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DENR partners with PLDT, Smart to promote awareness on peatlands

By: [Consuelo Marquez](#) - Reporter / [@ConsINQ](#)
[INQUIRER.net](#) / 10:25 PM November 06, 2020



Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu. INQUIRER file photo / LYN RILLON

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Friday partnered with telecommunications giant PLDT Inc. and Smart Communications Inc. to promote public awareness on peatlands in Caraga Region.

The DENR said peatlands are wetlands that consist of “carbon-rich dead and decaying plant matter.” If kept wet, peatlands can store twice as much carbon as all the world’s forests combined.

In a statement, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said peatlands must be highlighted because it would provide potable water, assist in preserving global biodiversity as well as reduce flood risks.

“Peatlands are dubbed as ‘one of the most valuable ecosystems on Earth’ according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature or IUCN because apart from all these uses, they also help mitigate climate change and global warming,” Cimatu also said.

DENR cited notable peatlands in Caraga Region such as Caimpugan Peatland in the Agusan Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary (AMWS) at Agusan del Sur.

DENR said the Caimpugan Peatland is the only remaining intact peat swamp forest nationwide.

The crucial role of [peatlands](#) in mitigating remains largely overlooked, DENR also noted.

The environment agency and PLDT-Smart presented a conversation program on peatlands in a web activity last Nov. 6 to kick off Climate Change Consciousness Week.

Read more: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1357501/denr-partners-with-pldt-smart-to-promote-awareness-on-peatlands-in-caraga#ixzz6d3mCibyO>

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Stars join campaign to help protect peatlands

Published November 6, 2020, 4:45 PM

by [Robert Requintina](#)

Hollywood and local stars have joined the campaign to protect peatlands which are crucial to fight climate change.

“Peatlands are crucial to fight climate change. They are large, often forested swamps that can be found all over the world. They matter for the planet because they actually store twice as much carbon as all the world’s forest together while covering less than three percent of the land surface,” said actor Hollywood star Alec Baldwin in a video clip presented during the joint Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and digital services provider PLDT Inc. (PLDT) and its wireless unit Smart Communications Inc. (Smart) Peatland Conservation virtual press conference this morning, Nov. 6.

Baldwin said: “But peatlands are being degraded and lost at a dramatic pace to the logging, drainage, agriculture and burning. And when they are destroyed they release a massive amount of greenhouse gases and the unique often endangered plants and animals that they housed are lost as well.”



Alec Baldwin

“Peatlands also matter for people because smoke release from peatlands fires is toxic and has the worst impact on the most vulnerable groups – our children and the elderly. We must protect peatlands. Because peatlands matter,” Baldwin added.

Filipino celebrities Derek Ramsay and Pops Fernandez also joined the bandwagon in preserving peatlands. Ramsay and Fernandez, who hosted the event, said that they are willing to learn more about the project and eventually promote peatland conservation.

The DENR — through its Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) — has partnered with digital services provider PLDT Inc. (PLDT) and its wireless unit Smart Communications Inc. (Smart) to help raise awareness on peatlands in the Caraga region.



Stars join campaign to help protect peatlands



Pops Fernandez

DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said peatlands are vital for providing safe drinking water, assisting in preserving global biodiversity, and helping reduce flood risks.

“Peatlands are dubbed ‘one of the most valuable ecosystems on Earth’ according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature or IUCN because apart from all these uses, they also help mitigate climate change and global warming,” Cimatu said.

Peatlands are a type of wetlands whose peat soils consist of carbon-rich dead and decaying plant matter. If kept wet, peatlands can store twice as much carbon as all the world’s forests combined. However, its crucial role in mitigating climate change, as well as the huge costs that arise when these natural carbon sinks are damaged, remains largely overlooked.

The DENR and PLDT-Smart will present the conservation program on peatlands in a web activity that will be held on November 6, 2020 to kick off the Climate Change Consciousness Week in the latter part of the month. Peatlands to be featured in the conservation program will include the Caimpugan Peatland in the Agusan Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary (AMWS).

Located in Agusan del Sur, the Caimpugan Peatland holds the only recorded remaining intact peat swamp forest—the largest of its kind—in the Philippines.

PLDT Chairman and CEO Manuel V. Pangilinan will be the guest of honor for the virtual event.

Ramsar Convention Secretary General Martha Rojas-Urrego will also have a special participation because the AMWS is designated as a Wetland of International Importance by the said inter-governmental treaty on wetlands.

AMWS is also recognized as a Heritage Park by the ASEAN and legislated as a National Park by the Philippine government.



Stars join campaign to help protect peatlands

In July 2020, the DENR thru Assistant Secretary for Climate Change and concurrent Director of BMB Ricardo Calderon and DENR-Caraga Regional Executive Director Hadja Didaw Piang-Brahim signed a memorandum of agreement with PLDT Group Chief Sustainability Officer Chaye Cabal-Revilla, who is also the concurrent PLDT SVP & Group Controller and Smart Chief Finance Officer.

The three-year extendable project to be implemented by PLDT-Smart through its Chief Sustainability Office until 2023 aims to strengthen and support the AMWS-Protected Area Management Office and other concerned DENR offices in implementing peatland conservation and management strategies under the AMWS Management Plan.



PLDT-Smart, DENR partner for peatlands conservation



By [Eireene Jairee Gomez](#)

November 7, 2020

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), through its Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB), has partnered with digital services provider PLDT Inc. (PLDT) and its wireless unit Smart Communications Inc. (Smart) to help raise awareness on peatlands in Region 13 (Caraga).

In a statement, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said peatlands are vital to providing safe drinking water, assist in preserving global biodiversity, and help reduce flood risks.

“Peatlands are dubbed as ‘one of the most valuable ecosystems on Earth’ according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature or IUCN because apart from all these uses, they also help mitigate climate change and global warming,” Cimatu said.

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DENR, PLDT-Smart launch peatlands conservation program

November 6, 2020 | 5:17 pm



The Environment department and its private sector partners PLDT Inc. and Smart Communications Inc. on Friday launched its three-year peatlands conservation program. PLDT, Inc. Chairman and CEO Manny V. Pangilinan (left) and Smart CFO and Chief Sustainability Officer Chaye Cabal-Revilla (right) attended the virtual event. -- Company handout

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and its private sector partners PLDT Inc. and Smart Communications Inc. launched its three-year peatlands conservation program on Friday.

DENR and PLDT-Smart signed a memorandum of agreement in July to conserve and restore the Caimpugan peatland in the Agusan Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary (AMWS).

The three-year extendable project will be implemented by PLDT and Smart's sustainability office until 2023 to support DENR's peatland conservation offices.

DENR in July said that PLDT and Smart will apply technologies for monitoring peatlands and develop a communication program for public awareness.

Environment Assistant Secretary Ricardo L. Calderon said at the Friday event that the department is doing a national inventory because other peatland areas in the country have not yet been discovered.

He said there are two known peatlands in the Philippines so far, including the Leyte Sab-a Basin peatland in Alangalang and Sta. Fe in Leyte and the AMWS in Agusan del Sur.

"The 5,000 hectare Caimpugan peatland holds the record of being the only remaining intact peat swamp forest in the country that stores an estimated 22.9 million tons of carbon dioxide. If we value that resource at \$7 per ton, it's around \$160 million," he said.

"Communication, education, and public awareness should be the vital component of this undertaking."

Peatlands are wetlands that have naturally accumulated carbon-rich decaying plant matter. They cover only three percent of the Earth's land surface.



DENR, PLDT-Smart launch peatlands conservation program

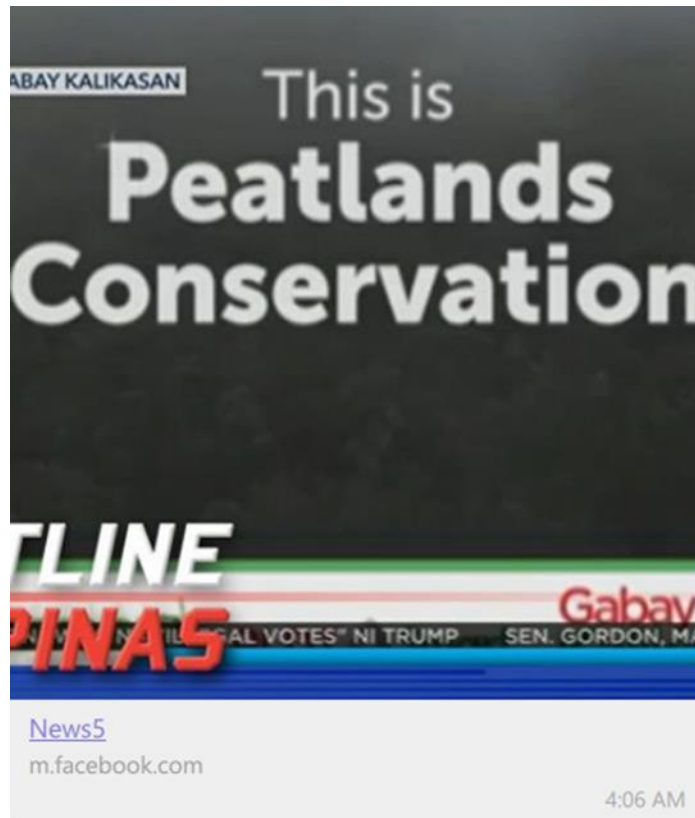
“We wish to assure our partners that PLDT stands here to support a cleaner and brighter future for all of us,” PLDT, Inc. Chairman and CEO Manny V. Pangilinan said.

Hastings Holdings, Inc. — a unit of PLDT Beneficial Trust Fund subsidiary MediaQuest Holdings, Inc. — maintains interest in BusinessWorld through the Philippine Star Group, which it controls.

— **Jenina P. Ibañez**



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PLDT-Smart, tutulong sa preservation ng peatlands sa bansa

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WATCH: Gamit na pang-sukat ng kalidad ng tubig inilatag sa Manila Bay

By Jan Escosio November 06, 2020 - 06:29 PM



Mayroon ng bagong kagamitan ang Pilipinas para malaman ang kalidad ng tubig at ito ay katulad ng nasa bansang Australia at Singapore.

Si Environment Sec. Roy Cimatu ang nanguna sa paglulunsad ng unang water quality monitoring equipment sa bahagi ng Manila Bay sa Pasay City.

Manila Bay water quality monitoring system launched

November 6, 2020 | 7:06 pm

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By **Angelica Y. Yang**

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), in partnership with the SM Group and with support from the Pasay City government, unveiled a water quality monitoring project in Manila Bay on Friday as part of the agency's mandate to rehabilitate the polluted waters.

The program involves land- and marine-based monitoring probes, including seven water quality buoys, that will collect real-time data on the depth, temperature, conductivity, pH levels, dissolved oxygen and turbidity of the bay.

Four buoys are scheduled to be deployed off the Baywalk area, said DENR chief Roy A. Cimatu during the launching ceremony held at the SM By the Bay.

The project is in line with the Supreme Court's order to restore the bay's water quality to "recreational water class 1" or "Class SB" levels.

Coastal and marine waters under the Class SB level are those deemed suitable for bathing, swimming, skin diving, and other forms of contact recreation.

"We have an annual obligation to the Supreme Court on how far we have complied with the mandamus... we can do this by monitoring the waters," the DENR chief said.

Data on the water's various parameters can be viewed in real-time through a cloud-based platform connected to the water quality monitors.

The water quality probes, however, cannot capture other parameters such as fecal coliform level, total suspended solids, oil and grease, and E.coli, among others.

To monitor these factors, the DENR said there will be a monthly sampling and lab analysis of water samples.

Pasay City Mayor Imelda G. Calixto-Rubiano, for her part, said the equipment are important in implementing a scientific method of monitoring.

Meanwhile, Mr. Cimatu, when sought for comment on the controversial use of artificial white sand as part of Manila Bay's rehabilitation, said DENR is "prepared to defend their decision."



ONE News

17 hrs · 🌐

The DENR and SM Prime are set to deploy new water quality monitoring equipment at the Manila Bay today to help in the area's ongoing rehabilitation.



[New water quality monitoring equipment to be deployed at Manila Bay](#)

facebook.com

4:03 PM



Palace tells DENR to address alleged illicit Magat mining

posted November 06, 2020 at 09:15 pm
by [Manila Standard Business](#)

Malacañang Palace ordered Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu to respond to a serious concern raised by a non-government organization over alleged illegal gold mining operations by a wholly-owned British corporation within the protected Magat Watershed in northern Luzon.

The Presidential Complaint Center, in a memorandum dated Oct. 2, 2020, directed Cimatu to reply directly to the complaining parties and furnish the agency with a copy of his rejoinder.

“Expeditious action is requested in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act 11032, otherwise known as the Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act as implemented and enforced by the Anti-Red Tape Authority,” the one-page memo stated.

PCC director Jaime Llaguno Mabilin said “failure to timely respond to the public’s concern shall be a ground for administrative sanctions under existing laws and regulations.”

Lawyer Arnel Victor Valeña earlier lauded President Rodrigo Duterte’s swift action on the environmental and social concerns raised by the Action for Consumerism and Transparency in Nation-Building.

Valeña, acting on behalf of ACTION, called the president’s attention on the Runruno Gold Project being pursued by FCF Minerals Corp. within the 234,824-hectare Magat River Forest Reserve which covers major portions of Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino and Isabela provinces.

Valeña also informed Mines and Geosciences Bureau acting director Wilfredo Moncano of the alleged violations of the country’s mining and environmental laws within the Magat Watershed.

“The documents prove that the Runruno Gold Project is clearly within the Magat Watershed where mining activities are expressly prohibited under the Mining Act of 1995 and the National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 1992,” the ACTION lawyer said in a letter to the MGB chief.

Valeña asked Moncano to immediately issue a cease-and-desist order and revoke FCF’s financial and technical assistance agreement with the government that granted the British company authority to dig for gold in the area.

Valeña said there were apparent gross misrepresentation and errors in documents including sketch maps of Magat Watershed used by the MGB as basis of its grant of mining license to FCF.



Imbestigasyon sa quarrying sa Albay sinimulan na



November 6, 2020 @ 10:53 AM 20 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Sinimulan na ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources ang iniutos ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na imbestigasyon sa quarrying sa Guinobatan, Albay na labis na sinalanta ng super bagyong Rolly at naunang bagyong Quinta.

Nauna rito, nagkaroon ng isang rally ang mga mamamayan sa Guinobatan makaraang lumapag si Pang. Duterte sa lugar para inspeksyunin ang kasiraan sa mga lugar na dinaanan ng bagyo.

Ininumbong ng mga mamamayan na ang quarrying ang dahilan ng pagragasa ng mga lahar at baha sa kanilang lugar mula sa bulkang Mayon na ikinalubog ng nasa 180 bahay at ikinamatay ng 6 katao.

Makaraan nito, hiniling ng DENR na suspendihin muna ni Albay Governor Al Francis Bitchara ang lahat ng quarrying na kanya namang sinunod.

Ayon sa ulat, iniutos ni DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu ang pagbubuo ng 9-kataong task force at kasama rito mining engineers, isang geologist isang volcanologist mula sa DENR, Department of Public Works and Highways, Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology at mga kinatawan ng local government units.

Ayon kay Guillermo Molina, regional director ng Mines and Geosciences Bureau, aalamin ng task force kung sinusunod ng mga quarry operator ang mga batas at patakaran dito.

Uubusin ng mga ito ang 15 araw ang imbestigasyon, pagtatasa at paglalagom, kasama na ang mga kaukulang rekomendasyon.

Kaugnay nito, kinuwestiyon naman ni Bitchara ang suspensyon ng quarrying sa buong lalawigan samantalang ang nasa Guinobatan lang naman umano ang problema.

Nangangamba ngayon si Bitchara na walang mapagkukunan ng mga bato at buhangin dahil sama-sama ang lahat ng quarry sa mga lupa at ilog sa suspensyon.

Panahon pa naman umano ngayon ng pagtatayo o paggawa ng mga bahay at iba pang mga istrukturang winasak ng bagyo.

Idiniin din ni Bitchara na maaayos na nakakokolekta ngayon ang lalawigang pamahalaan sa mga quarry operator ng halagang P200 milyon taon-taon at mula sa P10M lamang noong 2016. **RNT**



Suspending quarrying ops in Albay will slow down Build, Build, Build projects —Chiz

Published November 6, 2020 10:07am
By LLANESCA T. PANTI, GMA News

President Rodrigo Duterte's order to stop quarrying operations in some Albay towns in the aftermath of Super Typhoon Rolly will slow down the administration's infrastructure projects, Sorsogon Governor Francis "Chiz" Escudero said Friday.

In compliance with Duterte's order, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu suspended quarrying operations around Mayon Volcano amid the investigation on their possible role in the devastation that hit several Albay towns.

Cimatu has claimed that some quarry operators left materials in the middle of the river which cascaded to communities when Rolly came.

"It does not only cover the [Bicol] region's infrastructure projects. It affects even Calabarzon region, Cebu, Marinduque, Visayas provinces, because they actually get their quarrying materials from Albay," Escudero, a former senator, said in an ANC interview.

"So it is not only the projects in Bicol which will be affected if it is faulted completely. It will affect the Build, Build, Build program of the government in Calabarzon, Bicol region, perhaps in Region 8 and parts of Region 6," he added.

As it is, Escudero said local government units should take advantage of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' administrative order issued this year, which allows private contractors to cover expenses of dredging operations in river dredging zones to be identified by a provincial inter-agency committee, provided that the private contractors secure a clearance from the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).

The same administrative order also allows local government units interested in undertaking river restoration through dredging activities to submit a letter of intent to the DENR secretary.

"All you need is a program of work for DPWH so as to remove the debris, boulder or sand in the rivers. It is a good order," Escudero said.

"That is a good opportunity for the LGUs to defend their low-lying and flood prone areas," he added. —KBK, GMA News



EDITORIAL - Itigil ang quarrying

(Pilipino Star Ngayon) - November 5, 2020 - 12:00am

Sa bibig mismo ng mga taga-Guinobatan, Albay nanggaling na kaya nagkaroon ng grabeng pagbaha at pag-anod ng mga malalaking bato sa kanilang lugar ay dahil sa quarrying operations. Isinumbong nila ito kay President Duterte nang magtungo ito roon noong Lunes at agaran nang pinaimbestigahan ang pangyayari. Kahapon, sinabi naman ni Albay Gov. Al Francis Bichara sa radio interview na hindi ang quarrying ang dahilan nang pagbaha.

Pito na ang naitatalang namatay sa Guinobatan nang manalasa ang Bagyong Rolly noong Linggo. Ang Albay ay isa sa mga probinsiya sa Bicol Region na grabeng sinalanta ng bagyo. Maraming bahay ang nabaon sa putik at bato sa Guinobatan. Umabot ng hanggang ikalawang palapag ng bahay ang rumagasang putik at mga bato.

Sabi ng mga residenteng nakaligtas, akala raw nila ay katapusan na nila sapagkat malalaking bato ang kasamang inanod at humampas sa kanilang mga bahay. Mayroong mag-asawang matanda na nakaligtas nang butasin nila ang kanilang bubong at doon nagdaan para makalabas. Ngayon lang daw nangyari ang ganung delubyo sa kanilang lugar na pati malalaking bato ay inanod.

Agad namang sinuspende ni DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu ang pagku-quarry sa Guinobatan kasunod ng utos ng Presidente. Nalaman ni Cimatu na 11 quarrying operators ang nagsasagawa ng quarrying. Nabatid din ng DENR Secretary na bago ang pananalasa ng Bagyong Rolly, hindi inalis ng quarry operators ang kanilang mga equipment sa ilog kaya nang bumaha, kasamang rumagasa ang mga ito sa mga bahay.

Nakapagtataka naman kung paano nabigyan ng permit para makapag-quarry ang 11 quarrying companies. Napakairesponsable nila na iniwan pa ang mga equipment sa ilog gayung may anunsiyo na ang PAGASA na isa ang Albay sa daraanan ng Bagyong Rolly. Nararapat na imbestigahan ni Cimatu kung talagang may permit ang nagku-quarry.



EDITORIAL - Itigil ang quarrying

Hindi dapat palampasin ang nangyaring ito. Mismong mga residente na ang nagsabing ang pagku-quarry ang naging dahilan kaya nagkaroon nang malaking baha sa kanilang lugar. Sila na ang nagpapatotoo sa pinsalang idinulot ng quarrying. Mas makabubuti kung itigil nang tuluyan ang operations ng quarrying companies sa mga ilog doon lalo ang nasa paligid ng Bulkang Mayon.



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MARINA BAY MAS MAGANDA PA SA MANILA BAY??

Saan Kaya Ito?

SAGANA DIN ITO SA YAMANG DAGAT!

SERYUSO? MAS MAGANDA PA SA MANILA BAY 🤖 ANG MARINA BAY NG PARANAQUE

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Pangilinan seeks probe into Manila Bay dolomite beach project

(Philstar.com) - November 6, 2020 - 12:22pm

MANILA, Philippines (**Updated 1:53 p.m.**) — A senator is urging an investigation, in aid of legislation, into the possible environmental and health hazards of the Manila Bay nourishment project, which he also called wasteful and unnecessary.

Covering a small portion of the Manila Baywalk with crushed dolomite forms part of a "beach nourishment" project which cost taxpayers P389 million and has been criticized by marine scientists as a costly and temporary effort.

"There are so many other things the country should spend money on, not the white beach project in Manila Bay. COVID cases have exceeded 380,000, many strong typhoons have passed, but they are still insisting that the project is [justified]," Sen. Francis Pangilinan said in Filipino.

"This project is wasteful and unnecessary," he added, arguing that the funds used for the project could have been used to supplement the health sector's pandemic response or distance learning gadgets and materials for teachers and students. "It could have also served as cash aid for the millions of Filipinos who lost their jobs during the pandemic," he said in Filipino.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu on Friday morning said he would welcome a Senate investigation into the project. "We are prepared to defend all decisions," he told reporters during an event launching water quality monitors at Manila Bay.

Pangilinan filed Senate Resolution 565 to raise concerns over the sustainability, legality and possible environmental and public health hazards of the controversial project. The resolution also calls on the Senate to probe the possible liability of public officials, specifically for violating the following laws:

- Local Government Code
- Philippine Fisheries Code
- Wildlife Conservation Act
- Environmental Impact Assessment System



Pangilinan seeks probe into Manila Bay dolomite beach project

- Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees
- Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources previously said that the crushed [dolomite does not pose any health risks](#), according to tests by attached agencies Environmental Management Bureau and Mines and Geosciences Bureau.

"The problem is not only in Manila Bay but also in the mining of dolomites in Alcoy, Cebu which may have damaged coral reefs and caused the loss of habitat of some endangered species. In short, it brought more problems instead of a solution," Pangilinan emphasized in Filipino.

The senator also pointed out that rising waves in the area have started to wash away P28-million-worth of crushed dolomite.

"There are also concerns that the strong typhoons that barrel the country every year will wash away the proposed white beach, especially following back-to-back Typhoon Quinta and Super Typhoon Rolly," he said.

Over a decade ago, the Supreme Court, through a mandamus, directed government agencies to "clean up, rehabilitate and preserve Manila Bay, and restore and maintain its waters."

— **Bella Perez-Rubio with a report from Gaea Katreena Cabico**



Pangilinan wants ‘wasteful’ P389-M Manila Bay white sand project probed

By: [Neil Arwin Mercado](#) - Reporter / [@NAMercadoINQ](#)
[INQUIRER.net](#) / 09:18 AM November 06, 2020



INQUIRER photo / RICHARD A. REYES

MANILA, Philippines — Senator Francis Pangilinan is seeking an investigation on the controversial Manila Bay white sand project, which he described as wasteful and unnecessary.

Under Senate Resolution No. 565, Pangilinan pointed out that the project cost around P389 million, a figure that the senator said could have been used for other services.

“This project is wasteful and unnecessary. Dapat ginamit ang milyon-milyong pondo para i-supplement ang ating pandemic health response, o kaya para sa distance learning gadgets at materials ng mga guro at estudyante,” Pangilinan said.

(We should have used the multi-million peso fund to supplement our pandemic health response, or address issues on distance learning gadgets and materials of our teachers and students.)

“Pwede rin sanang cash aid para sa milyong mga Pilipino na nawalan ng trabaho ngayong pandemya,” he added.

(It could also be a cash aid for the millions of Filipinos who lost their jobs in this pandemic.)



Sen. Francis Pangilinan (Screen grab/ Senate PRIB)



Pangilinan wants ‘wasteful’ P389-M Manila Bay white sand project probed

“Napakaraming ibang dapat gastusan ng pera ng bayan, hindi ang white beach project sa Manila Bay. Lumampas na sa 380,000 ang COVID cases, marami nang dumaan na malalakas na bagyo, pero pinipilit pa rin na tama ito. Ang tanong: Kailangan ba talaga ito?” Pangilinan said in a statement on Friday.

(The money could have been used for something else, not the white beach project in Manila Bay. There are now more than 380,000 COVID-19 cases, typhoons have passed, yet we are still insisting this was correct. Do we need this?)

Health issues

Further, Pangilinan said that the upper chamber should look into the [possible environmental and health hazards](#) of the project in Manila Bay, adding that there are concerns regarding the project’s sustainability and legality.

‘More problems’

The senator said the upper chamber should also check possible liability of erring government officials involved in the said project, with probable violations of laws such as the Local Government Code, the Philippine Fisheries Code, the Wildlife Conservation Act, the Environmental Impact Assessment System, the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees; and the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act.

“Hindi lang sa Manila Bay ang problema kundi na rin sa pagmimina ng mga dolomite sa Alcoy, Cebu na posibleng ikinasira ng mga coral reefs at pagkawala ng tirahan ng ilang endangered species. Sa madaling sabi, mas maraming problema pa itong dinala kesa solusyon sana,” Pangilinan said.

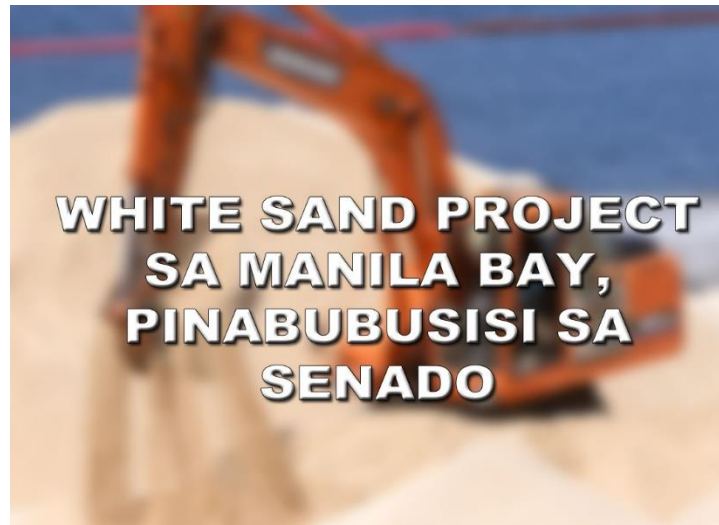
“Sayang ang pera, parang pinaanod lang sa dagat,” he added.

Earlier, [Senator Leila de Lima](#) filed a similar resolution calling for a Senate probe on the Manila Bay white sand makeover project.

De Lima said that the budget for the project could have been used to feed 5.2 million hungry families, or help boost the government’s coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) response.

Read more: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1357179/pangilinan-wants-wasteful-p389-m-manila-bay-white-sand-project-probed#ixzz6d3FIGH1z>

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SINUSULONG sa Senado ang pagsasagawa ng investigation in aid of legislation sa tinawag na pag-aaksaya at hindi nararapat na Manila Bay Nourishment Project o ang paglalagay ng dolomite sa bahagi ng Manila Bay.

Sa kanyang Senate Resolution No. 565, tinukoy ni Senador Francis Pangilinan ang posibilidad ng environmental at public health hazards ng kontrobersiyal na Manila Bay project.

Sa tala, ang Manila Bay White Sand Beach ay ginugulan umano ng P389 milyon.

Nakasaad sa resolusyon ang pagsiyasat sa posibilidad na nilabag sa proyekto ang Local Government Code; Philippine Fisheries Code; Wildlife Conservation Act; Environmental Impact Assessment System; Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees; at Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act.

“Hindi lang sa Manila Bay ang problema kundi na rin sa pagmimina ng mga dolomite sa Alcoy, Cebu na posibleng ikinasira ng mga coral reefs at pagkawala ng tirahan ng ilang endangered species.

Sa madaling sabi, mas maraming problema pa itong dinala kesa solusyon sana,” dagdag pa ni Pangilinan. (DANG SAMSON GARCIA)



Kiko calls for Senate probe on Manila Bay white sand project

Published November 6, 2020 11:04am

Updated November 6, 2020 11:23am

By LLANESCA T. PANTI, GMA News

Senator Francis “Kiko” Pangilinan has called for a Senate investigation on the P389-million Manila Bay nourishment project, which used crushed dolomite as white sand, saying such initiative appears wasteful and hazardous, amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Napakaraming ibang dapat gastusan ng pera ng bayan, hindi ang white beach project sa Manila Bay. Lumampas na sa 380,000 ang COVID cases, marami nang dumaan na malalakas na bagyo, pero pinipilit pa rin na tama ito. Ang tanong: Kailangan ba talaga ito?” Pangilinan said in a statement Friday.

“This project is wasteful and unnecessary. Dapat ginamit ang milyon-milyong pondo para i-supplement ang ating pandemic health response, o kaya para sa distance learning gadgets at materials ng mga guro at estudyante. Pwede rin sanang cash aid para sa milyong mga Pilipino na nawalan ng trabaho ngayong pandemya,” he added.

Pangilinan’s call, made under his Senate Resolution No. 565, also raised concerns of sustainability, legality, and possible environmental and public health hazards of the controversial Manila Bay project.

He also wanted to look into the possible liability of government officials and probable violations on the following laws:

- Local Government Code;
- Philippine Fisheries Code;



Kiko calls for Senate probe on Manila Bay white sand project

- Wildlife Conservation Act;
- Environmental Impact Assessment System;
- Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees; and/or
- Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act.

“Hindi lang sa Manila Bay ang problema kundi na rin sa pagmimina ng mga dolomite sa Alcoy, Cebu na posibleng ikinasira ng mga coral reefs at pagkawala ng tirahan ng ilang endangered species. Sa madaling sabi, mas maraming problema pa itong dinala kesa solusyon,” Pangilinan said.

“Sayang ang pera, parang pinaanod lang sa dagat,” Pangilinan added.

The series of typhoons that hit the country already washed away parts of the P28 million-worth of crushed dolomite rocks adorning the Manila Bay coastline.

Malacanang and DENR have repeatedly [defended the project](#).

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said the effort to rehabilitate Manila Bay was in response to the mandamus issued by the Supreme Court to the government to clean up the body of water.

He added the crushed dolomite rocks used are not harmful and can also treat the pH level of water, from acidic to alkaline.

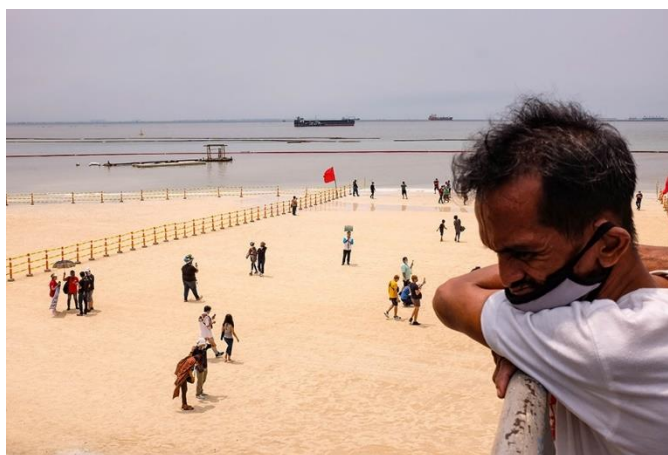
He further said the source of funding was a special purpose fund under the 2019 General Appropriations Act intended for the rehabilitation of Manila Bay.

Presidential spokesperson Harry Roque said the government [could not realign](#) the funds intended for the Manila Bay “white sand” project for COVID-19 response.

Interior Undersecretary Jonathan Malaya earlier said that the project was approved by Congress under the 2019 national budget, underwent competitive bidding, and was awarded prior to the global pandemic.—AOL, GMA News

Pangilinan seeks probe on Manila Bay dolomite sand project

Katrina Domingo, ABS-CBN News
Posted at Nov 06 2020 01:15 PM



A view of the "white sand" project in Manila Bay as it temporarily opens to public on September 19, 2020. *George Calvelo, ABS-CBN News*

MANILA - Sen. Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan on Thursday filed a resolution seeking to investigate the "wasteful and unnecessary" spending of some P389-million to dump artificial white sand along a portion of the Manila Bay.

The government earlier dumped truckloads of crushed dolomite rocks transported from Cebu in Manila Bay in September prompting several sectors to question the safety and necessity of the project.

The Senate should investigate allegations of overpricing, and the possible violation of several environmental laws, Pangilinan said in his Senate Resolution No. 565.

"An investigation in aid of legislation should therefore be conducted to address the concerns and issues raised regarding its sustainability, legality, and possible environmental and public health hazards, among others," Pangilinan said.

The Senate should also "determine the possible liability of erring officials of the violation of laws," he said, noting that a Supreme Court decision in 2008 mandates the government to "to keep the waters of the Manila Bay clean and clear as humanly as possible."

The multi-million Manila Bay White Sand Beach project "raises concerns of sustainability, legality, and possible environmental and public health hazards," the opposition senator said.

"This project is wasteful and unnecessary," he said.

"Lumampas na sa 380,000 ang COVID cases, marami nang dumaan na malalakas na bagyo, pero pinipilit pa rin na tama ito. Ang tanong: Kailangan ba talaga ito?" he said.

(The number of COVID cases in the country has breached the 380,000 mark, a lot of typhoons have barreled through the country, but some are still insisting that this was a right move. The question is: Do we really need this?)



- Headline
- Editorial
- Column
- Opinion
- Feature Article



ONE News

15 hrs · 🌐

"Kailangan ba talaga ito?"

Sen. Kiko Pangilinan calls the dumping of white sand in Manila Bay "wasteful and unnecessary" as he filed a resolution seeking a Senate probe into the beautification project.

“
 Napakaraming ibang dapat gastusan ng pera ng bayan, hindi ang white beach project sa Manila Bay. Lumampas na sa 380,000 ang [COVID-19] cases. Marami nang dumaan na malalakas na bagyo. Pero pinipilit pa rin na tama ito.
”

SEN. FRANCIS PANGILINAN
 NOVEMBER 6, 2020

file photo: kikopangilinan.com,
 The Philippine STAR/Miguel de Guzman

OneNews.ph OneNewsPH



Pagsusuot ng PPEs ng mga palero sa Kapaskuhan, iginiit ng DENR



November 6, 2020 @ 7:25 PM 11 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Kahit papalapit na ang Kapaskuhan dapat pa rin magpatupad ng health protocol hinggil sa pagsusuot ng protective gear o Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) ng mga garbage collector o palero habang naghahakot ng basura.

Ito sa kabila ng mahigpit na rekomendasyon ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) hinggil sa pagsusuot ng Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) ng mga garbage collector bilang proteksyon laban sa COVID-19 ay patuloy namang binabalewala ng mga contractor.

Tiniyak ng DENR na patuloy pa rin ipatutupad ng ahensya ang pagpapatupad sa health protocol sa mga garbage collector hinggil sa pagsusuot ng protective gear habang nangongolekta ng basura sa Metro Manila.

Sinabing ilang garbage collector umano ang hindi nakasuot ng face mask habang nangongolekta ng basura na isang pamantayan sa ipinatutupad na health protocol ng pamahalaan sa tuwing lalabas ng mga bahay o papasok sa trabaho ang pagsusuot ng face mask.

Kaugnay nito, magugunitang inirekomenda ni DENR Usec. Benny Antiporda, Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns ang pagbibigay ng Personal protective equipment (PPE) sa mga garbage collector bilang proteksyon laban sa COVID-19.

Ayon kay Antiporda, mahalagang maprotektahan ang mga garbage collector dahil itinuturing itong mga frontliner na humaharap sa banta ng COVID-19 sa pang-araw-araw. **(Santi Celario)**



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION &
INITIATIVES
SERVICE



November 7, 2020

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[Pasig River Coordinating and Management Office - PRCMO](#)

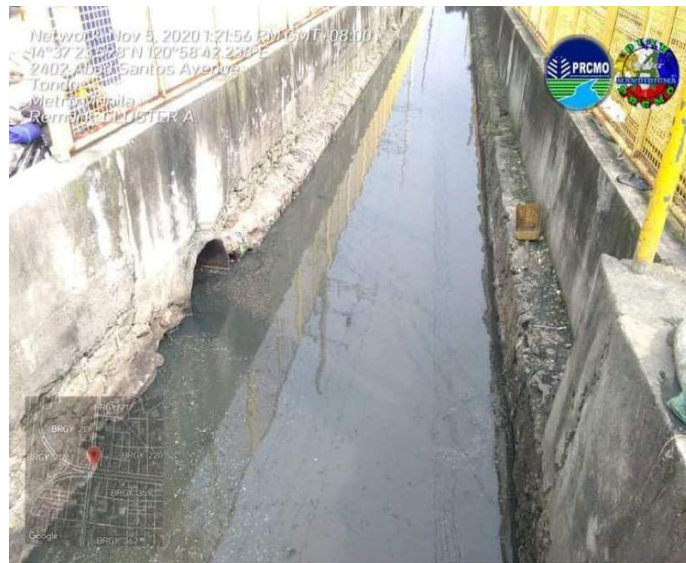
LOOK: PRCMO IN ACTION IN ESTERO DE KABULUSAN

Here are photos of the strongly united River Warriors and the result of their whole-day cleanup operations in [#EsteroDeKabulusan](#) in Tondo, Manila.

A total of 42 sacks of mostly nonbiodegradable solid wastes were recovered from the waterway's portion along New Antipolo Street.

We continuously salute the River Warriors for their service and dedication as our frontliners for the environment and we urge everyone to also show their solidarity by doing our part for the eventual healing of our nation and our ultimate victory in the battle for the Pasig River, esteros, and Manila Bay!

[#PRCMO](#) [#DENR](#) [#PasigRiver](#) [#PusoParaSallogPasig](#)





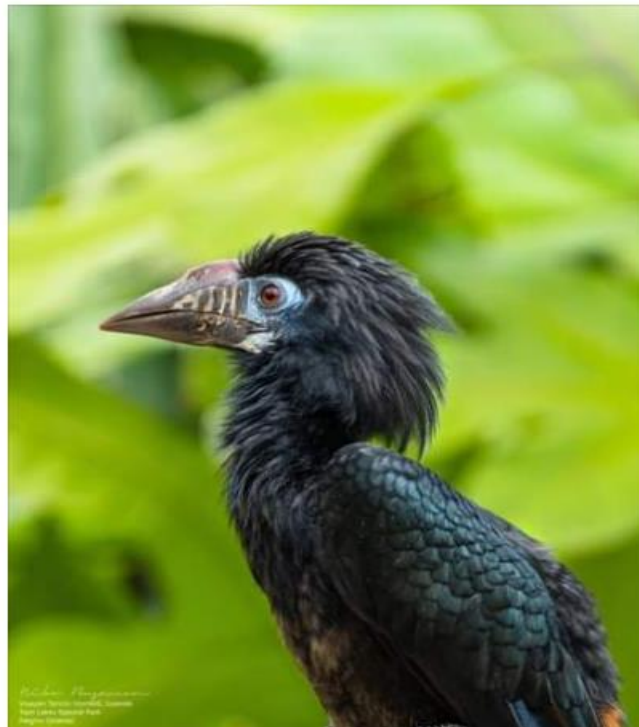
- Headline
- Editorial
- Column
- Opinion
- Feature Article



Nakunan ng isang photographer ang isang talusi o Visayan tarctic hornbill sa Twin Lakes, Sibulan, Negros Oriental. Endemic ang ibong ito o sa ilang geographic region lang naninirahan. Karaniwan itong nakikita sa Panay at Negros. Dream come true para kay Niko Busmeon na makita at makunan ito ng larawan.

"What an experience, I never thought I'd see this bird up close! Truly a blessing! What wonderful gifts God has given us," ayon sa Niko.

: Niko Louven Busmeon





Haribon highlights IPs in conserving nature



By [The Manila Times](#)
November 7, 2020

Leaders and representatives of indigenous peoples (IPs) shared their perspectives on the importance of IP communities in biodiversity conservation during Haribon Foundation's Paninindigan sa Karapatan ng mga Katutubo, Susi sa Malusog na Kapaligiran (Asserting the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Key to a Sustainable Environment) online seminar on Oct. 23, 2020.

The webinar sought to amplify the voices of IPs and provide them with a platform to voice out their concerns amidst the ongoing pandemic.

Elma Bauzon, tribal secretary for the Pakwan-Manobo Indigenous Cultural Community, said IPs are the frontliners in biodiversity conservation whose duty to protect nature comes from their dependence on natural resources.

"Hindi lang tao ang nabubuhay doon; marami ding wild animals ang naka-depende ang buhay [doon]. Lahat tayo ay magkaugnay eh; mula sa mga insekto hanggang sa mga hayop pati mga tao — magkakaugnay tayo (People are not the only ones living there; there are also wild animals depending on the environment. We are all connected; from insects up to the animals including people)," Bauzon said during the webinar.

The webinar also highlighted how acknowledging the culture and heritage of indigenous peoples communities helps protect the rights of IPs and the environment.

For Marcelino Tena, president of the Samahan ng mga Katutubong Agta/Dumagat at Remontado Na Ipinagtatango I at Binabaka ang Lupaing Ninuno, culture serves as both their identity and catalyst to fight for their rights.

The IP leader said that by upholding their culture, they are also defending their birthright to their ancestral lands and their rights as caretakers of the environment.

Acting Provincial Officer Ordonio Rocero Jr. of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP)-Region 13 (Caraga) office echoed Tena's statement, saying the culture of IPs are synonymous to their identity and is unique to them.

The webinar reiterated the need to continue protecting and prioritizing the needs and rights of indigenous peoples communities to help them uphold their culture and live sustainably. Lawyer Arthur Herman, Regional Legal Officer for the NCIP-Region 4A (Calabarzon), said that it is not enough to simply appreciate the culture of IPs. He emphasized that the government should consult indigenous peoples in policymaking.



Haribon highlights IPs in conserving nature

“Dapat kapag gagawa tayo ng isang plano — isang batas o polisiya — kasama natin ang mga katutubo dahil may mga traditional systems sila na dapat sundin (Whenever we develop a plan — law or policy

— we should include the indigenous peoples because they have traditional systems that they have to follow),” the legal officer added.

The webinar was part of Haribon’s Indigenous Peoples’ month celebration and #GoingViral webinar series that aims to promote the importance of biodiversity conservation and its relation to human health.



Higit ₱800-M, nalugi sa mga fish pen at fish cage operators sa Laguna de Bay

By RadyoMaN Manila - Nov. 6, 2020 at 2:14pm

32



Nabatid na nasira ang mga istruktura at nakakawala ang mga isda sa pananalasa ng Bagyong Rolly.

Sa isang ektarya, nasa P300,000 umano ang nawalang kita sa mga nasirang fish pens sa lawa.

Higit sa P800 milyon na ang naluging fish pens at fish cage operators sa Laguna de Bay sa pananalasa ng Bagyong Rolly.

Ayon kay Engr. Emil Hernandez ng Environmental Regulatory Department ng Laguna Lake Development Authority, pinakamaraming fish pens at fish cage owners sa lugar ng Muntinlupa at Taguig ang nasira dahil malapit lamang ang mga ito sa Pasig River at mas maalat ang tubig doon.



Addressing disasters, climate change, pandemics

By: [Lea Ivy Manzanero](#), [Patrick Vinck](#), [Vincenzo Bollettino](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)
[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:03 AM November 07, 2020

The world's strongest storm of the year—Supertyphoon “Rolly” (international name: Goni)—made landfall in the Philippines last Sunday. The typhoon, with winds in excess of 314 kph, is a stark reminder of nature's destructive power almost 10 years after a similarly sized storm, “Yolanda” (Haiyan), caused 6,000 deaths and cost an estimated P676 billion to the country's economy.

Early damage assessments after the latest typhoon, however, are an equally powerful reminder of the value of disaster preparedness. Since Supertyphoon Yolanda in 2013, almost P168 billion has been allotted to rehabilitation, i.e., resettlement, infrastructure, livelihood, and social services.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council budget is used to fund disaster risk reduction activities and capital expenditures for pre-disaster operations, rehabilitation, and other related activities. Each line agency is allotted DRRM (disaster risk reduction and management) funds.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development, for example, was allotted almost P14 billion in 2012-2013, while the Office of Civil Defense had a total of almost P693 million as a quick response fund, to be used also for developing and implementing comprehensive national and local preparedness and response policies, plans, and systems and for equipping communities against the impact of disasters. This was according to a 2014 Commission on Audit report.

Disaster preparedness has repeatedly proven to be a smart investment to reduce the human and economic impact of disasters. However, investment in preparedness, particularly at the household level, continues to fall far short of needs, according to the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative's (HHI) 2017 nationwide survey on household levels of preparedness for disaster in the Philippines.

The challenges brought by frequent disasters have been compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic, and point to the need for urgent adaptation and financing for disaster preparedness.

First, few, if any, preparedness and response plans are adapted for disasters occurring during a pandemic. While the pandemic is a unique challenge, the challenges associated with the spread of infectious diseases in the aftermath of disasters are not new, yet efforts to prepare for epidemics in such contexts remain insufficient. Numerous measures such as emergency shelter and emergency supply chains are not equipped to prevent the transmission of COVID-19, increasing the risk of transmission for individuals already made more vulnerable by the typhoon.

Major cities in the Philippines that are prone to flooding are also being impacted by COVID-19. Together with lockdowns implemented by the government, this makes humanitarian intervention programs harder to implement. As reported by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, in densely populated urban areas, people live on \$3.10 or P150 per day, and people who go to evacuation centers are at risk of getting infected.

COVID-19 has exacerbated the conditions of already vulnerable populations. Disaster responders and public health professionals can at least adapt the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention tips on how to lower the risk of infection in evacuation centers.



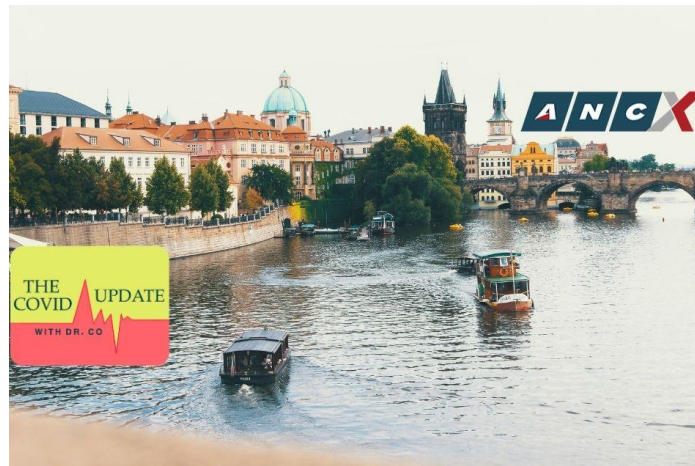
Addressing disasters, climate change, pandemics

Second, disaster preparedness remains largely and logically focused on the immediate threat caused by specific events like typhoons. However, disaster preparedness and adaptation to climate change are closely linked and potentially mutually reinforcing, as HHI's recent study in the Philippines showed. We, researchers at HHI, recommended that local humanitarian actors in the Philippines have more cohesive and reciprocal collaborations to further strengthen and sustain the country's DRR and climate change adaptation system. There is an urgent need for an intervention framework and funding for policies and programs that link climate change adaptation and disaster preparedness.

As the Philippines turns to assessing damages and rebuilding after Rolly, it can derive lessons that would help firmly establish disaster preparedness as a core priority, while also moving on to the next challenges and adapting disaster preparedness and risk reduction strategies to address the transmission of infectious diseases and the long-term effects of climate change.

Read more: <https://opinion.inquirer.net/135072/addressing-disasters-climate-change-pandemics#ixzz6d3qkxk7r>

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Czechia, with more than 10,000 to 15,000 cases daily, has overtaken the Philippines. Photo by Nomadic Julien on Unsplash

PH drops to No. 24 in world ranking of Covid cases as Europe struggles with a second wave

But with the test centers back, the DoH reports more than 2,000 cases today

BENJAMIN CO, MD | Nov 06 2020

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Disclosure: All data provided are from the Department of Health's various information sites including their data drop. Where appropriate, other graphs, illustrations, tables and data are appropriately referenced.

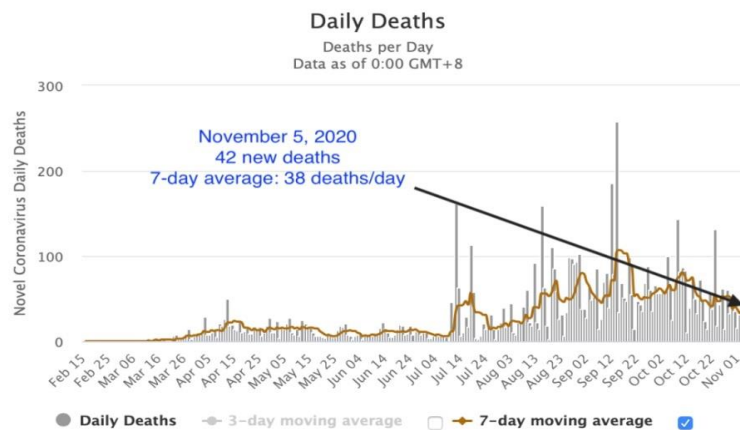
November 06, 2020 (updated)

With the testing centers back, the Health Agency reports 2,092 new cases today, with Davao City back on the top of the leader board.

MGA PROBINSYA AT SIYUDAD NA MAY MATAAS NA NAITALANG KASO NGAYONG ARAW	
DAVAO CITY	129
QUEZON CITY	100
QUEZON	83
NORTHERN SAMAR	82
CAVITE	80

PH drops to No. 24 in world ranking of Covid cases as Europe struggles with a second wave

Daily New Deaths in the Philippines



- Top 5 regions yesterday were: NCR, CALABARZON, Central Luzon, Davao Region and Western Visayas with triple digits for each region.
- It was the City of Manila in the NCR that took the haul, reporting almost 45 percent of the total cases in Mega Manila alone.

REGION	TOTAL	05-Nov-20
NCR	188,208	573
Region IV-A: CALABARZON	71,335	299
Region III: Central Luzon	23,378	137
Region XI: Davao Region	6,158	136
Region VI: Western Visayas	18,203	102
Region VIII: Eastern Visayas	7,225	64
Region X: Northern Mindanao	5,833	53
Region XII: SOCCSKSARGEN	3,348	42
Region IX: Zamboanga Peninsula	4,200	35
Region I: Ilocos Region	3,220	29
Region VII: Central Visayas	23,994	23
CAR	4,207	23
Region V: Bicol Region	3,451	21
BARMM	2,106	15
Region IV-B: MIMAROPA	2,033	13
Region II: Cagayan Valley	3,180	11
CARAGA	3,017	9
ROF	12,966	6
UNIDENTIFIED (Unknown Region)	3,663	3
TOTAL	389,725	1,594



PH drops to No. 24 in world ranking of Covid cases as Europe struggles with a second wave

NCR	05-Nov-20
City / Municipality	TOTAL: 573
CITY OF MANILA	253
QUEZON CITY	73
CALOOCAN CITY	38
TAGUIG CITY	26
CITY OF PASIG	25
CITY OF MANDALUYONG	21
CITY OF MARIKINA	21
CITY OF MAKATI	15
CITY OF PARAÑAQUE	15
CITY OF NAVOTAS	15
PASAY CITY	13
CITY OF LAS PIÑAS	12
CITY OF MALABON	12
PATEROS	12
CITY OF VALENZUELA	11
CITY OF MUNTINLUPA	6
CITY OF SAN JUAN	5

- Among the provinces outside of NCR, Davao del Sur, Rizal and Laguna were the top contributors to the cases in the Philippines.

Top ten provinces outside NCR on November 05, 2020

NCR = 573

Province	Region	Number of cases reported
1. CAVITE	CALABARZON	126
2. DAVAO DEL SUR	DAVAO REGION	110
3. RIZAL	CALABARZON	78
4. LAGUNA	CALABARZON	51
5. NEGROS OCCIDENTAL	WESTERN VISAYAS	51
6. PAMPANGA	CENTRAL LUZON	50
7. BULACAN	CENTRAL LUZON	40
8. ILOILO	WESTERN VISAYAS	40
9. MISAMIS ORIENTAL	NORTHERN MINDANAO	36
10. BATANGAS	CALABARZON	33

- Ten cities from NCR were in the top twenty cities/municipalities with most cases.
- Davao City came in second to the City of Manila, with most cases. There were four cities in Cavite that were in the top 20 cities/municipalities with most cases: Dasmariñas, Imus, General Trias and Tanza.



PH drops to No. 24 in world ranking of Covid cases as Europe struggles with a second wave

Top twenty cities/municipalities on November 05, 2020

City/Municipality	Province	Number of cases reported
1. CITY OF MANILA	NCR	253
2. DAVAO CITY	DAVAO DEL SUR	78
3. QUEZON CITY	NCR	78
4. CALOOCAN CITY	NCR	38
5. CITY OF DASMARIÑAS	CAVITE	34
6. BACOLOD CITY	NEGROS OCCIDENTAL	30
7. IMUS CITY	CAVITE	29
8. GENERAL TRIAS	CAVITE	28
9. CAGAYAN DE ORO	MISAMIS ORIENTAL	28
10. TAGUIG	NCR	26
11. ZAMBOANGA CITY	ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR	26
12. CITY OF PASIG	NCR	25
13. ANTIPOLLO CITY	RIZAL	22
14. MANDALUYONG CITY	NCR	21
15. MARIKINA	NCR	21
16. CITY OF DIGOS	DAVAO DEL SUR	18
17. SAN FERNANDO	PAMPANGA	16
18. PARANAQUE	NCR	15
19. BAGUIO CITY	BENGUET	15
20. NAVOTAS	NCR	15
TANZA	CAVITE	15
MARKATI	NCR	15

Those highlighted in RED are outside of NCR

THE WORLD

World records were once again broken in a single day.

The world now has more than 49,000,000 coronavirus cases and will most likely exceed the 50,000,000 mark in the next 48 hours.

The United States continued its lead as the country with most cases and deaths overnight and for the second day in a row reported a new high of close to 120,000 cases in a single day.

The United States is approaching the 10,000,000 mark. The nation alone contributes to one-fifth of the total cases in the world.

There were more than 600,000 cases reported in the world in a single day, a new world record.

Coronavirus Cases:

49,034,766

Deaths:

1,239,660

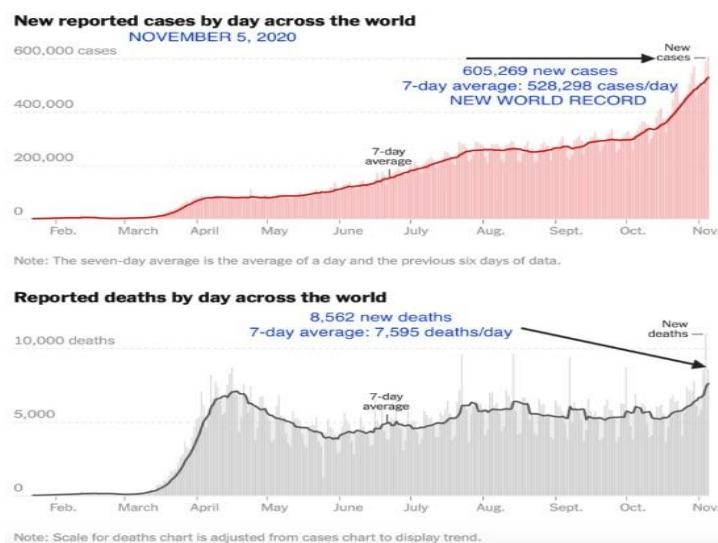
Recovered:

34,984,041



PH drops to No. 24 in world ranking of Covid cases as Europe struggles with a second wave

#	Country, Other	Total Cases
1	USA	9,919,522
2	India	8,411,724
3	Brazil	5,614,258
4	Russia	1,712,858
5	France	1,601,367
6	Spain	1,365,895
7	Argentina	1,217,028
8	UK	1,123,197
9	Colombia	1,117,977
10	Mexico	949,197



- Global case fatality rate is seeing an average decline of 0.12% daily: 2.53 percent
- Six European nations were in the top ten contributors to the pool of new cases yesterday – France, Italy, Poland, UK, Spain, and Germany.
- France overtakes India for the second rank in the world.
- The lowest number of new cases in the top ten countries averages 20,000 per day. The fewest reported deaths among the top ten countries is now more than 350 deaths a day.



PH drops to No. 24 in world ranking of Covid cases as Europe struggles with a second wave

Top ten new confirmed cases globally November 05, 2020

Country	New confirmed cases	Total cases	Cases/M pop
1. USA	118,204	9,919,522	29,907
2. France	58,046	1,601,367	24,514
3. India	47,622	8,411,034	6,074
4. Italy	34,505	824,879	13,650
5. Poland	27,143	466,679	12,336
6. UK	24,141	1,123,197	16,515
7. Brazil	23,317	5,614,258	26,347
8. Spain	21,908	1,365,895	29,210
9. Germany	21,757	619,116	7,381
10. Russia	19,404	1,712,858	11,735

Top ten new announced global deaths November 05, 2020

Country	New announced deaths	Total deaths	Deaths/M pop
1. USA	1,125	240,953	726
2. India	675	125,029	90
3. Mexico	635	93,228	720
4. Brazil	609	161,779	759
5. Italy	428	40,192	665
6. Iran	406	36,985	438
7. UK	378	48,120	708
8. Spain	368	38,486	823
9. Poland	367	6,842	181
10. France	363	39,037	598

Feature Story

The European community is struggling with a challenging second wave. The Ukraine had rapidly moved up to displace Indonesia for 20th rank. Czechia, with more than 10,000 to 15,000 cases daily, has overtaken the Philippines. The latter now moves down to 24th place and the Netherlands will most likely overtake the Philippines tomorrow.



PH drops to No. 24 in world ranking of Covid cases as Europe struggles with a second wave

#	Country, Other	↑↓	Total Cases	↓↑
20	Ukraine		440,188	
21	Indonesia		425,796	
22	Bangladesh		416,006	
23	Czechia		391,945	
24	Philippines		391,809	
25	Netherlands		390,488	



COVID-19 HINDI BIRO; NOV. 3, PINAKAMARAMI ANG PATAY



November 6, 2020 @ 10:44 AM 20 hours ago

Alam ba ninyong naitala ang pinakamaraming patay sa coronavirus disease o COVID-19 sa buong mundo nitong Nobyembre 3, 2020?

Kung noong Abril 17, 2020 ay naitala ang pinakamaraming patay na 8,515, nitong Nobyembre 3, may namatay na 8,697.

Maituturing bang swerte naman ang Pilipinas dahil pababa nang pababa ang ranggo nito sa may pinakamaraming biktima bilang No. 24 ngayon mula sa No. 20 noong Oktubre 1, 2020?

At ang Indonesia na No. 23 noong Oktubre 1 ay No. 21 ngayon?

Ang nakakikilalabot pa, dalawang araw nang mahigit sa 100,000 kada araw ang biktima sa United States of America at dalawang araw na ring may mahigit 1,000 patay kada araw.

Nitong Nobyembre 4, may 126,750 biktima habang may 1,646 patay at nitong Nob. 5, may 106,517 biktima at may 1,146 patay.

Sa buong mundo, sino ang hindi matatakot sa patay nang 1,234,593 mula sa kabuuang 48,699,186 biktima na kung magpapatuloy ang pagsirit ng bilang ng mga ito ay aabot na lahat sa 50 milyon sa mga susunod na araw at kalakip din nito ang lalong pagdami ng patay?

NAKATATAKOT PA

Isa pang nakatatakot, umabot na sa 9 bansa ang milyonaryo sa pandemya.

Nangunguna ang USA na may 9,810,930 biktima at sumunod ang India – 8,391,581; Brazil – 5,590,941; Russia – 1,712,858; France – 1,543,321; Spain – 1,356,798; Argentina – 1,205,928; Colombia – 1,108,084 at United Kingdom – 1,099,059.



COVID-19 HINDI BIRO; NOV. 3, PINAKAMARAMI ANG PATAY

Kung magpapatuloy naman ang Mexico na magkaroon ng mahigit 5,000 araw-araw na biktima, malamang maging bahagi na ito ng Magic 10 na milyonaryo sa COVID-19 sa loob ng 10 araw dahil mayroon na itong 943,630 biktima.

Dapat pag-aralan nang husto ng Department of Health natin ang mga dahilan kung bakit ang mayayamang bansa at nasa norte ng mundo ang may pinakamasamang kalagayan sa pandemya.

Kalakip nito ang pagmamantine ng mga patakaran natin sa Pilipinas kaya paliit nang paliit ang ating mga kaso bagama't mataas pa rin ang ranggo natin dahil ang totoo, 216 bansa, kasama ang ilang teritoryo, ang may COVID-19 at pang-24 tayo.

KALAYAAN VS DE BAKOD

Sa mga bali-balita, kaya umano pinakamalala ang pandemya sa USA ay dahil gusto ng nakararami na malaya sila sa gusto nilang gawin.

Nasa 50 porsyento lang umano mula sa mahigit 300 milyong populasyon nito ang nagsusuot ng face mask at hindi naniniwalang makapitan sila ng sakit.

Iginigiit nila palagi ang indibidwal nilang kalayaan na hindi pupwedeng pakialaman maging ng kanilang pamahalalan.

Halimbawa sa mga ayaw magsuot ng face mask, maliban lang kung nasa ospital o kritikal na lugar mismo, si President Donald Trump.

Nagkasakit na nga ang mama, kasama ang kanyang First Lady na si Melania, ayaw pa ring mag-face mask at hindi katulad ng karibal niyang si Joe Biden na hindi naman maawat sa kape-face mask.

Binibigyan natin ng diin ang face mask, mga Bro, dahil napatunayan nang 90 porsyento itong proteksyon sa hawaan.

Kung may COVID-19 ka, pipigilan ng face mask ang pagtalsik ng iyong laway sa ibang tao at hindi ka makahawa at hindi ka rin mahawa ng iba.

De bakod naman tayo at kahit saan, naririyang ang napakalinaw na patakaran nating “No Face Mask, No Face Shield, No Entry, No Sakay.

Nandiyan pa ang patakaran ni Pang. Rodrigo Duterte na hangga't walang bakuna, hindi pupwedeng alisin ang mga community quarantine at walang pasok sa mga eskwela para sa in-person o face-to-face na klase.



COVID-19 HINDI BIRO; NOV. 3, PINAKAMARAMI ANG PATAY

Sa USA, lalo na sa mga araw ng halalan na katatapos lang, walang social-social distancing sa kanila.

Pero sa mahal kong Pinas, pinaiiral natin nang husto ang bakod laban sa pandemya na social distancing bagama't nakalilimutan din paminsan-minsan.

Ang tanong ngayon: Ano ang mas gusto mo? Laging malaya at gawin mo ang gusto mo o babakuran mo ang iyong sarili o ng pamahalaan o ng ibang tao kaugnay ng COVID-19?

MAWALAN KA NA NG TRABAHO, TEPOK KA PA

Sa USA pa rin, mga Bro, marami ang walang kinatatakutan.

Atapang na tao sila.

Pero lumilitaw ngayon na dumarami na ang takot na takot sa pandemya.

Katakot-takot na umano ang nagpapatsekap kung may maramdaman silang sintomas ng COVID-19 upang hindi sila mamatay.

Sino naman ang hindi matataranta at matatakot sa rami ng patay nila na mahigit 240,000 at halos 10 milyon nang maysakit?

Halos katumbas na ang patay nila ng pinagsamang pwersa ng mga sundalo at pulis sa Pilipinas.

Isa pa, kasama sa kinatatakutan nila ang pagkawala ng trabaho o hanapbuhay nila kung may virus sila.

Mahirap naman talaga ang magutom at mapaalis sa inuupahang bahay dahil sa kawalan ng trabaho.

Tayo, mga Bro, sa Pinas, tutularan ba natin ang mga nasa Amerika?

Obyus siguro ang sagot at sasabihin pa ninyong "tinatanong pa ba 'yan?"

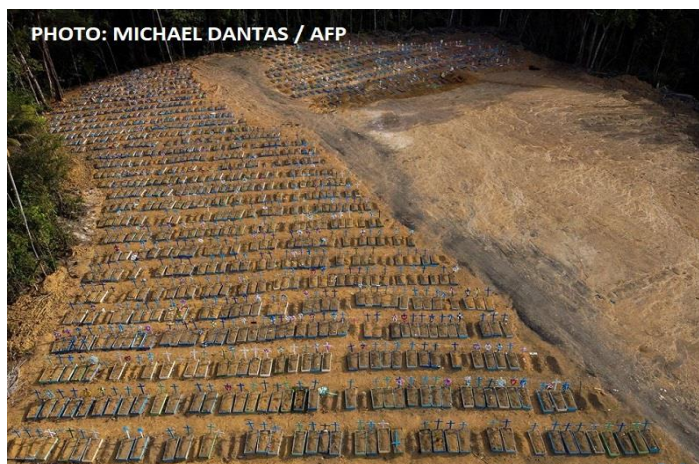
Basta huwag lang tayong mag-astig-astigan at sa halip ay sumunod tayo sa mga patakaran sa kalusugan o health protocol kung tawagin nila, maliligtas tayo sa pandemya.

Sa Diyos ang awa, sa tao ang gawa, 'ika nga.



Nasawi sa buong mundo dahil sa COVID-19 nadagdagan ng mahigit 8,000

By Dona Dominguez-Cargullo November 06, 2020 - 10:49 AM



Umabot na sa 1,238,788 ang bilang ng mga nasawi sa COVID-19 sa buong mundo.

Sa huling datos na nakalap ng Radyo INQUIRER, pinakamaraming bilang ng nasawi sa US na umabot na sa 240,922.

Umabot naman na sa mahigit 161,000 ang bilang ng mga nasawi sa Brazil.

Ang death toll sa India ay mahigit 125,000 na.

Habang ang death toll sa Mexico ay umabot na sa mahigit 93,000.

Umabot naman na sa mahigit 34.9 million na ang bilang ng mga naka-recover na sa sakit.

Habang nasa mahigit 12.7 million pa ang aktibong kaso.

Narito ang bilang ng mga nasawi sa iba't ibang ng mga bansa:

USA – 240,922

Brazil – 161,779

India – 125,029

Mexico – 93,228

UK – 48,120

Italy – 40,192

France – 39,037

Spain – 38,486

Iran – 36,985

Peru – 34,730



Siony, LPA spawn November rain after Rolly's fury

posted November 07, 2020 at 01:40 am

by [Rio N. Araja and Willie Casas, Alena Mae Flores, Rey E. Requejo](#)

A low pressure area that is expected to develop into a tropical depression within the next 48 hours will be named "Tonyo" once it enters the Philippine area of responsibility.

As of 2 p.m. Friday, the low pressure area was estimated at 1,075 kilometers east of Mindanao.

Meanwhile, severe tropical storm "Siony" was moving west-northwestward over the Bashi Channel along the Luzon Strait in the Pacific Ocean.

It was forecast to exit the Philippine area of responsibility Friday night.

The Department of Health, meanwhile, reported that super typhoon "Rolly" had damaged 67 health facilities in the Bicol region and Calabarzon.

Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said of the 67, six were Department of Health (DOH) retained hospitals, reference laboratory and treatment and rehabilitation centers; three were local government unit hospitals; 15 were rural health units (RHUs) in Bicol and two were RHUs in Calabarzon; two were Barangay Health Stations (BHS) in Calabarzon, and 39 were BHS in Bicol Region, said Vergeire.

The DOH has granted P20 million worth of financial assistance to hospitals in areas devastated by Rolly, which left at least 22 people dead, 165 injured and P11 billion worth of damage.

The cost of damage to power distribution infrastructure due to Rolly rose to P327.909 million as of 6 a.m. Friday, the National Electrification Administration (NEA) said.

Meanwhile, electric co-ops have restored power to 54.73 percent, or 1,144,818 consumers, of the 2,091,796 households affected by the typhoon in the Bicol Region and parts of Calabarzon, Mimaropa, and Eastern Visayas.

Efforts to restore electricity service in parts of Batangas are almost complete. Restoration levels now stand at 99.60 percent .

Power, too, has been restored to most parts of Eastern Visayas.

The Department of Energy (DOE) assured the public there was a sufficient supply of petroleum products in areas hit by typhoon Rolly, following earlier reports of supply disruptions, particularly in the island province of Catanduanes.

Energy Secretary Alfonso Cusi said the DOE had been in constant communication with all downstream oil industry players ahead of the typhoon to ensure that they adhered to the prescribed minimum inventory requirements, as part of the energy family's disaster preparedness measures.

Also on Friday, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) said it has allotted more than P300 million for the emergency employment assistance of 15,000 informal sector workers in three regions that were affected by Rolly.



Siony, LPA spawn November rain after Rolly's fury

Labor Undersecretary Ana Dione said the funds have been released to the regional offices in the Bicol region, Calabarzon, and Mimaropa.

The bulk of the funds was given to the Bicol region amounting to P200 million, while Calabarzon and Mimaropa received P33 million and P73 million, respectively.

Dione added that 5,000 workers will be hired under the DOLE's emergency work program from each province affected by the super typhoon.

The United States Agency for International Development , meanwhile, provided P9.7 million (\$200,000) in aid to assist the Philippine government's efforts to help Filipino families hardest hit by Super Typhoon Rolly, over a million of whom are currently in evacuation centers.

US Embassy Chargé d'Affaires John Law lauded the Philippine government and local authorities for their hard work in evacuating people before the storm and rescuing those in danger.

"We will continue to support our Philippine partners and friends as they work to address the needs of those communities most affected by Super Typhoon Rolly," Law said, in a statement released by the US Embassy in the Philippines.

The US Embassy official said that in support of the ongoing relief work, USAID will work with local partners to provide food, emergency shelter, and cash assistance for 22,500 people in Albay and Catanduanes provinces.



‘Siony,’ papalayo na sa PH; bagong low pressure area, papalapit sa bansa

By [Bombo Dennis Jamito](#)

-November 6, 2020 | 7:21 PM

Papalabas na sa Philippine area of responsibility (PAR) ang severe tropical storm Siony na may international name na Atsani.

Ito’y makaraang manalasa ang bagyo sa extreme Northern Luzon ngayong araw.

Huling namataan ang sentro ng bagyo sa layong 130 km sa kanluran hilagang kanluran ng Itbayat, Batanes.

May taglay itong lakas ng hangin na 95 kph at may pagbugsong 115 kph.

Kumikilos ito nang pakanluran hilagang kanluran sa bilis na 20 kph.

Samantala, pumasok na sa PAR ang binabantayang low pressure area (LPA) sa silangan ng bansa.

Namataan ito sa layong 1,000 km sa silangan ng Eastern Visayas.



2 volcanic earthquake, naitala sa bulkang Mayon

ni [Thea Janica Teh](#) | November 5, 2020



[2 volcanic earthquake, naitala sa bulkang Mayon](#)
bulgaronline.com

1:52 AM

Dalawang volcanic earthquakes ang naitala ng Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) sa bulkang Mayon sa 24-hour observation period nito ngayong Huwebes.

Sa inilabas na bulletin kaninang alas-8 ng umaga, sinabi ng Phivolcs na may lumabas na white steam-laden plumes at gumapang sa bandang silangang bahagi ng bulkan.

Huli umanong naglabas ng sulfur dioxide ang bulkan noong Oktubre 29, 2020 na may baseline average na 436 ton/day.

Dagdag pa ng Phivolcs, “Overall, the Mayon edifice is still inflated with respect to baseline parameters.”

Nakataas pa rin sa Alert Level 1 ang bulkang Mayon dahil sa patuloy na pagsasagawa ng abnormal na kondisyon.

Kaya naman pinaalalahanan ang publiko na huwag pumasok sa 6-kilometer radius permanent danger zone dahil maaaring magkaroon ng rock falls, landslide at pagbuga ng usok.

Naging sanhi rin ng pagdaloy ng lahar ang pananalanta ng bagyong Rolly kamakailan sa Bicol Region.



The Danish government said on Wednesday that it would cull all minks - up to 17 million - to prevent human contagion with a mutated coronavirus.

Mink 'good reservoirs' for COVID-19, Denmark shows courage in cull - WHO

Published November 6, 2020 3:19am

Updated November 6, 2020 3:57am

By STEPHANIE NEBEHAY AND NIKOLAJ SKYDSGAARD Reuters

GENEVA, Switzerland - Mink appear to be susceptible to the new SARS-CoV-2 virus and "good reservoirs" for the disease, with a mutated strain having caused infections in a dozen people in Denmark, a World Health Organization (WHO) official said on Thursday.

Denmark plans to cull its entire mink population and announced strict new lockdown measures in the north of the country to prevent a mutated coronavirus from spreading in the animals and to humans.

"So there is a risk of course that this mink population could contribute in some way to the transmission of the virus from minks into humans, and then onwards from humans to humans," Catherine Smallwood, a senior emergency officer at WHO's European office in Copenhagen, said in a social media event.

While the research into this specific variant of the virus is significant, she said it's "totally normal" for the virus to change genetically over time.

"We are tracking these (changes) very very carefully and that's why we are so interested in this particular information," she said, adding that it should not alter how governments and authorities around the world are trying to control the pandemic.

Hans Kluge, WHO European regional director said Denmark showed "determination and courage" in the face of a decision to cull its mink population of 17 million animals, which has a "huge economic impact".



Mink 'good reservoirs' for COVID-19, Denmark shows courage in cull - WHO

Denmark announced strict new lockdown rules on Thursday in the north of the country after authorities discovered a mutated coronavirus strain in minks bred in the region, prompting a nationwide cull that will devastate the large pelt industry.

The government said on Wednesday that it would cull all minks - up to 17 million - to prevent human contagion with a mutated coronavirus, which authorities said could be more resistant against future vaccines.

Seven municipalities in northern Denmark, home to most of the country's mink farms, will face restrictions on movement across county lines, while restaurants and bars will be closed, Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen told a press conference.

Schools will be closed and all public transport will be shut until Dec 3., she said, encouraging inhabitants in the region to stay within their municipality and get tested.

For Denmark's mink pelt industry, which racked up exports of around \$800 million last year and employs 4,000 people, the cull could amount to a death knell. The industry association for Danish breeders called the move a "black day for Denmark".

"Of course, we must not be the cause of a new pandemic. We do not know the professional basis for this assessment and risk ... but the government's decision is a disaster for the industry and Denmark," chairman Tage Pedersen said.

At his family-owned mink farm west of the capital Copenhagen, 34-year-old Hans Henrik Jeppesen said he was devastated by the decision.

"This is a very, very sad situation for me and my family," he told Reuters. Jeppesen's 36,000 minks have not been infected, but will be culled and skinned within the next 10 days.

Some lawmakers demanded to see the evidence behind such drastic action.

"We are asking to have it (the evidence) sent over, so we can assess the technical basis," a spokesperson for the Liberal Party told broadcaster TV2 on Wednesday.

MORE RESTRICTIONS

Outbreaks at mink farms have persisted in Denmark, Europe's largest producer and exporter of mink furs, despite repeated efforts to cull infected animals since June.

Animal rights groups welcomed the mass cull imposed by the government, and called for a general ban on what they said was an "outdated" industry.

"Although not a ban on fur farming, this move signals the end of suffering for millions of animals confined to small wire cages on Danish fur farms," said Joanna Swabe of Humane Society International.



Mink 'good reservoirs' for COVID-19, Denmark shows courage in cull - WHO

In a meeting with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control held earlier on Thursday, experts agreed with Denmark's strategy to tackle the situation, state epidemiologist Kare Molbak said.

Hans Kluge, WHO European regional director, said Denmark showed "determination and courage" in the face of a decision to cull its mink population, which has a "huge economic impact".

While no coronavirus has been detected on mink farms in Poland, another major mink pelt producer, authorities in Sweden on Thursday imposed restrictions on mink farms after infections were found.

However, they have not observed the mutation found in neighbouring Denmark.

RISK TO FUTURE VACCINES

In a report published on Wednesday, the State Serum Institute (SSI), the authority dealing with infectious diseases, said laboratory tests showed the new strain had mutations on its so-called spike protein, a part of the virus that invades and infects healthy cells.

That poses a risk to future COVID-19 vaccines, which are based on disabling the spike protein, SSI said.

Ian Jones, a virology professor at Britain's University of Reading, said the virus would be expected to mutate in a new species.

"It must adapt to be able to use mink receptors to enter cells and so will modify the spike protein to enable this to happen efficiently," he explained.

"The danger is that the mutated virus could then spread back into man and evade any vaccine response which would have been designed to the original, non-mutated version of the spike protein, and not the mink-adapted version."

Authorities in Denmark said five cases of the new virus strain had been recorded on mink farms and 12 cases in humans.

James Wood, a professor of veterinary medicine at Cambridge University, cautioned that the true implication of the changes in the spike protein had not yet been fully assessed by scientists.

"It is too early to say that the change will cause either vaccines or immunity to fail," he said. --

Reuters



Rich nations fall short on climate finance pledge

[Agence France-Presse](#) / 04:50 PM November 06, 2020



In this Friday, April 24, 2020 file photo, activists place thousands of protest placards in front of the Reichstag building, home of the German federal parliament, Bundestag, during a protest rally of the 'Fridays for Future' movement in Berlin, Germany. U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said Tuesday at a two-day international meeting on climate change, that the coronavirus pandemic has exposed how fragile societies are, but that if governments work together on common challenges, including global warming, it can be an opportunity to 'rebuild our world for the better.' (AP File Photo/Michael Sohn)

PARIS — Wealthy countries are falling short on a decade-old promise to ramp up climate finance for the developing world, according to a semi-official report released Friday.

Even those numbers may be inflated, watchdog groups warned.

The 2009 UN climate summit in Copenhagen mandated that poorer nations — historically blameless for global warming, but most at risk — were to receive \$100 billion (85 billion euros) annually starting from 2020 to help curb their carbon footprint and cope with future climate impacts.

But where the money was to come from and how it would be allocated were not spelled out, which has made tracking progress toward that goal both difficult and disputed.

As of 2018, the last year for which data is available, money from all sources earmarked for climate-related projects totaled \$78.9 billion, up about 11 percent from the year before, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) said in a detailed report, its third since 2015.

Public climate finance from developed countries — almost evenly split between bilateral and multilateral sources — accounted for the lion's share, some \$62.2 billion, with another \$2 billion in government-backed export credits.

The rest, some \$14.6 billion, came from private investment.

How these figures align with the UN-backed pledge, renewed in the 2015 Paris Agreement, is subject to interpretation, and the OECD makes a point of not drawing conclusions one way or the other.



Rich nations fall short on climate finance pledge

‘Mounting threat’

If climate finance in 2019 and 2020 ramped up at the same pace as from 2017 to 2018, the \$100 billion-target would be within grasp this year.

But the rate at which money was mobilized had already slowed sharply going into 2018, and the impact of the coronavirus pandemic is still unknown.

“Climate finance is a lifeline for communities facing record heatwaves, terrifying storms and devastating floods,” said Tracy Carty, co-author of an in-depth “shadow report” on climate finance compiled by experts at global NGO Oxfam.

“Even as governments struggle with Covid-19, they must not lose sight of the mounting threat of the climate crisis.”

According to Oxfam, donors reported only \$120 billion dollars in climate finance across 2017 and 2018, some \$30 billion shy of the OECD estimate for those two years combined.

Less contested but even more controversial is the form that aid has taken, and the countries to which has been allocated.

According to the OECD, nearly three-quarters of public finance given in 2018 was in the form of loans, few of them “concessional”, or at below-market interest rates.

Only a fifth were the out-right grants that developing countries have consistently demanded.

For Oxfam, once loan repayments and interest is stripped out of the calculation, only about \$20 billion of “true support” remained in 2018.

‘An overlooked scandal’

“The excessive use of loans in the name of climate assistance is an overlooked scandal,” said Carty, arguing that the world’s poorest countries “should not be forced to take out loans to respond to a climate crisis not of their making.”

The worst offender in this category according to Oxfam was France, which provided almost 97 percent of its bilateral climate aid as loans and other non-grant instruments.

By contrast, the vast majority of aid from Sweden, Denmark, and Britain were in the form of grants.

However much climate assistance was doled out in 2018, very little of it went to the countries most in need, the OECD and Oxfam reports agree.

Some 14 percent went to nations in the Least Developed Countries category, and two percent to developing small island nations, whose very existence is threatened by rising seas, according to the OECD.

Nearly 70 percent went to middle-income countries.



Rich nations fall short on climate finance pledge

The OECD report does not cover domestic public climate finance or so-called “South-South” assistance between developing countries.

Another long-standing complaint from poorer nations is how funds are split between helping countries cut emissions (mitigation) and cope with climate impacts already in the pipeline (adaptation).

OECD reports that 70 percent of 2018 finance went to mitigation, with only 21 percent allocated for adaptation. Oxfam’s breakdown was roughly the same.

Last month, more than 500 civil society groups called on G20 finance ministers to cancel debts in poorer countries in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Debt repayments were suspended for six months.

Read more: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1357371/rich-nations-fall-short-on-climate-finance-pledge#ixzz6d3pjHBbC>

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Air pollution fell, plastic use soared during Europe lockdowns

Published November 6, 2020, 8:48 AM
by [Agence France-Presse](#)

Coronavirus lockdowns in Europe have led to some environmental improvements such as better air quality and lower carbon emissions, but they are temporary and coupled with a surge in single-use plastic, the European Environment Agency (EEA) said Thursday.



People wearing protective face masks, walk along the promenade of Varazze, a village in the Italy's northern region of Liguria, on November 5, 2020.
(Photo by Vincenzo PINTO / AFP / MANILA BULLETIN)

The pandemic is ravaging Europe, which has now become the global region with the most Covid-19 infections, and governments in Britain, France, Italy and elsewhere are ramping up measures to stop the spread.

The Copenhagen-based EEA said in a statement that lockdowns in European countries “may have some direct, short-term, positive impacts on our environment, especially in terms of emissions and air quality, although these are likely to be temporary.”

The EU agency said its data showed that the concentration of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), a gas emitted mainly from vehicles which can cause inflammation of the respiratory system, fell sharply in countries where lockdowns were imposed in the spring of 2020.

The concentration of NO₂ fell by 61 percent in Spain, 52 in France and 48 percent in Italy, all countries which had strict lockdowns, the EEA said.

Noise pollution also fell significantly.

But the pandemic has also brought about a significant spike in plastic consumption, as demand for protective gear like masks, gloves and hand sanitiser soared.

Restaurants forced to only offer takeaway have used single-use plastic containers, while increased online shopping has also contributed to the problem.



Air pollution fell, plastic use soared during Europe lockdowns

“The upsurge in demand for these items may challenge EU efforts to curb plastic pollution and move towards a more sustainable and circular plastics system,” the statement said.

The pandemic has also led to a sharp drop in oil prices, making it cheaper for manufacturers to use oil rather than recycled material to make plastic, it added.



Hydrogen emerging as new cleaner fuel

November 6, 2020 | Filed under: [Editorial,Opinion](#) | Posted by: [Tempo Desk](#)



IN the mounting worldwide effort to cut down on polluting emissions from the burning of traditional fuels like diesel, gasoline, natural gas, and coal, the world's scientists and other researchers are now exploring other sources of power for industry, for transportation, for offices and homes.

Early this week, there was news from London that the international maritime industry is racing to find technologies to cut carbon-polluting emissions from their ships. The United Nations has set goals for the world shipping industry – that its first net-zero-emission ships must enter the global fleet by 2030.

Hydrogen has emerged as a leading candidate to replace today's fuels and world oil major Royal Dutch has announced its commitment to hydrogen as “advantaged over other potential zero-emissions fuels for shipping.”

In its present stage of development, hydrogen as fuel occupies more space than other fuels, so that it is more feasible, for now, to use it only for ships on short voyages, as well as on river vessels. It is also more costly to produce than low-Sulphur fuel oil, another possible replacement for today's fossil fuels with their high-carbon emissions.

The international movement for lower carbon emissions is also being pushed by countries like Norway which has ordered that cruise ships and ferries travelling through its fjords must be emissions-free by 2026.





Hydrogen emerging as new cleaner fuel

We welcome these moves to cut down on world carbon pollution, particularly the setting of deadlines. China became the first nation to set a deadline – 2060 – for a total end to its carbon emissions. It was followed by Japan which set its deadline at 2050. And now we have two more dates – 2030 set by the United Nations for the shipping industry, and 2026 set by Norway for all ships sailing in its fjords.

Hydrogen is now being developed for world shipping. Right now, hydrogen is far less dense than other fuels, making it necessary to carry more of it for one voyage. Once this problem is solved, it may also become a major fuel substitute for airliners.

Hydrogen is a cleaner fuel than oil, gas, or coal. We in the Philippines are now also turning to renewable and cleaner sources of energy, notably solar, wind, biomass, and geothermal. We are part of the worldwide movement to cut down and eventually eliminate pollution of Earth's atmosphere before it becomes too deadly for humanity.