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# NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



## Cimatu approves dredging of sandbars in Cagayan River

Published December 6, 2020, 6:54 PM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu has approved the dredging of sandbars in 19 priority sites along Cagayan River as one of the immediate solutions to prevent another destructive flooding in Cagayan Valley.



Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu  
(RTVM / FILE PHOTO / MANILA BULLETIN)

“Removing these obstructions is the most immediate measure that should be undertaken to avoid a repeat of massive flooding in the region, particularly the provinces of Cagayan and Isabela,” Cimatu said during a meeting of the members of the Build Back Better Task Force on Dec. 4.

The DENR chief co-chairs the task force with Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Secretary Mark Villar.

Cimatu said the dredging of sandbars “will bring immediate results in terms of improved water flow velocity while medium- and long-term solutions are being laid down.”

He added that among the medium- and long-term solutions being eyed for Cagayan River are construction of flood control dams, installation of revetment structures along its slopes, and reforestation of its watershed and easement areas.

During the meeting, DPWH Undersecretary Roberto Bernardo assured the availability of 35 dredging and excavation equipment for the effort, four of these were already deployed in Tuguegarao City.

Of the 19 sandbars recommended by the DPWH as priority sites for dredging, four are in Alcala town and two each in Tuguegarao City and the towns of Enrile, Solana, Gattaran, Iguig, and Amulung. The municipalities of Aparri, Lallo, and Sto. Nino have one sandbar each.



## Cimatu approves dredging of sandbars in Cagayan River

Collectively, the 19 sandbars can yield a total volume of around 8.1 million cubic meters with a coverage area of 2.7 million square meter or 270 hectares, the DENR said.

“We should already begin removing these sandbars even while awaiting the selection of private contractors to do the dredging of the river,” Cimatu said.

According to DPWH-Unified Project Management Office Engineer Jerry Fano, Cagayan River has an average width of 400 meters.

However, in areas with sandbars, the width averages to only 180 meters. The depth at the mouth of the river in Aparri now stands at three meters to as shallow as one meter in its estuary area, the DENR cited the DPWH report.

The Cagayan River traverses the provinces of Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino, Isabela and Cagayan. Its major tributaries include the Addalam River, Magat River, Ilagan River, Siffu-Mallig River, Dummun River, Pared River, Pinacanauan River, and Chico River.

In the same meeting, Cimatu also called on the need to re-focus anti-illegal logging operations on prevention and detection instead of confiscation.

He pointed out that authorities should regard confiscated illegally cut trees “not as trophies but indications of failures to protect the forests.”



## CIMATU visits boracay as rehab works continue

[Sunday, December 6, 2020](#) [People's Tonight](#)



Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu (middle) checks on the progress of rehabilitation works in Boracay Island, particularly the enforcement of the 25+5-meter beachfront easement rule during his visit to the island on December 2. Cimatu, chair of the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF), assured aid for indigent families affected by the enforcement activities. Also in photo is Boracay Inter-Agency Rehabilitation and Management Group General Manager Natividad Bernardino.



## Dec. 31 deadline for application of agricultural free patent stressed

Published December 6, 2020, 10:47 AM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources reminded Filipino farmers who want to avail themselves of the government's agricultural free patent program that they have only until the end of the month to file their application.



(MANILA BULLETIN FILE PHOTO)

The DENR-Land Management Bureau said Community Environment and Natural Resources Offices (CENROs) nationwide will no longer accept applications beyond the Dec. 31 deadline set under the Republic Act 9176, otherwise known as the Public Land Act of 2002.

The law extended the filing of applications for free patent and judicial confirmation of imperfect and incomplete titles to alienable and disposable lands of public domain, thus, amending Commonwealth Act 141 or the original Public Land Act.

Agricultural free patents are land grants awarded to natural-born Filipino citizens in actual occupation and cultivation for at least 30 years of alienable and disposable lands not more than 12 hectares, and have paid the corresponding real property taxes.

“Our field offices continue to accept agricultural free patent applications to give those who have been cultivating their lots for a long time the chance to have the same titled in their names,” LMB Director Emelyne Talabis said.

Talabis advised applicants to bring the following requirements – duly accomplished application form; tax declaration, Deed of Sale, extrajudicial settlement or waiver of rights; certification from the Municipal Circuit or Regional Trial Court concerned that there is no pending land registration case involving the parcel being applied for; approved survey plan with technical description or Form V37, if covered with isolated survey; certification of status of land from the Land Registration Authority, if the municipality is under cadastral proceedings or if there is an old survey (private and original survey); certification that the land applied for is alienable and disposable; and documentary stamp.



## Dec. 31 deadline for application of agricultural free patent stressed

In a memorandum dated Nov. 23, 2020, DENR Undersecretary for Legal, Administration, Human Resources, and Legislative Affairs Ernesto Adobo Jr. clarified that all subsisting and new applications filed on or before Dec. 31, 2020, shall continue to be processed for the fiscal year 2021.

Adobo said the turn-around time is 110 maximum days as stated under Citizen's Charter No. RO-L-03 titled Application for Free Patent (Agricultural), in compliance with RA 11032 or Ease of Doing Business Act.

After the deadline, Adobo said the regional offices can still process requests for subdivision of lots for titling purposes.

However, he said the agency will resume accepting agricultural free patent applications once the bills seeking to extend or remove the deadline for filing is approved by Congress.

DENR-LMB said those interested can visit the nearest CENRO of the place where the land is located.

They can also contact LMB at telephone number (02) 8255-4362, mobile number at 0927-322-5474, or the official LMB Facebook page.



## DENR urges public to apply for agricultural free patent

December 6, 2020, 12:58 pm



**MANILA** – Filipino farmers who want to avail of the government’s agricultural free patent program have until the end of the month to file their application at all Community Environment and Natural Resources Offices (CENROs) nationwide.

According to the Land Management Bureau (LMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Sunday, CENROs will no longer accept applications beyond the Dec. 31, 2020 deadline set under Republic Act 9176, otherwise known as the Public Land Act of 2002.

The law had extended the filing of applications for free patent and judicial confirmation of imperfect and incomplete titles to alienable and disposable lands of public domain, thus amending Commonwealth Act 141 or the original Public Land Act.

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Talabis said the requirements for the application of agricultural free patents are as follows:

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[December 6, 2020](#) 3 min read

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## Government orders renegotiation of OceanaGold contract

[Louise Maureen Simeon](#) (The Philippine Star) - December 7, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The government seems to continue warming up to the mining industry after President Duterte ordered the renegotiation of the contract of Australian-Canadian mining firm OceanaGold.

The Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) said the Office of the President issued an order to the Philippine negotiating panel to start negotiating with OceanaGold on the terms and condition of its financial and technical assistance agreement (FTAA).

“We wanted to finish the negotiation fast without sacrificing government interests, so that the project can begin to contribute to the economic recovery of the country and most of all the stakeholders of the project,” MGB director Wilfredo Moncano told The STAR.

OceanaGold’s FTAA for its Didipio mine in Nueva Vizcaya expired in June 2019 and it has failed to secure a renewal of its mining contract, and therefore, mine closure was implemented by local authorities.

As of now, 76 percent of its 1,500 workforce have been permanently laid off. Most of its workers are from the local communities of Nueva Vizcaya and Quirino.

OceanaGold confirmed that it has been notified by the OP regarding the renegotiation.

“The OP gave instructions to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Department of Finance to engage with us and renegotiate,” OceanaGold Philippines communications manager Marjorie Idio told The STAR.

“But as to the details, we really haven’t commenced discussions. We were just informed very recently. We are still waiting for further instructions, but we are looking at this in a very positive light,” she said.

The OP earlier found a deficiency based on the Indigenous Peoples’ Rights Act. The first 25 years of OceanaGold was not covered by the IPRA law and the mine area was outside the ancestral domain of the Bugkalot tribe.

However, during its renewal, the tribe also filed an application for expansion, which technically covered the area of OceanaGold.

This dragged the FTAA final renewal of OceanaGold even if it has secured the endorsement from the DENR and MGB since last year.

The President has the final decision on the grant and renewal of an FTAA.

As the industry is placed in a rather better light, the Philippine Mining and Exploration Association (PMEA) emphasized that OceanaGold’s renegotiation is a positive development for the sector.

“This is much better rather than we are in limbo and doing nothing. We are moving forward and we might see Didipio mine contributing substantially next year,” PMEA president Joey Ayson said.



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## Government orders renegotiation of OceanaGold contract

OceanaGold said it would work as quickly and safely as it can to rehire hundreds of workers and restart operations should the FTAA be renewed as it aims to contribute to the country's economic recovery amid the pandemic.

OceanaGold's FTAA covers some 10,000 hectares. Out of that, only 975 hectares have an approved environmental compliance certificate and only 330 hectares are being utilized.

An FTAA is entered into between a contractor and the government for the large-scale exploration, development and utilization of gold, copper, nickel, chromite, lead, zinc and other minerals. It is granted to foreign-owned corporations seeking to operate in the Philippines.

OceanaGold Philippines accounts for one-third of the global business of the company. Its other operations are in New Zealand and the United States.

## Mining downplayed as cause of NVizcaya landslide



By [Leander C. Domingo, TMT](#)  
December 6, 2020

**QUEZON, Nueva Vizcaya:** The Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) in Region 2 (Cagayan Valley) has downplayed reports that the landslide, which claimed 10 lives during the onslaught of Typhoon “Ulysses” (international name: “Vamco”), was due to small-scale mining.

MGB Region 2 Director Mario Ancheta said the landslide near a London-based mining operation was attributed to the saturation of the soil, caused by the excessive water brought by the series of typhoons and not by the small-scale mining.

At least 10 bodies were recovered from a hazard-prone area in the sitio (sub-villages) of Kinalabasa, Bit-ang and Compound in Runruno village near a large-scale mining firm, operated by London-based FCF Minerals Corp., which has a 25-year financial and technical assistance agreement or FTAA with the national government.

According to Ancheta, a geo-hazard assessment and inspection conducted by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the MGB showed that the sitio of Bit-ang, Balcony, Compound and Kinalabasa are highly and critically susceptible to natural hazards such as flooding and landslide.

“Regardless of the mining activity there in Barangay Runruno, the areas where 10 have lost their lives and two others injured have a very high susceptibility to landslides,” Ancheta said.

Engineer Geoffrey Prado of MGB Region 2 noted that in the latter part of 2018 when the MGB conducted a geohazard assessment, they had issued warnings to residents in the area, regarding the dangers that it may cause them.

Prado said the geohazard study also recommended the evacuation of the local government-declared illegal dwellers and settlers as the area has very high susceptibility to natural hazards.

“We had already presented to them the geo-hazard assessment and findings and told residents to vacate the said sub-villages, particularly Bit-Ang, which is mostly highly susceptible to flooding and landslide,” Prado added.

The DENR, led by Executive Director Gwendolyn Bambalan of Region 2, and the MGB also inspected the landslide incident to assess the situation in the affected sub-villages.

Ancheta explained that the landslide during the onslaught of Typhoon “Ulysses” was triggered by the inclement weather conditions, resulting in ground saturation and eventual landslide and “not due to small scale mining activity” as earlier reported.

Meanwhile, some residents have refused to vacate the area, claiming they have not been fully compensated by FCF Minerals Corp. while some families were reportedly unsatisfied with the amount offered to them by the company.



## NAGBAGO NA NGA



December 6, 2020 @ 1:41 PM 17 hours ago

INUTOS na ng lokal na pamahalaan ng Rizal na itigil ang mga quarrying at minahan sa buong lalawigan.

Sa Memorandum Order 2020-01 na pinirmahan noong Nov. 26, 2020 ni Gov. Nini Yanares, pinatitigil na ang quarrying at mga katulad na gawain nito sa mahigit na 39 ektarya sa buong probinsya.

Hiniling din ni gobernadora sa DENR na ipasara at tigilan na rin ang pagmimina at paghuhukay sa mahigit na 4,963 na ektarya.

Kasama raw sa mga dapat ipasara ang mga crushing plant na nag-ooperate.

Inutusan din lahat ng local government units na dapat itigil muna ang mga land development o conversion ng mga lupa para gawing mga subdivision.

Nautusan din ang Philippine National Police ng probinsya na dapat maipatupad nang husto ang kautusan.

Malinaw ang basehan sa utos ng panlalawigang pamahalaan.

Malaking bahagi ng Rizal ang nakapaloob sa Marikina Watershed, at malaki ang papel ng isang “watershed” o tubig-saluran, para makontrol ang baha, pag-apaw ng mga ilog at pagguho ng mga lupa.

At ‘yun na nga ang isang sanhi ng mga sakuna na dulot ng bagyong “Rolly” at “Ulysses”.

Sana nga ay seryosong maipatupad ang kautusan na ito.

Pero ipaaalala lang natin kay gobernadora, na meron ding malaking papel ang provincial government mismo, kung bakit napayagan at nagpatuloy ang mga mining at quarrying sa buong Rizal.



## NAGBAGO NA NGA

Bagaman ang DENR nga ang nagbigay ng mga permit at nakapirma sa mga maraming kontrata ng pagmimina, hindi naman matutuloy ang mga ito, kung hindi pumayag ang local government unit o LGU.

Mapait man ang mga aral na iniwan sa mga nasalanta ng bagyo, kaming mga Rizaleño ay umaasa na hindi na mauulit ang mga bangungot na dala ng nagbabagong-klima.

Nagbago na nga ang realidad at mga buhay natin.

Bagong normal na.

Sana ay kasabay nito ang pagbabago ng pananaw at pamamahala ng ating mga lider.



## NWRB, PCIEERD-DOST NAGSASAGAWA NG MEKANISMO NG WATER PRE-PAID LOADING SYSTEM



December 7, 2020 @ 12:05 AM 6 hours ago

SA paanyaya ng National Water Resources Board na pinamumunuan ni Executive Director Seville David, Jr. ng NWRB, kabilang ang inyong Agarang Serbisyo Lady sa isang zoom meeting.

Sa huling bahagi ng dalawang oras na Focal Group Discussion, tinalakay ang paksa ukol sa pamamahala ng data and information, siyempre pa, kasama ang seguridad sa mga ito at ang research and development na mahalagang bahagi ng reporma pero napag-iiwanan.

Walang problema sa datos ang mga water district dahil awtomatikong ibinabato nila sa LWUA ang mga nakukuha nilang impormasyon sa kanilang mga parokyano.

Hindi lang natin matiyak kung papaano iniingatan ng nasabing ahensya ang mga mahalagang impormasyon lalo pa't mayroon tayong Data Privacy Act sa ating bansa.

Ibinahagi ng Manila Water na mayroon silang mahigpit na information technology system na sumusunod sa mga probisyon ng Data Privacy Act.

Para sa mga regular data, palagian naman ang kanilang pagsusumite ng ulat sa MWSS at sa Manila Bay Coordinating Office (MBCO) ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Kung may pangangailangan ang Kongreso, ibinibigay ito ng kompanya sa pamamagitan ng MWSS dahil ito ang monitoring agency sa kanila.

Pagdating naman sa pananaliksik, mukhang may kahinaan dito pagdating sa water sector at kailangan talaga itong mabigyang-pansin sa pamamagitan ng pondo at mga kagamitan.

Isa sa mga napag-usapang bahagi ng pag-aaral ang pagkakaroon ng prepaid load para sa tubig na katulad ng sa kuryente-load ng energy sector.

Sa ganitong sistema, mawawala na ang buwanang bill at mapapalitan ng loading and reloading para makagamit ng tubig.





## NWRB, PCIEERD-DOST NAGSASAGAWA NG MEKANISMO NG WATER PRE-PAID LOADING SYSTEM

Sa ganitong paraan umano mababawasan ang pagkakaroon ng “bill shock” o pagkagulat sanhi ng napakataas o labis-labis na billing.

Marami ang nakaranas nito matapos ang pagpapatupad ng iba’t ibang community quarantine status.

Sinabi rin ni Engineer Susan Abaño na nakikipagtulungan ang NWRB sa Philippine Council for Industry, Energy and Emerging Technology Research and Development ng Department of Science and Technology para sa mekanismo ng pagsasakatuparan ng water prepaid loading system na malaking kaginhawaan sa pamumuhay ng mga mahihirap sa bansa.

Sana ay maumpisahan na ito para iwas-pila na sa mga sentro ng water utilities at napakagandang inobasyon lalo na sa mga nais makatipid sa kanilang bill na kahit anong gawing pagtitipid ay lumalaki pa rin dahil sa hidden charges.

Dahil nga sa climate change, kakailanganin na talagang dagdagan ang pondo ng NWRB at ng iba pang water agencies para maipasok ang pagsasagawa ng mga research kung hindi ay palagi na lamang tayong aasa sa mga technical grant ng mga institusyon katulad ng World Bank, Asian Development Bank at United Nations agencies.

Sa pagdalo ko sa FGD on Urban and Domestic Water, nakita ko na kakayanin naman na maisaayos ang kabuuang water sector ng bansa, lalo pa’t karamihan naman sa mga ito ay nangangailangan lamang ng “political will”, at kilala naman natin si Pangulong Duterte na bukas sa mga hakbanging makapagpapabago sa isang mahalagang sektor katulad ng tubig.

Sana ay makarating sa kanya na ang usapin ng kalusugan, kalikasan at tubig ay magkasing-bigat na mga bagay na dapat pagtuunan ng pansin para maiwasan ang kinatatakutang pangitain ng mga eksperto — ang magkaroon ng kaguluhan sanhi ng agawan sa water resources gayung malaki pa ang magagawa sa ating kasalukuyang panahon.

Salamat sa NWRB at sa Department of Environmental Science sa pag-imbata sa inyong lingkod at Agarang Serbisyo Lady.

## Cayetano pushes rehab of Laguna Lake

Published December 6, 2020, 12:38 PM

by [Charissa Luci-Atienza](#)

Former House Speaker Taguig-Pateros Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano has appealed to the government to put in its priority list the rehabilitation of Laguna Lake that provides livelihood to millions of Filipinos.



House Speaker Alan Peter Cayetano  
(PCOO / FILE PHOTO / MANILA BULLETIN)

“Nanawagan kami sa ating Pangulo na pansinin nang husto ang Laguna Lake, kasi ‘pag sinabi niya, ang mga Gabinete at lahat gagawa at gagawa ng paraan, pero ‘pag wala sa radar ng Malacañang, minsan nakakalimutan,” Cayetano said on the sidelines of his meeting with the delegation of the Philippine-Hungary Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation and the Department of Trade Industry (DTI) last Dec. 4.

(We appeal to the President to give priority to Laguna Lake. When he gives an order, the Cabinet and everyone else will do everything they can to make it happen. But sometimes they forget if it’s not in Malacañang’s radar)

Laguna Lake is said to be the third biggest lake in Southeast Asia and one of the 10 top living lakes in the world.

“Hindi mo naman masisi dahil sa dami (ng dapat gawin) pero ibig kong sabihin, after the presentation, na more than 15 million people around the lake. Magandang proyekto, and win-win ito, mahirap man mayaman, marginalized fishermen, milyonaryong fishpond owner, bata, matanda, makikinabang sa project na ito,” he added.

(We can’t really blame the government because it has a lot of things to do, but this is a good project and will be a win-win solution for 15 million people – the poor and the rich, marginalized fishermen, millionaire fishpond owners, young and old – they will all benefit from this project.)

The JCEC delegation’s site visit to Mercado del Lago last Dec. 4 was initiated by the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA). The site visit was aimed at discussing the proposed projects on



## Cayetano pushes rehab of Laguna Lake

the rehabilitation of Laguna Lake and the provision of compact water treatment units for disaster relief operations.

Last October, the Hungarian government “proposed” \$30-million worth of assistance to the Philippines for the rehabilitation and water treatment of the Laguna Lake, the biggest lake in the Philippines.

Laguna Rep. Dan Fernandez, who joined the meeting, described the cleanup of the Laguna Lake as “long overdue.”

“We have to put our money where our mouth is, ‘ika nga. Hindi panay salita; gawin ito... So it’s time to also reassess ngayon ano ‘yung mga priority ni Presidente noong 2016, ano ‘yung mga natupad – at marami naman – at ano naman ‘yung mga medyo napag-iwanan. At isa na diyan ang Laguna Lake,” he said.

(We have to put our money where our mouth is, so to speak. Enough talk, this has to be done. It’s also time to reassess the priorities the President laid down in (his State-of-the-Nation Address) in 2016 – what has been accomplished and what has been left behind. One of these is Laguna Lake)

“Alam kong panahon ng COVID, alam kong marami tayong mga priority, pero kung titingnan mo, Laguna Lake alone, 13,000 fisherfolks and around the Laguna Lake, more than 10 million Filipinos,” he added.

(I know we are in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic, and I know we have many other priorities, but if you think about it, Laguna Lake alone has 13,000 fisherfolk, and around Laguna Lake there are more than 10 million Filipinos)

Aside from Cayetano and Fernandez, the meeting was attended by Hungarian Ambassador Titanilla Tóth, Philippine-Hungary JCEC co-chair István Joó, Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Undersecretary and Philippine-Hungary JCEC co-chair Dr. Ceferino S. Rodolfo, and Hungary’s Water Technology Corp. CEO Adrian Kiss, and LLDA General Manager Joey C. Medina.

Cayetano said the government should not only focus on lives and health, but also give due attention to livelihood.

“Ang pagi-invest naman kasi dito (Laguna Lake) ay hindi tapon ng pera eh, investment talaga. Babalik ‘yan sa eco-tourism, sa fisheries,” the former House Speaker said.

(Let’s focus on lives and health, but let us also give attention to livelihood. We aren’t throwing money in investing in Laguna Lake. It will come back in terms of eco-tourism and fisheries)

## PHL, Hungary sign deals to pursue water management, food projects

December 6, 2020 | 6:46 pm



### PHILSTAR

THE PHILIPPINES and Hungary have zeroed in on water management and food as areas for potential cooperation, the Trade department said following a meeting between the two countries' trade representatives.

The second session of the Philippine-Hungarian Joint Commission on Economic Cooperation was held in Makati City last week, where memoranda of understanding and cooperation on food safety and water technology were signed.

The two sides, represented by Trade Undersecretary Ceferino S. Rodolfo and Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Deputy State Secretary for Export Development István Joó, discussed prospective investment projects.

"The Hungarian side is ready for cooperation on water management between the appropriate ministries and institutions with special regard to exchange of information and experience," the Trade department said in a statement Sunday.

They highlighted integrated river basin management and wastewater management to address climate change effects on water, including drought. They also discussed flood management, water resource management, and water-related education.

The agreements included potential cooperation between the Hungarian Water Technology Corp. Ltd. and the National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council as well as the Laguna Lake Development Authority.

The trade representatives also discussed agriculture cooperation, including animal husbandry and rice and crop biotechnology research.

Mr. Rodolfo said that talks will help build towards a potential free trade agreement (FTA) with the European Union.



## PHL, Hungary sign deals to pursue water management, food projects

“We hope to foster synergies based on each other’s strengths and our shared interests in a number of areas such as manufacturing because we see Hungary as a source of innovation-driven products. We invite Hungarian companies to use the Philippines as their base for expanding their operations in Southeast Asia,” he said.

The first round of FTA negotiations were held in May 2016. An EU-ASEAN Business Sentiment Survey last year said that enthusiasm from businesses on the potential trade deal have waned since talks stalled.

The Philippines presented opportunities for collaboration in pharmaceuticals, personal protective equipment manufacturing, and medical device production.

The two parties also discussed potential cooperation in transportation, information and communication technology, energy, and vocational education.

The first session of the Joint Commission on Economic Cooperation was held in April last year. The parties plan to hold the third session in Budapest. — **Jenina P. Ibañez**



#manilaupdate #yorme #iskomorenodomagoso

### Ngayon lang Ulit may Natagpuan sa Manila Bay

613 views · 5 Dec 2020

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**MANILA BAY  
UPDATE 12-06-2020**

**GA-BUNDOK NA BUHANGIN SA  
DOLOMITE SAND AREA**

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## 3 barko sumadsad sa Cagayan, inireklamo sa oil spill

### PROVINCIAL

On Dec 6, 2020



Cagayan – Inirereklamo ng Local Government Unit ng Ballesteros dito sa lalawigan ang tatlong sumadsad na barko na nagdulot ng oil spill sa bahagi ng karagatan ng nasabing bayan.

Pero ayon kay Edwin Buendia, detailed quarry chief ng Provincial Natural Resources and Environment Office (PNREO)-Cagayan, walang nangyayaring oil spill at black sand mining sa bayan ng Ballesteros matapos tangayin ng malalakas na alon ang tatlong barko sa lugar.

Ayon kay Buendia, ang tatlong barko na MV Nanyang 7, MV Nanyang 168 at MV Seaford 13 ay orihinal na nasa bayan ng Aparri ngunit natangay ng malalakas na alon nang manalasa ang bagyong Ulysses sa bansa nitong nagdaang linggo at napadpad sa bayan ng Ballesteros.

Sa panayam kay CENRO Ilarde Viernes ng Aparri sa kanilang pag-inspeksyon sa lugar, sinabi niya na posibleng galing sa mga tumaob na drum sa kasagsagan ng bagyong Ulysses na pinagbasyuhan ng langis ang sinasabing oil spill.

May nakita silang lumutang na langis o oil spill ngunit bahagya lamang at ito’y kanila nang nasipsip at nataboy sa gitna ng karagatan.

Ang mga naturang barko ang nabigyan ng permit mula sa Department Of Public Works and highways (DPWH) na magsagawa ng dredging sa Cagayan River.

Kaugnay nito, sinabi ni Buendia na kanyang inirekomenda sa opisina ni Governor Manuel Mamba na muling hilain ang MV Nanyang 168 at MV Seaford 13 sa bayan ng Aparri habang ang MV Nanyang 7 ay magpapadala ng sulat sa kumpanyang nagmamay-ari ng barko na kung maari ay tanggalin na lahat ng langis sa barko dahil ito’y nakatagilid na at hindi na maaring hilain. Bagamat may isang crew ang mga nasabing barko na nasa pampang ay hindi naman sila magkaintindihan dahil hindi marunong mag-english o magtagalog ang Chinese.

Hinimok naman ang Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources at Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) na magsagawa ng pagsusuri sa tubig-dagat sa lugar para mabigyan ng solusyon ang unang naging problema ng mga mangingisda lalo na ang mga nangunguha ng “Gakka”, isang uri ng sea shell na lasang langis umano ang kanilang mga nakukuha. – REY VELASCO



## Residents rescue injured red-backed sea eagle in Ilocos Norte

By Leilanie Adriano December 6, 2020, 12:35 pm



**INJURED RAPTOR.** An injured young brahminy kite eagle found and rescued by two teenage boys near a river in Sarrat, Ilocos Norte on Saturday (Dec. 5, 2020). A police officer brought the raptor to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources office in Laoag City. *(Photo by Leilanie G. Adriano)*

**LAOAG CITY** – A wounded brahminy kite (*Haliastur indus*) or red-backed sea eagle that was rescued on Saturday near the Padsan River in Barangay San Antonio, Sarrat, Ilocos Norte is now under the custody of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) office here for safekeeping.

According to Eugene Santos, head of the Wildlife Division of the DENR, the stray raptor will be turned over to the Fort Ilocandia Bird Sanctuary on Monday.

While strolling by the river at around 3 p.m. on Saturday, Dyrel Navales and James Lorens Pinuela, both 16 years old and residents of the said village, saw the stray raptor that appeared to be weak.

“It’s our first time to see a bird like that. Because it was not moving, we managed to get closer and we found out he couldn’t fly because his right wing was broken,” Navales said in an interview with the Philippine News Agency on Saturday.

Worried that the bird would die without proper treatment, the boys informed their friends and posted the bird’s condition on social media, hoping it would reach concerned government authorities.

After learning about the discovery of the injured raptor, Police Senior M/Sgt. Noel Abad, who happened to be near the area that time after leading a tree-planting activity, volunteered to pick up the bird and delivered it to the DENR office in this city.

Based on their inspection of the raptor’s features, local authorities established that it was a “young brahminy kite.”



## Residents rescue injured red-backed sea eagle in Ilocos Norte

The Fort Ilocandia bird sanctuary is the only wildlife rescue center in Ilocos Norte, which seeks to secure, protect and rehabilitate all wildlife species, such as those that are turned over, abandoned, surrendered or confiscated in the province.

The DENR reminded the public not to capture any wildlife species if they are in good condition and let them live in their natural habitat. But if they are injured, they must be turned over to the nearest DENR office to ensure their well-being. **(PNA)**



## In Photos: Night heron, 4 pythons turned over to DENR-7

By: Doris C. Bongcac - Editor/CDN Digital|December 06,2020 - 12:29 PM

MANDAUE CITY, Cebu – A night heron and four reticulated pythons were recently turned over to the Central Visayas office of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

In an advisory, [DENR Central Visayas](#) said that the animals were received by Reginaldo Bueno, a biologist at their Conservation and Development Division.

The Rufous Night Heron, the advisory said, was rescued and turned over by a resident of Canangcaan in Mandaue City.

A Rufous Night Heron is a nocturnal bird, feeding primarily at night. It is said to be partially migratory, depending on the persistence of suitable feeding and nesting conditions.

The pythons, on the other hand, were rescued in Cebu City and were turned over by the City Disaster Reduction Risk Management Office (CDRRMO) led by its OIC chief Ramil Ayuman.

“The rescued wildlife species are now sheltered in the Regional Wildlife Rescue Center for safekeeping and monitoring for its health or injury before releasing it back to the wilds,” the DENR-7 advisory reads.

Photos below are courtesy of [DENR Central Visayas](#):



Read more: <https://cebudailynews.inquirer.net/353768/in-photos-night-heron-4-pythons-turned-over-to-denr-7#ixzz6fslxUyYh>

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## Coastal cleanup yields 41.6 tons of garbage

By [Caecent No-ot Magsumbol](#)(The Freeman)

- December 7, 2020 - 12:00am



Employees of the Cebu City government take part in a clean-up drive on December 5, 2020.  
Joy Torrejos

CEBU, Philippines — The Cebu City coastal cleanup drive during the International Volunteer Day last Saturday has collected 41.6 tons of garbage from the rivers and coastal areas.

“Recent tragedies have reminded us the importance of protecting our environment, which is one of the cornerstones of my governance,” Mayor Edgardo Labella said in his Facebook after the event.

Labella vowed to continue this kind of initiative for the environment.

“More than just looking out for our own interest, protecting our environment is also preserving the future for the generation that will come after us. It is our duty as stewards of this earth,” added Labella.

Vice Mayor Michael Rama, who had been inviting volunteers for this activity, echoed Labella's statement saying there is a need to take care of the environment as it is the only jewel one can give to the next generation.

Councilor Joel Garganera, the chairman of the environment committee of the city council, said the volume of garbage seen and collected reflects one's behavior and likens it with the Covid-19 cases.

“Daghang basura, tungod ra sad na nato. Just like in Covid, transmission is also due to human behavior. If we take care of ourselves, then by doing so, we are also taking care of others and the environment as well,” said Garganera.

The clean-up drive had the support of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources 7 and other groups.

Despite the pandemic, the city government has able to do at least three clean-up drives this year.

The clean-up drives were done in nine sites which include the coastal areas of Pasil, Ermita, Sawang Calero, the South Road Properties, Mambaling, Mahiga River, Tejero, Kawit Island and the Shell Island. — **GMR (FREEMAN)**



## 3 women nabbed for selling agarwood in Leyte

[RONALD O. REYES](#)

December 6, 2020

THREE women were arrested after they allegedly sold Agarwood wedges, locally known as “Lanete/ Lapnisan,” to an undercover police operative in Abuyog, Leyte Friday, December 4, 2020.

Police said the suspects, aged 45, 40 and 28, were residents of Barangay New Taligue, Abuyog.

Two of the suspects are housewives while the other is self-employed, police said.

Recovered from suspects' possession and control were Agarwood wedges weighing more or less 1.2 kilograms with an estimated market value of P70,000, and boodle money composed of 50 pieces of P1,000 bills and one original P1,000 bill with serial number K791284 used in the entrapment operation.

The arrested suspects were brought to Abuyog Municipal Police Station for proper documentation.

Police also coordinated with the Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office in Abuyog for the identification of the recovered wood species.

The entrapment operation was conducted by elements of Regional Special Operations Group-Eastern Visayas led by Executive Master Sergeant Jobert Panaguiton, 805th Company of the Regional Mobile Force Battalion led by Captain Mark Don Alfred Leanza, Leyte Police Provincial Office-Provincial Intelligence Unit led by Major Dinvir Revita, and Abuyog Municipal Police Station led by Captain Antonio Angcay Jr.

The suspects will be facing charges for violation of section 77 of President Decree 705, or the Forestry Reform Code of the Philippines and violation of Republic Act 9147, otherwise known as the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) earlier said trafficking of agarwood caused “indiscriminate cutting” of Lanete and Lapnisan trees, which are included in the national list of threatened plants and wildlife species in the country.

According to the DENR, high-quality agarwood, which is used in perfume and incense, could value as much as P300,000 to P350,000 per kilo. **(SunStar Philippines)**



## Conversion of mangrove to fishpond



By [Persida Acosta](#)  
December 7, 2020

Dear PAO,

*I am a fisherman in our town, and I have a fishpond near a mangrove. I am thinking of converting the mangrove into another fishpond since it no longer has productive use. Can I legally carry out what I am planning to do?*

*Salvatore*

Dear Salvatore,

The law that addresses your situation is Section 94 of Republic Act 8550, otherwise known as the “Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998”:

“SECTION 94. Conversion of Mangroves. — It shall be unlawful for any person to convert mangroves into fishponds or for any other purposes.

“Violation of the provision of this section shall be punished by imprisonment of six (6) years and one (1) day to twelve (12) years and/or a fine of Eighty thousand pesos (P80,000.00): Provided, That if the area requires rehabilitation or restoration as determined by the court, the offender should also be required to restore or compensate for the restoration of the damage.”

It is clear from the provision cited above that it is unlawful for any person to convert mangroves into fishponds or any other purposes, and the commission thereof may subject the offender to an imprisonment or fine or both, at the discretion of the court. Hence, in your case, your plan of converting the mangrove into another fishpond is illegal.

We hope that we were able to answer your queries. This advice is based solely on the facts you have narrated and our appreciation of the same. Our opinion may vary when other facts are changed or elaborated.

*Editor’s note: Dear PAO is a daily column of the Public Attorney’s Office. Questions for Chief Acosta may be sent to [dearpao@manilatimes.net](mailto:dearpao@manilatimes.net)*





## 1st offshore mining to start next year

By [Jed Macapagal](#)

-December 7, 2020

The country's first large-scale offshore mining operation is set to start in January.

The project, which will extract magnetite iron reserves in the seabed of Gonzaga, Cagayan, is being jointly developed by JDVC Resources Corp., a subsidiary of publicly-listed company Apollo Global Capital and food entrepreneur, Frank Lao of the Choi Garden restaurant group.

The project involves a total mineral deposits of 512 million metric tons and a mining life of up to 47 years.

In a statement, JDVC said it has secured the full range of required mining, environmental and export licenses and permits from the government.

"Under a mine consortium agreement with JDVC, he (Lao) acquired two deep-sea mining vessels with a net capacity of 10,000 tons per day. The ships are expected to arrive in January, joining another vessel already deployed by JDVC over its offshore mining tenement miles away from the town of Gonzaga, Cagayan," the company said.

JDVC's extraction of iron ores would require siphon vessels with magnetic separator and processing apparatuses on board which would not cause any hazard to the environment.

Magnetite is an iron-oxide mineral used to make steel and other products and mainly shipped to China.

The company said investments for the project will reach \$10 to \$15 million (P480 to P720 million).

Under its Mineral Production Sharing Agreement with the government, JDVC is allowed to mine within an area of 1,902.59 hectares located 14 kilometers offshore from Gonzaga.



## Nickel Asia steps up aid amid COVID



Published 4 hours ago  
on December 7, 2020 02:30 AM  
By [TDT @tribunephil](#)



Mining firm Nickel Asia Corp. (NAC) has stepped up efforts to help mitigate the effects of the economic slowdown in areas where they operate.

In Surigao del Norte, construction is underway for a molecular laboratory which is aimed at boosting pandemic response through faster diagnostic results which made local officials optimistic on the rapid identification of infected patients and faster contact tracing to limit the contagion.

Surigao del Norte assistant provincial administrator Sim Castrence said the laboratory's construction in Surigao City started last month.

"Governor Francisco Matugas has urged the mining companies to help build the molecular laboratory in the province to boost our fight against Covid-19," Castrence said.

Nickel Asia joined hands with Taganito HPAL Nickel Corp (THPAL) to establish the P28-million molecular testing laboratory (MTL).

The MTL has the capacity to process at least 2,000 samples using the reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) method.

NAC-TMC is one with the province of Surigao del Norte in helping our schools become back-to-school ready.

Roberto Parada of the provincial information office of Surigao del Norte said the laboratory will have the capacity to process at least 2,000 specimens per day.

Castrence said the MTL is being built on a 2,000-square meter property of the Surigao State College (SSC) in Barangay Bonifacio, Surigao City.



## Nickel Asia steps up aid amid COVID

“The members of the board of SSC already approved the establishment of the lab through a usufruct agreement with the city government of Surigao and the provincial government of Surigao del Norte,” Castrence said.

Parada said the provincial government has begun the hiring process for the facility’s staff and personnel in anticipation of its operationalization next month.

“The laboratory needs one manager, a laboratory supervisor, eight medical technologists, 12 specimen collectors who are preferably medical technologists and nurses, and four computer encoders,” he said.

### Education gets priority

NAC subsidiary Taganito Mining Corp (TMC) recently turned over some 7,172 workbooks worth P2 million to the provincial government of Surigao del Norte for the use of public schools in the province.

NAC-TMC said the workbooks were handed over to Surigao del Norte Governor Francisco Matugas as part of its Social Development and Management Program.

“NAC-TMC is one with the province of Surigao del Norte in helping our schools become ‘back-to-school ready’”, the mining firm said, adding the school materials will also benefit schools in Siargao Island.

The turnover of workbooks was led by NAC-TMC resident mine manager, Engr. Artemio E. Valeroso. and witnessed by Dr. Nelia Lomosco, the schools division superintendent of the Department of Education in Surigao del Norte.

“We are very happy and very thankful. We sincerely thank the Taganito Mining Corporation for this great donation. This will go a long way. The workbooks will be for the benefit of our learners in the island paradise of Siargao,” Lomosco said.

NAC-TMC is engaged in mining and exporting nickel ore in barangays Hayanggabon, Urbiztondo, Taganito and Cagdianao in the municipality of Claver, Surigao del Norte.

### Sorghum as rice substitute

Another NAC subsidiary, Cagdianao Mining Corporation (CMC), has introduced sorghum as an alternative to rice in Dinagat Islands to ensure food security amid the pandemic.

CMC agriculturist Jessie Dumanig said the company decided to choose sorghum for cultivation among local farmers following the success of a three-month trial run at a rehabilitated mined-out area.

The uncertainty the pandemic has brought to the communities compelled farmers to re-assess their farming techniques.

Dumanig said the 20 kilos of sorghum harvested earlier this month proved that sorghum can be propagated on a lateritic area, where local farmers have difficulty growing rice and other crops because the soil naturally lacks enough nutrients.



## Nickel Asia steps up aid amid COVID

In addition, he said sorghum — currently being promoted by the Mindanao Development Authority because it is cheaper to produce and yields higher profit than other crops, such as corn — is easier to grow and healthier because it contains less sugar.

According to Dumanig, the idea of sorghum cultivation came from CMC environmental manager Phoebe Jean Alac, who started searching for fast-growing crops that are not only fit for the area's soil constraints but are readily available locally.

He noted the company had difficulty obtaining seedlings for the company's demonstration farms when the Covid-19 pandemic was declared in March.

Alac, a marine biologist and environmental planner, said sorghum was a natural choice because it can be planted all year round with less water requirement.

"The uncertainty the pandemic has brought to the communities compelled farmers to re-assess their farming techniques to ensure food security for their family, so the circulation of the seedlings became a bit controlled and were kept in smaller groups.

We had to look for alternatives, and sorghum is perfect," Alac explained.

"We want alternatives to rice and sorghum saved the day. Sorghum is rich in fiber, protein, and calcium," she added.

Engr. Arnilo C. Milaor, CMC resident mine manager, said the company is gearing to promote sorghum and other cash crops for adoption among local farmers after seeing its potentials.

"Especially because of the pandemic, CMC has stepped up its efforts to protect food security by encouraging the people in the mining communities to consider high-value crops. Sorghum is good because it can withstand heat and the dry season plus it is in demand even in international markets so we are promoting this in the communities," Milaor said.

"Sorghum does not need special irrigation, the rain is enough; our only problem is the birds who love to feast on them," Milaor pointed out.

Meanwhile, Dumanig said that as part of the company's five-year agroforestry initiative, local farmers will be trained on "calendar farming."

"Basically, it means farmers would shift from being supply-oriented to demand-driven, planting and harvest will be paced accordingly to ensure the continuous supply of agricultural produce. Plus, there will be income from other crops because the soil is healthy enough to yield the entire year," Dumanig said.

CMC, an affiliate of Nickel Asia Corporation, is mining export-grade nickel ore in Barangay Valencia in Cagdianao.



## Illegal logger sa Cagayan, timbog!

### PROVINCIAL

On Dec 6, 2020



Cagayan Valley – Bumagsak sa kamay ng mga otoridad ang isang illegal logger na itinuturing na number 10 sa Top Most Wanted Persons sa bayan ng Baggao, Cagayan.

Isinilbi sa akusadong si Jomar Cabaro, 21 anyos, ng Asinga Via, Baggao ang arrest warrant na ipinalabas ni RTC Branch 5 Judge Jezarene Aquino.

Nahaharap si Cabaro sa kasong paglabag sa PD 705, Illegal Logging Law, na isinampa sa sala ng nasabing hukom.

Umaabot sa P30,000 ang itinakdang piyansa ng korte para sa pansamantalang kalayaan ni Cabaro. Ang akusado ay pansamantalang nasa kustodiya ng pulisya para sa kaukulang dukumentasyon bago ipasakamay sa court of origin.(Rey Velasco)



## Mindanao bus firm joins LTFRB-initiated tree-planting in CDO

By Jigger Jerusalem December 6, 2020, 1:36 pm



**ONE SEEDLING PER UNIT.** Workers from the Rural Transit Mindanao Inc. take part in a tree-planting activity in Malasag, Barangay Cugman, Cagayan de Oro, on Saturday (Dec. 5, 2020). The company management has pledged to support the reforestation program of the government. *(Photo courtesy of RTMI)*

**CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY** – One of the biggest bus companies in the country is among the first public transport operators to join the tree-planting activity mandated by the Department of Transportation (DOTr) and the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board-10 (LTFRB-10) in Malasag, Barangay Cugman, this city on Saturday.

Rural Transit Mindanao, Inc. (RTMI) responded to the order of the DOTr that requires public utility vehicle owners to help in the reforestation efforts of the government by planting trees before their franchise application is issued or renewed.

RTMI is one of the subsidiaries of the Yanson Group of Bus Companies (YGBC), among the major bus operators in Southeast Asia with operations all over the country, plying several routes in Mindanao.

Celer Estologa, YGBC legal and media relations manager for Mindanao, said the company management has pledged to support the reforestation program of the government.

He said YGBC is not just complying with the order but is dedicated to contributing to the environmental program of the DOTr.

He said YGBC is mindful of the situation in the country where forest cover has been consistently dwindling, leading to disasters such as flooding and landslide.

“This activity is no longer a requirement but a moral obligation to save mountains from deforestation,” Estologa said.



## Mindanao bus firm joins LTFRB-initiated tree-planting in CDO

Aminoden Guro, LTFRB-10 regional director, said the order was issued by DOTr Secretary Arthur Tugade following the devastation brought by typhoons that battered the Philippines recently.

Through memorandum circular 2020-076, Guro said it is now mandatory for all PUV operators who want to apply for or renew their franchise to plant trees.

He said LTFRB-10 has coordinated with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, who will provide the seedlings, and the local environmental offices in cities, towns, and provinces, who will identify the areas for tree-planting.

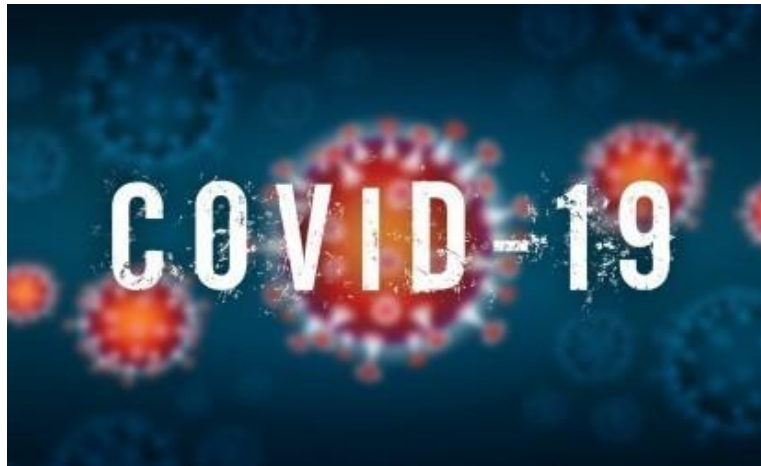
“We will not entertain franchise application or renewal of PUV cooperatives or corporations if the DENR or local environmental offices will not give them a certification that they have planted trees or mangroves in their area,” Guro said.

He said PUV operators are required to plant one seedling per unit of their fleet. **(PNA)**



## DOH records 92.9% Covid-19 recovery rate

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor December 6, 2020, 7:18 pm



**MANILA** – The Department of Health (DOH) on Sunday said 92.9 percent of those who tested positive for the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) have recovered.

In its latest bulletin, the DOH said the country logged 9,062 new recoveries, pushing the total number of recovered cases to 408,634.

It also reported 1,768 new confirmed cases and 29 new deaths.

These figures brought the overall tally of active cases to 22,646 and the death toll to 8,554.

Of the active cases, the DOH said about 84.2 percent are mild, 6.2 percent are asymptomatic, 3.1 percent are severe, 0.34 percent are moderate, and 6.1 percent are in critical condition.

Quezon City topped the list of places that logged the most number of new cases with 112 infections.

It was followed by Laguna with 94, Rizal with 90, Davao City with 71, and Benguet with 69.

"Three duplicates were removed from the total case count, of these, one was a death case. Moreover, 10 cases previously tagged as recovered were reclassified as deaths," DOH said.

A DOH data on Dec. 5 showed that 1,100 or 4.6 percent of 23,871 who were tested turned out positive for Covid-19.

The DOH also said it has 21,300-bed capacity dedicated to patients with Covid-19.

Available are 59 percent of 1,900 intensive care unit beds, 62 percent of 13,500 isolation beds, and 72 percent of 5,900 ward beds.

About 81 percent of 2,000 ventilators are available for Covid-19 patients' use. *(PNA)*





## PH posts 1,768 new COVID-19 cases as tally approaches 440,000

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Dec 6, 2020 4:08:52 PM



**Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, December 6)** — Coronavirus cases in the Philippines climbed by 1,768 on Sunday, with the nationwide tally reaching 439,834, the Department of Health reported.

The latest count, however, still excludes data from 12 testing laboratories which failed to submit their results on time.

The case bulletin showed Quezon City recorded the highest increase in infections nationwide with 112, followed by Laguna with 94, Rizal with 90, Davao City with 71, and Benguet with 69.

Recoveries also jumped to 408,634 as the DOH announced that 9,062 more patients were cleared of the virus. Twenty-nine new fatalities were also confirmed, which raised the death toll to 8,554.

These mean the number of currently ill patients in the country now stands at 22,646 or 5.1% of the total infected.

After final validation, the DOH said 10 cases mistakenly reported as recoveries also turned out to be deaths, while three duplicates were removed from the overall tally, including one death.

According to the department's COVID-19 tracker, infections in Metro Manila have breached 200,000, which accounts for 45% of the national case count. The top two contributing areas nationwide are located in the region: Quezon City which has logged nearly 37,000 infected residents since the start of the pandemic, and the City of Manila which has over 25,000.

Metro Manila remains under general community quarantine until year-end as authorities and health experts feared a renewed wave of cases if restrictions are eased this holiday season. Also under GCQ until Dec. 31 are Batangas, Iloilo City, Tacloban City, Lanao del Sur, Iligan, Davao City, and Davao del Norte.



## HIGIT P5-T NATIONAL BUDGET TARGET NG DBM

written by [Lyn Aurora Legarteja](#) December 7, 2020



Posibleng umabot sa mahigit P5-T ang panukalang pondo para sa taong 2022, ayon sa Department of Budget and Management (DBM).

Ayon kay DBM Secretary Wendel Avisado, ganito kalaki ang kanilang target upang matustusan ang mga proyekto ng pamahalaan sa 2022 at kasabay narin ng pagbangon ng ekonomiya.

Paliwanag ni avisado, inaasahan kasi nilang makakabawi na ng 6.5 hanggang 7.5% ang Gross Domestic Product (GDP) sa 2021.

Magugunitang bumaba sa -8.5 —9.5% ang target na paglago ng ekonomiya ngayong taon bunsod ng pandemyang COVID-19.



## ESTUDYANTENG PINOY KULELAT PA RIN SA READING, WRITING, MATH



December 7, 2020 @ 12:10 AM 6 hours ago

DALAWANG beses nang natagpuan ang pagiging kulelat ng mga estudyanteng Pinoy pagdating sa pagbasa, pagsulat at pagkwenta.

Noong ginanap ang 2018 Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) ng Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), pinakamababa ang Pilipinas sa 79 bansa sa ranggo ng mga estudyanteng 15 anyos sa usapin ng pagbabasa.

Nito namang nakaraang taon o 2019, nagsagawa ang Southeast Asia Primary Learning Metrics (SEA-PLM) ng pag-aaral at kabilang pa rin sa may pinakamababang ranggo ang estudyanteng Pinoy, partikular sa hanay ng Grade 5.

Isinagawa naman ang pag-aaral ng Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization na sinalihan ng anim na bansa mula sa 10 bansang bumubuo ng Southeast Asia, kabilang na ang Pilipinas.

### SA SEA-PLM

Paninindigan ka ng balahibo sa natagpuan ng SEA-PLM na 10 lang sa bawat 100 estudyanteng Pinoy ang pupwedeng pumasa o umakyat sa high school kung pagbabasa ang pag-uusapan.

'Yun bang === 10 lang ang nakaiintindi ng kanilang binabasa at sila lang ang pupwedeng magpatuloy sa high school.

Meron namang 27 porsyento ang medyo nakaiintindi pero hindi pa rin pupwede sa high school.

Pero pinakamatindi sa mga Pinoy ang kahinaan sa pagsusulat na roon nila inilalabas ang kanilang nalalaman dahil isa lang sa bawat 100 ang may pasadong kakayahan.



## ESTUDYANTENG PINOY KULELAT PA RIN SA READING, WRITING, MATH

Sa ibang salita, mga Bro, sasakit ang ulo mo sa pag-intindi sa mga sinusulat ng Grade 5, kasama na ang paggamit ng tamang salita, daloy ng paglalatag ng kaisipan at iba pa.

Mahina rin sa math ang mga mahal nating anak.

### SHARING NG AKLAT

May natagpuang isang malaking dahilan na nagbubunga ng kabobohan ng ating Grade 5 na ang antas umano ng kaalaman ay sabihin nating parang sa Grade 1 at 2 lang kumpara sa mga estudyante sa Vietnam at Malaysia.

Hindi kumpleto ang libro at lalong kulang ang libro kumpara sa bilang ng mga estudyante.

‘Yun bang ==- kung may dalawa o higit pang bata ang gumagamit ng isang aklat, diyan na magsisimula ang kabobohan.

Kaya naman, ang mga batang may sariling aklat ay tiyak na malayong mas matalino kaysa sa mga nage-sharing.

Teka, hindi ba sinasabi ngayon ng Department of Education na magsi-share na lang ang mga estudyante sa mga module sa mga eskwela na kulang na kulang ang nagagawang module?

Saan ito pupunta?

Ang sabi, ginamit naman ang karaniwang mga lengguwahe sa Pinas sa mga test na isinagawa pero palpak pa rin ang mahigit 6,083 batang Pinoy na pinasali.

### SA PISA

Noong 2018 na isinagawa ang PISA, napakamot na lang sa ulo ang ULTIMATUM nang malamang ang mga 15-year old estudyante natin ay pang-79 sa mga estudyante mula sa 79 bansa sa pagbasa.

At pang-78 naman tayo sa math at science.

May natagpuan na dahilan ang PISA-OECD: Kung galing ka sa mahirap na pamilya, malamang na mas kabobohan ang sasapitin mo kumpara sa galing sa mayamang pamilya.

Hindi kaya nauugat pa rin ang dahilan sa kahirapan?

Malinaw na malinaw kasi na kung kumpleto ang libro o bawat estudyante ay may sarili, higit siyang matututo kaysa maki-share sa iisang aklat.

Time is of the essence, sabi nila at kung iisipin ito, ang katanungan, eh, kailan mahahawakan ng pangalawa o pangatlong estudyante ang aklat kung naghihiraman ang mga ito?

Ang estudyanteng may dala-dalang sariling aklat ay makapagbubuklat at makapag-aaral anomang oras kaya naman, mas madaling matuto ito.



## ESTUDYANTENG PINOY KULELAT PA RIN SA READING, WRITING, MATH

### MGA TEACHER BOBO RIN?

Pero may napakahalagang usapin sa kabobohan ng ating mga kabataan.

Lumalabas na maraming mahihina ring titser.

Kung mahina sina ma'am at sir, hindi ba mahina rin ang estudyante?

Napag-alaman kasing hindi lang ang mga estudyante ang isinasalang sa pagsusuri kundi maging ang mga titser.

Isa pa, may malaki ring depekto umano ang sistema mismo ng edukasyon.

Lumalabas na ang programang pang-edukasyon natin ay hindi akma sa umiiral na mga sistemang pang-edukasyon sa mga panahong ito...kung ikumpara natin sa mga pinaiiral ng iba.

Ano-ano nga ba dapat ang mga programa ng DepEd?

Ang sabi ng DepEd sa paglabas ng resulta ng mga pagsusuri ng SEA-PLM at PISA, kaya umano sumasali ang DepEd sa mga pagsusuring ito ay upang malaman natin ang ating mga kahinaan at mapalakas ang mga ito at ang mga mali ay ating maiwasto.

Kung totoo ito, nasaan na ang mga programa ng DepEd para makahabol man lang tayo at kahit maging pasang-awa man lang sa lahat ng mga pamantayan sa pag-akyat sa antas ng edukasyon at kalidad dito?

### SAHOD ITAAS; KORAPSYON GIBAIN

Siguro, malaking bagay kung itaas nang nararapat ang sahod ng mga guro upang hindi sila matukso na hatiin ang kanilang mga oras sa pagtuturo at pagsa-sideline.

Magandang disiplinahin din ang mga matatagpuang matataas na opisyal ng DepEd na higit na inaatupag ang magkaroon ng malaking tipak na parte sa mga pondo sa paggawa ng mga libro, eskwela, pagbili ng mga gadget sa teknolohiya at iba pang mga proyekto sa departamento.

Malaking bagay ring laging nakaagapay ang pamahalaan sa pag-angat sa buhay ng higit na nakararaming pamilyang Pinoy.

At magagawa ito kung mismong ang mga matataas na opisyal ng pamahalaan ay hindi korapin ang mga pondo sa pamamagitan ng pork barrel at iba pa.



## UN commends BOC in fight vs environmental crime

By Cris Angelo Andrade Published on December 6, 2020

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY, Nov. 30 – The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) commended the Bureau of Customs (BOC) Port of Cagayan de Oro for its continued commitment to address the transboundary environmental crime happening worldwide.

In a letter to District Collector John Simon, Dechen Tsering, UNEP Regional Director and Representative for Asia and the Pacific, said they recognize the importance of international collaboration to disrupt environmental crime and advance the protection of the environment and supports cooperation between customs agencies.

The UNEP serves as a secretariat to the Green Customs Initiative (GCI) which is an informal partnership of international organizations cooperating to facilitate the legal trade and prevent illegal trade in environmentally sensitive commodities and substances.

Tsering added that the full cooperation between the Korean government and Philippine government in this case indicates the success of such approach.

Aside from the UNEP, the World Customs Organization through its Deputy Secretary General Ricardo Treviña Chapa also congratulated the BOC on the completion of return of the South Korean waste despite the pandemic.

In a statement, District Collector John Simon said the international recognition has elevated the efforts of the bureau in the area of global anti-smuggling as world-class customs achievement.

“We are just translating our vision which is to be modernized and credible customs administration that is among world’s best,” he said.

After more than two years the BOC successfully re-exported more than 7,500 metric tons of wastes from South Korea illegally imported in Misamis Oriental in July and October 2018.

This is the biggest volume of illegal waste apprehended in the Philippines. (BOC-10)



## Green day: Is a 'greener economy' within the Philippines' reach?

Mikael Angelo S. Francisco

Posted at Dec 06 2020 08:39 AM

As COVID-19 continues to ravage the Philippines, more focus has been devoted to the recovery of its economy, which is projected by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to suffer the sharpest drop in Southeast Asia.

However, the devastating impacts of natural disasters (the most recent example being Typhoon Goni, 2020's strongest storm to date) serve as reminders of the country's vulnerability to human-made climate change.



In the city of Pasig, Metro Manila, a cyclist sashes through flash floods caused by Typhoon Goni. *Photo by Mikael Angelo S. Francisco*

With the recently imposed moratorium on new coal power plants in the Philippines, discussions on the country's move towards a "greener economy" are once again in the spotlight. "While we have initially embraced a technology-neutral policy, our periodic assessment of our country's energy requirements is paving the way for innovative adaptations in our policy direction," said Department of Energy (DOE) Secretary Alfonso Cusi in a recorded speech for Singapore's International Energy Week 2020.

A closer look at the history of green legislation in the Philippines shows that the groundwork for this transition has been laid out across the past two decades. While environment-friendly job opportunities are on the rise, there has been minimal progress in the country's journey towards economic transformation.

The year of 2008 saw the passage of the Renewable Energy Act, which aims to bolster the development of the country's renewable energy resources and systems. Eight years later, then-President Benigno Aquino signed into law Republic Act (RA) 10771, also known as the Philippine Green Jobs Act of 2016, that aimed to help the country move towards a greener economy.

## Green day: Is a ‘greener economy’ within the Philippines’ reach?

The Green Jobs Act laid down provisions and incentives to facilitate the creation of agricultural, industrial, or service jobs that preserve or restore local ecosystems and biodiversity. These jobs will provide secure and sustainable sources of income for Filipino workers.

The act also provided a list of agencies that would develop and administer appropriate standards and technologies for green goods, jobs, and services alongside the Climate Change Commission (CCC).

Labor and economy expert Dr. Rene E. Ofreneo noted that there was a “cluster of environmental laws” passed from 2000 to 2011 that could strengthen the adoption and proliferation of green jobs in the Philippines and the country’s transition to a greener economy. One example is the National Environmental Awareness and Education Act of 2008, which integrates environmental education at all levels.

The problem, however, was the lack of execution. According to Ofreneo, a “bold, radical restructuring of the economy” is needed, alongside the firm implementation of existing environmental laws.

In reality, the Philippine economy continues to be predominantly brown. A year before the Green Jobs Act was signed into law, coal still accounted for 44.5 percent of the country’s total power generation mix. The number rose to 54.6 percent in 2019, according to the DOE.



Despite years of laying the groundwork for a greener economy, the Philippines' energy mix remains predominantly brown. *Photo by Pixabay*

In a recent interview with Mongabay, Gerry Arances, executive director of the Center for Energy, Ecology, and Development (CEED), confirmed that no new coal plants have been constructed in the country since 2017, largely due to resistance at the community level.





## Green day: Is a ‘greener economy’ within the Philippines’ reach?

To date, 28 coal-fired power plants are still in operation in the Philippines. And while the moratorium prevents new coal projects from coming to fruition, 22 proposed plants have already been approved for construction. The completion of these projects will place coal’s role in the Philippines’ energy mix at 53 percent in 2030.

Meanwhile, the COVID-19 pandemic has bared certain uncomfortable realities about the Philippines. Aside from an economic slump partly due to a heavy reliance on BPO industries and overseas remittances, the pandemic also highlighted the connection between poverty and issues on environment and health. This was most evident in the transmission of COVID-19 throughout rural areas, coastal areas, and urban poor communities, most of which lack the proper facilities for water, sanitation, and hygiene.



The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed major socio-economic challenges that inhibit the Philippines' transition to a greener economy. *Photo by Pixabay*

Despite the grim development, there has been a bit of progress made since 2016. Awareness about climate change has increased, with a few businesses adjusting and adopting green jobs.

Furthermore, the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) has already established a technical and vocational hub to equip Filipino workers with essential green skills and ensure a just transition. A green jobs resource development plan from the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) also exists, detailing the steps the country must take from now until 2022. In addition, the proposed Corporate Recovery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises (CREATE) bill aims to promote and incentivize investments in greener energy sources.

Still, as Ofreneo stressed, gaps between policy and implementation must be addressed decisively. “If there is no transformation of industries, society, and communities, nothing will happen.”



## Green day: Is a ‘greener economy’ within the Philippines’ reach?

At this point, only the country’s commitment to just transition and economic transformation - which includes changes in industry and agriculture, stronger environmental preservation, and a more proactive approach to addressing social inequality - will determine if “greener” days truly are ahead.



The only way for the Philippines to achieve true green transformation is to ensure a just transition for workers in mining, coal, and other long-standing industries. *Photo by Pixabay*



## In nod to climate, Asean central banks to boost green financing

By [BusinessMirror](#)  
December 7, 2020

REGIONAL central banks are looking to help address climate change through green financing, incentives and supervisory authority.

In a report released over the weekend, Asean central banks (ACBs)—which include the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP)—are eyeing more involvement and understanding of how central banks can advance the fight against one of the largest threats to economic and financial stability in the region in the coming years.

“As an area of common concern, governors of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations [Asean] central banks and monetary authorities unanimously concurred that the region should come together to better understand what climate and environment-related risks mean for the region and translate this understanding into actions that can be taken up individually and collectively,” the report read.

“Central banks should be in a state of readiness to manage the risks stemming from climate change and environment-related events more proactively to ensure Asean continues to grow and prosper in a sustainable manner, into the far future and for the generations to come,” it added.

The report is a collaborative effort among the Asean central banks and monetary authorities, namely, Autoriti Monetari Brunei Darussalam (AMBD), National Bank of Cambodia (NBC), Bank Indonesia (BI), Bank of the Lao PDR (BOL), Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM), Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS), Bank of Thailand (BOT), Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) and State Bank of Vietnam (SBV).

The report cited a 2019 study of an unmitigated climate-change scenario where all Asean countries are expected to incur severe dents to their GDP [gross domestic product] per capita in 2100, with effects of losses ranging from 0.7 to 8.5 percent. Indonesia and the Philippines are expected to incur the highest losses, beyond the global estimates.

As such, ACBs are looking for ways to nip these losses in the bud and create an environment friendly to green investments.

Among the report’s top recommendations for the region’s central banks include urging central banks to take the lead in working with other domestic government agencies to grow the supply of green or sustainable finance.

Central banks should also consider providing incentives to financial institutions where appropriate and should integrate climate- and environment-related risks in the supervisory assessment framework of banks under their watch, the report said.

Before the pandemic, BSP Governor Benjamin Diokno had his eyes set on paying more attention to disaster- and climate-related incidents in conducting monetary policy in the country.

The BSP is known to extend regulatory relief packages to banks and non-banks in areas affected by typhoons, earthquakes and war to assist in their recovery and allow them to resume normal operations. The BSP has invested \$150 million in the green bond fund launched by the Bank for International Settlements.



## Fighting air pollution: 'Without solidarity the world will be doomed'

Nineteen-year-old Abhiir Bhalla has been campaigning against air pollution in India's capital Delhi, since being diagnosed with bronchitis as a child.

He asked the United Nation's Secretary-General António Guterres what the world can do to ensure cleaner air for all of us.

Published 1 day ago  
Section [BBC News](#)



## Indonesia turns to thrash-tracking satellites to address marine waste

posted December 06, 2020 at 06:55 pm

by [AFP](#)

By Lucie Godeau

Jakarta—Every year, pounding rains wash away mountains of plastic waste from the streets of Jakarta, with some of it ending up as far away as Bali's beaches. So scientists are turning to satellites to trace the rubbish and figure out how to tackle the problem.

Indonesia allows more waste to enter the ocean than any other country apart from China.

The archipelago of nearly 270 million people dumps a whopping 620,000 tons of plastic into its waterways annually, a figure the government says it wants to cut by two-thirds over the next five years.

Scientists hope following the waste's movement will help them understand the full extent of the problem and decide how best to collect it based on seasonal, wind and water current patterns.



This picture taken on October 20, 2020 shows elderly people collecting recycled plastic cups on a boat near Teluk Naga, Tangerang, Banten province. Scientists are turning to satellite technology to trace this mountain of waste and figure out how the world's second-biggest marine waste contributor—second only to China—can tackle the mess. AFP

The World Bank-backed project is a collaboration between a team from Indonesia's maritime affairs ministry and CLS, a subsidiary of France's space agency.

It is an indication of the issue's global importance—today, there is an estimated 150 million tons of plastic circulating in the world's oceans, with more being dumped every minute, according to US-based Ocean Conservancy.

'Still in the ocean'

Since February, the team have deployed satellite beacons at the mouths of rivers around Jakarta, Bandung in Central Java and Palembang on Sumatra island.

"Today we're launching GPS beacons to learn how the plastic debris gets into the sea," says CLS tracking manager Ery Ragaputra, as he tosses a yellow device wrapped in a waterproof cover into the Cisadane river, which empties into the Java Sea near Jakarta.



## Indonesia turns to thrash-tracking satellites to address marine waste

“These trackers will follow where the trash gathers and where it lands.”

Data collected by the beacons, which have a one-year battery life, are transmitted hourly to a satellite that pings the information to CLS headquarters in France, and then back to screens at Indonesia’s maritime affairs ministry.

Initial figures are promising, researchers said.

“Ninety percent of the beacons we have released are beaching after a few hours or a few days, which is relatively good news as it makes it easier for the Indonesian authorities to collect (the rubbish),” said Jean-Baptiste Voisin, director of CLS’s local subsidiary.

“(But) some waste released six months ago is still drifting, so the debris is still in the ocean,” he added.

Among the beacons launched near Jakarta, some have travelled 1,100 kilometers (680 miles) east to the holiday island of Bali, while others from Indonesia’s second-biggest city Surabaya have floated all the way to fragile mangroves in westernmost Sumatra.

The goal is to release up to 70 beacons by the end of next year.

### Migration threat

Cleaning up Indonesia’s waters is an immense challenge and these efforts may take years to bear fruit.

While the capital Jakarta has banned single-use plastics, public awareness remains low and waste recycling is only in its infancy. The vast city’s rivers are a waste-choked eyesore.

Authorities hope that by identifying plastic drift and how it accumulates, they will be able to collect it more efficiently—for example by deploying boats to key rubbish sites or equipping the locations with waste-collecting traps.

They think it will also mean they can better anticipate its impact on the environment.

There are concerns about the impact of ingesting micro-plastics on human health; and plastic waste is a threat to hundreds of marine species and birds.

A sperm whale was found dead in Indonesia two years ago with some 115 plastic cups and 25 plastic bags in its stomach, among the nearly six kilograms (13 pounds) of plastic rubbish discovered in its carcass.

And plastic near Bali is a high risk for turtles migrating across the Java Sea to the island, said Aulia Riza Farhan, the maritime ministry’s deputy director for surveillance and fleet operations.

“The most important thing is to know when the marine debris comes into contact with the migration of marine animals like turtles and whales,” he added.



## €500 million waste management investment hailed as ‘quantum leap’

€500 million investment part of long-term waste management plan to maximise resource value of waste and foster consumer changes on waste production



Last updated on 5 December 2020, 11:44am  
by **Matthew Agius**



Minister Aaron Farrugia addresses the press this morning

Minister for the Environment, Climate Change and Planning, Aaron Farrugia has announced a waste management plan for the next ten years, which includes a half a billion euro infrastructure investment.

Hailed as a ‘quantum leap’ in waste management, the plan lays out 10 key courses of action for the next 10 years.

Farrugia this morning launched the official document which will then be up for public consultation between December 14 and January 18. “6 weeks where we will continue to listen,” he said.

The main objective for the €500 million waste management plan is to “maximise the resource value for waste through holistic waste management solutions, and adopting a collaborative approach whilst fostering behavioural change,” the ministry said.

The document comes after over a year of consultation with stakeholders.



## €500 million waste management investment hailed as ‘quantum leap’

Today we have a high rate of landfilling and a low recycling rate with the second highest per capita waste generation in Europe, Farrugia said, adding that “we must improve our performance.”

“These measures will ensure that Malta makes the much-needed quantum leap in waste management, that includes activities and actions required to manage waste from its inception to its final disposal,” Farrugia said.

**The proposed plan is based on the following ten key courses of action, with measures, amongst others including:**

1. Moving towards a circular economy: Fiscal incentives to promote repair and reuse activities; building of a repair and reuse centre; incentive use of recycled material.
2. Waste prevention: Online swap shops; digital app to publicize best practices and real-time information.
3. Waste separation: Mandatory separation for everyone including commercial outlets; introduction of new bag for separate collection of paper.
4. Waste collection: A move towards a regional approach which will lead to economies of scale; modernisation of fleet; introduction of a national schedule to harmonise collection.
5. Waste treatment infrastructure: ECOHIVE - state of the art plants to drastically decrease reliance on landfilling.
6. Extended producer responsibility: Exploring new EPR systems for disposing oils, tyres and textiles amongst others.
7. Commercial waste: Provision of additional free collections of organic waste; introduction of an eco-label for commercial outlets.
8. Educational campaigns, monitoring and compliance: Recruitment of green champions; increase enforcement to lessen abuses; publicly disclose non-compliant offenders by Government authorities.
9. Data management, research and development: Introducing advanced digital systems and artificial intelligence applications in solid waste management.
10. Stakeholder engagement: Working hand in hand with residents, local councils and regional government, the commercial sector, the industry and relevant government authorities.