

06 FEBRUARY 2021, SATURDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR anti-pollution task force nagpulong upang mapabilis ang Manila Bay rehab



February 5, 2021 @ 7:26 PM 11 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Upang mapabilis ang isinasagawang rehabilitation ng Manila Bay sinimulan na ng Manila Bay Anti-Pollution Task Force (MBAPTF) ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang kumpletong pamamaraan upang mas mapabilis ang isinasagawang rehabilitation at restoration ng coastal at marine ecosystem ng Baybayin.

“We have to get down to business and jumpstart the task force as we mark the second year of the Battle for Manila Bay,” sabi ni DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu.

Ayon sa DENR noong Pebrero 3 nang simulan ang unang pulong ng task force na pinamumunuan ni DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny D. Antiporda.

Ipinaliwanag ni Antiporda ang kahalagahan ng trabaho ng task force na tumutugon sa mga nagawang aksiyon ni Cimatu bilang chair ng Manila Bay Task Force (MBTF).

“The issue of pollution is the core of the Battle for Manila Bay. We are here to provide support to the Secretary and the MBTF,” sabi pa nito.

“The main objective is to stop further pollution in the whole of the Manila Bay region. By hook or by crook, we will stop them (polluters). We can defy these environmental issues,” saad ni Antiporda sa mga miyembro ng task force.

Sinabi pa ng DENR na ang MBAPTF ay binubuo ng Manila Bay Coordinating Office (MBCO), River Basin Control Office (RBCO), Pasig River Coordinating and Management Office (PRCMO), National Water Resources Board, Laguna Lake Development Authority at Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) regional offices sa Central Luzon, CALABARZON at National Capital Region.

Kaugnay nito inatasan ni Antiporda ang PRCMO na suriin ang riverbanks sa Pasig River para sa illegal drainage pipes at upang matukoy ang pinanggagalingan nito mula sa Laguna de Bay palabas ng Napindan Channel patungo sa Manila Bay.

Ang nag-iisang labasan sa Laguna de Bay ay ang Napindan Channel na konektado sa Manila Bay sa pamamagitan ng Pasig River.

“Not all of the pipes that you find in the riverbanks or creeks are illegal. Some of those are storm drains,” dagdag pa ni Antiporda.



Inatasan din nito ang EMB na magbigay ng technical assistance sa pamamagitan ng water quality assessment upang matukoy kung ang tubig ay nagmumula sa floodwater o galing sa residential, commercial at industrial establishments.

Samantala, ang MBCO naman sa tulong na rin ng EMB ay pinatitignan at pinamomonitor ang water quality sa mga port areas sa pakikipagtulungan na rin ng Philippine Ports Authority and Philippine Fisheries Development Authority.

Tutukuyin naman ng RBCO kung saang mga ilog dapat ilagay ang mga trash trap upang maiwasan na madumihan ng basura ang mga waterways.

“I am optimistic that with the help of this task force, we can at least minimize pollution coming from the rivers and creeks,” sabi pa ni Antiporda.

Noong Enero 6, 2021 nang buuin ni Cimatú ang MBAPTF sa pamamagitan na rin ng mandato ng Administrative Order No. 16 na inisyu ng Office of the President para sa rehabilitasyon at restorasyon ng Manila Bay.

Nabatid pa sa DENR na layunin ng pagbuo ng task force na matiyak na sumusunod ang lahat ng government facilities at iba pang establisyamento sa Manila Bay region na magkonekta sa kasalukuyang sewerage system o gumawa ng sarili nilang sewerage plant upang mapigilan ang pagdumi ng Manila Bay.

Tungkulin din nito na magkaroon ng “remedial measures” sa pamamagitan ng paggamit ng engineering at technological interventions para sa water quality at mahigpit na pagpapatupad ng Republic Act 9275 o ang Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004. **(Santi Celario)**



Anti-pollution task force jumpstarts Manila Bay rehab this year

Published February 5, 2021, 10:25 PM

by [Bethena Unite](#)

Coming into the second year of the “battle for Manila Bay,” a series of inspections will be carried out to identify and stop polluters to restore the coastal and marine ecosystem of the bay.



(JANSEN ROMERO / MANILA BULLETIN)

Among the first steps this year is to examine the riverbanks of the Pasig River for illegal drainage pipes and to trace their source from the Laguna de Bay outlet in Napindan Channel all the way to Manila Bay.

The only outlet of Laguna de Bay is the Napindan Channel, which is connected to Manila Bay via the Pasig River.

During a recent discussion to develop a “comprehensive approach” to hasten the rehabilitation of Manila Bay, member organizations of the Manila Bay Anti-Pollution Task Force of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) were mobilized to perform inspections on the bay and its surroundings.

The Pasig River Coordinating and Management Office was directed to inspect the drainage pipes in Pasig River.

“Not all of the pipes that you find in the riverbanks or creeks are illegal. Some of those are storm drains,” DENR Undersecretary Benny D. Antiporda said.

“The main objective is to stop further pollution in the whole of the Manila Bay region. By hook or by crook, we will stop them (polluters). We can defy these environmental issues,” Antiporda added.

The department’s Environmental Management Bureau was also directed to conduct water quality assessment to verify if the water discharge is from floodwater or effluent from residential, commercial, and industrial establishments.

The Manila Bay Coordinating Office, on the other hand, was tasked to check and monitor the water quality in port areas in coordination with the Philippine Ports Authority and Philippine Fisheries Development Authority.

Moreover, the River Basin Control Office will identify rivers where trash traps could be installed to prevent solid wastes from polluting waterways further downstream.



The task force was created by DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu on Jan. 6, 2021 to ensure the compliance of all government facilities and other establishments within the Manila Bay region to connect on existing sewerage systems or construct their individual sewerage plant to stop the pollution in Manila Bay.

It is also tasked to develop remedial measures using engineering and technological interventions to address the bay's current water quality, and strictly monitor the enforcement of Republic Act 9275 or the Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004.



Bay cleanup seen being expedited

posted February 05, 2021 at 11:30 pm

by [Rio N. Araja](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources' anti-pollution task force has convened to expedite the rehabilitation of Manila Bay to stop its further pollution.

Secretary Roy Cimatu said the Manila Bay Anti-Pollution Task Force had already started work to develop a comprehensive approach that would hasten the rehabilitation and restoration of the coastal and marine ecosystem of Manila Bay.

"We have to get down to business and jumpstart the task force as we mark the second year of the Battle for Manila Bay," he said.

On Feb. 3, Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny Antiporda, task force chief, had their first meeting.

He emphasized the importance of the task force's work to complement the actions taken by Cimatu as chairperson of the Manila Bay Task Force.

"The issue of pollution is the core of the Battle for Manila Bay. We are here to provide support to the Secretary and the MBTF," he said.

"The main objective is to stop further pollution in the whole of the Manila Bay region. By hook or by crook, we will stop them (polluters). We can defy these environmental issues."

Antiporda directed the Pasig River Coordinating and Management Office to examine the riverbanks of the Pasig River for illegal drainage pipes and to trace their sources from the Laguna de Bay outlet in Napindan Channel all the way to Manila Bay.

He tasked the River Basin Control Office to identify the rivers where trash traps could be installed to prevent solid waste from polluting the waterways further downstream.

"I am optimistic that with the help of this task force, we can at least minimize pollution coming from the rivers and creeks," he said.

On Jan. 6, the DENR chief created the MBAPTF pursuant to the mandate of Administrative Order 16 issued by the Office of the President for the rehabilitation and restoration of Manila Bay.

Isang dumpsite sa Pampanga, ipinasara ng DENR

By [RadyoMaN Manila](#) - Feb. 5, 2021 at 11:42am



Ipinasara ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang isang dumpsite na nasa gitna ng bukid sa Sta. Ana, Pampanga.

Sa labas ng compound, may nakasulat na eco-park pero ginawa itong tambakan ng basura.

Ayon kay DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda, pagkalason sa ilalim ng lupa ang negatibong epekto ng nasabing dumpsite.

Dahil dito, kakasuhan ng kriminal at administratibo ang lokal na opisyal ng Sta. Ana, Pampanga.

Wala pang pahayag ang alkalde nila na sila Norberto Gamboa.

Mula 2018, nasa 500 dumpsite na ang naipasara ng DENR matapos makitaan ng mga paglabag.

Sa susunod na buwan, 200 pa ang target na maipasara ng DENR.

Source: https://rmn.ph/isang-dumpsite-sa-pampanga-ipinasara-ng-denr/?fbclid=IwAR1R0fzzqG8fXICrvRMjaxYGJrUb242_52iD_5vonGuq3_Rwn72hOmKEIB



13h · 🌐

...

TINGNAN: Ipinasara ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources ang dump site na pagmamay-ari ng lokal na pamahalaan ng Santo Tomas, Batangas sa Sitio Jordan, Barangay San Vicente.

Giit ng pamahalaang panlungsod, isa itong transfer station at hindi dump site. (📷: DENR-Environmental Management Bureau Batangas) | via Dennis Datu, ABS-CBN News

BASA HIN DITO ang kaugnay na ulat: <https://bit.ly/3cJ4yYM>



👍👎😂 179

14 Comments 62 Shares



PH may soon ban plastic softdrink straw, plastic coffee stirrer following NSWMC approval

By DENR Published on February 6, 2021

QUEZON CITY, Feb. 6 -- The National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) has approved the plastic softdrink straw and plastic coffee stirrer in the list of non-environmentally acceptable products (NEAP), which may be banned soon as part of the implementation of Republic Act (RA) 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

The draft resolution declaring plastic softdrink straw and plastic coffee stirrer as NEAP was deliberated through a virtual en banc meeting on Tuesday (Feb.2), which was presided by Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units (LGUs) Concerns and NSWMC Alternate Chair Benny D. Antiporda. It concluded with 11 votes for approval and three votes for disapproval of the two items.



"I am elated that after 20 years since the birth of RA 9003, the NEAP listing has now commenced. This is long overdue and we need to catch up with the demand of solid waste management in our country," Antiporda said.

He added: "This is a significant milestone for NSWMC, and for the Filipino people. We have long been fighting for and we are committed in having a NEAP list to comply with the law to combat environmental damage."

"The prohibition on these two single-use plastic items may be small steps in the NEAP listing, but it is a big leap when it comes to compliance with the provisions of RA 9003," added Antiporda.

Further, the approved resolution comes at a perfect time as the world celebrates International Straw Free Day on February 3. "This global celebration aims to encourage the public to go straw-free and say "no straw please" when ordering drinks," Antiporda said.

The resolution was passed despite heavy resistance from some members of the Commission, such as the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the manufacturing and recycling industries.

Other members who participated in the en banc meeting were the Department of Health, Metro Manila Development Authority, Department of the Interior and Local Government, Department of Agriculture, Department of Public Works and Highways, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, Philippine Information Agency, League of Municipalities of the Philippines, League of Cities of the Philippines, and non-government organizations represented by the EcoWaste Coalition.



Pursuant to Section 29 of RA 9003, "Within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act, the Commission shall, after public notice and hearing, prepare a list of non-environmentally acceptable products as defined in this Act that shall be prohibited according to a schedule that shall be prepared by the Commission."

However, it was only two decades after the Act was passed when the Commission came up with a list of NEAP.

NSWMC held multi-sectoral consultations on the NEAP list last January 22 and February 1 with 169 and 178 participants, respectively, from the local government units, private sector, and key stakeholders from civil society groups.

The Department of Science and Technology, co-chair of the NSWMC Technical Working Committee, presented the results of its assessment on plastic softdrink straws and plastic coffee stirrers on both days. (DENR)



Calls for cheap alternative to plastic straws, stirrers sought ahead of nationwide ban

By [Catalina Ricci S. Madarang](#) - February 5, 2021 - 5:46 PM



A photo of a floating plastic cup with straw on it (Photo by Brian Yurasits on Unsplash)

Alternative products to plastic straws and stirrers were sought online after the environment agency announced that these products will soon be banned in the country.

In line with the celebration of the International Straw Free Day last Wednesday, the **National Solid Waste Management Commission** approved the inclusion of plastic straws and coffee stirrers in the list of **non-environmentally acceptable products (NEAP)**.

Products included in the NEAP list will soon be banned nationwide as part of the long-overdue implementation of Republic Act 9003 or the **Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000**.

This decision came after a virtual meeting with the **Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management**, local government units and DENR Undersecretary **Benny Antiporda**, who is also alternate chair of the NSWMC.

“This is a significant milestone for NSWMC, and for the Filipino people. We have long been fighting for and we are committed in having a NEAP list to comply with the law to combat environmental damage,” Antiporda [said](#).

“The prohibition on these two single-use plastic items may be small steps in the NEAP listing, but it is a big leap when it comes to compliance with the provisions of RA 9003,” he added.

Plastic straws and coffee stirrers are among the items considered as “unnecessary single-use plastics” [under](#) **NSWMC Resolution 1363 (Series of 2020)**.

This resolution, which was issued last year, directed the DENR to recommend policies and implement the banning of the use of the materials in the list.

The rest of the products on the list are:

1. Plastic cups (lower than 0.2 mm in thickness)
2. Plastic spoons
3. Plastic forks
4. Plastic knives
5. Plastic labo and thin-filmed sando bags (lower than 15 microns)



Last [November](#), in the wake of the strong typhoons, 31 coastal LGUs have also agreed to appeal for a nationwide ban on single-use plastics.

They signed an online petition addressed to the NSWMC, urging the agency to include all single-use plastic materials in the priority list of NEAP.

Need for alternative solutions

While many Filipinos welcomed the looming ban, they sought for alternative and affordable solutions given that most products for everyday use have plastic incorporated in them.

“You can’t ban straws because you’re definitely not considering disabled people. Unless you can find an alternative that is stable as a plastic straw,” one user [wrote](#).

“Kaya ng tao, mahal po masyado ng mga eco-friendly na gamit kaming mga mahirap di kaya ng bulsa,” one user [said](#).

Others also worried that the public will return to cutting down more trees for paper bags.

“Then people start turning to paper bags which are made of trees great move isn’t it?” another [wrote](#).

Some of them noted that face shields which is a requirement in public places are also made of plastic.

“How will you dispose the plastic face shields?” one user [said](#).

One Facebook user suggested that the implementation of the plastic straw and coffee stirrer ban should first be at the local level.

“Other LGUs already implemented a ban on single use plastic like CDO, Iligan City, rather than nationwide this should start at very base LGU must step up the game, they are after all the primary implementer if becomes nationwide,” the user [said](#).

On Reddit, some users made suggestions on what could replace plastic straws and stirrers.

“They probably will replace it with bamboo,” one Reddit user [said](#).

Environmental groups **Oceana Philippines** and **Greenpeace Philippines** once again [asked](#) the national government to prohibit the use of single-use or disposable plastic goods across the country, citing the two-decade delay in reducing plastic pollution in the country.

They [recommended](#) that thin plastic take-out containers, styrofoam or polystyrene food containers, sachet, packaging, or products that are multilayered with other materials should also be added in the NEAP list.

Source: <https://interaksyon.philstar.com/politics-issues/2021/02/05/184971/calls-for-cheap-alternative-to-plastic-straws-stirrers-sought-ahead-of-nationwide-ban/>



BANNING OF PLASTIC STRAW AND COFFEE STIRRERS IS A POSITIVE STEP



February 6, 2021 @ 12:28 AM 6 hours ago

DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary Benny Antiporda on Wednesday said that the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) has approved a resolution classifying plastic straws and coffee stirrers as non-environmentally acceptable products (NEAP), which “could lead to its phase-out.”

Antiporda said the draft resolution was deliberated “during a virtual en banc meeting” with 11 votes for approval and three votes (against) and was passed “despite heavy resistance from some members of the Commission, such as the Department of Trade and Industry, the manufacturing and recycling industries.”

He said that the two products were the “first” to be classified as NEAP.

Asked whether the move had an adverse effect on businesses that are using the products, such as coffee shops, Antiporda said, “it is a bitter pill to swallow but it has no bigger impact than “banning” plastic altogether.

He said among the products that will be allowed to exist in the market include white straws used by hospitals to feed their patients and “the agency is still discussing for further consideration other matters like the large straws being used by milk tea sellers.

The big question remains whether NSWMC or Congress will consider banning disposable plastic bags, which have already been implemented by countries like China, Bangladesh, Rwanda, Congo, Kenya, and South Africa, to name a few.

Some states and cities in powerful countries like the USA, Canada, Mexico and India have already banned disposable plastic bags since 2007 to protect the environment.

Plastic bags take many years to decompose and toxic substances are released into the soil causing air pollution.

Antiporda said different countries have different sets of environmental laws, depending on how they deem it fit.

The bottom line is still economics.

In the Philippines, such move is tantamount to displacement of workers and realignment of prerogatives, which could harshly affect businesses.



A study led by an environmental group in 2017 said instant coffee, milk powder, food seasoning, shampoo, soft drink plastic bottles, and toothpaste sachets are among the biggest contributor to plastic pollution in our country.

The group tagged Nestlé, Unilever, and Procter & Gamble as among the biggest contributors to plastic pollution, although these giant companies have been trying to offset the impact through their various projects via their social corporate responsibility arms.

At the end of the day, any move to protect the environment is a welcome development especially for the next generation.

Makinig sa programang “Kwentong Barbero at iba pa” sa DZXL RMN 558 tuwing Sabado, 4-5 pm. Maaari rin po ninyong i-follow sa Twitter ang inyong lingkod @ReyGalupo at sa YouTube.



Problema sa plastic waste dahil sa ‘excessive’ packaging ng mga online sellers ipinasisilip sa DENR

By **Bombo Dave Vincent Pasit** -February 5, 2021 | 10:24 AM

Ipinasisilip ni Muntinlupa Rep. Ruffy Biazon sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang sobra-sobrang pastic packaging na ginagamit ng mga e-commerce platforms.

Nakakabahala na kasi aniya ang dami ng pastic waste ngayong patok na patok ang online shopping sa new normal dulot ng COVID-19 pandemic.

Inihalimbawa ng kongresista na ang binili niya sa online na maliit lang na LED strip light connectors ay nakabalot sa oversized plastic pouch na halos siyam na beses na mas malaki kumpara sa nilalaman nito.

Kung ganito aniya palagi ang sitwasyon, hindi malayong lalo pang dadami ang plastic waste sa bansa.

“The volume of this plastic waste is staggering, what with the popularity of online shopping. In fact, Lazada has reported that during the first hour of the 11.11 sale alone, over 2 million items were purchased by Filipino consumers,” ani Biazon.

“The J&T Express experience last June should be an example. We should penalize the courier services who mishandle the goods they deliver,” dagdag pa nito.

Ayon kay Biazon, may-akda ng House Bill No. 546, na naglalayong ipagbawal na ang paggamit ng single use plastic, dapat gawin sa Pilipinas ang katulad sa ginagawa ng mga e-commerce sites sa America kung saan cardboard boxes ang ginagamit sa kanilang shipment at hindi plastic.

Para hindi na rin aniya gagamit gaano ng bubble wrap, dapat maging strikto na rin sa mga online sellers pagdating sa shipment ng kanilang produkto.

Source: <https://www.bomboradyo.com/problema-sa-plastic-waste-dahil-sa-excessive-packaging-ng-mga-online-sellers-ipinasisilip-sa-denr/>



Bakal boys tiklo sa Maynila



February 5, 2021 @ 7:10 PM 11 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Arestado ang tatlong “bakal boys” matapos ireklamo ng site supervisor sa Manila Police District (MPD) kaninang umaga.

Sa inisyal na ulat ng MPD-Station 5, kinilala ang mga naaresto na sina Winnemar Rockwell, 45, binata, nakatira sa San Luis, San Andres, Malate; Ronnie Sunarang, 30, nakatira rin sa San Andres sakop ng Barangay 639; at si Nestor Jaen Hernandez, 29 ng Guererro St, Sta Monica.



Nangyari umano ang pagnanakaw ng mga suspek pasado alas-11 ng umaga sa kahabaan ng Roxas Blvd sa Manila Bay kanto ng Remedios St, Malate, Maynila.

Sinabing nasa construcion site umano ng proyekto ng Department of Natural Resources o DENR ang site supervisor na si Reynaldo Pandaqui ng Construction and Trading nang mapansin ang mga suspek sa Manila Bay.

Napag-alamang unti-unti umanong ninanakaw ng mga suspek ang mga bakal na gagamitin para sa ginagawang proyekto ng DENR sa Manila Bay.





Tinatayang aabot umano sa halagang P40,000 ang ninakaw ng mga suspek.

Nahaharap ang tatlo sa kasong theft habang nakakulong sa Malate Police Station. **(Jocelyn Tabangcura-Domenden)**



Cagayan River's hope

[HIDDEN AGENDA](#) - [Mary Ann LL. Reyes](#) (The Philippine Star) - February 6, 2021 - 12:00am

Illegal black sand or magnetite mining may soon be a thing of the past for the province if this new government program called the Cagayan River Rehabilitation Project (CRRP) succeeds.

The project has been described by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources as the pilot implementation of a landmark, game-changing river restoration policy for environment and river ecosystem protection while undertaking flood control river dredging.

For many centuries now, the Cagayan River, the longest, largest, and widest in the country, has been the lifeblood of the region. However, environmental degradation has taken its toll on the river, with forest denudation at its watersheds, soil erosion clogging and heavily silting its waterways, resulting in the massive flooding during heavy rains brought by typhoons.

Dredging is a key component of the CRRP, which is being spearheaded by the Build Back Better task force led by Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu, along with Public Works Highways chief Mark Villar. The two led the ceremonial start of the river's rehabilitation last Feb. 2.

According to news reports, a total of 19 sandbars have been identified by the task force, of which three are for priority dredging since they obstruct the floodwater flow to the Aparri Delta and to the Babuyan Channel, which is its final destination. Dredging will hopefully finally solve the perennial flooding problem in Cagayan and nearby Isabela.

The project, which is fully supported by President Duterte, likewise promises to solve the perennial problem of illegal black sand mining by unscrupulous groups. The illegal operations are said to contribute greatly to land erosion and severe flooding.

There had been calls since 2019 for Congress to investigate local dredging firm Pacific Offshore Exploration Inc. for its alleged black sand mining activities in the Cagayan River, together with its Chinese partner Zhong Hai Gravel Group. It is claimed that Pacific and its Chinese partner are actually mining black sand, using the guise of allegedly dredging to help the province reopen the port.

If the name rings a bell, yes, Zhong Hai owns the dredging vessel which has been cited for illegal and unauthorized presence in Philippine waters more than a year ago. Last week, the Philippine Coast Guard and the Bureau of Customs seized the undocumented MV Zhonhai 68 dredging vessel off Orion Point in Bataan. MV Zhonhai 68 is said to belong to the Zhong Hai Gravel Group and is flying the flag of Sierra Leone in West Africa.

Mining black sand is not illegal because there is no law that expressly prohibits it, but the Mining Act bans mining near reservoirs and protective areas. What makes it illegal is if it is done without the government and the local communities' permission.

There is only one that is allowed by DENR in Cagayan province and this is the first-ever large-scale offshore magnetite mining project of JDVC Resources, a company controlled by publicly listed Apollo Global Capital. The mining project is set to start this month off the mouth of the Cagayan River in the Babuyan Strait off Gonzaga, Cagayan.

As the first large-scale, deep-sea mining project in the Philippines, JDVC has secured all the necessary environment, mining, and social permits, including a secured satisfactory community acceptance from nearby local governments and communities.



According to news reports, the deep-sea mining and exploration project will be conducted within JDVC's 1,897-hectare mining tenement, located 14 kilometers offshore from Gonzaga.

As I've said repeatedly, it is illegal miners who are destroying the image of the mining industry. We can't have all the luxuries of the modern world if companies are not allowed to mine the minerals used to produce these products. Government just has to do its job better in getting rid of illegal mining.

Not a family feud

A reader reacts to my column 'Family Feud' published in the Philippine STAR on Jan. 29.

"It's not a family feud! It's greed, deception, and avarice in a grand manner. In the case of People of the Philippines vs. David Wong, Davidson Wong, Derrick Wong, Derwin Wong, Dianne Wong, Lucy Chua, Juvy Ting, Susan Lu, Leonardo Marzan, Beverly Ansay and other John Does, they all connived to wrest billions and billions of pesos from a trusting Gaisano family. No, this can't be a "one man" job as the Wong family would like to portray. This is the work of many people with a common evil motive. For Derwin Wong to say that other family members were not involved is, in the street lingo palusot. The public should not be taken for a ride this time. If a corporation is into the business of selling peanuts, corn or chippy, maybe we can agree with the Wong Family that it can be a one-man corporation. But DWCI is a Philippine Stock Exchange registered trading company, which is closely and strictly regulated by PSE. You need a genius to be able to escape being caught by PSE if one trades illegally. Ask any stock broker, and he will tell you that it is almost impossible to buy and sell stocks of a client without the express consent of the latter. DWCI did it.

"The Wong family and their accomplices, if they wished, can come out from hiding and explain to the court their roles or non-roles. It is up to the courts to decide whether to convict them or not. But let us remember that flight is a sign of guilt." – Name withheld upon request

Towards a better year

Allianz PNB Life, one of the major life insurers in the Philippines championing sustainability, is looking to help Filipinos bounce back this 2021. And so together with feng shui coach Johnson Chua, the insurer will hold a webinar entitled "Lucky, Healthy You: A Lunar New Year Special" on Feb. 9 at 5:30 p.m.

According to Allianz PNB Life chief marketing office Gino Riola, they want to help Filipinos build a stronger outlook for 2021 by discussing what they can expect from the Year of the Metal Ox, with the ox signifying strength, hard work, and nourishment, all of which are needed for individual and collective progress in the ever-changing normal..

Chua, who has helped many companies drive business growth, will share how Filipinos can harness the energies of good luck and fortune to better prepare them for future challenges and opportunities.

The first 50 attendees to sign up for the webinar will get a chance to win a free personal accident insurance plan worth P50,000, Netflix vouchers, and an Allianz e-bike for the grand prize. To join the webinar, they can register at <https://tinyurl.com/AZLPNB02092021>.

For comments, e-mail at mareyes@philstarmedia.com



MGB 13, CMEMCI hold turnover ceremony and induction of officers

Published on February 5, 2021

SURIGAO CITY, Surigao del Norte, Feb. 4 (PIA) -- The Caraga Mine Environmental Management Council, Inc. (CMEMCI), in coordination with the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) Regional Office 13 held a virtual cum face-to-face turnover ceremony and induction of new CMEMCI Officers on January 25, 2021 held at the MGB 13 Training Center, this city.

The ceremony highlighted the accomplishments and activities of CMEMCI with different organizations and government agencies from CY 2015-2019 presented by the outgoing CMEMCI President, Engr. Robert T. Francisco.

It was then followed by the distribution of Service Awards to the outgoing Officers, namely Engr. Robert T. Francisco, President; EnP. Jesalyn A. Guinguing, Vice President; EnP. Alex C. Canonoy, Secretary; Ms. Yones Rae A. Lumba, Treasurer; and Mr. Shaun L. Guinguing, Auditor.

The outgoing Board of Directors, namely EnP. Jjam S. Cutillas, Provincial Representative of Dinagat Islands; EnP. Jameson O. Bandala, Provincial Representative of Surigao del Norte; For. Manuel A. Torres, Provincial Representative of Surigao del Sur; For. Noel A. Ibarra, Provincial Representative of Agusan del Norte; and For. Gladess Dianne S. Buot, Provincial Representative of Agusan del Sur were also given Service Awards.

MGB Caraga Regional Director Engineer Glenn Marcelo C. Noble administered the oath taking ceremony of new CMEMCI Officers and Board of Directors.

The new set of CMEMCI Officers and Board of Directors are President EnP. Jjam S. Cutillas, Vice President Mr. Shaun L. Guinguing, Secretary EnP. Phoebe Jean Alac, Treasurer Engr. Robert T. Francisco, Auditor Mr. Junel Garcia, Public Relations Officer EnP. Jesalyn A. Guinguing.

The Board of Directors (Provincial Representative) are Dinagat Islands Engr. Queeniebeth L. Plaza, Surigao del Norte EnP. Alex C. Canonoy, Surigao del Sur Ms. Yones Rae A. Lumba, Agusan del Norte Noel A. Ibarra, and Agusan del Sur Gladess Diane S. Buot.

On his part, Director Noble gave his inspirational message to the outgoing Officers and Board of Directors.

He commended their proactive efforts and heartfelt service to the council which inspired the environmental stewards of the Caraga minerals industry in keeping the environment clean and healthy.

Director Noble said that the Officers and Members are the sentinels and front liners in the implementation of environmental programs in the region. He then challenged the new Officers and Board of Directors headed by EnP. Jjam S. Cutillas to sustain and even achieve beyond the accomplishments of the former council officers. (Reyana Dawn U. Garcia, MGB-13/PIA-Surigao del Norte)

Source: <https://pia.gov.ph/press-releases/releases/1065980>



Vulcan transfers mining rights, interests in two sites to United Paragon

February 5, 2021 | 12:01 am



VULCAN Industrial & Mining Corp. has transferred its rights and interests in two of its sites in Negros Occidental to United Paragon Mining Corp., the latter said on Thursday.

In a regulatory filing, United Paragon said it had a deed of assignment with Vulcan that covers the latter's rights, interests and participation in the Hinobaan and Sipalay sites.

Before the transfer, Vulcan owned the mineral production sharing agreements covering the 477-hectare Hinobaan and 866-hectare Sipalay sites, according to Mining and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) data as of December 2020.

Both areas were used for exploration activities, MGB data showed.

The deed of assignment is subject to the approval of the bureau, United Paragon said. It was approved by Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy A. Cimatu on Dec. 22, 2020, it added.

In a letter addressed to United Paragon President Gerard Antonio S. Ramos, the MGB's Region 6 Director Raul A. Laput said that the firm was required to file a declaration of mining project feasibility following the approval of the deed of assignment.

Vulcan shares on Thursday improved 18.53% to close at P2.43 apiece. Meanwhile, United Paragon shares climbed 36.99% to finish at P0.010 apiece. — **Angelica Y. Yang**



Tagas sa ice plant nireklamo ng mga residente

By Abante Tonite — Last updated Feb 5, 2021

METRO



11 0

INIREKLAMO ng ilang mga residente ng Lian sa Batangas ang umano'y umalingasaw na mabahong amoy mula umano sa isang ice plant.

Mismong ang tanggapan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa Batangas ang nakatanggap ng reklamo mula sa Barangay Kapito residents kaugnay sa mabahong amoy na nagmula sa planta.

Nauna rito, sa pagsisiyasat ng awtoridad ay lumabas na may drum na naglalaman ng ammonia ang tumagas. Agad itong binuhusan ng tubig at sinasabing pinadaan ito sa rainwater canal ng ice plant staff kaya namatay ang mga halaman at isda

Posibleng kasuhan ng DENR ang ice plant sa paglabag sa Clean Water Act.

Wala pang pahayag ang ice plant factory kaugnay dito. (Kiko Cueto)



ACB working with experts to improve database of plants in ASEAN Heritage Parks

By ACB Published on February 5, 2021



Mt. Makiling is known to host *Rafflesia lagascae*, which blooms on the mountain once a year. Photo by Angie Metin

LAGUNA, Feb. 5 -- Amid the ignited interests in plants in ASEAN countries, the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) is supporting a project that aims to document endemic and threatened plant species in Mt. Makiling Forest Reserve and Mt. Malindang Range Natural Park in the Philippines and improve the database of plant species in the region.

Both natural parks are designated ASEAN Heritage Parks (AHP), which best represent the species and ecosystems of ASEAN and are known to harbour high levels of biodiversity. The AHP Programme is a flagship programme of the ACB and includes 49 AHPs, nine of which are from the Philippines.

The ongoing collaboration between the Department of Forest Biological Sciences (FBS) and Makiling Center for Mountain Ecosystems (MCME) under the College of Forestry and Natural Resources of the University of the Philippines Los Baños, with support from the ACB's ASEAN Heritage Parks Programme commenced in December 2020 and tapped a research team led by Dr. Manuel Castillo, a plant taxonomist and professor at UPLB.

Dr. Castillo said the primary aim of the project is to conserve and protect endemic and threatened plants especially against the rampant poaching fueled by the current boom of plant-selling businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic. The information will be helpful in conducting long-term research and extension activities for Philippine plants.

"This is to raise awareness on the status of threatened plants being sold in the market and deter poaching activities in the two protected areas," Dr. Castillo said.

In terms of its flora, Mt. Makiling Forest reserve is home to about 940 genera, 2038 species, 19 sub-species, 167 varieties and several forms and cultivars representing 225 families of flowering plants and ferns. It is known to host plant species, such as *Rafflesia lagascae* (formerly known as *Rafflesia manillana*), *Medinilla magnifica* and *Nepethes alata*. Some of the rare animal species found in the area are the Philippine Eagle-Owl (*Bubo philippinensis*) and the Philippine pgymy fruit bat (*Haplonycteris fischeri*), which are both endemic in the country.

Like Mt Makiling, Mt. Malindang is an important biodiversity refuge and one of the ecologically valuable areas in Mindanao, with equally high endemism.



Each AHP may be involved in exchanging endemic and threatened plants that are abundant in their respective areas, which may be developed and translated into a bigger research project later on.

ACB has partnered with other development organisations in previous years to strengthen the ASEAN Member States' taxonomic capacities. Most recently, joint projects were funded by the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund, which resulted in the development of field guidebooks in Chiang Mai, Thailand and Gunung Mulu National Park in Malaysia.

"The ongoing work of our partner scientists will contribute to a common and deeper understanding of existing plant species that require protection. This will help improve the ASEAN Clearing House Mechanism," ACB Executive Director Theresa Mundita Lim said.

The ASEAN Clearing House Mechanism is a regional platform for sharing biodiversity information, experiences, best practices, and lessons learned to service needs of ASEAN Member States in decision-making related to biodiversity conservation and their commitments to multilateral environmental agreements. (ACB)



First mangrove propagation center in Visayas opens in Cebu

Published 23 hours ago on February 5, 2021 08:21 AM

By [Rico Osmeña](#)



Building tollways is not the only thing that MVP Group of Companies is good at. It is also into environmental preservation, too.

This as the first-ever Mangrove Propagation Center in the Visayas was inaugurated in Barangay Day-as in Cordova, Cebu by Metro Pacific Investments Foundation(MPIF).

Through the center, local and foreign tourists can learn about the value and benefits of mangroves.

MPIF established the Shore It Up campaign as its corporate social responsibility(CSR) program and the Cordova center is the first in the Visayas and third in the country.

The Cordova center recently completed the training of four mangrove eco-guides which will accompany tourists visiting the center and provide mangrove educational tours. The center will soon be turned over to the Cordova Municipal Government.

“Aside from being a point of convergence for mangrove information and research, we intend to sustain it through creating complimentary programs that highlight our rich and thriving eco-tourism,” Cordova Mayor Mary Therese Sitoy- Cho said.

MPIF President Melody M. Del Rosario said the center is expected to stimulate employment similar to the existing centers in Alaminos, Pangasinan and Del Carmen, Siargao.



Mangrove propagation center in Visayas launched

The first Mangrove Propagation Center in the Visayas is a welcome development for the city's environment program

Published 5 hours ago on February 6, 2021 02:30 AM

By [Rico Osmeña](#)



The first Mangrove Propagation Center in the Visayas was inaugurated in Barangay Day-as in the Town of Cordova, Cebu by Metro Pacific Investments Foundation (MPIF) which aims to educate local and foreign tourists on the value and benefits of mangroves for environment preservation.

This, as the MPIF established the "Shore It Up" campaign as its corporate social responsibility (CSR) program and the Cordova center is the first in the Visayas and third in the country.

The center also recently completed training of four mangrove eco-guides which will accompany tourists visiting the center and provide mangrove educational tours ahead of the upcoming inauguration and turnover to the Cordova Municipal Government.

"Aside from being a point of convergence for mangrove information and research, we intend to sustain it through creating complimentary programs that highlight our rich and thriving eco-tourism," said Cordova Mayor Mary Therese Sitoy-Cho.

Meanwhile, MPIF president Melody del Rosario said that the center will generate job opportunities for the locals that will boost positive impacts on the economic condition of their municipality.



Over 200 sea turtles released in Naic, Cavite

Published February 5, 2021, 11:11 PM

by [Richa Noriega](#)

More than 200 sea turtles were released on the coast of Naic, Cavite on Wednesday.

The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) led the release of 203 sea turtles into the waters of Barangay Labac, Naic, Cavite, according to a report from ABS CBN's Teleradyo.

The sea turtles came from a hatchery that took care of the turtle eggs starting in December 2020.

The wildlife conservation group World Wildlife Fund (WWF) said almost all tortoise species are "endangered species" due to poaching and overexploitation.

PCG Cavite Commander Lt. Michael John Encina underscored that the environment should not be neglected even amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Naic local government, barangay officials, and the Philippine Army also joined the event.



8 new UK variant-positive cases detected; total in PH now 25

By Joyce Ann L. Rocamora February 5, 2021, 9:22 pm



MANILA – The Department of Health (DOH) on Friday said it has detected eight more cases of B.1.1.7, also called the UK variant, bringing the total to 25.

"Following the sustained biosurveillance efforts of the government, the DOH, the University of the Philippines-Philippine Genome Center (UP-PGC) and the UP-National Institutes of Health (UP-NIH) confirm the detection of eight additional Covid-19 cases positive for the B.1.1.7 variant (UK variant)," it said in a statement.

The DOH, UP-PGC, and UP-NIH further reported that no other variant of concern has been detected.

Three of the new cases are from Bontoc, Mountain Province, two of whom are females aged 25 and 54. Both were identified as close contacts of a previously reported B.1.1.7 variant case who is part of the Bontoc cluster.

The third one, on the other hand, is a 31-year-old male whose link to the Bontoc cluster is still being verified.

"To date, the 54-year-old female has already recovered, while the remaining two are active cases and are currently being managed," the DOH said.

The fourth and fifth cases are from La Trinidad, Benguet, one of whom is a 15-year old female and a relative of the previously identified B.1.1.7 variant case in La Trinidad.

"She is currently asymptomatic and in isolation as part of the management of contacts of the first B.1.1.7 variant case identified in La Trinidad," the DOH said.

The fifth case is an 84-year-old male who had no known history of travel nor contact with any B.1.1.7 variant case and is part of a separate cluster of cases in the city. The patient was recorded to have died last Jan. 24, 2021.

Moreover, two of the detected cases were returning overseas Filipino (ROF), both of whom have already recovered. The first one is a 29-year old female who arrived from the United Arab Emirates on Jan. 7, 2021 aboard Philippine Airlines flight PR 659.

The other one is a 54-year old male with a reported local address in Talisay, Cebu.

The eighth additional case is a 35-year old male from Liloan, Cebu whose sample was collected last Jan. 17.

According to DOH, he is tagged as an active case with mild symptoms and is currently being managed. The exposure and travel history of this case are also being verified.

The DOH, in coordination with concerned local government units, vowed to intensify contact tracing and conduct immediate case investigation to identify the sources of infection for the cases with no known link to previously reported UK variant patients.

"Biosurveillance activities shall likewise be sustained and the succeeding whole genome sequencing activities are expected to determine the extent of transmission in areas where B.1.1.7 variant cases have been detected and to provide better representation from all regions," it said. **(PNA)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1129834>



No need for gov't workers on official biz to take Covid-19 test

By Ruth Abbey Gita-Carlos February 5, 2021, 12:09 pm



(File photo)

MANILA – Government workers who will travel for official business no longer need to undergo coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) testing, Malacañang said on Friday.

The new rule was approved during the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases' (IATF-EID) meeting on Thursday, Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque said.

"These public officials and government personnel shall not be required to undergo mandatory testing and/or quarantine protocols of the local government units of their destination," Roque, also acting as IATF-EID spokesperson, said in a statement.

He said the directive was made to ensure the "unimpeded travel" of government officials and personnel on official business, including employees of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation, to their place of destination.

However, government officials and personnel are still required to present valid identification cards issued by their respective government agency and an original or a certified true copy of the travel authority issued by the department secretary or the designated official, Roque said.

He said they should also observe strict minimum health standards to prevent the further spread of the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) in the country.

"They must likewise pass symptom screening at the port of their arrival, or in the case of public transport, upon boarding; and they must strictly comply with the minimum public health standards," he said.

Meanwhile, the IATF-EID also approved Baguio City's request to allow leisure travelers to stay in hotels while the city is placed under the general community quarantine (GCQ), Roque said.

"The IATF likewise granted the request of Baguio City for its hotels and other accommodation establishments to accommodate leisure travelers while under the General Community Quarantine (GCQ) classification," he said.

Roque said leisure travelers would be subject to "strict health protocols and contact tracing measures."

The government has eased the quarantine measures in the country to revive the economy amid the Covid-19 pandemic. **(PNA)**

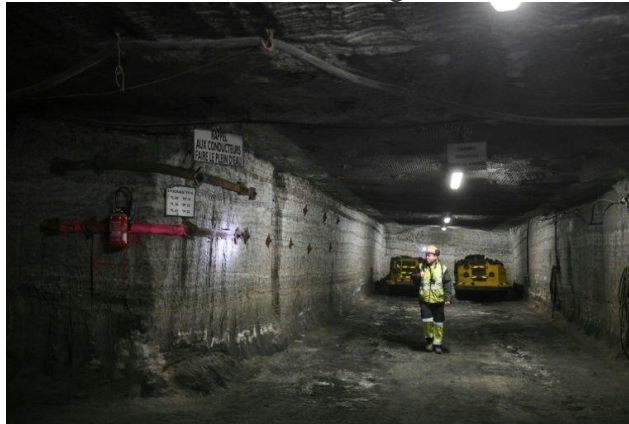


Toxic mine leaves poisoned legacy in French town

Published February 5, 2021, 5:05 PM

by [Agence France-Presse](#)

Jean-Pierre Hecht, a miner in eastern France, remembers how attractive the idea sounded when he first heard about it: a dying pit could be turned into something useful and environmentally friendly.



An employee walks in a mining gallery of the Stocamine project in Wittelsheim, eastern France. (AFP / MANILA BULLETIN)

Back in the 1990s, the local state mining group MDPA approached the community in the town of Wittelsheim in Alsace with an idea for stocking hazardous waste in a nearby potash mine.

“The pitch was all about how we were going to store the waste, hoping to see some research institute one day come up with a way to neutralise it permanently,” Hecht told AFP.

But the project, known as Stocamine, ended up poisoning local community relations, led to court cases, convictions and fears that it has resulted in the creation of a toxic timebomb beneath the surface.

It serves as a warning about what can go wrong when countries decide to repurpose mines to bury their most undesirable and hazardous waste for which no recycling or treatment technology exists.

Hecht, now retired, regrets accepting a job supervising work there due to the legacy for future generations.

“It’s a question not only of being able to look at yourself in the mirror, but also being able to look at your children in the eyes,” he said, grimacing in a cold wind near the perimeter of the site.

He, along with the local mayor and many of the 10,000 residents, were left bitterly disappointed at the end of January when the Paris government decided to seal the contents of Stocamine in the ground.

“They’ve handed us the title permanently of ‘the least glamorous town in the whole of Alsace,’” lamented mayor Yves Goepfert.

– *Misleading claim* –

Stocamine has been a fiasco for the people of Wittelsheim, a mining town surrounded by defunct pits and grassed over slag heaps, signs of an industry that once sustained 15,000 jobs at its height.

Potash is the local mineral, which was first found in the early 1900s when it was in demand for fertilizers.



This boom was a distant memory by the time brochures for Stocamine began circulating in the 1990s, promising jobs and a “mine at the service of the environment” which would use the thick layers of salt locally like protective blankets around the waste.

The facility won authorisation in 1997 for 30 years on the condition that it was “reversible” — which most people took to mean that the 320,000 tonnes of permitted non-radioactive waste might one day be taken out.

“Acceptance of the project by the population was based in a significant way on the commitment by the state to a reversible storage facility,” a 2018 parliamentary inquiry report concluded.

Over the three years after its opening in 1999, a total of 44,000 tonnes of waste were brought down in barrels and reinforced bags which were piled up in freshly dug galleries 550 metres (1,800 feet) below the surface.

– **‘Safest environment’** –

The foul-smelling containers were filled with discharge from incineration plants, byproducts from scientific laboratories, chroming and galvanization plants, as well as waste containing asbestos and mercury.

Yann Flory, spokesman for Destocamine, a local environmental group, believes underground storage facilities are a way for society to hide from the problem of this so-called “final waste”.

“We found a quick solution: we put it in holes in the ground,” he told AFP.

But, as would later emerge in court, the company in charge of the site — a joint venture between MDPA and private waste group Seche Environnement — committed criminal errors. Waste was not checked or filtered properly and in 2002 a fire broke out underground, which took firefighters two months to extinguish.

The chief executive of Stocamine and the company were convicted in 2007 of endangering lives by deliberately breaking the terms of the project’s authorisation.

As the project ground to a halt, local lawmakers and activists lobbied for a complete clean-up, arguing that toxic sludge could make its way into the Alsace aquifer, one of the largest in Europe.

Although the mine is far below the watercourse, they remain worried about infiltration and flooding in the galleries.

“We should get everything out,” Flory told AFP.

From 2014, around 2,000 tonnes of mercury-laced waste, considered particularly high-risk, were removed, but environment minister Barbara Pompelii recently dashed hopes of more extraction.

She has dismissed risks of groundwater pollution as “infinitesimal” and on January 18 she ended decades of delay by announcing that the remaining waste would be buried permanently.

The mine will be sealed, a pollution surveillance system put in place, and 50 million euros (60 million dollars) will be spent in the next five years to clean up other sources of water pollution in Alsace.



She has called permanent burial “the safest for the environment and workers”.

– ***Different awareness*** –

Since the fire at Stocamine, France has nowhere to store its “final waste”, meaning it is sent over the border to be deposited in German mines, said Marcos Buser, a Swiss geologist and waste expert.

Germany has around a dozen such facilities, mostly disused potash and salt mines, according to Buser, a former member of Switzerland’s Nuclear Safety Commission and a dissenting technical expert consulted about Stocamine.

He says several German facilities are a pollution worry, notably a former salt mine filled with radioactive waste in Asse, central Germany, and another in Heilbronn, north of Stuttgart.

Using mines can be safe providing the highest standards are respected, he says, but he believes they pose questions about our responsibilities towards future generations.

“If you go back in the past, in the 1940s-60s, our final waste was simply dumped in the sea. No one thought it would be a problem,” he said.

“I think the same thing will happen with dumps in salt mines. Nowadays no one is interested, but wait another 50 years. Or maybe before.”



File photo of a worker wearing protective garments sanitises the Duomo square, during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak in central Milan, Italy taken March 31, 2020. REUTERS

Climate change may have had 'key role' in pandemic - study

Published February 6, 2021 2:59am

By PATRICK GALEY Agence France Presse

Climate change may have played a "key role" in the transmission of the novel coronavirus to humans by driving several species of pathogen-carrying bats into closer contact, research showed on Friday.

The virus, which has killed more than two million people and caused unprecedented global disruption, is thought to have originated in bats in Southeast Asia.

Researchers from the University of Cambridge used temperature and rainfall data over the last 100 years to model populations of dozens of bat species based on their habitat requirements.

They found that over the last century, 40 species had relocated to southern China, Laos and Myanmar -- the area where genetic analysis suggests the virus known as SARS-CoV-2 first appeared.

Since each bat species carries an average of 2.7 coronaviruses, the researchers said 100 strains of coronavirus were now concentrated in this "hotspot" area.

"Our paper is a long way away from saying the pandemic would not have happened without climate change," lead author Robert Meyer of Cambridge's zoology department told AFP.

"But I find it difficult to see that this climate-driven increase in bats and bat-borne coronaviruses make something like this less likely to happen."

While the precise chain of SARS-CoV-2 transmission from animals to humans is yet to be determined, Beyer said the changing climate and habitat destruction in Asia had driven virus-carrying species into ever closer contact with human populations.

"It's two sides of a similar coin: we penetrate deeper into their habitat but at the same time climate change can have the effect that it pushes the pathogen in our direction," he said.



'Complex risk'

The study, published in the journal *Science of the Total Environment*, urged governments to take measures including limiting urban expansion and farming, which it said would help to manage the risk of another pandemic of a disease endemic in wild animals.

It also called for greater effort to mitigate climate change to avoid large accumulations of wild species near human habitation.

"The fact that climate change can accelerate the transmission of wildlife pathogens to humans should be an urgent wake-up call to reduce global emissions," said Camilo Mora at the University of Hawaii, who contributed to the research.

Kate Jones, Professor of Ecology and Biodiversity at University College London, said Friday's research was interesting but that the pandemic was a result of a variety of factors.

"Climate change certainly has a role to play in changing species distributions to increase ecological hazard," said Jones, who was not involved in the study.

"However, spillover risk is a complex interplay of not only ecological hazard but human exposure and vulnerability."

Habitat loss, for example, has also been a major driver in pushing wild animal species closer to human populations. -- **Agence France-Presse**

Climate change may have had 'key role' in pandemic: study

Patrick Galey, Agence France-Presse

Posted at Feb 06 2021 02:56 AM



Security personnel looks on during the visit by a WHO team tasked with investigating the origins of the coronavirus disease, at the Hubei provincial center for disease control in Wuhan, China February 1, 2021. *Thomas Peter, Reuters*

Climate change may have played a "key role" in the transmission of the novel coronavirus to humans by driving several species of pathogen-carrying bats into closer contact, research showed on Friday.

The virus, which has killed more than 2 million people and caused unprecedented global disruption, is thought to have originated in bats in Southeast Asia.

Researchers from the University of Cambridge used temperature and rainfall data over the last 100 years to model populations of dozens of bat species based on their habitat requirements.

They found that over the past century, 40 species had relocated to southern China, Laos and Myanmar -- the area where genetic analysis suggests the virus known as SARS-CoV-2 first appeared.

Since each bat species carries an average of 2.7 coronaviruses, the researchers said 100 strains of coronavirus were now concentrated in this "hotspot" area.

"Our paper is a long way away from saying the pandemic would not have happened without climate change," lead author Robert Meyer of Cambridge's zoology department told AFP.

"But I find it difficult to see that this climate-driven increase in bats and bat-borne coronaviruses make something like this less likely to happen."

While the precise chain of SARS-CoV-2 transmission from animals to humans is yet to be determined, Beyer said the changing climate and habitat destruction in Asia had driven virus-carrying species into ever closer contact with human populations.

"It's two sides of a similar coin: we penetrate deeper into their habitat but at the same time climate change can have the effect that it pushes the pathogen in our direction," he said.

- 'Complex risk' -

The study, published in the journal *Science of the Total Environment*, urged governments to take measures including limiting urban expansion and farming, which it said would help to manage the risk of another pandemic of a disease endemic in wild animals.

It also called for greater effort to mitigate climate change to avoid large accumulations of wild species near human habitation.



"The fact that climate change can accelerate the transmission of wildlife pathogens to humans should be an urgent wake-up call to reduce global emissions," said Camilo Mora at the University of Hawaii, who contributed to the research.

Kate Jones, Professor of Ecology and Biodiversity at University College London, said Friday's research was interesting but that the pandemic was a result of a variety of factors.

"Climate change certainly has a role to play in changing species distributions to increase ecological hazard," said Jones, who was not involved in the study.

"However, spillover risk is a complex interplay of not only ecological hazard but human exposure and vulnerability."

Habitat loss, for example, has also been a major driver in pushing wild animal species closer to human populations.



Conflict pollution: Toxic remnants of war

By Amado S. Tolentino, JR.

February 6, 2021

ARMED conflict or wars endanger and damage the environment in ways or forms such as long-lasting chemical pollution on land, maritime and atmospheric pollution; despoliation of land by mines and other dangerous objects; and threats to water supplies and other necessities of life.

Collectively referred to as toxic remnants of war (TRW), these include any toxic or radiological substance resulting from military activities that form a hazard to humans or ecosystems, including long-term health and environmental risks as well as long-lasting environmental degradation caused by abandoned military debris and explosive munition remnants. Military activities in this context encompass operations during peacetime, during or after an armed conflict and during the period of occupation.

Sometime in 1981, when the new field of environmental law was emerging, a United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) consultant articulated for discussion and legal action during the Ad Hoc Meeting of Senior Government Officials Expert in Environmental Law (Montevideo, Uruguay), the problem of radioactive materials remaining from nuclear experiments in the South Pacific's Bikini Islands and the question of material remnants of war, particularly landmines and their effect on the environment as in Cambodia and Vietnam.

After 40 years, the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) adopted by consensus the first ever UN resolution dedicated to health and environmental risks brought about by conflict pollution. Titled "Pollution mitigation and control in areas affected by armed conflict or terrorism" (UNEA Resolution 3/1 in 2018), it finally recognized the need to mitigate and minimize the negative effects of pollution in vulnerable situations and emphasized the need for identification, assessment and remediation of pollution in areas affected by armed conflict or terrorism with the end in view of protecting human health and the environment.

Utilized as background for the novel resolution are not only the remnants of war due to nuclear testing in the Bikini Islands and the use of Agent Orange to eliminate cover for enemy fighters in jungle areas in Vietnam, both of which left a legacy of birth defects and physical disabilities. Other instances include the Kosovo conflict where, reportedly, a fertilizer, oil refinery and petrochemical plant complex in Pancevo was deliberately and repeatedly bombed. NATO claimed that in addition to making products for civilian consumption, the Pancevo complex supplied gasoline and other essential materials to the Serb army and therefore was a legitimate military target. Other concerns during the Kosovo conflict were pollution of the Danube River resulting from the bombing of the industrial facilities; impact of the war on protected natural areas; and the use of depleted uranium shells, land mines and cluster bombs.

Other examples of health and environmental threats of TRW are the contamination caused by the oil well fires and spills from the Gulf War (1991); and the widespread pollution of air, water and soils caused by attacks on Northern Iraq in 2016.

More recent concerns revolve around fears over hazardous industrial waste storage facilities near the frontlines in Ukraine as well as the humanitarian and economic consequences of a catastrophic Red Sea oil spill from the floating storage and offloading platform.

Be that as it may, a distinction should be made between toxic or radiological substance that result from military activities and those of explosive weapons used in military operations. While both necessitate assistance to victims, the source of harm is difficult to ascertain in the former because the effects are constrained by time and geography. Harm from TRWs include physical, physiological or socioeconomic injury and even violation of a victim's human rights. Thus, assistance to TRW victims need to extend to environmental assessments, health monitoring, capacity building for health care and environmental remediation to address the source of harm or injury.



Thus, while humanitarian and disarmament treaties on land mines, cluster munitions and other explosives have created clear frameworks for how those injured by these weapons should be assisted, a parallel framework for those affected by toxic remnants of war is still nowhere to be found. In short, what is missing is an effective victims' assistance program as a framework of shared responsibility among states rather than focusing on blame or legal accountability. The target is a collective commitment towards victims' full and effective participation in society and to help them realize their human rights and not only clear removal of military debris or TRWs.

A recent report from Harvard Law School's International Human Rights Clinic and the Conflict and Environmental Observatory titled *Confronting Conflict Pollution* sought to address the gap through the development of principles that will help to articulate how assistance programs should be designed, formulated and implemented. The foundation of the proposed principles are human rights and environmental law as well as the norms established by humanitarian and disarmament treaties and practices.

In the final analysis, the often-quoted old Martens Clause, which says that where the law of war does not address a particular case, reference should be to the "rule and principles of the law of nations, as they result from the usages established among civilized people from the laws of humanity and the dictates of public conscience," still expects equal application among nations in the 21st century.

06 FEBRUARY 2021, SATURDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

VLOGS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Please click here to watch this video on YouTube


Source:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xoG2bUzvLC0&feature=youtu.be&ab_channel=JUNRIELLLANDER

SANTA ANA
Illegal Na Open Dumpsite Sa Pampanga Ni Raid! | Dentr

1,119 views • Feb 5, 2021

👍 58 💬 1 ➦ SHARE ⌵ SAVE ⋮

 **JUNRIEL LLANDER** ✓
170K subscribers

[#DENR](#) [#JUNRIEL](#) [#PAMPANGA](#)

[SUBSCRIBE](#)



Please click here to watch this video on YouTube

Source: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y_On-NhCS6Q&feature=youtu.be&ab_channel=MelVie

DENR USEC BENNY ANTIPODA NAGALIT SA ILLEGAL DUMPSITE NG STA ANA PAMPANGA

761 views • Feb 5, 2021

30 0 SHARE SAVE ...



Mel Vie
90.5K subscribers

SUBSCRIBE



Please click here to watch this video on YouTube

Source:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=50Qrke9Aps&feature=youtu.be&ab_channel=KaZammyTv

#SantaAnaPampangga #Basurahan #MassiveOperationDENRNCR

PATI ANG ALKALDE PAPANAGUTIN HUMIGIT KUMULANG APAT NA TAON WALANG NANGYARE GINAWA PANG OPEN DUMPSITE

19 views • Feb 5, 2021

1 0 SHARE SAVE ...



Ka Zammy Tv
1.71K subscribers

SUBSCRIBE

#SantaAnaPampangga
#illegalOpenDumpsite
#Basurahan

SHOW MORE



Please click here to watch this video on YouTube

Source:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9FVSC9JivKE&feature=youtu.be&ab_channel=KUYABOKVlogs

BASECO BEACH

Tagumpay na nga ba? Nakaka GOOSEBUMPS ang NANGYARI sa BASECO NGAYON!

1,648 views • Feb 5, 2021

88 1 SHARE SAVE ...



KUYA BOK Vlogs
92.9K subscribers

SUBSCRIBE

#BasecoBeach #Baseco #Manila #ManilaUpdate #BattleForManilaBay #TATAKDuterte #DENR
#MMDA #isko #Yorme



Please click here to watch this video on YouTube





Source:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8pDAoQnQ_ng&feature=youtu.be&ab_channel=enr.berto

#BattleForManilaBay

MANILA BAY SUNOD-SUNOD NA ANG DATING NG BUHANGIN!

4,756 views • Feb 5, 2021

 165  3  SHARE  SAVE ...



enr. berto
140K subscribers

SUBSCRIBE

#BattleForManilaBay



Please click here to watch this video on YouTube

Source:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RnT_76UETXY&feature=youtu.be&ab_channel=enr.berto

WOW MANILA BAY ASUL NA ASUL!

15,794 views • Streamed live 21 hours ago

630 3 SHARE SAVE ...



enr. berto
140K subscribers

SUBSCRIBE



Please click here to watch this video on YouTube


Source:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n892cHhQnCo&feature=youtu.be&ab_channel=locent14

BASECO BEACH
MAY DAPAT SISIHING DITO! IMBIS BASURA ITO MAAABUTAN MO! BASECO BEACH UPDATE | LOCENT14

481 views • Feb 5, 2021

👍 15 💬 1 ➦ SHARE ⌵ SAVE ⋮

 **locent 14**
1.25K subscribers

[SUBSCRIBE](#)

#battleformanilabay #savemanilabay #manilabayupdate #basecobeachupdate



Please click here to watch this video on YouTube

Source:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gmkEK1TOzwU&feature=youtu.be&ab_channel=KHOPARSVLOG

MANILA BAY

TIRADOR NG MGA BAKAL SA MANILA BAY! KALABOSO NG MTPB!

22,295 views • Feb 5, 2021

553 17 SHARE SAVE ...



KHOPARS VLOG
98.2K subscribers

JOIN

SUBSCRIBE

#ManilaBay
#BattleForManilaBay
#SaveManilaBay

SHOW MORE



Please click here to watch this video on YouTube

Source:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mFuEBIzVOEw&feature=youtu.be&ab_channel=JANICELLANDERVlog

#savemotherearth #denrusecantiporda #pampanga

ILLEGAL DUMPSITE STA.ANA PAMPANGA NI RAID | DENR USEC.BENNY ANTIPORDA NANGINIG SA GALIT BKT KAYA?

434 views • Feb 5, 2021

5 1 SHARE SAVE ...



JANICE LLANDER Vlog

438 subscribers

SUBSCRIBE

#savemotherearth #denrusecantiporda #pampanga




Please click here to watch this video on YouTube

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TElRgX7UkkM&feature=youtu.be>

SAN NICOLAS
Grabe ito! BUNDOK na BASURA! Sumalubong kay DENR Usec Benny Antiporda! SARADO!

1,991 views • Feb 5, 2021

👍 96 💬 1 ➦ SHARE ⌵ SAVE ⋮

 **KUYA BOK Vlogs**
92.9K subscribers

[#DENR](#) [#ILLEGALOPENDUMPSITE](#) [#Pampangga](#) [#StaAnaPampangga](#) [#UsecBennyAntiporda](#)

SUBSCRIBE



Please click here to watch this video on YouTube
 Source: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8XLrPvQ-f9Y&feature=youtu.be&ab_channel=KaZammyTv

#SantaAnaPampangga #Basurahan #MassiveOperationDENRNCR

ASAN NA ANG PONDO, PLANONG ECO PARK NAGING MASALIMUOT NA MABAHO AT BULUBONDUKING BASURA (PAMPANGGA)

29 views • Feb 5, 2021

👍 2 💬 0 ➦ SHARE ⌵ SAVE ⋮



Ka Zammy Tv
1.71K subscribers

SUBSCRIBE

#SantaAnaPampangga
 #illegalOpenDumpsite
 #Basurahan

SHOW MORE



Please click here to watch this video on YouTube

Source:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G08RkkeWahg&feature=youtu.be&ab_channel=MelVie

STA ANA PAMPANGA OPEN DUMPSITE PINASARA NA NI USEC BENNY ANTIPORDA

14 views • Feb 6, 2021

👍 2 💬 0 ➦ SHARE ⌵ SAVE ⋮



Mel Vie
90.5K subscribers

SUBSCRIBE



Please click here to watch this video on YouTube

Source:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uafzr1VXWm0&feature=youtu.be&ab_channel=JiNGNoBoundaries

MANILA BAYWALK
MANILA BAY UPDATE TODAY /DOLOMITE SAND PROJECT UPDATE FEBRUARY 5, 2021
 7,548 views • Feb 5, 2021 251 3 SHARE SAVE ...

JiNG No Boundaries
 2.35K subscribers **SUBSCRIBE**

Hi kabayan. Please watch my usual update here at Manila Bay. Godbless and please don't forget to like and subscribe.

SHOW MORE




Please click here to watch this video on YouTube

Source:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uqgB1km8uS0&feature=youtu.be&ab_channel=AlvinTv

MANILA BAYWALK
HULI PERO HINDI KULONG | NAGKABULAGAAN NA | MANILA BAY DOLOMITE SAND PROJECT UPDATE
1,985 views • Streamed live 14 hours ago

👍 130 🗨️ 2 ➦ SHARE ⚙️ SAVE ⋮

 **Alvin Tv**
18.8K subscribers

SUBSCRIBE



Please click here to watch this video on YouTube

Source:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0C7hpKbn6Jw&feature=youtu.be&ab_channel=KUYARONSTV

MANILA
NAGDATINGAN NA HETO NA MANILA BAY BUILD3 REHABILITATION

23,956 views • Feb 5, 2021

587 10 SHARE SAVE ...

KUYA RONS TV
72K subscribers

[#manilabay](#)

SUBSCRIBE



Please click here to watch this video on YouTube

Source:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f5tYMW7m_KA&feature=youtu.be&ab_channel=MYNTv

#manilabay #manilabayupdate #manilaupdate

NAKATAGONG GANDA NG MANILA BAY! BAYWALK!MANILA BAY UPDATE

683 views • Feb 5, 2021

👍 15 🗨️ 1 ➦ SHARE ⚙️ SAVE ...



MYN Tv
26.4K subscribers

JOIN

SUBSCRIBE

#manilabay #manilabayupdate #manilaupdate #baywalk #battleformanilabay #savemanilabay
#buildbuildbuild #duterte #myntv



Please click here to watch this video on YouTube





Source:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bsXvuU1SXaA&feature=youtu.be&ab_channel=VincentTabigue

#Savemanilabay #Battleformanilabay #Manilabayupdate

NAKAKAIYAK NAMAN! ANG GINAWA MO TATAY DIGONG! GALING PANG MINDANAO! NAKAKAHIYA SA NAGDAAN! MANILA BAY

8,841 views • Feb 5, 2021

 410  8  SHARE  SAVE ...



Vincent Tabigue
122K subscribers

JOIN

SUBSCRIBE

#Savemanilabay #Battleformanilabay #Manilabayupdate #DENR #Manilaupdate #Basecobeach
#Tatakduterte #Buildbuildbuildprogram

SHOW MORE



Please click here to watch this video on YouTube

Source:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uR17qOB5jTY&feature=youtu.be&ab_channel=locent14

BASECO BEACH

BATA KITANG KITA ANG PAG BABAGO! ANG GANDA PO NG GINAWA NYA DITO! BASECO BEACH UPDATE | LOCENT14

2 views • Feb 6, 2021

2 0 SHARE SAVE ...



locent 14
1.25K subscribers

SUBSCRIBE

#basecobeachupdate #manilabayupdate #manilaupdate #battleformanilabay #savemanilabay



Please click here to watch this video on YouTube

Source:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tcYItNrxnKI&feature=youtu.be&ab_chann el=KaZammyTv

#DENR #NCRDENR #DENRCentralOfficeManila

KINILABUTAN AKO HABANG INE-EDIT TO!!! MANILA BAY TRANSFORMATION ANONG NANGYAYARI SA MUNDO DENR MMDA

816 views • Feb 5, 2021

👍 9 🗨️ 0 ➦ SHARE ⌵ SAVE ...



Ka Zammy Tv
1.71K subscribers

SUBSCRIBE

👉👉 MAY yt-Cahnnel 👉👉
👉 Ka Zammy Tv 👉

<https://youtube.com/channel/UCGadYvZz...>

SHOW MORE



Please click here to watch this video on YouTube

Source:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ET1_zSRjp34https%3A%2Fyoutu.be%2FR56MZPaBpQ0&feature=youtu.be

Ganito pala Ang Baseco Araw-Araw / Manila Bay update


775 views • Feb 5, 2021

 LIKE  DISLIKE  SHARE  SAVE ...



Kuya Sam
53K subscribers

SUBSCRIBE

Para malaman ang mga Proyekto ng DENR
Bisitahin ang 
<https://www.denr.gov.ph/index.php/new...>

SHOW MORE



Please click here to watch this video on YouTube





Source:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2atGeetBY1I&feature=youtu.be&ab_chann el=VincentTabigue

#Savemanilabay #Battleformanilabay #Manilabayupdate

LIBO LIBONG HALAAN! DUMAGSA! BIYAYA BUMUHOS! TATAY DIGONG! KASALANAN MUNA NAMAN TO! MANILA BAY!

5,058 views • Feb 5, 2021

 172  4  SHARE  SAVE ...



Vincent Tabigue
122K subscribers

JOIN

SUBSCRIBE


#Savemanilabay #Battleformanilabay #Manilabayupdate #DENR #Manilaupdate #Tatak Duterte
#Buildbuildbuildprogram #Basecobeach



Please click here to watch this video on YouTube





Source:


https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TWoG9LgHL30&feature=youtu.be&ab_channel=KHOPARSVLOG

 MANILA BAY

LIVE NOW: ACTUAL NA PAGKUHA NILA NG BAKAL BAGO SILA MAHULI NAGBENTA SA JUNKSHOP! | FEBRUARY 5, 2021

13,811 views • Streamed live 20 hours ago

 437  3  SHARE  SAVE ...

 KHOPARS VLOG
98.2K subscribers

[JOIN](#) [SUBSCRIBE](#)