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**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**





UNTV News and Rescue

October 2 at 6:32 PM · 🌐

Hindi nakalalason sa Manila Bay at kalusugan ang itinambak na dolomite batay sa pag-aaral ng Environmental Management Bureau at Mines and Geosciences Bureau ng DENR.



YOUTUBE.COM

Dolomite sa Manila Bay, hindi nakalalason - Environmental Mng't Bureau, Mines and Geosciences Bureau

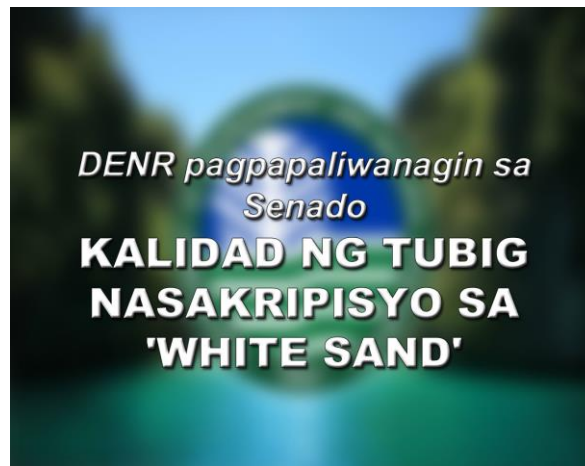
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## DENR pagpapaliwanagin sa Senado KALIDAD NG TUBIG NASAKRIPISYO SA 'WHITE SAND'

16 hours ago jake



TIYAK si Senador Nancy Binay na hindi palalampasin ni Senate Committee on Environment Chairperson Cynthia Villar ang budget hearing upang pagpaliwanagin ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa 'whitesand' project sa Manila Bay na inuna sa halip na ang pagtoyak sa kalidad ng tubig.

Kasunod ito ng paghahain ni Senador Leila de Lima ng resolusyon na nananawagan sa Senado na busisiin ang proyekto ng DENR sa Manila Bay.

Naniniwala si Binay na pagkakataon na rin ng DENR na magpaliwanag kung ano ba talaga ang dolomite na programa na ginawa nila.

Iginiit pa ng senador na sa halip na ang whitesand, mas nakabuti sanang inuna ng DENR ang pag-aayos sa kalidad ng tubig sa lugar.

“Sana nga inuna muna ang quality ng water. Nakita natin nung binuksan marami pumunta eh baka may mag-swimming eh di pa ata fit for swimming ang water doon. Baka may mga kababayan tayo na matuwa na porke maganda na ang buhangin isipin nila pwede na languyan,” diin ni Binay.

Sa Senate Resolution 532 ni de Lima, iginiit nito na ang pondo sa proyekto ay mas maganda sanang inilaan sa pag-ayuda sa 5.2 milyong nagugutom na pamilya.

“Contrary to Presidential Spokesperson Roque claims that ‘white sand’ makeover will give immeasurable benefit to Filipinos’ mental health, this P389 million band-aid project has indeed brought more harm than good,” dagdag pa ni De Lima sa resolusyon.

Nauna nang umani ng batikos sa iba't ibang sektor ang nasabing proyekto ng DENR na isa umanong pag-aaksaya ng pondo. (DANG SAMSON-GARCIA)

Source: [http://saksingayon.com/nasyunal/denr-pagpapaliwanagin-sa-senado-kalidad-ng-tubig-nasakripisyo-sa-white-sand/?utm\\_source=ReviveOldPost&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_campaign=ReviveOldPost&fbclid=IwAR1Io8tICRUV7hCYrRBzZ9KboeORhLC9VYalQ6YbE7cBwacdpLpsb649rhw](http://saksingayon.com/nasyunal/denr-pagpapaliwanagin-sa-senado-kalidad-ng-tubig-nasakripisyo-sa-white-sand/?utm_source=ReviveOldPost&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=ReviveOldPost&fbclid=IwAR1Io8tICRUV7hCYrRBzZ9KboeORhLC9VYalQ6YbE7cBwacdpLpsb649rhw)



## Programang Adopt-An-Estero, pinagtibay ng Manila Water, DENR at LGUs

Posted by: [hataw tabloid](#) on October 4, 2020 in [Hataw Lifestyle](#) [Leave a comment](#)

**PINANGUNAHAN** ng Manila Water ang Adopt-an-Estero Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) Ceremonial Signing sa pakikipagtulungan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) kasama ang iba't ibang lokal na pamahalaan (LGUs) na kinabibilangan ng mga lungsod ng Quezon, San Juan, at Mandaluyong, upang maisakatuparan ang clean-up o paglilinis ng San Juan River at ng mga estero at tributaries nito.

Layon rin ng programa na mapagtibay ang bawat pangako ng partner-agencies upang masolusyonan ang problema sa kapaligiran lalong-lalo ang paglilinis ng mga ilog at iba pang dinadaluyan ng tubig.

Kasama rin sa ginanap na MOA signing ang paglagda sa updated usufruct agreement sa pagitan ng DENR at Manila Water para sa pagsasaayos at pag-upgrade ng East Avenue Sewage Treatment Plant sa lungsod ng Quezon.

Saklaw sa pag-upgrade ang retrofitting ng pasilidad alinsunod sa DENR AO 2016-08 na pasado sa itinakdang pamantayan para sa biological nutrient removal sa treated effluent, maging ang pagpapalawak ng sewerage network nito.

Matatandaan noong Enero 2020, ibinahagi ni DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu na isa sa layunin ng kagawaran ay linisin ang San Juan River na tinugunan ng Manila Water sa pamamagitan ng pagtataguyod ng programang Adopt-an-Estero na may kaakibat na mga technical at social solutions upang malinis ang mga estero at mga daluyan ng tubig.

Samantala, nangako ang mga LGU na susuportahan ang mga programang nakapaloob dito kasama ang desludging services o pagpapasipsip ng poso negro sa mga kabahayan, donasyon, at pagbibigay ng cleaning materials at tools para sa pagsasagawa ng clean-up drive; pakikilahok sa mga kampanya para sa impormasyon, edukasyon at komunikasyon (IEC) at iba pang mga inisyatibo sa ilalim ng programang Adopt-an-Estero.

Si DENR Assistant Secretary Ricardo Calderon ang kumatawan kay Sec. Roy Cimatu sa naturang ceremonial signing at nagpahayag ng pasasalamat sa Manila Water at sa iba pang katuwang sa proyekto para sa hindi matatawarang suporta sa implementasyon ng iba't ibang programang pangkalikasan.

Kapwa nagbigay din sina Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte at San Juan Mayor Francis Zamora ng kanilang buong suporta para sa nasabing programa kasabay ang pagkilala sa Manila Water sa pagsisikap nitong higit pang mapalawak ang serbisyo sa tubig at alkantarilya sa kanilang mga lungsod.



Binigyang-diin ng Pangulo at CEO ng Manila Water na si Jose Rene Almendras na bilang suporta sa mandato at programang impraestruktura ng ating pamahalaan, magtatayo ng mga karagdagang sewage treatment facilities at palalawakin ang sewer network sa East Zone bilang bahagi ng overall wastewater roadmap ng Manila Water.

Dagdag ni Almendras, ito lamang ay nagpapatunay na matatag ang pangako at layunin ng Manila Water na makapagbigay ng malaking kontribusyon para sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay at mga daluyan ng tubig.

Ani Almendras, ito ang kauna-unahang pagkakataon para sa Manila Water na magsagawa nang sabay na physical at virtual memorandum signing upang matugunan ang matagal nang suliranan hinggil sa tinaguriang walo sa pinakamaruruming creek o estero sa Metro Manila kabilang na ang Maytunas at Ermitanyo Creek, pati na rin ang Buhangin at Buayang Bato Creek.

Kabilang sa MOA signing sina Manila Water President at CEO Jose Rene Almendras kasama sina DENR Assistant Secretary Ricardo Calderon, Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte, San Juan City Mayor Francis Zamora, MWSS Administrator Emmanuel Salamat, MWSS-RO Chief Regulator Patrick Ty, Mandaluyong City Administrator Ernesto Victorino at Manila Water Chief Operating Officer Abelardo Basilio.

Ang Manila Water ay pribadong konsesyonaryo ng Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System para sa East Zone na nagseserbisyo sa higit 7,000,000 residente sa silangang bahagi ng Metro Manila at lalawigan ng Rizal.





Ayon sa Manila Water, layunin ng programa na mapagtibay ang bawat pangako ng mga partner-agencies upang masolusyunan ang problema sa kapaligiran lalung-lalo ang paglilinis ng mga ilog at iba pang dinadaluyan ng tubig.

STAR/ File

## Adopt-An-Estero pinagtibay ng Manila Water, DENR at LGUs

[Angie dela Cruz](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon) - October 4, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Pinangunahan ng Manila Water ang Adopt-an-Estero ang Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) Ceremonial Signing sa pakikipagtulungan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) kasama ang iba't ibang lokal na pamahalaan (LGUs) na kinabibilangan ng mga lungsod ng Quezon, San Juan at Mandaluyong para maipatupad ang paglilinis ng San Juan River at ng mga estero at tributaries nito.

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Kasama rin nilagdaan dito ang updated usufruct agreement sa pagitan ng DENR at Manila Water para sa pagsasaayos ng East Avenue Sewage Treatment Plant sa QC.

Nangako naman ang mga LGUs na susuportahan ang mga programang nakapaloob dito kasama na ang desludging services o pagpapasipsip ng poso negro sa mga kabahayan; donasyon at pagbibigay ng cleaning materials at tools para sa pagsasagawa ng clean-up drive; pakikilahok sa mga kampanya para sa impormasyon, edukasyon at komunikasyon (IEC) at iba pang mga inisyatibo sa ilalim ng programang Adopt-an-Estero.

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Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2020/10/04/2047018/adopt-estero-pinagtibay-ng-manila-water-denr-lgus>



## Manila Water, DENR, LGUs pinagtibay Adopt-an-Estero

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Ani Almendras, ito ang kauna-unahang pagkakat-



## Environmentalists, consumer advocates reject MGB's mapping of Magat watershed

posted October 04, 2020 at 07:45 pm

by [Manila Standard](#)

Environmentalists and consumerism advocates urged the Mines and Geosciences Bureau to revoke the gold mining permit of a wholly-owned British corporation for allegedly pursuing operations within the state-protected Magat River Forest Reserve.

"The granting of the FTAA was before your time as acting director of MGB. Now, as the acting director, it is up to you to correct the errors of the past administration and enforce the pertinent provisions of the Mining Act of 1995 and other environmental laws, rules and regulations, and issue as cease and desist and cancellation orders against FCF Minerals Corp," a lawyer of Action for Consumerism and Transparency in Nation-Building said in a Sept. 16, 2020 letter to MGB acting director Wilfredo Moncano.

Lawyer Arnel Victor Valeña, acting on behalf of ACTION, asked the MGB to perform its duty of enforcing pertinent provisions of the mining law and other statutes and regulations.

Valeña questioned the documents, including sketch maps of Magat Watershed used by the MGB as justification for the grant of mining license to the FCF.

The MGB earlier denied the request for a cease-and-desist order against the Runruno Gold Project of FCF Minerals in Nueva Vizcaya province. The agency also defended the financial or technical assistance agreement it issued for the project, saying the contract area under FTAA No. 004 granted to FCF Minerals is outside the area covered by Proclamation No. 573 issued on June 26, 1969.

Valeña, however, dismissed as "grievously erroneous" the sketch map presented by the MGB purporting to show that the FCF mine site is 64 kilometers away from the Magat Watershed.

Valeña claimed the FCF's FTAA "is within the Magat River Forest Reserve, also called the Magat Watershed, which is a protected area."

He said the MGB's sketch map has the beginning point at the latitude of 17 40"29'. "This is not the latitude of the beginning point of the Magat River Forest Reserve. Rather, this is the latitude of the beginning point of Parcel No. 2 of Proclamation 573, which is the Chico river Forest Reserve," he said.

Valeña also said Proclamation 573 was "published with a typographical error, and the latitude of the beginning point as seen in the law as published in the Official Gazette in 70-40"-29'. "This is no longer in the Philippines, but already in Russia," he said.

"However, we cannot assume that the 70 should be 17, especially since 17 40"29' is the latitude of the beginning point of the Chico Watershed as stated in the law," he said.

According to the ACTION lawyer, the MGB map places the Magat River Forest Reserve in Apayao, Abra, Kalinga, Mountain Province and Ifugao, and not in Nueva Ecija, as the law stated.

"This also leads to the rather absurd situation that the Magat Watershed does not include the Magat River. In fact, since it has the same beginning point as the Chico forest Reserve, the two watersheds would overlap as shown in the MGB map," he said.

ACTION, in a petition-letter submitted to Malacañang Palace, called on President Rodrigo Duterte to exercise his executive powers and cancel FCF's mining franchise, underscoring that protected areas including watersheds are "strictly and absolutely beyond the commerce of man."

ACTION also invoked the National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 1992 which explicitly categorized watersheds as protected areas where mining operations are prohibited under Section 19 of the mining law.

Source: <https://manilastandard.net/mobile/article/335878>





# Reshipment of SoKor trash welcomed

Published 3 hours ago on October 5, 2020 02:30 AM

By [Francis Wakefield](#)



Environmental health and justice groups Sunday expressed elation over the final re-shipment of the remaining containers of illegal trash imports from South Korea amid the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

This, after the Bureau of Customs (BOC-Region 10) wrote them last Friday, 02 October informing them of the re-exportation of the remaining 43 containers of illegal waste shipments from South Korea, which is equivalent to 1,036 metric tons.

The wastes, according to BoC-Region 10, were shipped back last 15 September to Pyeongtaek City from the Mindanao International Container Terminal (MICT Port) in Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental on board container ship BH MAHIA.

The much-awaited repatriation of the remaining wastes raised to 364 the total number of garbage-filled containers returned to South Korea in seven batches starting in January 2019 amounting to 7,408.46 metric tons.

“We congratulate the Filipino people and government, particularly BoC-10, for successfully insisting on the responsibility of the exporter or the State of export, in accordance with the Basel Convention, to take back hazardous wastes or other wastes deemed to be illegal traffic,” said Aileen Lucero, National Coordinator for the groups said.

“The completion of the re-exportation procedures shows that action against waste trafficking knows no pandemic,” she added.

Lucero said as they said goodbye to the smuggled wastes, they thanked the customs and other government officials, together with the civil society, to the resolute fight they have waged to overcome all the hurdles so as to secure our people’s dignity and well-being.

At the same time, they also thanked the Korean government under President Moon Jae-in for honoring its promise to have the illegally exported wastes repatriated.

They also urged South Korea to take decisive action to prevent the transfer of its waste to the Philippines, including ratifying the Basel Convention Ban Amendment, which forbids the export of hazardous wastes from developed to developing countries.

Meanwhile, the Davao City-based Interfacing Development Interventions for Sustainability (IDIS) also welcomed the departure of the stranded South Korean waste in Mindanao stressing that such a success has underlined the important role of local government units (LGU) in preventing the dumping of waste from overseas.



Chinkie Peliño-Golle, IDIS Executive Director, said the persistence of the Tagoloan municipal government and the Misamis Oriental provincial government contributed a great deal to the concerted action by the public and private sectors to send back the illegal waste imports and to disallow their disposal locally.

For his part, Dr. Joe DiGangi, Senior Science and Technical Adviser of the International Pollutants Elimination Network (IPEN), said that “the return of illegally exported South Korean waste demonstrates that regulatory enforcement can and must continue during the pandemic.

“Now the challenge for both the Philippines and South Korea is to ratify the Basel Convention Ban Amendment so that this sad history is not repeated,” he said.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources earlier said that the successful return of illegal trash imports to South Korea spared many Filipinos from the health and environmental hazards posed by the smuggled waste.



# Single-use plastics polluting major Davao City watershed – environment group

Published October 4, 2020, 2:11 PM

by [Antonio Colina IV](#)

DAVAO CITY – Assorted solid wastes, mostly single-use plastics (SUPs), have been polluting the Panigan-Tamugan Watershed in Baguio District here, which is among the city's top sources of potable water.



Assorted wastes were recovered during a river clean-up and brand audit at the Panigan-Tamugan Watershed in Baguio District, Davao City last September 26. (Photo courtesy of Interface Development Interventions/ MANILA BULLETIN)

This was disclosed by Davao City-based environmental group Interface Development Interventions (IDIS) Executive Director Chinkie P. Golle, who expressed alarm when 1,713 pieces of assorted solid wastes, mostly food and household product packaging, including and, bottles, glass, cigarettes, face masks, and plastics, were recovered in a river clean-up drive and brand audit at the watershed last September 26.

“We raised this issue during the Watershed Management Council meeting last week. We need to remind the barangay local government units to strictly implement and monitor the implementation of the Solid Waste Management Ordinance, and also to regulate the local tourists who go there for swimming, and leaving their wastes behind,” she added.

She said that brand audits involved counting and documenting the product brands that are polluting the environment, which would be used as a tool to hold consumer good companies accountable for their contribution to the global waste problem.

She said results showed how widespread and damaging the impact of “throwaway plastic business model” was to the environment.

“The result of this brand audit shows that there is an alarming increase of wastes in one of the most important watersheds in Davao City—the Panigan-Tamugan Watershed,” she said.

She said various groups also participated in the activity, including Break Free from Plastics, Ecowaste Coalition, and Sustainable Davao Movement, Bantay Bukid and Bantayo Aweg volunteers, and officials of Barangay Tawan-Tawan.





Sixty-seven percent of the total wastes were food wraps and packages, 12 percent were detergent, shampoo and chemical sachets, 10 percent plastic bottles and cups and residual, while the rest were cans, sanitary napkins, diapers, cigarette butts, plastic bags, glass bottles, gloves, face masks, slippers, straws, and others wastes.

She urged the local government authorities to impose regulations and ensure to implement proper waste management in the area.

The environmentalist renewed calls for the enactment of the proposed ordinance, banning the SUPs in the City Council and full implementation of the Ecological Solid Waste Management Ordinance in accordance with the Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

The group recommended the use of more eco-friendly alternative packaging for products such as biodegradable or paper-based sachets and push for initiatives on bulk selling and refilling stations or “refilling” variety or sari-sari stores.

“IDIS and other NGO’s also urge the public to properly dispose of their garbage and avoid using single-use plastics. Such small efforts are a big help to conserve and protect the environment,” she said.

The P12-billion Davao City Bulk Water Supply Project (DCBWSP) of the Apo Agua Infraestructura Inc., a joint venture between Aboitiz Equity Ventures and J.V. Angeles Construction Corporation, would tap the watershed to become the next water source of the city, which will have the capacity to supply over 300 million liters of water daily upon its completion in 2021.



# Manila jumpstarts huge reclamation projects

[Iris Gonzales](#) (The Philippine Star) - October 5, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Proponents of the 418-hectare reclamation project in Manila are ready to jumpstart the massive reclamation of the sprawling development, targeting to break ground in the second quarter of next year.

JBros Construction Corp. is the proponent of the 418-hectare Horizon Manila Reclamation Project, a joint venture with the city government of Manila.

In an interview over the weekend, JBros president and CEO Jesusito Legaspi Jr. said the private sector proponents led by JBros have already secured all the necessary permits including the crucial Environmental Compliance Certificate.

The development of the project would start with the reclamation of three islands, focusing on two islands per year, Legaspi said.

JBros is negotiating with world-class global reclamation companies for the project, he said.

After the six-year timetable for the reclamation, the construction of roads, other infrastructure and the development of the mixed-used property are expected to take-off.

The JBros-led consortium is allotting P109 billion for the reclamation and construction of roads, to be funded by internally generated funds and borrowings from foreign financial institutions.

Touted as the biggest and first reclamation project of the City of Manila, the Horizon Manila project is envisioned to be a development that will showcase a “better Manila,” with lots of parks and open spaces.

It will be a mixed-use community with residential, office and commercial components and an efficient transportation system.

“The government will not spend for any of this and the project will be generating 400,000 jobs,” Legaspi told The STAR.

He said the City of Manila will also have ownership of a portion of the development comprising 34 hectares for its own use.

In the Philippines, there are at least 19 reclamation projects in various stages of permitting, development and implementation, according to the Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA).

These include the City of Pearl Reclamation project, a 407-hectare reclamation development, also by the local government of Manila and UAA Kinming Group Development Corp.

The Manila Waterfront City Reclamation project is another project. It is a 318-hectare reclamation venture by the local government of Manila and its private sector partner, Waterfront Manila Premier Development Corp.



Another reclamation venture is the Tieng family's Manila Goldcoast Development Corp. (MGDC), called the Solar City, which is a 148-hectare project.

Another project is Davao-based businessman Dennis Uy's Pasay Harbor City reclamation, which covers 265 hectares. It is also a joint venture with the Pasay local government.

Tasked to regulate reclamation is PRA, formerly the Philippine Estates Authority (PEA). It acts as the primary regulatory agency of the government to assess the technical, environmental, financial and socio-economic merits of such projects.

Proponents of reclamation projects are the local government units (LGUs) and their private sector partners.





## 'Plantdemic'

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:30 AM October 04, 2020

The country's lockdown — into the seventh month now — may have made home-based businesses and hobbies bloom. But they have also spawned new problems, such as unregulated prices, online scams, and, lately, with the popularity of home gardening, plant poaching.

A plant grower has called it a "plantdemic," a problem that has prompted the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to warn plant poachers that they can be charged under the law for gathering wild plants from forests without a permit.

The demand for plants has grown from the succulents and cacti craze three years ago during the minimalism boom, to the obsession with more exotic and rare plants such as the monstera and alocasia varieties during this pandemic. People locked up at home have turned to greenery to ease their boredom and anxiety, fueling a craze that has seen prices going up by as much as 3,000 percent.

For example, as reported in this paper last month, a monstera — a type of houseplant popular among hobbyists — sold for P800 in 2018 but is now selling for as much as P15,000, while an anthurium clarinervium has gone from P500 to P18,000. Per other reports, some potted plants of the rare variety are being sold for as high as P80,000 each.

The plant craze appears to have reached absurd levels: Last month, a photo went viral of a makahiya plant (*Mimosa pudica*, but was falsely tagged as sampinit or Philippine raspberry) in a pretty fuchsia pot being advertised for P2,387, prompting some social media users to quip: "Binubunot lang namin 'yan!"

Some of the plants being sold in the market now were indeed literally uprooted from their natural habitats, in the country's mountains and forests. The DENR memo came from its office in Zamboanga, where some of the country's rare flora and fauna species grow. In its Facebook page, the DENR-Zamboanga exhorted "plantitos" and "plantitas" to "plant responsibly." It said the propagation of plants is welcome as this is in line with the government's vision to create green and eco-friendly communities — but "for as long as it is done legally and in the proper way."

The gathering and trading of wild plants from the forest, especially threatened species, is not allowed under Republic Act No. 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2001. The law, along with RA 7586 as amended by RA 11038 or the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 2018, makes it illegal to remove, possess, trade, or transport wild plants.

Violators found to collect wild plants classified as "critically endangered" can be jailed from six years to 12 years and fined from P100,000 to P1 million. The DENR-Zamboanga posted photos of some of these critically endangered plants, such as the giant staghorn fern, also known as kapa de leon or dapong repolyo (*Platycerium grande*), which is endemic to Mindanao; the smaller staghorn fern (*Platycerium coronarium*); the tiger orchid that is native to the country and is commonly found in Southern Luzon and Eastern Visayas; and the waling-waling (*Vanda sanderiana*), dubbed as the queen of Philippine orchids and treasured by collectors.

Alocasia varieties such as the velvet gabi (*Alocasia micholitziana*) and the zebra plant (*Alocasia zebrina*), found in Luzon's rainforests, are classified as vulnerable, while the kris plant (*Alocasia sanderiana*) is categorized as endangered. Also considered a threatened species is the bantigue (*Pemphis acidula*), which is popular and highly valued among bonsai growers. Some of these plants, particularly the alocasia, are hot items in plant shops and in the social media pages of collectors and influencers.



While home gardening may be seen as a harmless hobby, the collecting and growing of certain plants do have implications on the country's ecology. The DENR-Zamboanga cited ScienceDirect studies indicating that "aside from harboring crop viruses and other pathogens, wild plants act as important reservoirs and sources of insects, mites, and nematodes."

In addition, the potential extinction of flowering ornamentals like orchids and hoyas, according to Gawayn Coronel, an agriculture student at the University of the Philippines Los Baños and a member of Youth Advocates for Climate Action Philippines, "can have consequences as they often support pollinator species that can't live without them." Pollinators, according to experts, are vital in the production of healthy crops used for food and medicines, and are crucial components of habitats and ecosystems that many wild animals rely on for food and shelter.

So while that rare, exotic plant may be beautifying one's veranda or living room, uprooting it from its natural habitat likely contributed to the further scarring of the country's rainforests. Plant hobbyists can help stem the tide by being more aware and responsible, buying only from sellers with legitimate, lawful sources for their plant attractions.



## Editorial cartoon, October 4, 2020

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:35 AM October 04, 2020







## NWRB TUMANGGAP NG KABALIKAT AWARD



October 5, 2020 @ 12:12 AM 6 hours ago

NATUTUWA si National Water Resources Board (NWRB) Executive Director Dr. Seville David, Jr., sa malawak na pagtutulungan ng iba't ibang ahensya ng pamahalaan sa ilalim ng Duterte administration.

Bilang paggunita sa ika-10 taong anibersaryo ng Philippine Council for Industry, Energy and Emerging Technology Research and Development of the Department of Science and Technology (PCIEERD-DOST), bahagi nito ang pagkilala sa mga partner o kasapi sa mga aktibidad na nagtutulungan sa pag-ambag ng kani-kanilang kaalaman upang mas mapahusay ang mga hakbangin sa agham at teknolohiya ng bansa. Ang isa sa mga pagkilala sa pakikipag-partnership na iginawad ay ang Kabalikat Award para sa ahensya ng pamahalaan.

Kinilala ng Konseho ang pagkakasangkot at suporta ng National Water Resources Board (NWRB) sa pagpapatupad ng mga proyekto sa pamamagitan ng pananaliksik, pag-unlad at pag-patibay ng nabuong teknolohiya.

Ang pakikipag-partnership ay nagsimula mula pa noong 2016 hanggang sa kasalukuyan.

Nagbibigay ang NWRB ng mga pondo bilang pangsuyok sa pagpapatupad at maisagawa ang mga proyekto na naglalayong i-upgrade ang kasalukuyang kakayahan sa pag-monitor o pagsubaybay para maging mas mabisa ang pagsubaybay at pamamahala ng reservoir ng tubig sa pamamagitan ng pag-install ng Automated Real Time Monitoring System (ARMS) para sa Ambuklao, Binga at San Roque Dams, Magat Dam at Reservoir, at Pantabangan Dam at Reservoir.

Ang mga pagsisikap ng NWRB ay isinagawa rin sa pagpapaunlad ng Groundwater Management Plan at Monitoring System para sa Lungsod ng Zamboanga at ang mga nasa paligid na lugar at disenyo at pagpapaunlad ng Groundwater Monitoring System para sa Metro Manila, Lungsod ng Cagayan de Oro, Bukidnon at Lungsod ng Iloilo.

Isang pormal na parangal at pagkilala ang magha-highlight sa kontribusyon ng mga nakikipag-partnership sa Konseho, kung saan isasagawa ang sampung (10) serye ng mga aktibidad ng pagdiriwang ng Webinar Anniversary na tatakbo hanggang sa katapusan ng taong ito.

Ang mga highlight ng pagtatanghal ng nabanggit karangalan, ang mga awardee ay magpapakita ng isang maikling 2-3 minuto video message of acceptance para sa Kabalikat Award.

Gayundin, bilang isang pagkilala sa kanilang pagpapahalaga sa naturang selebrasyon, isang plake ng pagkilala ang maihahatid sa mga awardee sa kani-kanilang mga tanggapan.

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/nwr-tumanggap-ng-kabalikat-award/>



## Going green in the time of COVID-19

posted October 04, 2020 at 07:00 pm

by [Liza Mae L. Fumar](#)



Environmental awareness seemed to have been on an uptrend in the Philippines in the last three years. We've seen how reusable straws became the popular novelty Christmas gift in 2018, how our favorite coffee shops began offering discounts to customers who brought their own tumblers for their drinks, and how groceries have gradually allowed shoppers to use their own containers instead of wrapping their meat, fish, and poultry in single-use plastic bags. We seemed to be taking some major strides towards lessening the waste in 2019 only to be sent on a tailspin by the coronavirus in 2020.

Some establishments that used to incentivize bringing your own reusables instead of their take-out cups have now put this program. In my experience, I was allowed to transfer my beverage to my own cup, so we still generated waste even if I didn't take it home with me. When I asked the staff about it, they said it was because they did not want to risk contaminating the food or spreading the virus with the multiple changes of hands. I believe the view about single-use face mask versus reusable face masks is about the same. You can throw away a single-use mask, whereas if you leave your reusable mask in your pocket or purse, you're going to be leaving traces of viruses and bacteria in those places. It seems that the common view is that single-use items are more hygienic than reusables, but are they really?

Think about this. We throw out food packaging almost immediately after consuming its contents, leaving some food residue in it. I have learned that even recyclable materials cannot be recycled when they are dirty, so those things will probably end up in a landfill. Many other single-use packaging are made of mixed materials—combinations of plastic, paper, and aluminum, which are non-recyclable because it is difficult to separate the various materials, so those will probably end up in a landfill as well. Unlike medical facilities, households do not necessarily have clear protocols on disposing of used face masks, so those usually get mixed with other kinds of waste in a landfill and could potentially spread viruses. What we sometimes fail to realize is that there are people who live close to those landfills. Perhaps we could also consider the impact of our "hygienic" choices on them.

Understandably, we are probably not going to be able to avoid single-use products, so here are some simple practices that we might like to consider to still make a positive environmental impact:

1. Segregate our waste. Now that we spend more time at home, perhaps we can put in a more conscious effort in segregating our waste. Separate food leftovers from other wastes like plastic, glass, aluminum, and paper. Segregating will make retrieval of recyclables easier because they are not soiled with food waste.
2. Wash and dry our recyclables before putting them in the bin. As I have mentioned earlier, dirty plastic, glass, and foil cannot be recycled. Cleaning them will certainly take a lot more time and effort, but it will make segregating more effective.
3. Refuse single-use utensils and napkins when you order food for take-out or delivery. If we are taking the food home anyway, perhaps we could do away with the plastic utensils and straws and paper napkins.
4. Use reusable masks when we can. I understand that there are circumstances that single-use masks would be the safer option for us and those around us, but most of the time, cloth masks would be able to provide enough protection. If you have to take your mask off to eat or you need to replace it, be sure to put the used mask in a sealable bag to avoid contamination. Be sure to wash and sanitize them properly after every use.



Perhaps one of the things that the Coronavirus has taught us this year is to live more consciously. We learned to appreciate the time we spend with our loved ones because life is brief. We realized that we could not sacrifice our health and well-being for the sake of work. Perhaps making greener choices could be just another aspect of conscious living that we can adopt for a more sustainable world.

*Liza Mae L. Fumar is a PhD in Business student of De La Salle University, where she also teaches Corporate Social Responsibility and Governance, and Leadership in Organizations. Her research interests include consumer behavior and green consumption. She can be contacted at [liza.fumar@dlsu.edu.ph](mailto:liza.fumar@dlsu.edu.ph).*

*The views expressed above are the author's and do not necessarily reflect the position of De La Salle University, its faculty, and its administrators.*





# Groups raise indignation vs 'black sand mining' in NegOcc coastlines

October 4, 2020

YOUTH organizations, student councils, non-government organizations (NGOs), civil society and concerned groups and sectors have raised their growing indignation on the alleged black sand mining plan under the guise of dredging, declogging and desiltation in the resource-rich coastlines of Negros.

The groups, in a joint statement, said they join local fisherfolks and communities that will be highly affected by this "environmentally-destructive project" in their opposition to suck out black sand in the coastlines and deplete the bounty marine resource of the province.

The E.B. Magalona Small Fisherfolks Alliance (EBMASFA) has said that as affected coastal communities, they were never informed nor consulted on this important matter.

The EBMASFA, along with other environmental groups, said they have called the attention of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Environment Management Bureau (DENR-EMB) before the start of the activity.

They had also submitted a complaint regarding the public scoping for the proposed "river restoration and coastal rehabilitation project" through dredging.

The First Terradev Corp. and Geo Alto will be responsible for the project and its funding after the approval of the DENR, Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and Department of Transportation (DOTr).

There was no mention of "black sand mining" in their proposals and environmentalists have been called "ignorant" due to their inquiries and vigilance.

However, dredged materials include silt, mud, dirt and sand.

The groups, in a press statement, said research has shown that E.B. Magalona is rich in black sand locally known as margaha.

Part of the proposal was that the dredging ship will have 30 Chinese nationals on board, and the dredged materials will be brought to places that have reclamation projects.

"We refuse to believe that this is for river restoration and coastal rehabilitation alone. With this project entirely funded by the private entities and at no cost to the government, this is nothing but a wolf in sheep's clothing," the groups said.

It disguises itself as a solution when it is in fact a destructive, unsustainable and unjust effort to abuse Negros' rich resource, they added.

The joint statement further said that multiple pieces of research showed that the mining of black sand will exacerbate the impact of climate change-driven sea-level rise.

It cited a village along the coastline of Gonzaga town in Cagayan province, where 100 houses used to stand, is now submerged underwater after years of black sand mining.

"It is also important to highlight that before this project drowns the communities of our fellow Negrosanons, it will drown us with economic incapacity by negatively affecting the multi-billion blue crab industry in the area," it said.



"We urge the local government of E.B. Magalona through Mayor Marvin Malacon, the Provincial Government of Negros Occidental, and the four national agencies such as the DENR, DILG, DPWH and DOTr to scrap this project funded by private corporations and seek scientific, sustainable and pro-people solutions to the alleged issue of flooding in the area, which they used as a justification for the dredging or the mining of black sand," the groups said.

They demand transparency for the project, the background of the funders and the proponents, what materials will be dredged, and where they will be shipped.

"We also invite them to respect and properly dialogue with the community leaders and concerned citizens, and not merely resort to calling us ignorant," they added.

The statement also said that "with the crisis brought about by the pandemic, which is a result of environmental plunder, we need to rethink our ways of doing things."

"We, especially the youth, renew our commitment to fight what is left for us and protect vulnerable communities from destructive extractive industries pretending to be a development project," it said.

"We commit to keep an eye on this project and do our best to protect the fisherfolks of E.B. Magalona as destructive industries are not allowed in Negros," it said.

The statement was signed by representatives of Negros Environmental Watch, Green Alert Network, Group of Environmental Socialists, Youth for Climate Hope, Bacolod CORE, Linghod, Social Action Center - Diocese of Bacolod, Negrosanons Against Magnetite Mining Y-Lead, UP Visayas - Biology Society, Akbayan Youth - Bacolod, Tribu Duag, Tolentine Star, Mangrove Matters PH, SCAP - Diocese of Bacolod, SAMALAYA-SAGES, Freedom from Debt Coalition - Negros, Negrosanon Young Leaders Institute, Lunhaw - Ecology Desk of the Diocese of San Carlos, La Consolacion College Bacolod - SHS Government, Amnesty International - Philippines - Negros Occ Youth, Task Force Detainees of the Philippines - Negros, University of St. La Salle - Student Government and Christ's Y.

It can be recalled that First Terradev Corp. President and Chief Executive Officer Eric Tagle said it is a public-private partnership where the government made the plans and will direct the project.

"We will fully comply with government laws and regulations imposed on the project we will undertake in E.B. Magalona," Tagle added.

E.B. Magalona Mayor Marvin Malacon, for his part, said the project is the answer to the flooding problem of the town.

Malacon has called the environmental groups opposing the project "ignorant of the project."

"They keep on asking the same questions, some of which were irrelevant and nonsense. But we need to address all their inquiries," he said. **(EPN)**



# DOH: PH now has 322,497 COVID-19 cases; new recoveries at 18,065

By: [Consuelo Marquez](#) - Reporter / [@ConsINQ](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 04:16 PM October 04, 2020

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines has recorded 3,190 new coronavirus disease (COVID-19) cases, raising the total number of infections to 322,497, the Department of Health (DOH) said Sunday.

As of 4 p.m., the DOH said the total number of active cases is 43,642.

The Health Department also documented 18,065 more recoveries, raising the total count of recovered patients to 273,079.

The COVID-19 death toll meanwhile is now at 5,776 with 100 new fatalities recorded nationwide.

/MUF





# WHO eyes solidarity trial by end of October

Published 1 day ago on October 4, 2020 03:20 AM

By [Gabbie Parlade](#) @tribunephil\_gabs



The World Health Organization (WHO) is eyeing to start the solidarity trial for vaccines by the end of October, the Department of Health (DoH) on Saturday disclosed.

Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said that this will come after the list of participating vaccines from all over the world and trial sites have been finalized within the month.

“The WHO gave us a commitment before, based on our discussion, that the list of vaccines included and the sites where it will be implemented will be released by the third week of October,” she said.

“So, we’re just waiting for them to give the list as they are eyeing to have the tentative start of the trial by the end of October,” she added.

In the list of potential vaccines released by the DoH, about 34 vaccines on varying phases are being considered.

On the other hand, the Department of Science and Technology (DoST) earlier said that a total of 17 are interested to conduct a bilateral partnership with the Philippines on vaccine development.

It includes countries such as the United States’ Moderna, the United Kingdom’s Astra-Zeneca, Russia’s Sputnik V, China’s Sinovac and Sinopharm, Japan’s Osaka University’s Takara DNA-plasmid, India’s Bharat Biotech and the University of Queensland’s Seqirus in Australia among others.

In the meantime, Vergeire said that the DoH is fixing its agreement with the Department of the Interior and Local Government to cascade protocols for its implementation.

She said this to ensure that all local government units will be informed should their location be chosen as a trial site.

It will depend on the number of COVID-19 cases as well as the total population in each respective area.

Meanwhile, the DoH likewise said that it is currently fixing the budget to be used for the trial where about P8.9 million coming from the DoST is set to be allocated.

“We are also fixing the budget and other preparatory activities so that by the time the WHO informs us, we will be ready to start it immediately,” she said.

The Food and Drug Administration said that all manufacturers will have to undergo the regulatory processes in each local vaccine panel to ensure the safety of all the volunteers who will be joining.

Source: <https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/10/04/who-eyes-solidarity-trial-by-end-of-october/>



In his latest economic bulletin, DOF Undersecretary and chief economist Gil Beltran said the trade sector has seen improvements in the past months, reflecting the gradual reopening of the economy after Luzon was placed under enhanced community quarantine in mid-March.

Miguel De Guzman

## ‘Calibrated reopening of vital sectors key to recovery’

[Mary Grace Padin](#) (The Philippine Star) - October 5, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — A “prudent and calibrated” reopening of vital sectors will be a key to the recovery of the country’s trade sector, and ultimately, the economy, according to the Department of Finance (DOF).

In his latest economic bulletin, DOF Undersecretary and chief economist Gil Beltran said the trade sector has seen improvements in the past months, reflecting the gradual reopening of the economy after Luzon was placed under enhanced community quarantine in mid-March.

He said merchandise trade in April, the first full month of lockdown, plummeted by about 60 percent to \$6.2 billion from \$15.1 billion in the same month last year.

But Beltran said the decline has slowed down in the succeeding months at 35.3 percent in May, 18.7 percent in June and 18.6 percent in July.

The DOF’s chief economist said there were also improvements as seen in the purchasing manager’s index (PMI) of the manufacturing sector, coming from a low of 31.6 in April to 47.3 in August.

“Good macroeconomic fundamentals have cushioned the impact of the coronavirus pandemic. A prudent, calibrated reopening of key sectors of the economy will be key to the recovery of the economy in general and trade in particular,” Beltran said.

Furthermore, Beltran said the government should adopt economic reforms that would attract more investments going forward.

He mentioned the Corporate Recovery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises (CREATE), Financial Institutions’ Strategic Transfer (FIST), Passive Income and Financial Intermediary Taxation Act (PIFITA), as well as proposed amendments to the Public Service Act and Retail Trade Liberalization Act.



“(These) can help the country weather and recover from the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic. Furthermore, improvements in ease of doing business improvements will also be important in adapting to the new normal,” he said.

Earlier, Beltran said the enforcement of quarantine restrictions and physical distancing protocols to control the spread of the virus has “inevitably” caused collateral damage in the economy.

Such damage plunged the country into a recession in the second quarter, with the gross domestic product (GDP) contracting by 16.5 percent. In the first half, the GDP declined at an average of nine percent.

Beltran said the economic recovery would depend on the country’s ability to manage risks posed by the virus, with no vaccine yet to contain the pandemic.

Also, he said keeping the country’s balance-of-payments manageable, along with other indicators such as budget deficit, inflation and foreign exchange, would help keep the country afloat amid the COVID-19 crisis.

For 2020, the Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC) expects the country’s GDP to contract by 4.5 to 6.6 percent.

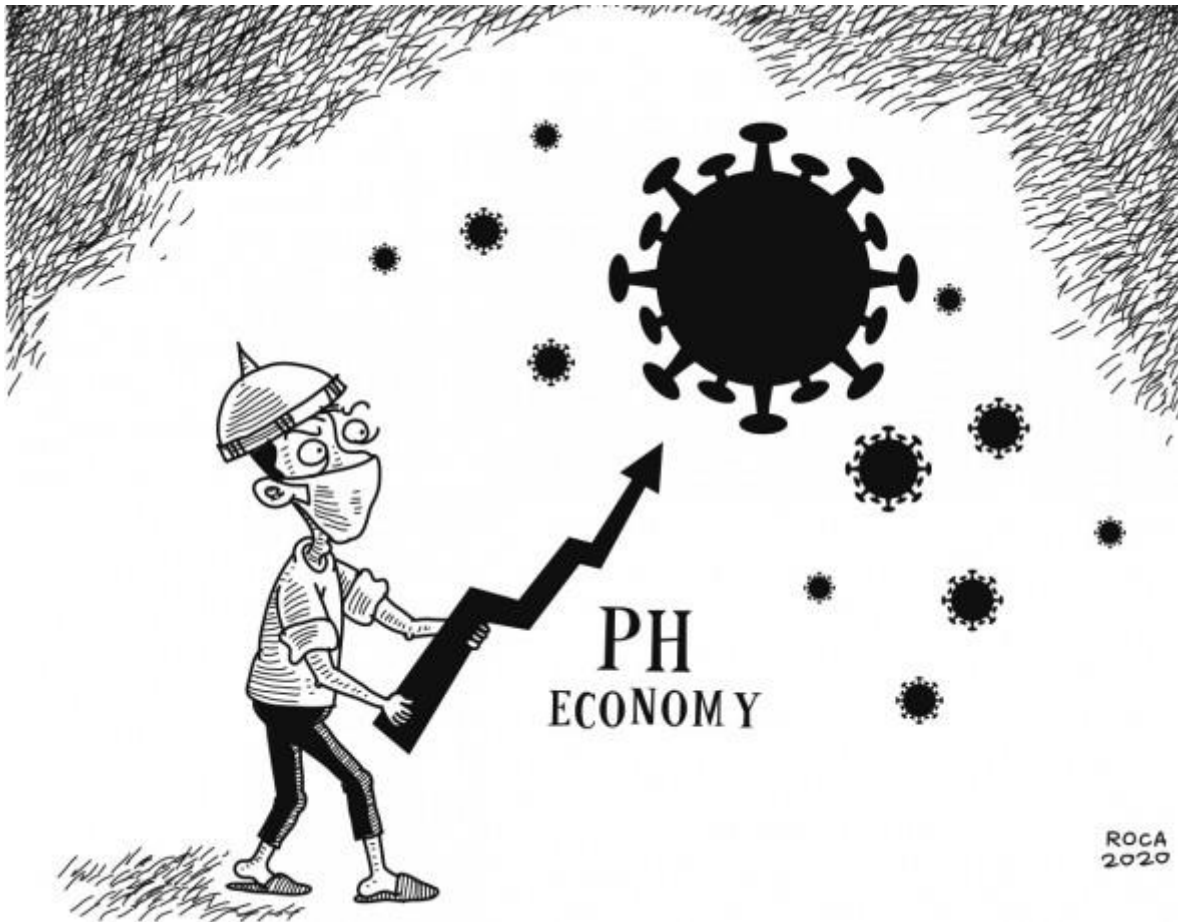
Still, economic managers expressed confidence that the economy would be able to rebound in 2021, with the GDP seen growing by 6.5 percent to 7.5 percent.





## Editorial Cartoon (October 4, 2020)

October 4, 2020 | Filed under: News in Photo | Posted by: Tempo Desk





# Roque visits Boracay, encourages Pinoys to help revive island

Published October 4, 2020 8:37pm

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque on Sunday visited Boracay Island, which reopened to tourists at the start of the month, to encourage Filipinos to help restart the economy of the popular destination.

According to a “24 Oras Weekend” report by Ian Cruz, Roque said many Boracay residents depend on tourism to survive.

“Importante pong makita nila na pupuwedeng mamasyal na sa Boracay dahil ang nakasalalay po dito, 30,000 na mga hanapbuhay,” he said.

“So kung kasalanan po ‘yun, pabayaang niyo sila. Saka ‘wag kayong mainggit, pumunta na kayo mga kritiko ko dito sa Boracay,” Roque told critics.

On his Facebook account, he also posted a photo of himself sitting on an actual white sand beach: “[A]ng aking masayang lugar mula noon, hanggang ngayon.”



He also underwent swab testing and obtained a QR code for contact tracing purposes.

“Siguro dapat lang i-simplify kasi paulit-ulit ‘yung QR check saka paulit ulit ‘yung pag-check ng PCR e since sa airport na-check na ‘yan... Sana merong ibibigay na pass or something,” Roque said.



The spokesman also spoke with Boracay's Chamber of Commerce as well as the Boracay Foundation about the aid that they will receive from the government.

Meanwhile, Roque said he will try to encourage President Rodrigo Duterte to visit the island.

“Mahirap kasi ngayon ang pagbibiyaha para kay presidente ano pero magpupulong kami pagbalik ko sa Lunes at isa ‘yun sa bagay na imumungkahi ko kasi safe na safe naman ngayon ang Boracay dahil kaunti pa nga lang ang tao,” he said. — **Julia Mari Ornedo/BM, GMA News**





ONE News  
17h · 🌐

Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque visited Boracay as the island opens its doors to tourists. The official said he will recommend that President Rodrigo Duterte visit the island as it's still safe with minimal visitors. (via News5/Jenny Dongon)



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# Yes to nuclear power; no to revival of BNPP

By [The Manila Times](#)

October 4, 2020

We welcome the policy to integrate nuclear power into the country's energy mix, but we see a lot of problems in reviving the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP). Nuclear power is a proven energy source, and it addresses the baseload requirements without harmful emissions that are the byproduct of power plants that use fossil fuels such as coal and oil.



*Bataan Nuclear Power Plant. PHOTO BY RENE H. DILAN*

Worldwide in 2019, there were 450 operational nuclear power reactors that generated 10 percent of the world's electricity, according to the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Some 30 countries in several continents have them, including the largest economies today.

The United States has about 100 operating reactors and China about half of that. At least 50 more reactors are under construction around the world — regrettably, none in the Philippines.

Power that is both adequate and reliable in supply is a tool of developed nations as well as a requirement of growing economies — such as ours. And here, the high cost of electricity has often been cited as a factor in hampering development and discouraging foreign investments. A major reason for the high costs is simple economics — too much demand, especially as the economy grows, and not enough supply. Of course, there are other factors such as the rising fuel prices over the years and inefficiencies, but the fundamentals cannot be ignored.

The Duterte government seems to understand the problem. In July, the President issued Executive Order 116 that ordered a feasibility study on nuclear power and drew up a national position on a nuclear energy program. To do this, the order also created the Nuclear Energy Program Inter-Agency Committee, which will be headed by the Department of Energy.

It is about time, we say. Opposition to nuclear power in the Philippines has largely been political and emotional rather than scientific and practical.

Nuclear power in the Philippines is associated with the Marcos era, whose policies and legacies were opposed by the Aquino administrations and their supporters. The BNPP was mothballed in the aftermath of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant disaster in 1986, when then President Corazon Aquino was swept into office. During her watch, she also scrapped the Ministry of Energy.

Meanwhile, various environmental groups have also opposed nuclear energy development here as they have elsewhere. Greenpeace, for instance, claims that nuclear power, contrary to statements by Energy Secretary Alfonso Cusi, is expensive and dangerous.

That has not been the case with the country's only nuclear facility, the Philippine Research Reactor-1 that was in operation in Quezon City from 1963 to 1988. The fact that it was hardly in the news suggests that concerns over nuclear power may be misplaced if not exaggerated.



## Keep BNPP shuttered

That Greenpeace claim may be debatable, but less so is the argument to keep the Bataan plant closed. Many of those pushing for the development of nuclear power are also for the retrofitting and eventual reopening that mothballed facility. That would be a mistake and counterproductive in convincing people about having nuclear power in the energy mix, particularly if any accident were to happen in Bataan.

The main argument against the BNPP is that it was designed and built using old technology and concepts. The plant may have been fine in the 1970s when construction began and, perhaps, even in the following decade when it was supposed to go online. But it is a mistake to assume that the BNPP is still pristine just because it was never used. More likely, it is obsolete and degraded by time and lack of use.

If the government is to construct a nuclear plant, it should do so from the ground up, using the latest design and technology. Technology has advanced a lot in the past decades, and much more has been learned about keeping nuclear plants safe.

Finally, the government should also remember that the nuclear energy option and renewable sources are not mutually exclusive options. It should pursue both: nuclear to supply the baseload and renewables to complement it. Such an energy mix already exists around the world, and there are plenty of best practices that the Philippines should carefully study.





# Lawmaker hits bigger budget for mothballed nuclear plant

October 4, 2020 | 7:40 pm



*Bataan Nuclear Power Plant -- BW FILE PHOTO*

STATE-OWNED National Power Corp. (Napocor) has sought a bigger budget for next year to preserve the mothballed Bataan Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP).

During a House plenary debate on the Energy department's budget late Friday, Albay Rep. Edcel C. Lagman questioned the P92.3-billion budget for next year's maintenance of the plant that he called a "memorial of the corruption and greed during the Martial law regime."

With an average yearly budget of P50 million, the country might have spent more than P2 billion on the facility in the past four decades, the lawmaker said.

Napocor got P52.55 million this year and P86.64 million last year to maintain the nuclear plant in Bataan province, 100 kilometers west of Manila, the capital.

Zamboanga City Rep. Jose M. Dalipe, who sponsored the Energy department's budget, said the money would be used to replace the roofs of the facility's main building and fix

the fences.

The 620-megawatt Bataan nuclear plant was built during the administration of the late dictator Ferdinand E. Marcos, and was shut down in 1986 due to alleged corruption and safety concerns. It was completed in the 1980s but was never used.

Construction started in 1976 and was stopped after the Three Mile Island nuclear accident in the US in 1979.



A safety inquiry into the plant revealed more than 4,000 defects. Among the issues raised was that it was built near a major geological fault line and close to the then dormant Mount Pinatubo in central Luzon.

By 1984, when the plant was nearly complete, its cost had reached 2.3 billion. Debt repayment of the plant had been the country's biggest single obligation.

President Marcos was overthrown by a popular uprising in February 1986. The government of then President Corazon C. Aquino mothballed the plant days after the April 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster in the former Soviet Union.

President Rodrigo R. Duterte has ordered the Energy department to conduct a public consultation with Bataan citizens on the possible reopening of the nuclear generator, presidential spokesman Harry L. Roque said on Thursday.

In July, the President signed Executive Order 116 ordering various agencies led by the DoE (Department of Energy) to evaluate the viability of nuclear power as a long-term energy option. This includes a study on the potential revival of the Bataan plant.

Energy Secretary Alfonso G. Cusi earlier said the Philippines was almost through with the industry requirements for nuclear development as prescribed by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAE). However, it still has to enforce a policy and regulatory framework to allow the re-entry of nuclear energy in the generation mix.

Mr. Cusi expects the government to adopt a national policy to revive nuclear generation by December. — **Adam J. Ang**



## Pagbuhay sa BNPP, tinutulan ng obispo



October 4, 2020 @ 4:57 PM 13 hours ago

Bataan, Philippines – Tutol ang Diocese ng Bataan sa rehabilitasyon ng Bataan Nuclear Power Plant sa Morong, Bataan.

Ayon kay Balanga Bishop Ruperto Santos, ang tinig aniya ng bayan ay malakas at hindi payag sa muling pagbuhay sa nasabing power plant dahil sa totoong sitwasyon at kondisyon ng BNPP.

Ayon pa sa Obispo, ang BNPP ay maituturing na isang natutulog na bulkan at hindi ito makagagawa ng dagdag na kuryente at ang gastos sa rehabilitasyon ay magiging paraan lamang para sa korapsyon dahil sa pagtatayo nito ay itinatag sa kasakiman.

Sinabi pa ni Bishop Santos na ang ating kinabukasan o hinaharap sa enerhiya ay hindi sa BNPP. Ito aniya ay panganib at destruction.

Dagdag pa ng Obispo na ang pagbuhay sa BNPP ay pag-aaksaya ng pera sapagkat hindi ito magiging kapaki-pakinabang sa bansa.

Wala aniyang dahilan upang buhayin ang BNPP dahil hindi ito maaaring gumana, may depekto at mapanganib.

Ang pahayag at pagtutol ng Obispo ay kasunod ng kautusan ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte sa mga awtoridad na konsultahin ang mga residente ng Bataan sa posibleng pagbuhay ng BNPP. **Jocelyn Tabangcura-Domenden**



## Phivolcs: Earthquakes recorded over the weekend 'normal'



(PHIVOLCS / MANILA BULLETIN)

PUBLISHED BY [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)  
14 HOURS AGO

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) on Sunday, Oct. 4, said the light to moderate earthquakes felt in various parts of the Philippines from Saturday to early Sunday is normal as the country usually records around 20 tremors per day.

At least seven earthquakes with magnitudes between 4.0 and 4.8 were recorded a few hours apart in various parts of the country from Saturday until early Sunday.

On Sunday, 4.5 and 4.4-magnitude earthquakes were recorded at 6:19 a.m. and 2:32 a.m., respectively—both originated from Bayabas, Surigao del Sur.

Phivolcs recorded on Saturday a 4.6-magnitude tremor at 10:15 p.m, originated from 12 kilometers (km) southwest of Camiling, Tarlac; 4.6-magnitude quake at 8:29 p.m. (200 km southeast of Jose Abad Santos, Davao Occidental); 4.0-magnitude earthquake at 1:48 p.m. (8 km southeast of Hernani, Eastern Samar); 4.8-magnitude temblor at 1:03 p.m. (19 km northwest of Abra de Ilog, Occidental Mindoro); and 4.8-magnitude quake at 11: 25 a.m. (Governor Generoso, Davao Oriental).

Science and Technology Undersecretary and Phivolcs Director Renato Solidum said these earthquakes were not connected with each other as they are generated by different faults transecting the country.

Solidum also pointed out that it is normal to have felt earthquakes reported in various parts of the country as Phivolcs normally records around 20 earthquakes per day. Most of these earthquakes, however, are not felt and can only be detected by a seismograph.

The Philippines is situated in a tectonically active region called the “Pacific Ring of Fire,” where numerous earthquakes and volcanic eruptions occur.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2020/10/04/phivolcs-earthquakes-recorded-over-the-weekend-normal/amp/>





# Magnitude-4.6 earthquake hits Tarlac; no damage anticipated

**ABS-CBN News**

Posted at Oct 03 2020 11:05 PM

A magnitude 4.6 earthquake was felt near Camiling town, Tarlac, Saturday night, the Phivolcs reported.

The quake, recorded at 10:15 p.m., was tectonic in origin and had a depth of 11 kilometers, the institute said.

Intensity 4 was felt in Villasis town, Pangasinan, while Intensity 2 was also felt in Quezon City and Cabanatuan City.

Meanwhile, Intensity 1 was felt in San Jose city, Nueva Ecija.

The tremor was not expected to cause damage and aftershocks, the Philvolcs added.

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/10/03/20/magnitude-46-earthquake-hits-tarlac-no-damage-anticipated?fbclid=IwAR3rgr33hjLAHuAFOI49e8jK-cqQLT5C9WIT0D53AViXYHw1IRzYwQ5kiPM>



## New Hoya species found

Published 24 hours ago on October 4, 2020 06:10 AM

By [Xinhua](#)

KUNMING, China (Xinhua) — A team of Chinese researchers has discovered a new species of Apocynaceae in southwest China's Yunnan Province and named it *Hoya gaoligongensis*, the National Forestry and Grassland Administration (NFGA) said.

Scientists from the Kunming Institute of Survey and Design under the NFGA found a previously unknown *Hoya* of Apocynaceae in Longling Xiaoheishan Provincial Nature Reserve, located in the southern region of Gaoligong Mountains.

Hoyas are also known as wax plants and commonly used as indoor ornamental plants. The new species, however, has an extremely small population and is found in primary forests of only three counties — Longling, Gongshan and Deqin — in western and northwestern Yunnan, said Zhao Mingxu, a scientist from the institute.

Zhao described *Hoya gaoligongensis* as an epiphytic climbing liana with oblong, long-ob lanceolate, or spatulate leaf blades. Its hemispherical-shaped inflorescences consist of many fragrant flowers.

The discovery has increased China's *Hoya* species to 48 with one variety, according to researchers, who published the study in the journal *Phytotaxa*.



## Changing economy and climate hit Austria's Alpine pastures

posted October 04, 2020 at 01:30 pm

by [AFP and Blaise Gauquelin](#)

With tender care, Sepp Rieser adorns the bulky heads of his reluctant cows with flower wreaths, adds some more fir twigs, and adjusts the large bells around their necks.



*Cows decorated with bells and flowers rest and drink water after the annual ceremonial so-called 'Almabtrieb' (cattle drive), on September 18, 2020 at Gramai-Alm in Tyrol's Karwendel Alpine nature park near Pertisau, Austria. With tender care, Sepp Rieser adorns the bulky heads of his docile cows with flower wreaths, adds some more fir twigs, and adjust the large bells around their necks. AFP*

"I've been doing this since I was a little boy," Rieser says of the ancestral tradition in which cattle are decorated for their journey from the high Alpine Gramai pasture in Austria's western Tyrol state, where they graze all summer long, to the valley below where they'll spend the harsh winter months.

To Rieser, the festivities surrounding this journey to the village of Pertisau in the Karwendel mountains are as important as his birthday or Christmas.

Images of Jesus and the Virgin Mary feature in the adornments of his 90-strong herd, reflecting the region's strong Catholic heritage.

But it could soon be a relic of the past: Sweeping economic changes as well as climate change are taking their toll on the landscape and threatening the future of the tradition as well as its bovine stars.

The small-scale farms that dominate Tyrol have become economically unviable, forcing thousands of farmers to pivot to more reliable sources of income.

As a result, more than 25,000 cows have disappeared over the past decade, and with them the pastures they used to graze on, according to figures from the agriculture ministry.

### The foundation of life

Within the past two decades, around 1,250 pastures in Tyrol alone have been left to revert to nature, a development that is also affecting other regions of the Alps, from southeastern France through Switzerland, as well as parts of Italy, Germany and Slovenia.

In Tyrol, where hiking in the summer and skiing in the winter are the mainstays of the economy, the impact is particularly distinct, Rieser explains as he puts the finishing touches on his cow's halter, engraved with his name and three Edelweiss flowers.

Taking the cows to the pastures "is very important, firstly for the cows' fitness, their longevity and their health, and of course also to maintain the pastures and the entire landscape," Rieser tells AFP at an altitude of more than 1,260 metres (4,130 feet), where his herd spends the summer grazing on fragrant meadows. Cows and mountain pastures, says Rieser, "are the foundation of our lives."

Without cows, pastures can quickly become overgrown with shrubs and forests, altering the landscape and making it impassible, according to Jasmin Duregger, a climate change expert at Greenpeace Austria.

Meanwhile slippery nard grass has already begun to take over many pastures, increasing the risk of avalanches, says Duregger.



"When pastures become overgrown with shrubs and trees, vital plants are lost as well as rare herbs and flowers," he adds.

'Summers are coming sooner'

Climate change is only accelerating this effect.

Gottfried Brunner, who has tended Rieser's cows for 10 consecutive summers, has been noticing these changes.

"Summers are coming sooner," he says while the cattle are guided past an iridescent mountain lake.

The average annual temperature between 1981 and 2010 was 6.9 degrees Celsius (44.4 degrees Fahrenheit) in Austria, but since then, each year has been well above that level.

Last year, the figure rose to 8.5 degrees -- 1.6 degrees above the previous median.

"That means we have a prolonged period of vegetation during which more herbs, grass and shrubs can grow," which has increased the feed by as much as 20 percent, Duregger says.

"The cows simply can't keep up with grazing."

More intense precipitation and sweltering heat waves are among the changes Rieser has noticed.

"Climate change is something we can see today," he says sternly.

After treading down the steep mountainside for about one and a half hours, the cows finally arrive in Pertisau, cheered on by hundreds of excited spectators.

Having travelled three hours to join, Karin Polzl beams as the cows amble past.

For the festivities, Polzl has put on a T-shirt with a cow printed on it.

"I love these animals," she says, speaking to AFP about the collection of cow figurines at her house.

"I think it's very sad that this tradition, the cows and pastures are at risk," she says.

Like so many here, she hopes that they'll endure -- beyond her glass cabinet.





# Changing economy, climate hit Austria's Alpine pastures

By [Agence France-Presse](#)

October 5, 2020

**PERTISAU, Austria:** With tender care, Sepp Rieser adorns the bulky heads of his reluctant cows with flower wreaths, adds some more fir twigs, and adjusts the large bells around their necks.



*STRUGGLING INDUSTRY* Cows decorated with bells and flowers are leaving their summer pastures during the annual ceremonial so-called 'Almabtrieb' (cattle drive) on Sept. 18, 2020 at Gramai-Alm in Tyrol's Karwendel Alpine nature park near Pertisau, Austria. AFP PHOTO

"I've been doing this since I was a little boy," Rieser says of the ancestral tradition in which cattle are decorated for their journey from the high Alpine Gramai pasture in Austria's western Tyrol state, where they graze all summer long, to the valley below where they'll spend the harsh winter months.

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Like so many here, she hopes that they’ll endure — beyond her glass cabinet.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/10/05/business/foreign-business/changing-economy-climate-hit-austrias-alpine-pastures/776336/>



# Corona's global spread: A timeline

Published 5 hours ago on October 5, 2020 01:00 AM

By [TDT](#) [@tribunephil](#)



IN some areas of the world like in Mexico, life struggles back to normal as infections continue to remain high more than 10 months after the global outbreak started. GUILLERMO ARIAS/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Coronavirus cases are rising again in Europe, reinforcing concerns about a possible second wave. New cases on the continent were around 20 percent higher last week than the previous and deaths are up 28 percent.

Fatalities are also increasing again in the Middle East (around 330 in the last two weeks, an increase of around 18 percent).

Here's how we got to this point, thus far:

On 11 January, the first coronavirus death was officially recorded in China. Eight months after the identification of the disease that appeared in Wuhan in December 2019, the world has recorded over one million deaths.

The Sars-CoV-2 virus which causes the illness known as COVID-19 first spread rapidly in China, particularly in the city of Wuhan. In the space of one month, the country recorded one thousand deaths.

That initial toll was worse than the total number of deaths caused by earlier acute respiratory syndrome SARS, which circulated in Asia in 2002-2003 and led to 774 fatalities.

Countries and territories outside continental China were relatively untouched at that point but the virus was already starting to circulate there.

The Philippines registered its first case on 2 February and Hong Kong two days later, followed by Japan and France on 13 and 14 February.

## 'Black April'

In February cases soared. By 11 March, when the World Health Organization declared the new coronavirus a "pandemic," 4,500 deaths had been recorded worldwide, across 30 countries and territories.

Two-thirds were still in China but Italy (800 deaths) and Iran (300 deaths) saw cases escalate, with deaths soon following.

The number of people dying every day in Europe and the United States rose swiftly up until mid-April, reaching peaks in the second week of more than 4,000 and 2,700 average daily deaths respectively.

Today the United States remains the hardest-hit country for deaths, with over 200,000 recorded.



On a global scale, the deadliest week was 13 to 19 April when more than 7,460 coronavirus deaths were officially reported every day. By then the total number of deaths worldwide had risen to nearly 170,000, or double the level reported on 31 March.

Since the start of June, the average number of deaths per day has hovered around 5,000.

### **Latin America, new epicenter**

In June, the epicenter of the pandemic shifted to Latin America and the Caribbean. From 15 July to 15 August, recorded deaths in the region did not drop below an average of 2,500 per day. Only then did they start to fall gradually, reaching an average 1,900 deaths per day last week.

Brazil became the country with the most deaths in total after the United States (more than 140,000). Taking into account the size of their populations, Peru (975 deaths per one million inhabitants) and Bolivia (671), are among the worst-affected countries worldwide, alongside European countries like Belgium (861) and Spain (668).

### **A second wave?**

In Asia, where the toll was lower than 100 deaths per day up until mid-April, fatalities have been steadily increasing. The continent has exceeded 1,000 deaths per day almost continually since 20 July and is approaching 1,500 (1,407 on average over the last two weeks).

India has been the worst hit, recording more than 90,000 deaths so far.

Cases are also rising again in Europe, reinforcing concerns about a possible second wave. New cases on the continent were around 20 percent higher last week than the previous and deaths are up 28 percent.

Fatalities are also increasing again in the Middle East (around 330 in the last two weeks, an increase of around 18 percent).

According to official statistics, Africa has been less affected than other continents: deaths have been falling since August (fewer than 200 per day in mid-September, after a peak of around 400 in early August).

In Oceania, meanwhile, the average daily number of deaths has never exceeded two dozen.