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NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Face masks add to marine pollution amid COVID-19 pandemic

Published May 4, 2021 8:38pm

The improper disposal of used face masks amid the COVID-19 pandemic has become a threat to the environment.

According to Raffy Tima's report on "24 Oras" on Tuesday, the Philippines is one of the biggest sources of marine plastic pollution, some of which comes from improperly disposed masks.

A group of divers who attempted to clean up a section of the Batangas coast collected over 200 kilos of trash, most of which were used surgical face masks.

Based on a video taken by the divers, the face masks were covered in algae and were stuck among the corals.

Rose Veridiano, a dive instructor, said it was possible fish were eating the used face masks.

"It's not just in the ocean matatapos 'yan eh. 'Pag kinain 'yan ng mga isda at kinain natin ang isda, it will end up in our bodies," she said.

(This will not just end in the oceans. If fish eat the used face masks, and we eat the fish, it will end up in our bodies.)

"I hope there will be no disease brought about by micro plastic ingested in our bodies," she added.

Earlier, the Ecowaste Coalition warned that surgical masks polluting bodies of water can threaten marine life.

Meanwhile, Environment Undersecretary Jonas Leones said they had advised local governments to strictly enforce Republic Act 9003 or the proper collection and disposal of face masks.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources had previously urged the public to properly dispose of surgical masks and personal protective equipment.

Used masks, gloves, tissues, and other infectious waste should be placed in a separate waste bag. — **Ma. Angelica Garcia/DVM, GMA News**

Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/786224/face-masks-add-to-marine-pollution-amid-covid-19-pandemic/story/?fbclid=IwAR0W272R4pUqEp6xZMDQknN1dQa0njNjZC_bHGAWKoO-eWCz-Hhkb6EeOYA



Balyenang may mga plastic bag sa lalamunan, patay ilang oras matapos mapadpad sa dalampasigan

Published May 4, 2021 2:19pm

Nasawi kalaunan ang isang balyenang natagpuang may mga plastic bag sa lalamunan matapos itong mapadpad sa dalampasigan sa Mati, Davao Oriental.

Sa ulat ng GMA News "Unang Balita" nitong Martes, sinabing buhay pa ang balyena noong una itong makita ng mga residente roon.

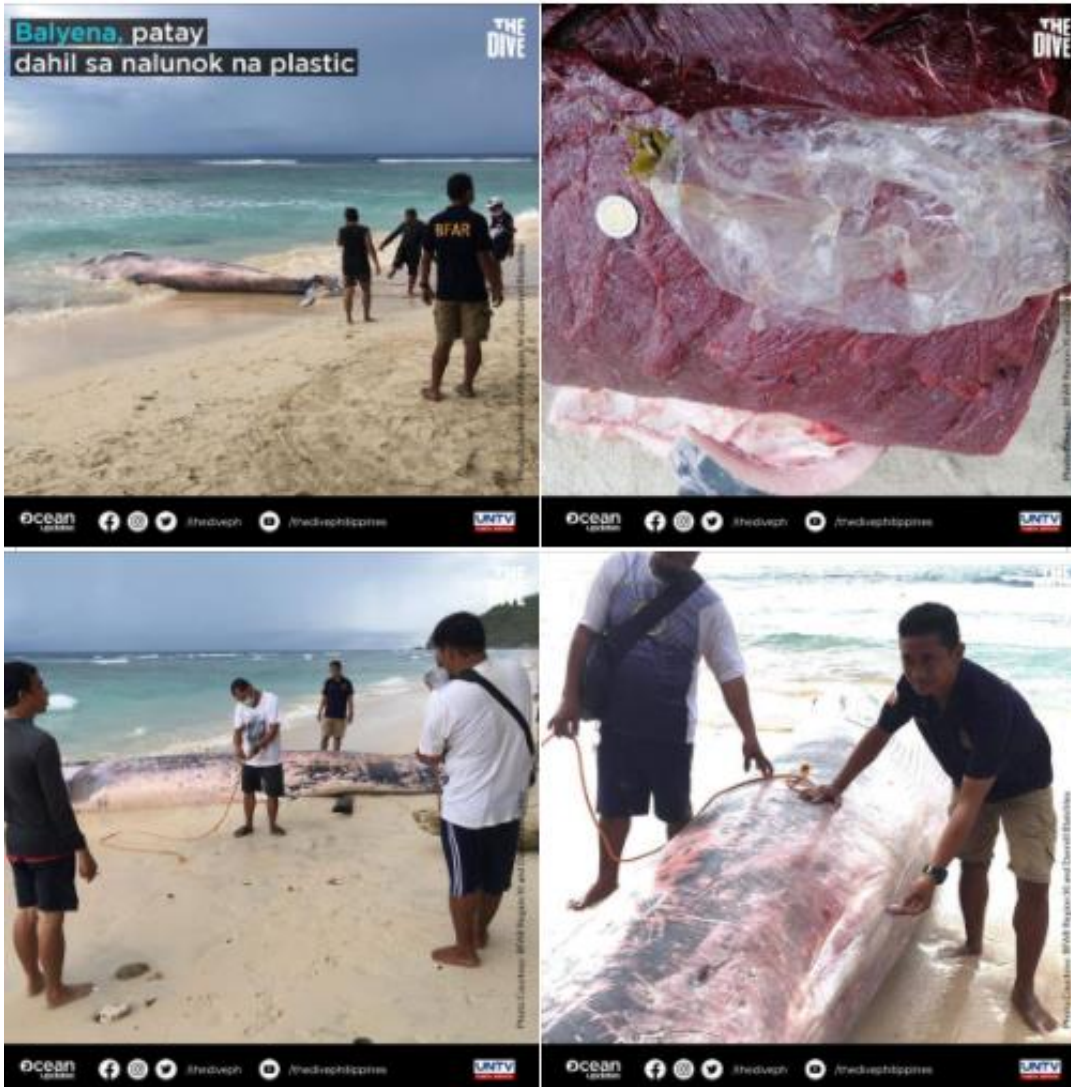
Iniulat nila ang kanilang nakita sa mga awtoridad pero matapos lamang ang ilang oras, nasawi rin ang balyena.

Ayon sa isang marine biologist, may mga nakuhang plastic bag sa lalamunan ng balyena. Hindi umano nakahadlang sa paghinga nito ang mga plastic bag pero nakahadlang naman sa kaniyang paglunok.

Posible ring nabilad sa araw ang balyena dahil sa low tide.—**Jamil Santos/AOL, GMA News**

 **UNTV News and Rescue** 
13h · 

TINGNAN: Isang balyena na napadpad sa baybayin ng Barangay Lanca, Mati City, Davao Oriental, patay dahil sa nalunok na plastic



The Dive

13h · 

TINGNAN: BALYENA, PATAY DAHIL SA NALUNOK NA PLASTIC

Isang balyena na may tinatayang bigat na 4,000 kilos ang napadpad sa baybayin ng Barangay Lanca, Mati City, Davao Oriental noong Sabado, (May 1, 2021).

Buhay pa ang lalaking Bryde's whale nang unang matagpuan ng mga residente. Subalit, binawian ito ng buhay makalipas lamang ng ilang oras. May nakitang plastic sa lalamunan ng balyena matapos ang ginawang necropsy ng marine biologist na si Darrell Blatchley noong linggo, (May 2, 2021). Kinumpirma naman ng BFAR Region XI na ang bumarang plastik sa lalamunan ng balyena ang naging sanhi ng pagkamatay nito.

Ayon sa BFAR Region XI, nakagagambala ang dumaraming namamatay na marine mammal dahil sa plastic ingestion.

Photo credits: BFAR Region XI and Darrell Blatchley

[#TheDiveph](#) [#OceanUpdates](#) [#UNTVNewsAndRescue](#)



Care for the oceans requires more than a ‘month’

By [The Manila Times](#)

May 5, 2021

THE month of May here in the Philippines is designated as the “Month of the Ocean” and is intended to “highlight the conservation, protection and sustainable management of Philippine coastal and ocean resources,” according to the government’s Official Gazette.

Ocean conservation is certainly a worthwhile advocacy, especially in this country. We are an archipelagic nation; the ocean is, after all, our home. Given the critical importance of healthy seas, however, we have to wonder whether a designated “month” is really the best or even a sufficient way to focus public attention and encourage changes that help instead of harm our oceans.

First, a bit of background: May was declared the “Month of the Ocean” by Presidential Proclamation 57, series of 1999, which recognized that “coastal and marine resources provide both economic and ecological benefits, such as food, livelihood, recreation and other services as well as biodiversity, aesthetic value and shoreline protection.”

According to the Constitution, “the State shall protect the nation’s marine wealth in its archipelagic waters, territorial sea, and exclusive economic zone, and reserve its use and enjoyment exclusively to Filipino citizens.” Therefore, the month of May was set aside as a time to highlight the value of the ocean and the country’s responsibility to preserve it through activities led by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) of the Department of Agriculture “in collaboration with relevant government agencies, all local governments, state colleges and universities [and] government-owned or controlled corporations whose operations are directly or indirectly relevant to the development and management of our ocean resources, NGOs, people’s organizations, and the private sector.”

The activities that take place during the “month” are what one might expect. Various government agencies and ocean advocacy groups use the occasion to conduct public education campaigns, lobby for stronger environmental laws, raise funds for conservation projects and organize events such as coastal cleanup drives.

One oddity about our “Month of the Ocean” is that it differs from the internationally observed “World Oceans Month,” which is in June. The latter observance actually began the year before the proclamation of “Month of the Ocean” in 1998. Why the government at the time (the Estrada administration) decided to be out of step with the rest of the world is a bit puzzling.

Without question, we support any effort to protect the marine environment and the sustainability of the vast resources it provides, and the Month of the Ocean is a perfect time to highlight policies and activities related to ocean preservation.

But it is not the only time to do so, and that is what bothers us about the idea of setting aside a “month” for an important cause. There are so many “months” in a year, one for every advocacy under the sun, or so it seems, to the extent that we fear the concept is becoming a bit clichéd. Designating a specific period of time in which to focus on an important issue risks having public attention disappear once the “event” ends, particularly if there is another “month” that follows it. In reality, any issue deemed critical enough to warrant its own “month” deserves continuous, everyday attention by the public, policymakers and the media whether the cause is protecting the Earth, protecting the oceans, championing women’s rights, fighting threats to public health, improving the welfare of senior citizens or any other advocacy to improve society and the world we live in.



That is not to say Month of the Ocean should be dismissed; far from it. We all need to be aware of the importance of the oceans and of the threats humanity poses to their sustainability. But instead of being just a brief period in which concerns for our oceans are in the spotlight, it should be used by policymakers and advocates as an occasion to initiate substantial changes that will help make those concerns a part of our everyday lifestyle and ways of doing business.



Solon sa 'dolomite' beach project TAUMBAYAN NILOLOKO NG DENR

9 hours ago jake



Photo Courtesy of Jonathan Celonia

PANLOLOKO sa taumbayan ang pinalalabas ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na ang paggastos ng P265 million sa second phase ng Manila Bay 'Beach Nourishment' Project ay nakabubuti sa kalusugan ng mamamayan.

Ganito inilarawan ni Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Eufemia Cullamat ang patuloy na pagtatambak ng dolomite sa Manila Bay na ginagastusan ng P256 milyon ngayong panahon ng pandemya.

"Wag na nila tayong lokohin na ang "Beach Nourishment Project" ay makakabuti din sa kausugan ng mga tao. Makakabuti ito kung sa kalusugan ng mamamayan inilaan," ayon sa mambabatas.

Noong nakaraang taon ay daan-daang miyong piso rin umano ang ginastos ng DENR sa pagtatambak ng dolomite sa Manila Bay subalit natabunan ito ng itim na buhangin ng magkaroon ng sunod-sunod na bagyo.

Hindi aniya katanggap-tanggap ang ganitong maling prayoritisasyon ng pamahalaan lalo na't kulang na kulang ang supply ng bakuna sa bansa laban sa COVID-19 at gumagastos ng sariling pera ang mga medical frontliner sa kanilang proteksyon.

"Pero pag ganitong pandemya at walang konsiyensyang nagwawaldas ng milyun-milyong pondo ang gobyerno, mas akma ng tawagin itong 'Destructive Project'," ayon pa sa mambabatas.

Bukod sa mga nagkakasakit, maraming nagugutom na hindi pa aniya nabibigyan ng ayuda kaya nagkusa ang mga pribadong mamamayan na magtayo ng community pantry para matulungan ang kapwa.

Dito (community pantry) ay nakakakain sila, sa gobyerno, dilat na ang mata, sa buhangin pa inilalaan ang paggasta. Itigil na natin ang korupsiyon at walang kapararakang sistema at programa. Maawa kayo sa sambayanang Pilipinong nagugutom, walang maayos na kalusugan at nakanganga pa rin sa paghihintay ng bakuna," panawagan pa ng mambabatas. (BERNARD TAGUINOD)

Source: http://saksingayon.com/nasyunal/solon-sa-dolomite-beach-project-taumbayan-niloloko-ng-denr/?utm_source=ReviveOldPost&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=ReviveOldPost&fbclid=IwAR2ybSYSrU446-yceTEZHnK-kzkyqgZjDKzpZxa6CkOcRfSKUqqr5UqASJY



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Bakuna at hindi dolomite.

'Yan ang panawagan ng grupong PAMALAKAYA dahil inaalman nila ang phase 2 ng beach
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6 arrested for illegal capture of monitor lizards

By: [Robert Dejon](#) - Correspondent / [@rdejonINQ](#)

[Inquirer Visayas](#) / 06:19 PM May 03, 2021

ORMOC CITY—Six persons are facing criminal charges after their arrest for poaching and possession of monitor lizards in Dulag town, Leyte province on Sunday (May 2).

Capt. Bernardo Arcena, chief of the Dulag police, identified the suspects as Jomarie Custodio, Joenel Cadaro, Erwin Perez, Jeffrey Cadaro, Henry Custodio, and Nasario Perez.

Arcena said police were alerted on the illegal capture of monitor lizards by Redentor Artugue, chair of the village of Tabu.

Police in Dulag checked the village where six living and five dead lizards were found.

Village officials turned over the suspects to police.

The six would be charged with violating Republic Act. No. 9147 or the Conservation and Protection of Wildlife Resources and their Habitats Act.

TSB



6 bagsak sa panghuhuli ng bayawak

By Abante News Online — Last updated May 4, 2021

METRO



TIMBOG ang anim na katao dahil sa panghuhuli ng mga bayawak sa Dulag Leyte nitong nagdaang weekend.

Sa report, nahuli ang mga suspek na nanghuli ng tinaguriang “threatened species,” sa Barangay Tabu.

Sinabi ng mga otoridad, mga residente ng Barangay Bagacay East sa La Paz, Leyte ang mga nahuling suspek.

Nakakuha ng tip ang mga otoridad mula sa isang Redentor Artugue, na chairman ng Brgy. Tabu ng bayan kung saan naaktuhan ang mga suspek na nanghuhuli ng mga bayawak.

Nakuha mula sa mga suspek ang 11 bayawak, isang air gun, kasama ang 84 pirasong pellets nito, at isang 6-wheeler truck. (Kiko Cueto)



48 Chinese held on site of steel plant being built in Sarangani

By: [Rommel Rebolledo](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[Inquirer Mindanao](#) / 10:44 PM May 04, 2021

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—At least 48 Chinese nationals have been held by immigration authorities in a compound in Maasim town, Sarangani province over questions on their work permits.

Immigration agents, backed up by soldiers, raided the compound of Panhua Industrial Steel Inc. at the village of Kamanga last April 30.

The operation followed an order by Immigration Commissioner Jaime Morente for Bureau of Immigration (BI) agents to check the work permits of a certain Guiyang Xiao and 47 other Chinese nationals in the Panhua compound, where the Chinese firm has been building a steel plant, according to a report by Maasim police chief Maj. Herman Luna. The report was submitted to the Sarangani police. Luna said immigration agents were investigating reports that the Chinese nationals made “false claims” in documents they signed under oath to support their application for special work permits.

Immigration officials said it could be a violation of the amended Philippine Immigration Act of 1940. Police reported that documents, proofs of identities and other items had been seized from the compound which could show if the Chinese nationals working there were indeed skilled, as the Chinese claimed, or not.

Panhua has entered into an agreement in 2019 with the Philippine government to build and operate a P3.3-billion steel plant at the Phividec Industrial Park in Misamis Oriental.

It is currently building a steel plant in its compound within the Kamanga Agro-Industrial Ecozone in Sarangani, near a coal-fired power plant of the Alcantara-owned Sarangani Energy Corporation. Rosadelima Mangelen, Kamanga village chief, said villagers learned in April about the arrival of the Chinese who are supposed to be working on building the steel plant in an area which Mangelen’s family used to own but had sold to new owners.

A Filipino worker in the Panhua compound said he and other Filipinos were increasingly worried about the company’s plan to replace them with Chinese workers, as about 1,500 of Chinese workers were expected to arrive in separate dates by end of April and in May.

Mangelen, in an earlier interview with Inquirer, said Panhua officials had asked the municipal government to sign a “certificate of no objection” document so that the company could get a clearance from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for the project.

“But we asked them to present to us what their plans are and what do they intend to build in our barangay,” said Mangelen.

The Inquirer reached out to the Panhua group for comment but it declined to speak to media. When asked what awaits the Chinese nationals being held in the Panhua compound, Sittie Almaida Kapampangan, head of the BI in Sarangani, said she was not authorized to speak to media about the case.

TSB

Source: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1427337/48-chinese-held-on-site-of-steel-plant-being-built-in-sarangani>



Over 300 kilos of garbage collected in Davao del Norte underwater cleanup drive

Published May 4, 2021, 11:55 AM

by [Richa Noriega](#)

Over 300 kilos of garbage were collected by a team of divers from the country's national security forces in a synchronized underwater clean-up drive in Davao del Norte on Friday, April 30.



(Photo courtesy of the PCG)

In a Facebook post, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) said the initiative, dubbed as "Scubasurero: Stand up, save our reefs," was a synchronized underwater clean-up activity organized by the Department of Tourism (DOT) Region XI held in Island Garden City of Samal, Davao del Norte.

LOOK: The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) assisted in collecting a total of 378 kilos of garbage during the SCUBASURERO:...

Posted by [Philippine Coast Guard](#) on [Monday, May 3, 2021](#)

The team of divers has collected a total of 378 kilos of garbage during the activity.

According to the PCG, the initiative advocates the preservation of marine biodiversity and the promotion of marine tourist destinations in Davao del Norte.

Aside from the PCG, the Philippine Naval Forces, Philippine Naval Reserve Center, Philippine National Police (PNP) Regional Office 11, PNP Regional Maritime Unit, Carabao Dive, Kostal Divers, Pro Dive, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) XI, Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) XI, Tourism Security Professionals Association of Davao

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/05/04/over-300-kilos-of-garbage-collected-in-davao-del-norte-underwater-cleanup-drive/>



At least 500 mangrove seedlings planted in Davao City

Published May 4, 2021, 10:50 AM

by [Richa Noriega](#)

Some 500 mangrove seedlings were planted by the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) members to protect and ensure the sustainability of coastal communities in Davao City.



(Photo courtesy of the PCG)

Through the marine environmental protection initiative of the PCG Auxiliary 817.3 Division and Royal Davao Eagles Club (RDEC), the mangrove seedlings were planted at a 3,000 square meter mangrove forest in Barangay Lasang, Davao City on Sunday, May 2.

PCG PLANTS 500 MANGROVE SEEDLINGS IN DAVAO CITY The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) has planted 500 mangrove seedlings at...

Posted by [Philippine Coast Guard](#) on [Monday, May 3, 2021](#)

“Mangroves play a vital role in our marine biodiversity and it is our duty to amplify the importance of this natural resource to our stakeholders. We need their commitment to protect it and ensure its sustainability,” PCG District Southeastern Mindanao Commander Commodore Allan Corpuz said in a statement.

“Mangroves are biodiversity hotspots, acting as nurseries for fishes. They also help mitigate climate change by sequestering carbon above and below the ground, shielding coastal communities from intense storms,” he added.

Corpuz said a total of 14 sacks of non-biodegradable waste materials were also collected during the activity.

The environmental organization World Wildlife Fund (WWF) said that planting mangroves helps prevent coastal damage from hurricanes and typhoons.



CCC, DILG promote climate-responsive budgeting among LGUs

By Catherine Teves [May 4, 2021, 7:16 pm](#)



MANILA – A webinar this week will further help mainstream the climate change adaptation and mitigation in annual investment programs (AIPs) of local government units (LGUs) nationwide.

Climate Change Commission (CCC) and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) have partnered on holding the Local Climate Change Expenditure Tagging (CCET) Webinar to orient LGUs on the process of identifying and tagging respective climate change-related initiatives in AIPs.

It is about "putting all the resources and required information and being able to translate these into an investment program wherein it will address future impacts of climate change," CCC Commissioner Noel Gaerlan said Tuesday during the webinar.

He said preparing for such impacts is essential in building the country's resilience to climate change.

He said that CCC, DILG, and the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) came up with the CCET "so all development plans and projects of national, translated down to local, are ensured to be tagged or provided allocation for climate change action".

CCET is the process of helping LGUs identify, prioritize, and tag respective climate change programs, projects and activities (PPAs), according to the CCC.

Such a process also helps LGUs take stock of those PPAs as well as track and report respective climate change expenditures, it added.

Republic Act 9729, as amended by RA 10174, "identifies LGUs as the frontline agencies in formulating, planning and implementing climate action in their communities," CCC noted.

Scientist Dr. Rodel Lasco, a University of the Philippines-Los Banos professor, said the Earth's temperature will continue to rise, further changing climate, if countries worldwide fail to mitigate their respective greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

He said GHG emissions accumulate in the atmosphere and trap heat, warming Earth.

That warming is increasing and becoming unhealthy for Earth and people due to continuing accumulation of GHG emissions, he noted.

"We're nearing a worst-case scenario," he said during the webinar, warning even slight additional warming will bring Earth closer to a climate change that will adversely affect life on Earth.

Food and water shortage are among climate change-related problems, he cited.

DILG OIC-Undersecretary Marlo Iringan reiterated the need for LGUs to act fast so the country can help mitigate GHG emissions and better adapt to the changing climate.



"Climate change is a global concern requiring local action," he said during the webinar.

He noted CCET can help LGUs nationwide prioritize local action for building climate resiliency.

"There's a need for LGUs to act now," he said, noting it is cheaper to spend on disaster preparedness and mitigation than on disaster response and rehabilitation.

Spending PHP1 on disaster preparedness and mitigation can help save about PHP7 in disaster response and rehabilitation, he said.

The webinar on Tuesday was for LGUs in Luzon.

CCC and DILG scheduled the same webinar on Wednesday (May 5) and Thursday (May 6) for LGUs in the Visayas and Mindanao, respectively.

Earlier, CCC, DILG, and DBM issued Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) 2014-01 which encourages LGUs nationwide to track their respective climate expenditures in AIPs.

The agencies eventually issued JMC 2015-01, amending the 2014 circular to revise guidelines for tagging and tracking LGUs' climate expenditures.

CCC previously said several webinars conducted last year also sought to institutionalize CCET in national and local budget programming and expenditure tracking processes. (*PNA*)



Climate change body cites Nestlé Philippines' 'net zero' commitment

Published May 4, 2021, 3:39 PM

by [Ellson Quismorio](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) has hailed a food and beverage giant's commitment to reduce its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to "net zero" by the year 2050.



(Photo from Climate Change Commission PH Facebook page)

The company, Nestlé Philippines, also set a mid-term goal of slashing to half its GHG emissions by 2030—a mere nine years away.

CCC Secretary Emmanuel M. de Guzman noted that the company's commitment to shift toward carbon neutrality aligns with the country's objectives in its first Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

The first Philippine NDC conveys an ambitious emissions reduction target of 75 percent from 2021 to 2030 compared to business-as-usual projections. It formalizes the country's goal of pursuing a low carbon and resilient development for the agriculture, waste, industry, transport, and energy sectors over the decade.

"The role of business and industry in the climate agenda is critical. It stands with many others that hold significant resources and capacity for investment. If harnessed properly, these could drive innovation, create more opportunities, and improve millions of lives," De Guzman said.

During last April 30's online event dubbed "2021 Net-Zero Fair: Nestlé's Contract with the Planet", the company "From now until 2025, we will accelerate and expand the work already undertaken to achieve a 20 percent reduction in emissions. Between 2025 and 2030, we will transform our operations to achieve a 50 percent reduction of emissions. Finally, from 2030 to 2050, we will work to balance our emissions by exploring how we offset any remaining emissions through high-quality carbon removal projects or innovation, the result of which will be net-zero emissions," Nestlé declared in its Net Zero Roadmap.

"Nestlé Philippines is taking full responsibility for its climate footprint," De Guzman said. "We hope that initiatives like [these] inspire more private businesses to undertake bolder climate action, as we all work together to sustain the momentum and the gains for a safer and more secure future for all," the CCC chief added.



Greenpeace

'Too easy to achieve': Greenpeace's Saño says PH should commit to more unconditional action in its Paris accord pledge

The Philippines' recently-submitted Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under the 2015 Paris Agreement should have been "more ambitious", Greenpeace Southeast Asia Executive Director Yeb Saño said on Thursday, April 22.

MB Manila Bulletin / Elson Quismorio / Apr 22

The climate body encouraged Nestlé and other businesses to responsibly and efficiently utilize principles of the circular economy through more efficient recycling, sustainable packaging, and reducing their carbon footprint.

The company's fast moving consumer goods have been tagged in the 2020 Brand Audit Report of the Break Free From Plastic coalition as one of the world's top plastic sources of marine litter.

The CCC is actively advocating for the passage of a law that would phase out single-use plastic products across the country according to set periods depending on the products' replaceability or recyclability.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/05/04/climate-change-body-cites-nestle-philippines-net-zero-commitment/>



Group Says ADB Financing Of Gas Projects In Asia Pacific Undermines Climate Commitments

BY CAI ORDINARIO AND JONATHAN L. MAYUGA MAY 5, 2021



Civil-society organizations (CSOs) in the region disclosed that the Asian Development Bank (ADB) spent a total of \$4.7 billion to finance various gas projects.

In a news statement, CSOs said gas expansion poses one of the greatest threats to meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement and averting the very worst impacts of the climate crisis.

They said financing these projects undermine the commitments made by the Manila-based multilateral development bank to further its climate and efforts to achieve a “prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific.”

“The ADB is meeting to discuss ‘collaboration for resilient and green recovery,’ but every dollar the ADB spends on gas and other fossil fuels undermines those efforts. Recovery can only be green and sustainable if the recovery funds do not include any support for dirty gas, coal and oil projects, which are fueling the climate crisis and harming communities and ecosystems,” Sophie Richmond, coordinator of the Big Shift Global said.

According to Carbon Brief, gas played a larger role in increasing global emissions than coal in every year between 2013 and 2019.

Of the ADB’s \$4.7 billion in financing for gas, the majority was allocated for gas-fired power plants at 44 percent and exploration/extraction at 21 percent, according to the analysis by the Fossil Free ADB coalition and Oil Change International.

The Fossil Free ADB campaign was created by the coalition to prompt the ADB to stop fueling the climate crisis and end financing for fossil fuels.

“The ADB knows better. The Bank knows fossil fuel energy is a key driver of climate change and that its members are among the most climate-threatened in the world, and yet the ADB still finances fossil fuel projects in our region. We demand the ADB stop financing coal, gas and oil,” Lidy Nacpil, coordinator of the Asian People’s Movement on Debt and Development (APMDD) stated.

Further, the coalition said the ADB is playing a critical role in laying the groundwork for gas infrastructure development and expansion in Asia through its technical assistance program.

The ADB approved \$11.1 million in technical assistance grants from 2016-2020 to help governments prepare to build out gas pipelines, power plants and LNG terminals across Asia. These grants have had an outsized impact per dollar relative to loans and guarantees.

The coalition is calling on ADB to scale up investments for renewable energy, including grants available for public and social ownership of integrated systems, energy efficiency, community microgrids to maximize energy access, and just transition for workers and communities dependent on fossil fuel production.



To demonstrate real climate leadership, the ADB must align all financing and activities—including private sector financing and financial intermediation—with a high probability 1.5 degrees celsius emissions pathway and ensuring meaningful consultation with impacted communities.

“The climate crisis sends us a clear warning: we can’t keep powering our lives with dirty fuels from the last century. It’s time to power our communities with clean, renewable energy. To do so, we need financial institutions like the Asian Development Bank to immediately stop lending money for coal, gas and oil projects. We demand their leadership in this transition by excluding fossil fuels in their investment portfolios and by putting in place more stringent environmental safeguards in their investment policies,” Chuck Baclagon, regional campaigner at 350.org, Asia said.

Meanwhile, NGO Forum on ADB network believes ADB can do more to minimize damage to the environment and the communities it serves, particularly now that the bank is also updating its 2009 Safeguard Policy Statement (SPS).

In a separate news statement, NGO Forum on ADB noted that in a 2015 report of its Independent Evaluation Department (IED), the bank has not yet delivered its safeguards effectively due to its reliance on consultants.

Further, the IED has also recommended in its 2020 report that Country Safeguard Systems are not ready in the region to deliver on ADB SPS. Therefore, the onus remains on ADB to ensure that its safeguards are provided across all operations.

“The safeguards review should address the problems identified by the IED report in 2015 and 2020 about non-effective safeguards delivery, noncompliance of FI and ignorance of the weaker CSS of the borrowing countries. If the root causes of those problems are not addressed, even the new ‘modernized’ SPS—as the ADB safeguards team loves to say— would face the same problems in the implementation,” said Titi Soentoro of Aksi!, an organization focused on gender, social and ecological justice in Indonesia.

To ensure vulnerable groups, women, children, Indigenous Peoples, and people with disabilities are not harmed by ADB operations, NGO Forum on ADB said the upcoming ADB SPS review has to ensure that project-affected communities and civil society are meaningfully consulted in the process.

In essence, the ADB SPS is all about the communities and civil- society advocates who support and advocate for them throughout ADB operations.

NGO Forum on ADB Policy Analyst Nadeen Madkour also said there is a need to focus on affected communities. He noted that in 2017, a gas cylinder blast claimed the lives of six Vietnamese workers in the ADB-funded Nam Ngiep 1 Hydropower Project in Borikhan, Lao. Madkour also said a similar incident occurred in Cambodia where a “social and physical cataclysm” followed the resettlement of more than 4,000 families living on the dilapidated railway tracks.

“The bank’s projects particularly those operationalized by the Private Sector Operations Department [PSOD] have been linked to the grave human-rights violation,” Madkour said.



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- [Column](#)
- [Opinion](#)
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5,683 new COVID-19 infections reported; active cases at over 66K

By JOAHNA LEI CASILAO, GMA News

Published May 4, 2021 4:10pm

Updated May 4, 2021 4:57pm

The Philippines on Tuesday reported 5,683 new coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) infections, bringing the total tally to 1,067,892, as 21 laboratories failed to submit data on time.

According to the Department of Health (DOH), this brought the active cases in the country to 66,060.

Both the new cases and the number of active cases were lowest since March 18.

Of the active cases, 94.6% are mild, 1.7% are asymptomatic, 1.5% are severe, and 1.2% are in critical condition.

The DOH also announced that total recoveries climbed to 984,210 with 9,028 new ones while the death toll increased to 17,622 with 97 more fatalities.

Department of Health @DOHgovph

Ngayong 4 PM, Mayo 4, 2021, ang Department of Health ay nakapagtagala ng 5,683 na karagdagang kaso ng COVID-19. Samantala ay mayroon namang naitalang 9,028 na gumaling at 97 na pumanaw.

DOH COVID-19 CASE BULLETIN # 416 MAYO 4, 2021

Para sa kumpletang detalye at impormasyon, isulathan lamang ang aming pormulang ibig: <https://www.doh.gov.ph>

6.2% <small>POREYENTO NG AKTIBONG KASO</small> <small>TOTAL NG AKTIBONG KASO</small> 66,060	92.2% <small>POREYENTO NG GUMALING</small> <small>TOTAL NG GUMALING</small> 984,210	1.65% <small>POREYENTO NG NAMATAY</small> <small>TOTAL NG NAMATAY</small> 17,622
MGA BAGONG KASO 5,683	MGA BAGONG GUMALING 9,028	MGA BAGONG NAMATAY 97

KABUANG BILANG NG KASO 1,067,892

MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING MAYO 2 <small>DATOS NGAYONG MAYO 4</small> <small>AYON SA REPORTS NOONG MAYO 2</small>	HALOS 96.3% ANG MILD AT ASYMPTOMATIC NA KASO!	 <p>3 ANAL HOLANG MASK AT FACE SHIELD</p>
14.3% <small>POREYENTO NG MGA NAGPOSITIBO</small>	35,286 <small>BILANG NG TINEST</small>	

KABUANG PILIPINAS	NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION	KALAGAYAN NG MGA AKTIBONG KASO
PUNO NA SA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?	PUNO NA SA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?	MGA SA 6%
<small>ICU BEDS (1.9K TOTAL BEDS)</small> 66% Utilized	<small>ICU BEDS (1.9K TOTAL BEDS)</small> 74% Utilized	
<small>ISOLATION BEDS (13.9K TOTAL BEDS)</small> 45% Utilized	<small>ISOLATION BEDS (13.9K TOTAL BEDS)</small> 50% Utilized	1.7% Asymptomatic
<small>WARD BEDS (16.9K TOTAL BEDS)</small> 51% Utilized	<small>WARD BEDS (16.9K TOTAL BEDS)</small> 60% Utilized	1.2% Critical
<small>VENTILATORS (12.9K TOTAL VENTILATORS)</small> 42% Utilized	<small>VENTILATORS (12.9K TOTAL VENTILATORS)</small> 52% Utilized	1.5% Severe
		8.98% Moderate

DESPAKITA

4:00 PM · May 4, 2021

71 [See the latest COVID-19 information on Twitter](#)



Fifteen duplicate cases were also removed from the total case count.

“Moreover, 40 cases that were previously tagged as recoveries were reclassified as deaths after final validation,” the DOH said.

Data also showed that 66% of the country’s intensive care unit beds are in use while 42% of the mechanical ventilators are occupied.

In the National Capital Region, 74% of the ICU beds are being utilized by patients while 52% of the mechanical ventilators are in use.

The DOH earlier said hundreds of additional coronavirus variant cases were [detected](#) by the Philippine Genome Center and the University of the Philippines' National Institutes of Health.

At present, the Philippines has recorded a total of ,075 B.1.351 variant cases, 948 B.1.1.7 cases, 157 P.3 cases, and two cases of the P.1 variant first detected in Brazil.

Meanwhile, President Rodrigo Duterte has been [inoculated](#) against COVID-19 using the China-made Sinopharm vaccine.

The Food and Drug Administration earlier said Duterte is [covered](#) by the compassionate special permit issued by the agency to the vaccine.—**LDF, GMA News**



Shift to GCQ will depend on COVID-19 data, Trade Chief says

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published May 4, 2021 2:49:22 PM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, May 4) — Trade Secretary Ramon Lopez on Tuesday said improving COVID-19 figures will dictate if parts of the country can shift to a more relaxed community quarantine status — even as his fellow economic manager pushes for a shift from MECQ to GCQ by this month.

He said the shift can happen by mid-May or at the end of the month if new COVID-19 cases go down and if the critical care capacity in Metro Manila and nearby areas improves.

"Even after May 15, everything will depend on numero na bumababa ang COVID cases, yung r-naught (reproductive number), tsaka kung dumami na ang libreng ICU beds, that will allow us to scale down or deescalate sa GCQ. It will depend, in the end, sa numero," he told CNN Philippines.

Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Karl Chua, who is also director general of the National Economic and Development Authority, earlier said Metro Manila needs to "move out of MECQ by middle or end of the month" due to the capital region's contribution to the country's economic performance.

Lopez, however, agreed that lockdowns eventually have to be more localized, focusing on specific areas that are experiencing case spikes.

Metro Manila and the nearby provinces of Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna, and Rizal are currently under an extended, but a more "flexible" MECQ until May 14, allowing more services such as indoor dining and personal care to operate at a lesser capacity.

To be able to shift to GCQ, the Health Department said healthcare utilization rate should be below 50% and the average daily attack rate and two-week growth rate should be steadily decreasing. It noted that the number of new infections is improving. The situation in hospitals is also on a "downward trend," but Health Spokesperson Maria Rosario Vergeire said this is not yet a significant decrease.

Source: <https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2021/5/4/Shift-to-GCQ-will-depend-on-COVID-19-data--Trade-Chief-says.html>



Philippine military not intimidated by China's challenges at West Philippine Sea —Sobejana

Published May 4, 2021 4:23pm



The Philippine military on Tuesday said the country's security forces are not intimidated by Chinese incursions at the West Philippine Sea, adding that they are prepared for the challenges from the Asian country.

"Hindi po tayo nai-intimidate sa mga challenges (ng China). Challenge lang kasi ang ano, tina-challenge lang 'yung ating mga (Philippine) Navy, e hindi po tayo nagpapadala r'on. Tuloy tuloy po 'yung ating pagreresupply, so tina-challenge din natin sila (China). May counter challenge din tayo sa kanila na hindi po sa kanila itong West Philippine Sea kundi pagmamayari ng Pilipinas," Armed Forces chief General Cirilito Sobejana told Super Radyo dzBB.

(We are not intimidated by the challenges posed by Chinese vessels. They are challenging the Philippine Navy and we will not back down, we will continue resupplying our vessels. We will show them that the West Philippine Sea is ours.)

Sobejana also reiterated that maritime patrols of Philippine Coast Guard and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) at the West Philippine Sea and Kalayaan Island Group would increase confidence of Filipino fisherfolk in conducting activities at the disputed waters.

"Buong West Philippine Sea po kung saan nasasakupan ng Pilipinas ang ating pinapatrolan pero kung saan po 'yung ating mangingisda at kung san itong sasakyang pandagat ng China dun po tayo kadalasang pumupunta dahil iiwasan natin na mathreaten or ma-intimidate 'yung ating mangingisdang kababayan," the military chief said.

(We are patrolling the West Philippine Sea, the country's territory. We are patrolling where our fishermen are going as well as where the China ships are staying to make sure that our countrymen will not be threatened or intimidated.)

"... Dahil sa presensya natin sila po ay nabigyan ng proteksyon at lumalakas din po ang loob nila na may nakikita silang mga sasakyang pandagat mula sa Philippine Navy, sa Coast Guard saka sa BFAR," the military chief added.

(Our presence give protection to our fishermen and they gain confidence whenever they see vessels of Philippine Navy, Coast Guard, and BFAR.)



The AFP chief said they are mulling to transform Pag-asa Island, part of Spratly Islands, into a logistics hub where Philippine military's boats can refuel and resupply.

"Sa pamamagitan ng pag-transform ng Pag-asa island into a logistics hub ay hindi na lalayo ang ating mga barko at tuloy tuloy 'yung ating pagsagawa ng sovereignty patrol sa West Philippine Sea," said Sobejana.

(If we transform it into a logistics hub, our boats will not go further and our sovereignty patrol in West Philippine Sea will continue.)

Over the weekend, Defense chief Delfin Lorenzana dismissed China's order to stop the Philippines from conducting maritime drills.

"While we acknowledge that China's military capability is more advanced than ours, this does not deter us from defending our national interest, and our dignity as a people, with all that we have," Lorenzana said.

"Walang alisan [No leaving]."

Foreign Affairs Secretary Teddy Boy Locsin Jr. also dished out a strong remark against China, asking the Asian nation's ships to [leave the Philippines' exclusive economic zone](#).

Meanwhile, President Rodrigo Duterte said in a Cabinet meeting on Monday that there is [no reason to be disrespectful to China amid the dispute over territorial waters](#). —
Consuelo Marquez/RSJ/AOL, GMA News



France in crisis over new critical climate law

By [The Manila Times](#)

May 5, 2021

PARIS: The French parliament is set to vote through a new climate change law on Tuesday intended by President Emmanuel Macron to reinforce his green credentials one year ahead of national elections. The draft legislation is almost certain to be approved in a first reading by the lower house of parliament, where Macron has a working majority, but it has been heavily criticized by environmental groups.

Campaigners see it as too timid given the pace of climate change globally and accuse the French leader of half-hearted commitment to a cause he has admitted to embracing belatedly.

France's environment minister, Barbara Pompili, has defended the text, saying it "will affect the daily life of all of our citizens" and is "one of the biggest laws of the (president's) term."

Measures include bans on domestic flights under two and half hours that can be done by train, restrictions on renting badly insulated properties, or the creation of a new "ecocide" crime to punish polluters. AFP

Building a nature-positive economy

The planet's ecosystems are nearing critical tipping points, with extinction rates 100-1,000 times higher than they were a century ago. Our current economic system has put natural resources under ever-increasing pressure.



The true risks arising from nature loss and climate change often are not accounted for or understood, including by investors, according to Polman and Zabey. Image: [Ashish Jain/Flickr.com](https://www.flickr.com/photos/ashishjain/)

By [Paul Polman](#) and Eva Zabey

May 4, 2021

As the recent UK Treasury-commissioned [Dasgupta Review](#) of the Economics of Biodiversity puts it, our economies “are embedded within Nature ... not external to it.” The task now is to embed this recognition in our “contemporary conceptions of economic possibilities.”

Many businesses, recognising the perils facing the planet, are changing the way they operate. But they can't do it all alone, and the current rules of our financial and economic system must change if we are to build an equitable, nature-positive, net-zero future.

Such changes make economic sense. Firms that take a long-term view and meet the needs of all stakeholders by prioritising environmental and social risks and opportunities over short-term gains and profitability [outperform their peers](#) in terms of revenue, earnings, investment, and job growth. Similarly, companies with strong environmental, social, and governance (ESG) policies perform better and have [higher credit ratings](#).

According to the World Economic Forum's 2021 [Global Risks Report](#), four of the top five risks to our economies are environmental – including climate change and biodiversity loss. Human-driven [nature loss](#), its [links to the spread of diseases](#) such as COVID-19, and the estimated [\\$300 billion annual cost](#) of natural disasters caused by ecosystem disruption and climate change highlight the risks of unbridled economic growth. Thinking beyond GDP and short-term profit is therefore essential in order to restore our relationship with the planet and transform our system into a viable one.

The true risks arising from nature loss and climate change often are not accounted for or understood, including by investors. The economic cost of land degradation amounts to more than [10% of annual gross world product](#), and human-caused declines in ocean health are projected to cost the global economy [\\$428 billion per year](#) by 2050. The flip side is that shifting toward a nature-positive economy [could generate](#) \$10 trillion of business opportunities and create nearly 400 million jobs.

...governments must implement ambitious policies that reflect a vision of the sustainable economy to which we aspire. Such measures could not only unlock new business opportunities but also create a level playing field and stable operating environment.



Thriving companies supporting this transition are in a true leadership position. But if a sustainably-oriented firm's profits dip, reality hits. Investors often chase short-term profits instead of using ESG indicators as a credible proxy – alongside financial performance – to measure a company's value. This definition of business success must change.

Consider the case of consumer goods multinational Danone. In 2020, Danone became the first listed French company to adopt the model of an *entreprise à mission*, or purpose-driven company, when 99% of shareholders agreed to embed sustainability into the firm's governance structure. This year, the company came under increasing pressure from activist shareholders – including from those in the [1% who opposed the new model](#) – owing to what they regard as the firm's "prolonged period of underperformance." While Danone's [share price](#) has underperformed those of its rivals, the company is [not in the red](#). Nonetheless, in March it announced the departure of Chairman and CEO Emmanuel Faber, who had championed the firm's sustainable business model.

It is fair to say that not all shareholders value the same things, and the fact that investors are questioning companies' ESG efforts can only be positive. But that should not stop advocates of a purpose-driven strategy that considers a wider range of stakeholders and their interests from seeking ways to strengthen the rules and bolster non-financial performance further. As the Dasgupta Review argued, we must "change our measures of economic success to help guide us on a more sustainable path."

First, we need meaningful and credible ESG data alongside traditional financial reporting in order to counter accusations of greenwashing. Corporate performance indicators must embed the true value of [natural, social, and human capital](#) to reveal the full state of health of the planet, people, and profits. To that end, efforts are [underway](#) to develop a globally accepted system for corporate disclosure of both financial and sustainability information.

Second, *all* investors should stop investing in activities that have a highly negative impact on the climate and biodiversity, and they should call for companies in their portfolios to issue reports aligned with the [Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures](#) and the more recently established [Task Force on Nature-Related Financial Disclosures](#). BlackRock, the world's largest asset manager, has asked all firms in its portfolio to do this [by the end of 2020](#), and a group of [major investors](#) worth \$4.7 trillion has committed to making their portfolios zero-carbon by 2050. In addition, the US Securities and Exchange Commission recently [established](#) a Climate and ESG Task Force charged with monitoring listed companies' conduct in these areas.

Lastly, and perhaps most important, governments must implement ambitious policies that reflect a vision of the sustainable economy to which we aspire. Such measures could not only unlock new business opportunities but also create a level playing field and stable operating environment. In the run-up to the United Nations Biodiversity Conference (COP15) scheduled to take place in China in October, more than 700 companies are [urging governments to adopt policies](#) now to reverse nature loss by 2030. And just recently, the [UN adopted a landmark framework](#) to integrate natural capital into economic reporting.

The coming post-pandemic recovery gives the world a chance to embrace such reforms. We must rewire our economic system and reward sustainable, long-term performance that goes beyond financial returns.

Paul Polman, co-founder and chair of IMAGINE & Food and Land Use Coalition. Eva Zabey is executive director of Business for Nature.

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Source: <https://www.eco-business.com/opinion/building-a-nature-positive-economy/>

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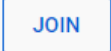



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