with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Department Administrative Order (DAO) 2016-08 which sets the water quality guidelines and GES planned for June 18.

Prior to the issuance of the DENR Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of Memorandum Circular (MC) 2021-01 last January, which sets the lifting of the grace period to June 18, the groups said companies have been preparing based on the grace period until Dec. 31, 2022 stated in EMB MC 2019-001.

Under EMB MC 2019-001, concerned establishments must have a compliance action plan approved by the EMB regional office no later than Dec. 31, 2019.

“As Bayanihan 3 is an attempt to provide policy and fiscal interventions to help the country deal with the economic fallout brought about by COVID-19, the extension of the grace period to comply with DAO 2016-08 would not only provide relief to businesses who would have to spend more to try to meet the new deadline (which is virtually impossible for many) but also help them avoid unnecessary costs in the form of fees and penalties,” the groups said.

The groups said they want the Bayanihan 3 to have a provision that would retain the original grace period until Dec. 31, 2022.

“However, we also hope that Congress may consider extending the grace period three years from June 18, 2021, for regulatory relief until economic recovery has been achieved or when the quarantine is lifted, whichever is longer,” the groups said.

The groups said requests have been made to the DENR to reconsider the earlier lifting of the grace period as the approved compliance action plans all assumed a Dec.22 expiry of the grace period, and five months would not be enough for companies to adjust and comply with the new date.

In addition, the groups said the pandemic has made it hard to stick to timelines in the original compliance action plans approved by EMB due to movement restrictions and minimum public health protocols that need to be observed.

“The need for faster retrofitting of wastewater infrastructure adds financial burden to a business sector still dealing with the economic challenges brought about by the current pandemic,” the groups said.

Possible issuance of notices of violations, fines and penalties due to non-compliance would also hurt businesses still reeling from the impact of the pandemic.



The groups also said there is a need to rethink the early lifting of the grace period given the ongoing review on certain GES parameters.

Until new standards are in place, the groups said penalties should not be imposed.

“We fully support the objectives of DAO 2016-08 to ensure the sustainability and quality of our water bodies and waterways, but this needs to be balanced with the realities we face during the COVID pandemic. Our proposal is an attempt to strike that balance,” the groups said.



## Para matakot! Ace Barbers want stiffer penalties for poachers

15 hours ago

By Billy Begas

Surigao del Norte Rep. Robert Ace Barbers has filed a measure seeking to amend the 20-year-old Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act (RA 9147) to make it responsive to the current magnitude of wildlife crimes.

“Considering its far-reaching impact on the environment, there is a pressing need to amend certain provisions of RA 9147, by imposing stiffer penalties to deter future violations, in order to intensify our campaign to preserve and protect wildlife resources,” Barbers said.

Under the measure, if critically endangered wildlife species are killed, the penalty would be 15 to 20 years imprisonment and fines ranging from P500,000 to P2 million.

If the violation involves endangered species the penalty would be imprisonment of 12 to 15 years and fines of P500,000 to P1 million.

If the violation involves vulnerable species the penalty would be 10 to 12 years imprisonment and fine of P100,000 to P700,000.

Aside from higher fines and penalties, Barbers said the measure also seeks to intensify the creation of a reward and incentive system to enforcement officers and informants against illegal wildlife traders and traffickers.

“Possession of dead wildlife species and/or its by-products such as, but not limited to body parts, organs and meat shall be a prima facie evidence of the act of killing the wildlife species involved,” Barbers said.

RA 9147 only carries a penalty that ranges from P200 to P300,000 fine and imprisonment of 10 days to 4 years on illegal wildlife trade.

The Philippines, Barbers said, is a mega-diverse country hosting a vast collection of plants and animals of which many species are found nowhere else in the world and consequently, places it in the map as a hotspot for illegal wildlife trade.





Data from the DENR's Biodiversity Management Bureau (DENR-BMB) showed that enforcement officers were able to confiscate more than 26,700 different species of animals, with an estimated market value of P184.9 million from wildlife traffickers between 2013 and 2018.

In April 2021, government authorities seized roughly 200 tons of giant clam shells worth P1.2 billion in Palawan.



## Mandatory insurance coverage for projects endangering environment OKd by Lower House

Published June 3, 2021, 5:26 PM by [Ben Rosario](#)

The House of Representatives has approved on third and final reading a bill requiring environmental insurance coverage for environmentally-critical projects (ECP) in order to protect the country's ecology and natural resources.

With 247 voting in the affirmative and zero in the negative, the Lower Chamber approved House Bill 0144 authored by Deputy Speaker and 1SAGIP Partylist Rep. Rodante D.Marcoleta.

To be known as the Mandatory Environmental Insurance Coverage Act, HB 0144 was transmitted to the Senate following its passage on Monday, June 1.

Marcoleta underscored the need to immediately enact a law mandating environmental insurance for ECPs as he recalled numerous incidences of destruction of natural resources, agricultural and sea resources resulting from man-made environmental destruction.

"Despite existing laws that protect the environment, there are still lapses in implementing the lawful right of people to a healthy and balanced ecology," he said.

The bill defines an ECP as a project that has high potential for significant negative environmental impact.

Among these are resource extractive industries and infrastructure projects.

Under the bill, owners and operators of ECPs are required to secure a Mandatory Environmental Insurance Coverage to compensate for damages to health and property, environmental rehabilitation, remediation and clean up costs resulting from impairment or damage to resources triggered by the projects.

The insurance coverage will be a mandatory requirement before construction or commercial operations can start.

An insurance company contracted for the coverage are required to pay all claims to a special escrow account in government depository banks, which shall in turn disburse the corresponding payment to beneficiaries.

Penalties for violation of the provisions of the measure include a fine ranging from P500,000 to P2 million or imprisonment of six to 12 years to be imposed on the owner or operator of the ECP.

In pushing for the swift passage of the measure, Marcoleta recalled the 1996 Marcopper mining tragedy in Marinduque that destroyed several hectares of farmlands and led to the biological death of the Boac and Makalupnit rivers.

He said the 2005 and 2007 massive fish kills in Rapu-rapu Albay were also caused by cyanide spills from mining operations of Lafayette , Philippines Inc.

"Man-made environmental damages originating from owners or operators will be unmitigated – unless and until they are held responsible for their activities that they pose risks or destruction on the environment," Marcoleta explained.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/06/03/mandatory-insurance-coverage-for-projects-endangering-environment-okd-by-lower-house/>



## 'Healing nature through ecosystem restoration'

BY ROY CIMATU AND DR. SELVA RAMACHANDRAN

JUNE 4, 2021

The well-being of humanity depends on healthy ecosystems. Nature purifies the air we breathe, regulates our climate, cleans our water and provides us with food and medicine. However, decades of unrelenting economic growth at the expense of our natural resources have taken a toll on our oceans, forests, wetlands and rivers. Now, the state of our natural ecosystems threatens the very survival of mankind.

Even prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, landmark reports from 2018-2019 have presented us with a bleak outlook for 2020 and beyond. Continuing at its current rate, global warming is likely to reach 1.5C between 2030 and 2052. Even if we strive to end emissions today, global emissions to date will persist for centuries, driving further changes to our climate. If that isn't worrying enough, around one million species are on the brink of extinction unless action is taken to reduce the drivers of biodiversity loss.

In addition, plastic waste pollution has emerged as a pressing environmental threat—scientists expect that by 2050, our oceans will contain more plastic than fish. Microplastics have entered our food chain, with many fish and marine mammals ingesting microplastics on an unprecedented scale.

The impacts of these threats vary across continents and communities. In the Philippines, global warming has caused frequent disasters that disproportionately affect vulnerable households. The ability of our natural ecosystems to protect at-risk communities is rapidly diminishing.

Over the years, the country has lost 10.9 million hectares of forest cover. That's 194,000 hectares of average loss each year. Fish stocks are drastically overfished in almost all areas except Eastern Luzon, Palawan, and the Southern Sulu Sea. Reef conditions, an indicator of fish productivity, have similarly declined. In 1997, just four percent were in excellent condition, down to less than one percent in 2012.

The country's rivers, coastal and marine areas have suffered from marine litter, especially uncollected plastic waste. The Philippines ranks as the third-largest contributor of marine plastics globally, which compromises fish productivity, tourism and human health.

Mangrove forests—together with seagrasses and coral reefs—provide protection against storm surges and rising seas. Unfortunately, they have suffered the same fate. Mangrove cover is down from around 500,000 hectares to almost half this amount.

Land degradation in the form of soil erosion and fertility decline has affected agricultural activities in the Philippines. The Global Assessment of Land Degradation and Improvement showed that there are an estimated 132,275 square kilometers of degraded lands, affecting about 33 million Filipinos.

The combined impact of these threats have yet to be fully realized in an economic sense. But, as is the case with many other countries, the Philippines may have already pushed resource usage beyond its limits, compromising long-term viability. Sadly, it's the small farmers, local fishermen, and vulnerable coastal and upland communities that are the most at risk of losing their livelihoods—and lives—as a consequence.

All is not lost, however, and change is taking place.

Different parts of society have come together to contribute to the repair of the country's ecosystems. A massive greening program launched by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in 2011 aimed to plant 1.5 billion trees on 1.5 million hectares of degraded forest. Alongside this effort, NGOs have ramped up efforts alongside private sector organizations.



There are now 244 protected areas in the Philippines covering 7.8 million hectares. Marine protected areas are being incorporated into networks for more effective management. Strengthening wildlife protections have led to coordinated efforts among law enforcement agencies. Local communities and indigenous peoples are doing their part, with governments recognizing their effective contributions to conservation.

Innovative solutions to the plastics problem are beginning to pay off. Plastic users are finding new ways to reduce their footprint and there are growing efforts among the public to minimize plastics use. These are matched by government efforts to develop a National Action Plan on Marine Litter.

These efforts alone aren't just the right thing to do; they're also the economically smart thing to do. It is far more expensive to restore degraded forests, reef systems and wetlands than to protect existing ecosystems. But to support this, we need to think better. Legislators should aim to make protection the priority over restoration. Moreover, communities must be incentivized to protect ecosystems through participation in the benefits derived from them. Such incentives can result in the added benefit of lifting communities out of poverty.

Innovative financial mechanisms are needed to encourage investment in conservation. We need to understand nature programs as cost centers rather than revenue opportunities. Treating well-managed ecosystems as assets would go a long way in advancing protection and improved management and the proper valuation of natural resources and their integration into national accounting systems will provide a full picture of their value to the economy.

Finally, we should look to encourage the application of technology and science-based approaches to restoration and environmental management. Continued investment in research can contribute to cost-effective solutions to our biggest challenges. Appropriate monitoring can provide better policies and approaches.

As we celebrate this year's World Environment Day, we call on everyone to support the global campaign for the healing of nature through the restoration of our ecosystems. We must do our part as responsible stewards of our planet before it's too late. It is, after all, the only planet we've got.

*Roy Cimatu is the Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Dr. Selva Ramachandran is the Resident Representative of the UNDP Philippines.*



## EDITORIAL - Ecosystem restoration

(The Philippine Star) - June 5, 2021 - 12:00am

It's been nearly half a century since the United Nations General Assembly designated June 5 as World Environment Day. Since then, global awareness of environmental protection has risen exponentially. Action, however, continues to lag behind the awareness.

Global efforts have been launched to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, with industries redesigning their factories, workplaces, products and services to comply with new standards. Rivers and lakes have been revived in several countries, and there are regular coastal cleanups even in the Philippines. In Metro Manila, a mangrove forest has sprung and has been turned into the Las Piñas-Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area – the only urban wetland in the country that enjoys international protection under the Ramsar Convention and other global environmental treaties. Around the world there are intensified efforts to preserve forests, coral reefs and threatened species.

Still, environmental degradation continues at an alarming scale. Today, climate change poses an existential threat to the planet. And it will remain a threat long after the COVID-19 pandemic has been contained. The pandemic itself has been blamed by scientists on the disruption of ecosystems arising from illegal wildlife trade, with the coronavirus believed to have jumped to humans from bats in the Chinese city of Wuhan.

The confirmation that airborne or aerosol transmission is possible for the COVID virus is leading to a review of global standards for indoor ventilation and air filtration.

In the Philippines, an upside of the deadly pandemic has been a heightened interest in keeping surroundings clean, in the use of environment-friendly transportation particularly bicycles, and in activities such as gardening. Property developers are putting greater emphasis on green spaces. More trees are being planted in urban centers including Metro Manila.

Such moves are in sync with this year's theme of World Environment Day: ecosystem restoration. A message for this special day declares: "We are the generation that can make peace with nature." It may sound like a pipe dream, but it doesn't have to be.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/opinion/2021/06/05/2103216/editorial-ecosystem-restoration>



# World Environment Day and the ongoing virtual climate talks

posted June 05, 2021 at 12:00 am

by [Tony La Viña](#)

## "To defeat this threat, the world must come together and cooperate based on common interests

In the next weeks, with colleagues from the Manila Observatory and the Ateneo de Manila University, I will be attending the historic, first-ever purely virtual negotiations of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Our team is eight-person strong, with my seven colleagues doing this for the first time while this is my 50th time to attend a climate negotiation since my first meeting in Berlin in 1995. If times were normal, we would be in Bonn for the next two weeks for these intersessional negotiations (the virtual session will be for three weeks) and in Glasgow, Scotland in November for the Conference of the Parties. We might still do the latter if it can be done safely.

As my colleague Dr. Manny Solis and I have recently written, combating climate change can be compared to a tug of war between countries with different interests. Unfortunately, right now, we are losing the fight and are now faced with a global climate emergency that threatens global stability and prosperity. To defeat this threat, the world must come together and cooperate based on common interests and shared values.

The reason why progress has been slow is that the geopolitics of climate change is complicated. Dr. Solis and I have pointed to two principles in the climate change convention that reflect the diversity and conflicting interests of countries.

First, the principle of historical responsibility. The accumulation of greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere which is causing climate change is the result mainly of emissions from developed states, the first countries to industrialize. But this is not static in that big developing countries have also exponentially grown their emissions in the 20th and 21st century and even middle-income countries are doing the same.

Second, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities or CBDR – which acknowledges that climate change is a global problem and everyone must do something about it – reduce emissions and assist others to do the same – but what one should do and contribute to others depends on a country's historical responsibility and means to do so.

These are rational principles and are well-accepted, but how they have been interpreted through the years has been contentious. It's the main reason that progress is slow and that the climate negotiation experience is an experience often of one step forward, one step backward. We did take a good step in 2015 when The Paris Agreement was adopted. Although it is not a perfect agreement, that accord was good and comprehensive. More importantly, its provisions allowed for modification, for example increasing ambition. The Glasgow meeting will hopefully yield that result and the virtual negotiations should pave the way for that.

The Paris Agreement has two targets. This was contentious with many big countries, developed and developing, willing only to adopt a 2.0-degrees target as the upper limit for global temperature increase. The Philippines, with our allies, in the Climate Vulnerable Forum, argued for a higher target of 1.5 degrees. The less ambitious target will mean we lose many island states. For us, we will lose many of our small islands and coastal areas. Thankfully, as confirmed in recent summits in Washington DC, USA, and St. Petersburg, Russia, and as we



are hearing also in these virtual negotiations, 1.5 degrees is now the norm accepted by many parties.

The Paris Agreement has Mitigation and Adaptation mandates that countries must include in their obligations under the agreement, what is called Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC). It is clear that the climate emergency requires higher NDCs by everyone, including the Philippines which finally submitted its NDC a month ago.

On this World Environment Day, I am hopeful for the future of the climate process. With the US back in, with many big countries adopting net neutrality goals and others increasing ambition, with young people demanding ambitious action, with finance institutions like banks taking action by refusing financing for coal and other fossil fuel projects, and with climate justice now at the center of the agenda, the next meeting in Glasgow could be a turning point.

I end this column, published on World Environment Day and the day before the Feast of Corpus Christi, and with the ending prayer of Pope Francis in his 2015 encyclical Laudato Si: “God of love, show us our place in this world as channels of your love for all the creatures of this earth, for not one of them is forgotten in your sight. Enlighten those who possess power and money that they may avoid the sin of indifference, that they may love the common good, advance the weak, and care for this world in which we live. The poor and the earth are crying out. O Lord, seize us with your power and light, help us to protect all life, to prepare for a better future, for the coming of your Kingdom of justice, peace, love, and beauty.”

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# EDITORIAL - Save the environment, save lives

(The Freeman) - June 5, 2021 - 12:00am



Today is World Environment Day, something that might sail over the heads of many of us who are not aware such an occasion even exists.

Exactly a year ago our editorial was about how this current pandemic was actually good for the environment because it curtailed or even totally put a stop to many of the activities that expedited pollution and global warming.

A year later, and with a pandemic still going on, it seems that whatever gains Mother Nature made as a result of the lockdowns are being slowly lost as more and more people and countries resume their economic activities.

Let's talk air pollution. While India continues to have the cities with the worst air quality index in the world, this isn't limited to developing countries anymore. Just recently Germany was cited by the European Court of Justice for failing to curb air pollution in its major cities.

Pollution in the seas continues to be a problem, with even the formerly-pristine coasts of France seeing its fair share of plastic waste washed up on its shores. Trash also continues to be a problem in the seas, especially in the Asian region. In fact it has become part of the marine food cycle, with many fish and marine mammals falling victim to microplastics.

Many parts of the world are now also facing land pollution. In the US, runoff from huge dairy farms is killing smaller farms in Minnesota, while pollution caused by pesticides continues to affect many rivers. China is also battling with its own problems caused by polluted soil.

Pollution is mainly caused by economic activities, and many argue that such activities are necessary to make sure people stay alive. But they have to remember that pollution is also causing a lot of deaths.

The other effect of pollution is even worse. It can cause bodily harm that might not be evident immediately, but take time to develop. We are talking about diseases, cancers, and the like. Such damage might even be passed on to the next generation.





This World Environment Day let us remember that by saving the environment we actually save lives. By doing so we make sure that we have fresh air to breathe, clean water to drink, and land that is safe to build our homes and livelihoods on.

Time is running out but there is still enough of it, although just barely, to save the earth.



## Wake up, take action

posted June 05, 2021 at 12:20 am

The Philippines joins other countries in celebrating World Environment Day today, and hopes good things that underline the importance of nature and the environment will happen for the rest of the year.



Authorities have said it crisply that this span—the year 2021 and the succeeding years—is “our moment to reimagine, recreate and restore” with the persuasive suggestion that we are properly the generation that can make peace with nature.

But as we attempt to go at full throttle with the theme Ecosystem Restoration, we are hobbled by the coronavirus pandemic which has sans doubt affected human lives and daily activities although, a gleam on the plus side, it has improved the air quality and reduced water pollution.

With much of the country under General Community Quarantine, and some areas like Metro Manila and nearby provinces under heightened restrictions, there has been a substantial reduction in carbon emissions which has helped restore the ecological system.

But we agree with experts and health authorities that the disposal of medical waste like disinfectants, masks, gloves and the burden of untreated waste has also increased largely during the pandemic

At the same time, once the situation bounces back to normal, the environment may start suffering again. And long-term goals and proper implementation of strategies and policies are the need of the hour for global environmental sustainability.

World Environment Day is celebrated on June 5 every year to remind people about the importance of nature. It is celebrated across the globe to tell people that nature should not be taken for granted and must be respected for its values.

With the coronavirus outbreak and people being confined indoors, the environment and mother earth seem to have benefitted slightly. In the absence of human activities amid the coronavirus-induced lockdown, nature is getting time to clean itself and reclaim its space.

Organized by the United Nations to generate awareness about the significance of nature and greenery, the UN Assembly established World Environment Day in 1972, the first day of the Stockholm Conference on the human environment.

In 1974, it was celebrated with the theme “Only One Earth.” Since then, various host countries have been celebrating it, and the idea for rotating the center of these activities started. World Environment Day was first observed in 1974 in the US. This year is Pakistan’s turn.



We agree with American environmentalist Leonardo DiCaprio when he said, pretty much to the point, "Our planet's alarm is going off, and it is time to wake up and take action!"



# On World Bicycle Day, FDA urged to stop online selling of kids' bikes with lead paint

By [Jeline Malasig](#) - June 3, 2021 - 3:05 PM



A kid riding a bicycle. (Image by Jason Goh from Pixabay)

As the global community celebrates **World Bicycle Day**, a toxics watchdog group urged the government's health regulatory agency to stop the online selling of children's bicycles with lead paint that may pose a serious health hazard.

**EcoWaste Coalition** on Tuesday bared that it conducted an investigation on lead paint hazard of bicycles marketed for young children ages 1 and a half to 6 years and found out the chemical exceeded the regulatory limit as imposed by the government.

The group purchased seven bright colored bicycles for children costing P540 to P2,300 each from each bike stores in Quiapo, Manila and from online dealers. It then screened them for lead containment and then sent the results to a private laboratory for confirmatory tests.

Two of the samples were discovered to have a lead paint that exceeded the regulatory limit of 90 parts per million (ppm), as stipulated in the **Department of Environment and Natural Resources'** Administrative Order 2013-24.

The bicycles purchased from Quiapo didn't test positive for lead but the ones that were bought online were coated with lead paint.

Tests conducted by the Philippine Institute of Pure and Applied Chemistry revealed that the "Good Boy/Good Girl Bicycle" from Shopee and the "FANHX Bicycle" from Lazada had 6,850 ppm and 6,950 ppm of lead, respectively.

Both bore the "Made in China" tag the packagings, according to the coalition.

It said that it has already notified the local **Food and Drug Administration**, the regulatory agency in charge of toys and childcare articles, of the investigation and its findings.



The group also requested the agency to halt the online sale of bicycles tainted with lead paint to avoid unhealthy exposure to the extremely toxic chemical.

“Considering the limited number of samples that we can buy and subject to lead paint analysis, we urge the FDA to conduct a wider sampling of children’s bicycles being sold offline and online,” it said in a release.

“Our children deserve nothing less than lead-safe and non-hazardous toys,” it added.

The **World Health Organization** [warned](#) that young children are vulnerable to the toxic effects of lead and that they can suffer permanent adverse health effects, particularly relating to the development of the brain and nervous system.



 **News5**   
Yesterday at 2:25 AM · 

Nag-team up ang Team Woman in Action at si MVP Group chairman Manny V. Pangilinan upang matulungan ang mga gumagamit ng bisikleta para sa kanilang kabuhayan. [#WorldBicycleDay](#) | via Gretchen Ho



YOUTUBE.COM

**500 bisikleta, matatanggap ng beneficiaries ng 'Bike for Livelihood' project**  
#FrontlinePilipinas | Nag-team up ang Team Woman in Action at si MVP Group chairman Man...

 31  27 Comments



Pyrolysis gasification processing machines being set at the Dumaguete City's Central Materials Recovery Facility.  
(Contributed photo)

## Dgite to convert garbage into construction materials

By Jennifer TilosPublished on June 4, 2021

DUMAGUETE CITY, June 4 (PIA) -- Tons of garbage are set to be converted into construction materials with the use of pyrolysis gasification processing machines in the city.

The equipment and machines are now installed at the Dumaguete City's Central Materials Recovery Facility.

Mayor Felipe Antonio Remollo, who implemented the closure of the old dumpsite in Brgy. Candau-ay recently, welcomes the delivery of the equipment necessary for the installation and commission of one set of pyrolysis gasification process with an environment pollution control device.

Remollo said if fully operational, the pyrolysis equipment will turn all collected solid waste into useful byproducts such as pavers, hollow blocks, and other construction materials for the various infrastructure projects and in the maintenance of roads.

On the other hand, biodegradable waste can be processed to become organic fertilizers.

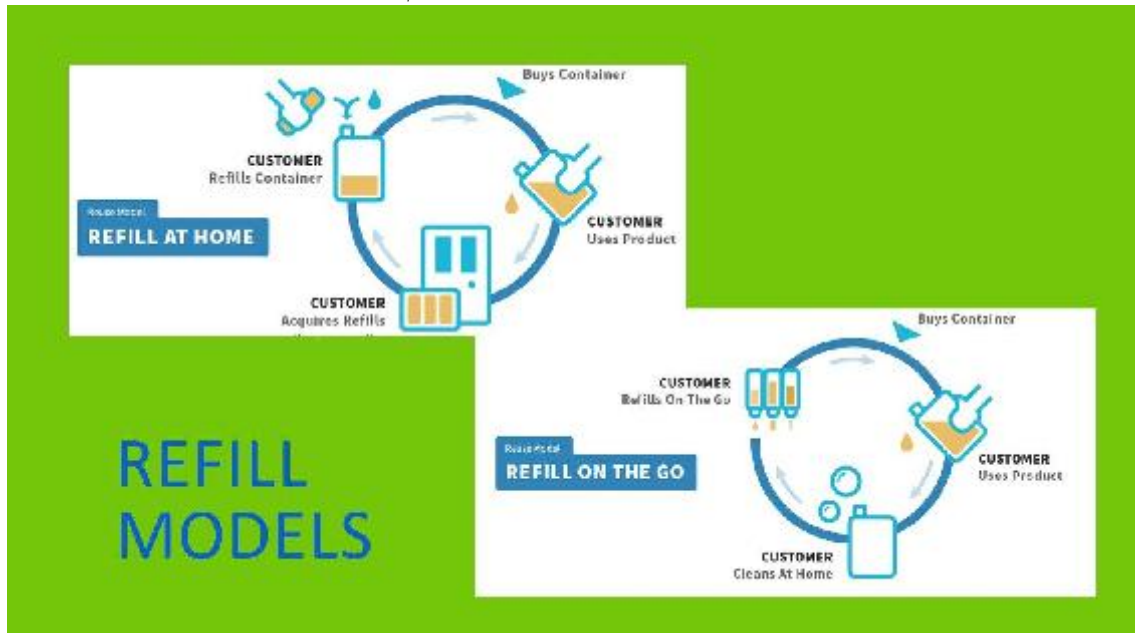
With the closure of the open dumpsite in Brgy. Candau-ay, all collected solid waste and garbage in Dumaguete City will now be sorted at the Central Materials Recovery Facility.

The city has aimed to achieve the goal of a Zero Waste Dumaguete through the conversion of residual waste into construction materials for public works coupled with the people's cooperation in reducing consumption, practicing waste segregation, and recycling. (jct/PIA7 Negros Oriental with reports from CPIO)



# It's now time to phase-out single-use plastics

By Jerome Carlo R. Paunan Published on June 4, 2021



CALOOCAN CITY, June 4 (PIA) -- The 47th episode of “Stories for a Better Normal: Pandemic and Climate Pathways” series with the topic, “Uniting Against Single-Use Plastic” featured representatives from big civil society organizations advocating for the phase-out of single-use plastics (SUPs) and calling for the immediate passage of the proposed Single-use Plastic Products Regulation Bill to dramatically reduce the dangerous effects of unnecessary plastics on people’s health, the environment, and climate.

The online conversation conceptualized and hosted by three-term Senator, now Deputy Speaker and Antique Representative Loren Legarda featured guests Froilan Grate, Regional Coordinator of Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA) and President of Mother Earth Foundation; Atty. Gloria Ramos, Vice President of Oceana Philippines; and Marian Ledesma, Zero Waste Campaigner of Greenpeace Philippines.

“Umaabot sa tatlong milyong metric tons ng basura, at 500,000 metric tons ang plastic waste leakage kada taon. At ayon sa GAIA, tayong mga Pilipino ay gumagamit ng 59.7 billion na piraso ng sachet kada taon. Sa 100 million Filipinos, kung lahat ay gumagamit ng sachet, lumalabas na kada tao ay nagtatapon ng 597 pieces ng sachet per year. Hindi biro ang bilang na ito. Karamihan sa plastic na basura na tinatapon ay hindi nareresikulo. Nananatili ito sa karagatan for hundreds of years. Let’s spend time to reflect on our consumption of single-use plastic,” Legarda emphasized.

The civil society organizations presented their programs and projects across communities to address the problems caused by plastic pollution, and shared plastic-free alternatives in local enterprises and alternative delivery systems and reuse solutions.

“In a zero-waste system, kailangang sistema talaga ang nakikita natin, where the recyclables are being collected para ibalik at magagamit ito ulit. Ang ating mga food scrap at basura mula sa kusina na nabubulok ay magagamit muli via composting methods. Yung residual, yung trash natin, dito pumapasok yung efforts ng ating mga legislators para i-address via EPR (Extended Producer’s Responsibility) or SUP (Single-Use Plastic) ban na moving na sa ngayon. With companies, we are pushing them to redesign their products at magbenta ng kanilang produkto na hindi gumagamit ng plastic. It’s a whole system, lahat tayo ay may papel na gagampanan, pero kailangan din na makita yung buong sistema,” said Grate.





“We know that the solution is in our hands but we need to work harder, work together, collaborate, and it’s important to have consumers who are informed, and fully engaged in decision-making, ito yung kailangang magawa natin. Our call is to really stop plastic pollution at the source. The National Solid Waste Management Commission should already issue the list of non-environmentally acceptable products and packaging. This will go a long way in stopping plastic pollution at the very source,” said Atty. Ramos.

“We really hope that more businesses can innovate their system and be early adaptors to new processes that are built around the idea of plastic-use reduction. Their innovation can really change the way the world does business and it can also change our system for the better,” said Ledesma.

The episode is held in time with the approval of House Bill No. 9147 or the Single-Use Plastics Products Regulation Act on the second reading. The bill, sponsored by the House Committee on Ecology Chair and co-authored by Legarda, seeks to phase out various types of plastics in the coming years.

Commissioner Rachel Herrera of the Climate Change Commission also joined the conversation and conveyed the national government’s efforts in the campaign to regulate single-use plastics, particularly the Anti Single-Use Plastic campaign spearheaded by the CCC and the Department of Finance, in collaboration with national government agencies.

“Buo ang suporta ng Executive Department agencies para sa pagsasabatas nito, through the Cabinet Cluster on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation and Disaster Risk Reduction (CCAM-DRR) Resolution No. 1 adopted this year, which expresses its support for this national regulation and phase-out of single-use plastics. Sa Senado ay marami rin pong kaparehong Senate bills. Senator Manny Pacquiao has filed the Single-Use Plastics Regulation Bill (SBN 2262) last June 1,” said Commissioner Herrera.

Legarda has also filed House Resolution No. 1829, urging Congress to conduct an inquiry of the National Solid Waste Management Commission and other national government agencies on the implementation of the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 (Republic Act 9003), specifically on the provision on non-environmentally acceptable products or packaging.

“Mula nung naisabatas ang RA 9003 noong January 2001 ay dapat nakalista na yung mga pinagbabawal o phase-out na plastic, dapat na-implement, pero hanggang ngayon, 20 years na ang nakalilipas, ay wala pa ring listahan. Let us look into the non-implementation of the list ng ipinagbabawal sa ilalim ng Ecological Solid Waste Management Law,” Legarda stressed.

As an online discussion to promote health, environmental consciousness, and climate-adaptive practices, "Stories for a Better Normal" aims to change the mindset of individuals, families, and communities by demonstrating ways in which a ‘better normal’ can be realized within our communities.

This online discussion is organized in partnership between the Office of Deputy Speaker Legarda and the Climate Change Commission, with support from the Department of Education, Philippine Information Agency, Mother Earth Foundation, Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities, and The Climate Reality Project-Philippines. (PIA NCR)



# No calm after the storm: Facing climate change in the Philippines

News and Press Release

Posted 4 Jun 2021 Originally published 4 Jun 2021



Vicente Cuya, Julieta's husband, repairs their home after the storm. © IOM/Andrea Empamano

For Filipino families living on the coast, the end of a typhoon is just the beginning of their struggle. Julieta Cuya lives in the island *barangay* (village) of Rawis in Tabaco City, Albay, in the southeastern part of the island of Luzon in the Philippines. At 79 years old, she is the primary caregiver for her two grandchildren.

She and the children hid beneath tables as Super Typhoon Rolly (Goni), the world's strongest tropical cyclone in 2020, collapsed their home around them in late 2020.

The typhoon brought torrential rains, violent winds, mudslides and storm surges to Luzon, the Philippines' largest island. It left extensive damage in its wake, killing dozens, injuring hundreds and affecting 2 million people including those in the Province of Albay in the Bicol Region, which was one of the hardest-hit.

"When the storm calmed down, we had the opportunity to transfer to our neighbor's place to take temporary shelter," Julieta said. "When we returned to our home, we found a lot of our belongings missing, and our house in shambles. My head and my heart hurt."

Forty-one-year-old Herlyn Boqueo was pregnant and caring for an infant when the typhoon slammed into Tabaco City. She took shelter in the home of their *barangay kagawad* (councilor) and waited for the water to recede.

"I was scared because the water was getting higher and my child was getting wet," she said.

"My child was five months old, born during the COVID-19 lockdown. When I returned to my home, all my clothes were wet. Thankfully, help came. I bought coffee and milk using IOM's cash assistance and attended a training seminar. I was taught that the foundation of a house should be strong in order for it to remain stable during typhoons and natural calamities. I learned a lot."

Federico Laprades Jr., a 60-year-old fisherman who is partially blind, also found his house and livelihood damaged by the storm.

"For as long as I can, I try to go out to sea every day," he said. "It's difficult but I need to keep working and I still have one good eye left. I have my own *bangka* (small boat) that I use, but it was damaged by the storm."



The typhoon ripped half of the roof off his home.

“We’re used to storms, but this one was really strong; the water level went all the way up from the shoreline to our house. We were scared but we couldn’t really do anything but wait it out,” he said.

“We’re poor and we get by with whatever small earnings we get every day. After the storm, our local leaders started looking into families to be prioritized for assistance and I was one of them. I was so happy when I found out because it meant I could repair my house.”

His neighbours helped carry home the supplies and repair the structure as his leg had just been operated on and Federico couldn’t carry heavy materials.

“I was so thankful because they not only gave us quality materials, but the engineers also taught us how to repair our homes properly. Life has been difficult but I’m still thankful that we’ve received help that helped us get back on our feet,” he said.

Julieta, Herlyn and Federico's experiences are three among hundreds on the island of Rawis alone where people are highly dependent on the environment for their livelihood, relying on coastal fishing, seaweed farming and mangrove lumber to sustain their families.

Typhoon Rolly and three other typhoons pounded the region within a span of three weeks in 2020, halting, if not totally obliterating, the livelihoods of the island-barangay’s residents.

It is the farmers, fisherfolk and people living on the coastlines who are facing the worst impacts of climate change, both slow-onset and sudden-onset events, such as heatwaves, flooding, strong winds and rising sea levels. The poorest communities – often those who do not directly contribute to climate change – are the most vulnerable to its effects.

To better understand climate change and its impact on migration in the local context, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in the Philippines talked to local governments and vulnerable communities. People from coastal towns and cities say they observed an increase in the intensity of typhoons as well as rising sea levels, forcing people living in residential zones and buffer zones to move further inland.

Their narratives are supported by scientific studies showing that extreme weather events are expected to become more frequent and more intense with climate change.

The Philippines faces more typhoons than any other country in the world: roughly half of the 20 that emerge in the region every year will cut across the archipelago. It constantly ranks among the most at-risk countries due to climate change despite its small contribution to its causes, and is the second-most affected by events of weather-related loss according to data from the Climate Risk Index (CRI) 2020.

Such conditions drive migration decisions of Filipinos. In 2020 alone, the Philippines witnessed 4.4 million people newly displaced by disasters inside their country, according to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre. This is the second largest figure for 2020 at the global level, only trumped by China. But this is not a new trend. The Philippines has been ranking first or second at the global level on the number of persons affected by internal disaster displacement in the last 5 years, with 4.1 million in 2019, 3.8 million in 2018, 2.5 million in 2017, and 2.6 million in 2016.

The residents of Rawis and the rest of the province have a reputation for grit in the face of adversity and an ability to recover from the super typhoons in the past.



"If another storm comes, we will survive that too," is the response when asked what they will do in the future.

Local authorities in the Philippines are institutionalizing climate change adaptation and preparedness programmes to prepare for climate change impacts and their effects on migration, but the question still remains: are we doing enough to ensure our communities are resilient?

*Story by Michelle Villariez, National Training Officer, IOM Philippines*

*IOM Philippines aims to shine a light on the human side of climate change. Through its Climate Change Adaptation and Community Resilience in the Philippines Program (CARP), IOM is launching the preliminary report *Framing the Human Narrative of Migration in the Context of Climate Change*, which focuses on the people behind climate change adaptation in the Philippines. The report will be updated on the [IOM Philippines website](#).*

International Organization for Migration  
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05 JUNE 2021, SATURDAY



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

# **COVID-19 NEWS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**



# COVID-19 recoveries ngayong araw 2,382 lang, 'pinakakaonti in 48 days'

(Philstar.com) - June 4, 2021 - 4:00pm



Members of the Hijos del Nazareno and the Manila Police Department set up a new entrance along Carriedo Street for a more organized influx of devotees as they strictly enforce proper social distancing and other health protocols for devotees wanting to hear mass inside the Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene in Quiapo, Manila during the first Friday mass of the month on June 4, 2021.

The STAR/Miguel de Guzman

MANILA, Philippines — Nakapagtala ang Department of Health (DOH) ng 7,450 bagong infection ng coronavirus disease (COVID-19), Biyernes, kung kaya nasa 1,255,337 na sumatutal ang nahahawaan nito sa bansa.

Batay sa mga bagong nakalap na datos ng Kagawaran ng Kalusugan, narito ang bagong mga pasok na datos para araw na ito:

- **Lahat ng kaso:** 1,255,337
- **Nagpapagaling pa:** 60,794, o 4.8% ng total infections
- **Kagagaling lang:** 2,382, dahilan para maging 1,173,006 na lahat ng gumagaling
- **Kamamatay lang:** 181, na siyang nag-aakyat sa total local death toll sa 21,537

Anong bago ngayong araw?

- Ngayong araw naitala ang pinakamababang bilang ng bagong gumaling sa COVID-19 (2,382) sa nakalipas na 48 araw. Huling mas mababa ang daily recoveries ryan noon pang ika-17 ng Abril (799).
- Umabot na rin sa 60,794 ang mga aktibong COVID-19 cases sa Pilipinas. Ito na ang pinakamataas na bilang ng mga patuloy na nagpapagaling sa sakit locally sa nakalipas na 26 araw.
- Inilagay naman sa [mahigpit-higpit na modified enhanced community quarantine \(MECQ\)](#) ang Lungsod ng Davao dahil sa paglobo ng mga COVID-19 cases na pumupuno ngayon sa Southern Philippines Medical Center at iba pang quarantine facilities.
- Nakatakda namang maambunan ng [7 milyong COVID-19 vaccine doses ang Pilipinas at iba pang bansa sa Asya](#), bagay na magmumula sa mga reserbang bakuna ng Estados Unidos.



- [Wala namang nakikitang paglabag](#) sa mga protocols si Interior Undersecretary Jonathan Malaya sa sabay-sabay na pagpapaturok ng aktor nina Aga Mulach, kanyang asawa't magkambal laban sa COVID-19 sa Muntinlupa. Aniya, lahat sila ay may "comorbidities," kung kaya't saklaw ng A3 priority sector na binibigyan na ang proteksyon laban sa nakamamatay na virus. Inilabas ni Malaya ang balita matapos ang espekulasyon ng special treatment sa showbiz family.
- Umabot na sa [halos 171.3 milyon ang tinatamaan ng COVID-19 sa buong daigdig](#), ayon sa huling datos ng World Health Organization. Sa bilang na 'yan, patay na ang mahigit 3.7 milyong katao.

— James Relativo



# Philippines sees 7,450 new coronavirus infections

(Philstar.com) - June 4, 2021 - 4:00pm



A resident of Brgy. Old Balara in Quezon City wears a Philippine flag designed mask on June 4, 2021.  
The STAR/Michael Varcas

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Health on Friday recorded 7,450 additional COVID-19 cases, bringing the total number of infections in the country to 1,255,337.

- Active cases: 60,794 or 4.8% of the total

## What's new today?

- Fully-vaccinated inbound travelers who were inoculated in the Philippines will go through a seven-day facility-based quarantine, the Palace [announced](#). They will only have to take an RT-PCR coronavirus test if they show symptoms during their quarantine period.
- Malacañang also announced that Davao City will [revert](#) to a stricter modified enhanced community quarantine (MECQ) starting June 5.
- Seven million doses of the US' excess vaccine supply will be [shipped](#) to countries in Asia and the Pacific, including the Philippines, the White House announced. These form part of the first tranche of a total of 80 million that the administration of President Joe Biden has pledged to ship overseas by the end of June.

— **Bella Perez-Rubio with reports from Xave Gregorio**





# 89% of Pinoys worried about catching COVID-19

By [Helen Flores](#)(Philstar.com) - June 5, 2021 - 12:00am



The percentage of those worried about catching COVID-19 was highest in the Visayas at 92 percent. Mindanao followed with 90 percent; balance Luzon, 88 percent and Metro Manila, 85 percent.

MANILA, Philippines — Nearly nine in 10 Filipino adults are worried about catching COVID-19 even as almost half of them think the worst of the pandemic is yet to come, according to the latest survey of the Social Weather Stations (SWS).

The poll, taken from April 28 to May 2, found 89 percent of adult Filipinos worried and 11 percent “a little/not worried” that anyone in their immediate family might catch the virus. The poll used face-to-face interviews of 1,200 adults, 18 years old and above, nationwide.

The percentage of those worried about catching COVID-19 was highest in the Visayas at 92 percent. Mindanao followed with 90 percent; balance Luzon, 88 percent and Metro Manila, 85 percent.

SWS said fear of catching the disease was high across education levels: 81 percent among non-elementary graduates, 88 percent among elementary graduates and 91 percent both among college graduates and junior high school graduates.

Meanwhile, the May 2021 survey also found a worsening outlook on the COVID-19 crisis as those fearing “the worst is yet to come” with the pandemic rose to 49 percent from 31 percent in November 2020.

This was the highest since the 57 percent in July 2020, the pollster said.

On the other hand, those saying “the worst is behind us” fell from 69 percent in November 2020 to 50 percent in May.

Those who say “the worst is yet to come” increased in all areas, especially in Metro Manila, SWS said.

The percentage of those fearing “the worst is yet to come” with the crisis was highest in balance Luzon (54 percent from 31 percent), followed by Metro Manila, (50 percent from 22 percent), the Visayas (49 percent from 32 percent) and Mindanao (38 percent from 35 percent).

On the other hand, those saying “the worst is behind us” were highest in Mindanao at 62



On the other hand, those saying “the worst is behind us” were highest in Mindanao at 62 percent, followed by the Visayas (51 percent), Metro Manila (49 percent) and balance Luzon (45 percent).

By education, those saying “the worst is yet to come” were highest among college graduates (56 percent), followed by junior high school graduates (49 percent), elementary graduates (49 percent) and non-elementary graduates (40 percent).



“While the situation in NCR is normalizing, surges all over the country now exist and they threaten the health capacity of many regions,” warned OCTA Research Group fellow Ranjit Rye during an online forum organized by the Cardinal Santos Medical Center.

AFP/Maria Tan

## Quarantine tightened in areas outside NCR

[Janvic Mateo](#) (The Philippine Star) - June 5, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — With COVID cases surging outside the National Capital Region, quarantine restrictions have been tightened in the cities of Davao and Cagayan de Oro, and experts are calling for similar moves in other areas outside the NCR.

“While the situation in NCR is normalizing, surges all over the country now exist and they threaten the health capacity of many regions,” warned OCTA Research Group fellow Ranjit Rye during an online forum organized by the Cardinal Santos Medical Center.

Citing the case of Davao City, Rye welcomed the decision of the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF) to approve the request of the city government to revert to the stricter modified enhanced community quarantine (MECQ).

Mayor Sara Duterte-Carpio requested the IATF last Monday to place Davao City under MECQ status until June 30, citing how the daily average of COVID-19 infections increased to 200 cases.

She said COVID-19 patients admitted at the Southern Philippines Medical Center, temporary treatment monitoring facilities and isolation facilities reached 1,665 as of May 31.

Yesterday, the IATF announced that its Screening and Validation Committee decided on approving the city’s reclassification to MECQ starting today until June 20.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque Jr. said an extension beyond June 20 will be subject to review by the IATF “about two weeks from now.”

While the city government has yet to come out with an executive order on the shift to MECQ, it urged residents to abide by the guidelines especially on restrictions in movement.

In a related development, the IATF also moved for the escalation of General Santos City to GCQ status until June 30, owing to a similar surge in cases.

In view of this, Rye said: “We’re exhorting other LGUs (local government units) to consider going to stricter quarantine to deal with these surges because these quarantine restrictions, these heightened restrictions, do work, especially when you are trying to slow down a surge.”



## Areas with surges

At the same forum, OCTA fellow Guido David noted the continuing increase in new cases recorded in some areas outside the NCR.

Among those that recorded significant increases in daily new cases in the past week were Davao City with 193 (up 69 percent from 114), Cagayan de Oro with 138 (up 48 percent from 93), Iloilo City with 122 (up 108 percent from 59) and Bacolod with 104 (up 47 percent from 70).

Also posting significant increases were Tuguegarao with 84 new cases per day in the past seven days (up 144 percent from 34), General Santos with 66 (up 19 percent from 55) and Butuan with 54 (up 38 percent from 39).

In Metro Manila, David said some LGUs have recorded an increase in average daily new cases in the past week, most notably Caloocan with 103 (up 33 percent from 77) and Parañaque with 88 (up 74 percent from 50).

The reproduction number in the region, which indicates the number of persons a positive individual can infect, is still below 1.0 but has increased from 0.59 to 0.71.

David earlier noted a slight increase in new cases in the capital for the first time since the peak of the surge in April, citing public complacency as a possible factor.

## Central Visayas surge

Meanwhile, the Department of Health (DOH) said a surge in COVID-19 cases has been recorded in Bohol and Negros Oriental, but not in the entire Central Visayas.

DOH Central Visayas spokesperson Dr. Mary Jean Lorecho made the clarification at the Laging Handa public briefing, emphasizing that COVID-19 cases in One Cebu – referring to Cebu province, Mandaue City and Lapu-Lapu City – are low.

To illustrate, Lorecho cited the 13.2 percent critical care utilization figure in One Cebu, which means that out of the 862 beds allocated for COVID-19 patients, only 114 beds are occupied. However, the critical care utilization rate in Bohol and Negros Oriental is high mainly because there are few level 3 hospitals or those with intensive care units (ICU).

Yesterday, the DOH logged 7,450 new cases, bringing to 1,255,337 the total COVID-19 caseload nationwide.

DOH said 1,173,006 or 93.4 percent of this total have already recovered, including 2,382 newly reported recoveries. Active cases stand at 4.8 percent or 60,794 of total cases.

Deaths due to COVID rose to 21,537 with the inclusion of additional 181 casualties. The figure accounted for 1.72 percent of the total cases.

## Vaccine deployment

OCTA group expressed support for the decision of the national government to recalibrate its vaccine deployment to prioritize areas with a big caseload, particularly NCR, Metro Cebu, Metro Davao, Bulacan, Batangas, Cavite, Laguna, Pampanga and Rizal.

“If there’s some more supply, we might include other places such as Iloilo that has been a constant threat of surges,” Rye said, stressing that prioritizing areas with high number of cases is the best way to address the pandemic.



“Since the start of the pandemic, the NCR Plus has been the epicenter of transmission in the country, accounting for more than 50 percent of all active cases,” he said. “Our belief is winning the battle in the NCR is winning the war against COVID in the country.”

While inoculating 70 percent of the population is the most ideal target to achieve herd immunity by the end of the year, Rye stressed the reality of short supply in vaccines that would prevent the government from achieving it. – **Edith Regalado, Christina Mendez, Mayen Jaymalin**



# DOH to study shortened interval for AstraZeneca's COVID-19 vaccine doses

Raphael Bosano, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jun 04 2021 08:17 PM

MANILA – Following the United Kingdom's move to shorten the interval between 1st and 2nd doses of AstraZeneca's COVID-19 vaccine, the Department of Health (DOH) said on Friday it is also studying similar measures.

In a virtual forum, DOH spokesperson Maria Rosario Vergeire said that an 8-week interval is indicated by the manufacturer and the World Health Organization.

Under the emergency use authorization issued by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for AstraZeneca, the 2nd dose can be given within 4 to 12 weeks after the first dose

A shortened interval between doses, meanwhile, is seen to speed up the process of fully vaccinating individuals.

"Yung nangyayari sa UK, shinorten nila para mas mabilis ang pagbabakuna or fully vaccinate ng mga tao. Pag-aaralan natin kasi itong pinapatupad natin is based on evidence which says you get a higher efficacy at a longer period of interval and that is 12 weeks," Vergeire explained.

(The UK shortened their vaccination intervals to fast-track the vaccination of their residents. We are studying this because we are implementing guidelines based on evidence)

The long interval in between doses of AstraZeneca's vaccines is also seen as one of the factors on why there has been a high number of people who have not received their second dose.

"Marami sa naka-first dose ng Astrazeneca, ngayon pa lang nila nakukuha ang kanilang mga 2nd doses. Unti-unting tataas yang 2nd doses na yan in the coming days."

(Those who had received the first dose of AstraZeneca received their 2nd doses just now. The figure of those who are fully vaccinated will rise soon)

Epidemiologist Dr. John Wong earlier reported that around 50 percent of those who received the 1st dose of COVID-19 jabs have not returned to receive the 2nd dose.

But Vergeire explained that these were based on assumptions.

"On the ground the actual numbers would be 113,000 na hindi pa naka-receive ng 2nd dose."

The DOH added that the time infection rates were increasing in the NCR Plus bubble — Metro Manila, Bulacan, Laguna, Rizal, and Cavite — was also the same period when vaccine allocations were high in the region.

Some were also not able to receive the 2nd dose after getting infected or after being exposed to someone who tested positive for the virus.

Missing the 2nd dose on the specified schedule, however, does not mean that one would need to go back to the first dose, according to the health official.

Source: [https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/06/04/21/doh-to-study-shortened-interval-astrazeneca-covid19-vaccine?fbclid=IwAR1cNR6Jp17uGNwTsahKIQdj5IW\\_FqXSFsxPpMSncLh6Focw1DqDlzGFly4](https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/06/04/21/doh-to-study-shortened-interval-astrazeneca-covid19-vaccine?fbclid=IwAR1cNR6Jp17uGNwTsahKIQdj5IW_FqXSFsxPpMSncLh6Focw1DqDlzGFly4)



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**Covid-19  
Situation and Response**



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Paano ko patuloy na  
**Mapoprotektahan**  
ang aking sarili at pamilya  
pagkatapos magpabakuna?



Magsuot ng face mask  
at face shield



Maghugas o  
sanitize ng kamay



Umiwas sa  
matataong lugar



Siguraduhing may  
magandang  
daloy ng hangin sa  
bahay at trabaho



Dumistansya ng  
isang metro sa iba

Source: Department of Health



05 JUNE 2021, SATURDAY



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
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
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