

09 FEBRUARY 2021, Tuesday



# NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



## DENR to borrow funds to build sanitary landfills

By [Jonathan L. Mayuga](#)

February 9, 2021

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) plans to tap the Green Financing Program (GFP) of the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) to fill up the financing gap in the establishment of some 300 sanitary landfills across the country.

“We are looking forward to a collaboration with the DENR because ever since DBP is very much involved into the different projects or thrust of the DENR,” Paul D. Lazaro, head of the DBP Lending Program Management Group, was quoted in a statement as saying.

The DENR plans to close all remaining open dumps, about 230, in the country by the end of March. The DENR is tasked to help local government units (LGUs) establish their own sanitary landfills for proper waste disposal.

Resource-poor LGUs often complain of the cost of putting up engineered sanitary landfills, the final waste-disposal facility allowed under Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, to justify the operation of open dumps by private firms in their localities.

The meeting between the DENR and the DBP, Lazaro said, will give the DBP “a better approach in terms of solid waste management.”

Before the meeting, the DENR facilitated the creation of the sanitary landfill operators’ coalition to boost collaboration with the agency and help in identifying strategic areas where they can operate.

The DENR plans to link the LGU to the DBP for the purchase of the land for the SLF site. The DENR also plans to link the LGU with the private sector who will construct the facility.

Lazaro said the DBP can consider the public-private partnership because it can finance both the local government and the private sector.

Rustico Noli D. Cruz, head of the DBP Program Development and Management Department, said the bank can provide financing solution to SLF operators through its GFP.

According to Cruz, the GFP is the bank’s umbrella program for all environmental and climate change projects, including solid and hazardous waste management, air and water pollution, resource conservation, and energy efficiency.

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/02/09/denr-to-borrow-funds-to-build-sanitary-landfills/>



## DENR SHUTS DOWN LGU-RUN OPEN DUMPSITE IN PAMPANGA



February 9, 2021 @ 12:15 AM 4 hours ago

POLITICAL will talks loud at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources with Secretary Roy Cimatu and his top men led by Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny D. Antiporda battling hard to protect the environment being abused even by those from the government.

To mention one, Usec. Antiporda personally went to Barangay San Nicolas, Sta. Ana, Pampanga to terminate the operation of an estimated four-hectare open dumpsite disguised as a recycling facility.

“We are again in this situation that they use the term materials recovery facility (MRF) but in reality, it is an open dumpsite, which the law prohibits,” the obviously-incensed Usec. Antiporda said.

He’s doubly infuriated upon learning that Sta. Ana Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Officer (MENRO) Bryan James Garcia, a former employee of DENR-Region 3, prepared the report used as basis for the Notice of Violation (NoV) issued to the municipal government of Sta. Ana in 2018.

The NoV was relative to the operation of the dumpsite but the LGU did not act on the notice.

The DENR-Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) in Region 3, together with the Philippine National Police-Maritime Group and Sta. Ana Municipal Police Station, served the cease and desist order against the open dumpsite for violating Section 37 of Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

Based on the recent investigation of EMB-Region 3, the open dumpsite is adjacent to the MRF owned and operated by the municipality.



## DENR SHUTS DOWN LGU-RUN OPEN DUMPSITE IN PAMPANGA

However, further investigation showed that the MRF is also being operated as an open dumpsite.

“They are not really using the MRF. They just used the name but still make and use this as an open dumpsite,” Usec. Antiporda said.

He stressed that the open dumpsite was located in a farmland, which causes degradation of environment and poses health hazards to the residents living within the area as the leachate from the dumped waste goes to the ground and contaminates the ground water.

### Navotas’ dry-run for COVID-19 vaccination rollout

Navotas City government officials spearheaded the dry-run for the vaccination rollout held at the Navotas Polytechnic College (NPC), which houses the city’s vaccine cold room.

According to Mayor Toby Tiangco, the latest simulation was the third in a series of dry-runs that the local government had conducted in order to be ready for the vaccination rollout.

“The drill has helped us assess our readiness for the citywide COVID-19 immunization and enabled us to see what needs to be improved on.”

“The first batch of vaccines is expected to arrive this February and we need to ensure that we are set and primed to execute the campaign. We aim to inoculate 1,500 daily and we want it to go as safe and smooth as possible.”

Rep. John Rey Tiangco and other City Hall officials have witnessed the simulation wherein there were scenarios like responding to a patient experiencing adverse reaction to the vaccine and transporting the vaccines from NPC to other inoculation sites.

The local government has allotted an initial P20-million for its COVID-19 vaccination program as it intends to vaccinate 103,000 residents and non-residents who work in the city and aged 18 and above.

It has signed a tripartite deal to purchase 100,000 doses of AstraZeneca vaccines and sent order for 10,000 doses from Moderna.

It also intends to buy 40,000 doses from Pfizer.

“These brands emerged as top choices of ‘Navoteños’ when we conducted our informal survey in December last year.

However, we are open to receiving other brands from the national government,” the Navotas chief executive said.

### CODE Team lauds city’s pandemic response

Meanwhile, members of Coordinated Operations to Defeat Epidemic team led by Cabinet Secretary Karlo Alexei Nograles and Health Secretary Francisco Duque, III were all praises for the preparedness shown by the city government on its vaccination program.



## **DENR SHUTS DOWN LGU-RUN OPEN DUMPSITE IN PAMPANGA**

In their visit in the city, the CODE team members were one in commending the partnership of the Tiangco brothers – Mayor Tiangco and Rep. Tiangco – in their Covid-19 response.

Navotas' effective and speedy response throughout the Covid-19 pandemic was something other cities can emulate and the national government will continue to provide help to the city, the CODE team said.

“Navotas is worth-acknowledging and recognizing because of its success in its Covid-19 pandemic response,” the DOH chief said.



## DENR shuts down Sta. Ana-run dumpsite in San Fernando



*Feb 8, 2021 @ 16:29*

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has shut down an open landfill in Barangay San Nicolas in San Fernando City that was being operated by the municipal government of Sta. Ana.

The dumpsite was allegedly disguised as a recycling facility, according to a report in Sun Star Pampanga.

The report said DENR-Environmental Management Bureau personnel in Central Luzon coordinated with the Philippine National Police-Maritime Group in the operation, armed with a cease and desist order against the alleged open dump.

“We are again in this situation that they use the term materials recovery facility (MRF), but in reality, it is an open dumpsite, which the law prohibits,” DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny Antiporda was quoted as saying in the report.

Operation of the open dumpsite is a violation of Section 37 of Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

Under RA No. 9003, no open dumps should be established and operated by any person or even local governments.

Source: <https://centralluzon.politics.com.ph/denr-shuts-down-sta-ana-run-dumpsite-in-san-fernando/>



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## OPEN DUMPSITE SA BANSA IPASASARANG LAHAT

APAT pala na ektaryang open dumpsite na pinatatakbo ng municipal government ng Santa Ana, Pampanga kamakalawa ang ipinasara alinsunod sa utos ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy A. Cimatu at sinasabing maipasara ang lahat ng open dumpsite sa bansa sa katapusan ng Marso na ipinahinto ni Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny D. Antiporda.

Pumunta po ng perso-

nal si Antiporda sa Barangay San Nicolas, Sta. Ana, Pampanga upang makita ang tahasang paglabag kung saan binanggit niya na nagpapanggap lamang na recycling facility ang open dumpsite.

"We are again in this situation that they use the term materials recovery facility (MRF) but in reality, it is an open dumpsite, which the law prohibits," sabi ni Antiporda.

Nagalit din si Antiporda nang malamang ang Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Officer ng Sta. Ana na si Bryan James

Garcia, na dating empleyado ng DENR-Region 3, ang gumawa ng report na nagiging basehan ng notice of violation (NOV) na in-issuue sa tanggapan ng Sta. Ana noong 2018. Ang nasabing NOV ay dahil sa operasyon ng dumpsite bagamat hindi inaksyunan ng nasabing LGU.

"Nagagalit ako kasi nalaman ko na ikaw pa pala ang gumawa ng report tungkol dito nung ikaw ay nasa DENR pa. Ano ang ginawa mo upang maiwasto ang mga violations na inisyu noon ngayong ikaw na ang MENRO dito?" ayon kay Antiporda.

Si Garcia ay dating monitoring officer ng DENR-Solid Waste Enforcement Education Program sa ilalim ng Environmental Monitoring Office.

Kasama ng Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) ng DENR ang Philippine National Police-Maritime Group at Santa Ana Municipal Police Station nang ibigay ang cease and desist order (CDO) laban sa open dumpsite sa Barangay San Nicolas dahil sa paglabag sa Section 37 ng Republic Act 9003 o ang Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

Gayundin, inatasan na rin ang Sta. Ana MENRO na magbigay ng safe closure and rehabilitation plan sa loob ng pitong araw.

Base sa imbestigasyon ng EMB-Region 3, ang open dumpsite ay katabi lamang ng MRF na pagmamay-ari at pinatatakbo ng munisipalidad. Subalit lumabas din sa imbestigasyon na ang MRF ay ginagamit din

bilang open dumpsite.

"They are not really using the MRF. They just used the name but still make and use this as an open dumpsite," dagdag pa nito.

Dagdag pa ni Antiporda na ang open dumpsite ay nasa isang bukirin na maaaring magdulot ng pagkasira ng kalikasan at masamang epekto sa kalusogan ng mga residenteng nakatira sa paligid ng dumpsite dahil maaaring pumunta sa ilalim ng lupa ang katas ng mga basura at lasunin ang tubig.

"You can see napakaganda po ng ating kabukiran then lalagyan mo ng basurahan sa gitna, malalason po ang tubig sa ilalim ng lupang ito kung kaya 'kailangang ma-safe closure and rehab ito," Antiporda emphasized.



## UMRBPL not for cattle grazing, solar farming, DENR exec says

By [Jonathan L. Mayuga](#)

February 9, 2021



In file photo: Bald mountain at a portion of the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape in Rizal province.

The Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape (UMRBPL) may require massive scale of rehabilitation and tree planting to restore it back to health, an official of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said.

This was according to Nonito Tamayo, DENR's regional executive director for the Calabarzon, who rejected suggestions to allow cattle grazing in the UMRBPL.

The official said any activity within the UMRBPL must be approved by the DENR, or at least the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB).

The UMRBPL's comprehensive management plan includes reforestation and stream-bank stabilization and rehabilitation, implementation of social, economics, livelihood and institutional arrangements; flooding and erosion control projects; water quality management and sanitation, public information, and awareness campaigns, and capacity building activities in partnership with various agencies of the government, the private sector, local governments, and other institutions.

"When you use the area for cattle grazing, what will you plant? Naturally grass. But what we want to do is plant more trees in the area," he said, backing efforts to reforest denuded portions of the UMRBPL.

Tamayo, who sits as chairman of the UMRBPL's PAMB, rejected earlier plan of Rublou Inc. to raise cattle within the Protected Landscape.

He also cautioned Rublou Inc.'s subsidiary, Green Atom, on its plan to put up a solar farm atop the mountain, saying like cattle grazing, such a project runs contrary to the objective of greening the open, degraded and denuded portions of the forest.





## UMRBPL not for cattle grazing, solar farming, DENR exec says

He said putting up solar panels in the area to harness the power of the sun may even trigger cutting of small trees in the area.

“As far as I know, only hydropower is the only renewable energy project allowed in a Protected Area,” said Tamayo, a forester and former director of the DENR’s Forest Management Bureau.

Officials of Rublou Inc. and Green Atom recently figured in a territorial dispute with conservation advocates running the award-winning Masungi Georeserve.



## Strict compliance of quarry rules, regulations to be enforced

[TERESA D. ELLERA](#)

February 08, 2021

BOARD Member Andrew Montelibano (Third District) said Monday, February 8, that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-Western Visayas director has directed them to strictly impose the rules and regulations on quarry operations in Negros Occidental to avoid environmental destruction.

Montalibano said they have received several feedback pointing to some quarry operations having some alleged violations, which, he said, they will look into.

"The DENR told us to immediately serve notice to those having violations," Montelibano said.

The illegal quarry operations are believed to be among the causes of flooding especially in the Third District.

Montelibano said they will start the inspection as soon as the weather situation is stable this week after the Provincial Board created a technical working group.

Site inspection to determine whether those in the quarry business have permits and are compliant with government policies will be conducted, Montelibano added.

The decision to conduct site inspection came after two consecutive hearings conducted by the Provincial Board last January in its effort to know why huge volumes of water from upland areas triggered floods in the cities of Talisay, Silay and Victorias and E.B. Magalona town that affected more than 50,000 households per compiled data from the four LGUs.

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1885322/Bacolod/Local-News/Strict-compliance-of-quarry-rules-regulations-to-be-enforced>



## Mining' is not a four-letter word

posted February 09, 2021 at 12:30 am

by [Rudy Romero](#)



BUSINESS CLASS  
by Rudy Romero

"This country does not have many options when it comes to ramping up GDP growth. The mining industry is one of its few options."

No, "mining" is not a four-letter word – the last time I did some counting, "mining" was made up of six letters.

Mining started to lose two of its letters, going from six letters to four letters, when the late Regina "Gina" Lopez - may she rest in peace - began her environmentalist campaign and targeted the mining industry as the principal despoiler of the environment. Newly elected Rodrigo Duterte, who during the [residential campaign had advocated greater protection of the environment, decided to buy into Ms. Lopez's advocacy and appointed her as his first DENR (Department of Environment and Natural Resources) head.

The new Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources lost no time putting her all mining-is-bad philosophy into practice. During her first weeks in office, Gina Lopez cancelled the certificate of authority to operate some mining companies under suspicion and issued show-cause orders to others. Then she ordered a general audit of the entire Philippine mining industry.

The mining industry knew Gina Lopez from her private-sector day; it knew what to expect from the female scion of the Lopez family. What the mining companies did not expect - and what flabbergasted the mining companies - was President Duterte's choice of Gina Lopez to head DENR. Given her hardline views on the mining industry, the mining companies felt that Ms. Lopez's appointment was akin to placing a wolf inside the chicken house. The Philippine mining community was stunned, and it still is stunned.

To be sure, Secretary Lopez gave the seal of approval to a number of companies that have been stalwarts of the mining industry and have, over the decades, been among the darlings of the Philippine stock market - the likes of industry veterans Benguet Consolidated Mining Co. and Philex Mining Co. But she was next to heartless with other companies of lower age and less stature. Most of these companies are still under suspension or undergoing scrutiny of the MGB (Mines and Geosciences, Bureau), the DENR-component agency that directly supervises the mining industry.

Today the Philippine mining industry is in a state of uncertainty as it awaits the results of the second of the two industry audits ordered by Gina Lopez and, subsequently, by her successor as Secretary, Roy Cimatu.



## Mining' is not a four-letter word

The impression that an objective observer gets is that the development and growth of this country's mining industry is not a priority of the present administration and that DENR and MGB are in no rush to complete and announce the results of the already-much-delayed second audit of the industry.

The Philippine mining industry should be out there in the world marketplace, selling competitive products, attracting investments and installing improved technology. Instead it is on hold, awaiting the results of an audit that should have completed before the start of the pandemic.

Nature endowed the Philippines with abundant mineral resources, and this country is a leading world producer of gold, silver, copper, nickel, chromite, and iron. The Philippines is recognized as a major player in the world markets for these products. Numerous countries that have achieved economic development and prosperity -- the US, Canada, Australia, South Africa, Sweden, Czech Republic, and Chile, to name a few - got to where they are partly because of their exports of minerals.

The mining industry used to account for a significant portion of Philippine GDP (Gross Domestic Product), generating jobs and government revenue in addition to export income. With the present administration's antipathetic attitude toward the industry, that is no longer true.

While mining is not a four-letter word, there undoubtedly are mining companies that have behaved in four-letter fashion. Gina Lopez knew who those companies were and she, rightly, threw the regulatory book at them. Every industry has its scoundrels, but it is very probably correct to say that the majority of companies have been engaged in responsible mining.

Truth to tell, this country does not have many options when it comes to ramping up GDP growth. The mining industry is one of its few options. Let the present administration come out - finally - with a firm policy on the Philippine mining industry so that the industry will be able to once again make its full contribution to this country's economic development.

**Topics: ["mining"](#) , [Regina "Gina" Lopez](#) , [Rodrigo Duterte](#) , [Department of Environment and Natural Resources](#)**



## Environment dep't sets hearings on impact of P14.6-B LNG terminal

February 8, 2021 | 7:18 pm



[HTTPS://EXCELERATEENERGY.COM/](https://excelerateenergy.com/)

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said it has set the dates for the environmental-impact hearing of Linseed Field Power Corp.'s proposed P14.6-billion liquefied natural gas (LNG) import terminal in Ilijan, Batangas City.

In a notice of hearing, the DENR said an onsite session will take place in Barangay Ilijan on Feb. 18 while another session via videoconference is scheduled for the next day.

Parties seeking to attend are required to confirm their attendance and e-mail their comments in advance to the DENR's Environmental Impact Assessment and Management Division.

The DENR said the hearings are in aid of reviewing the project's environmental impact statement (EIS), a key pre-construction milestone.

According to Linseed's EIS submitted last month, the terminal will be built on nine hectares, leased from Ilijan Primeline Holdings, Inc.

Linseed said that the import facility is scheduled to be operational by June 2022.

The project will be adjacent to the operational Ilijan Power Plant and Kepco Ilijan Corp. The terminal is designed for onshore regasification and storage, and will be supported with a floating storage unit.

In its EIS, Linseed said the facility hopes to step in as a supplier to the 1,200-megawatt (MW) Ilijan combined-cycle plant which is currently sourcing its gas from the Malampaya field. The plant's supply agreement with the Malampaya Deepwater Gas-to-Power project expires in June next year.



## Environment dep't sets hearings on impact of P14.6-B LNG terminal

“Without the proposed LNG terminal, the power plant — which supplies more than 10% of the 11,304 MW capacity of the Luzon grid — would have to try extending its supply agreement with Malampaya... or cease operations altogether.”

Linseed added that the LNG facility will also supply the requirements of SMC Global Power's planned 850-megawatt mid-merit plant, which is set to begin commercial operations by 2022.

“This terminal therefore is an important component of securing almost 20% of the power demand of Luzon,” Linseed said in its EIS. It added that the project is expected to contribute to the local economy, particularly the host barangay, through “taxes, employment opportunities, social development programs and corporate social responsibility (CSR) projects.”

In a Senate hearing last month, legislators solicited comment on the measure proposing to regulate the industry, Senate Bill No. 1819. The proposed regulations cover various stages of the LNG import process, like aggregation, supply, receipt, unloading, loading, processing, storage, regasification, transmission, and transportation of natural gas in original or liquefied form.

The Malampaya project, which supplies fuel to five Luzon-based power plants with a combined capacity of 3,200 megawatts, accounted for 21.1% of gross power generated in 2019. The DoE (Department of Energy) projects that its reserves will be depleted in six years' time. — **Angelica Y. Yang**



## More dolphins, whales found thriving in Sarangani Bay

Published February 8, 2021, 11:28 PM

by [Philippine News Agency](#)

Environment personnel have spotted over 300 whales and dolphins in a series of monitoring activities in parts of Sarangani Bay.



Whales and dolphins were spotted in Sarangani Bay by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Region XII and its partners during conduct of marine mammal monitoring in the protected seascape from February 2-5, 2021. (DENR-12)

Joy Oloquin, area superintendent of the Sarangani Bay Protected Seascape (SBPS), said Monday the marine mammals were monitored in the seas off this city and Sarangani province and appeared to have been thriving in the area's marine environment.

The marine mammal monitoring activities were conducted from Feb. 2 to 5 by joint personnel from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Region 12's conservation and development division, SBPS protected area management office, General Santos City environment and natural resources office, and the Environmental Conservation and Protection Center of Sarangani.

"Food hunting and nursing of calves are the possible reasons why the whales and dolphins are in the bay," Oloquin said in a report.

She said the team specifically saw 20 to 30 short-finned pilot whales (*Globicephala macrorhynchus*), eight Risso's dolphins, 80 to 100 Spinner dolphins, and 150 to 200 Fraser's dolphins.

Most of them were seen on various occasions in the coastal waters between Malapatan and Glan towns in Sarangani.

The latest dolphin and whale sighting in the Sarangani Bay is among the biggest reported by DENR-Region 12.



## More dolphins, whales found thriving in Sarangani Bay

In August 2019, its monitoring team spotted around 270 marine mammals in different sites of the bay.

Among the threats observed by the agency to the existence of the dolphins and whales are the continuous throwing of hazardous garbage such as polyethylene terephthalate or PET bottles, cellophane, plastic wrappers, and other non-biodegradable materials.

It also noted the presence of fishing vessels conducting various activities within the bay that could harm the cetaceans and other marine organisms.

DENR-12 had previously set quarterly monitoring activities to track down developments and day-to-day undertaking of establishments within the bay.

Starting this year, Oloquin said they decided to conduct monthly marine mammal monitoring “to ensure the strict protection and conservation” of the SBPS.





## More dolphins, whales found thriving in Sarangani Bay

By Allen Estabillo February 8, 2021, 5:08 pm



**300 DOLPHINS, WHALES.**

Photo shows some of the dolphins spotted by the marine mammal monitoring team of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Region 12 in portions of the Sarangani Bay from Feb. 2 to 5. Over 300 dolphins and whales of various species that appeared to have been thriving in the area's marine environment were sighted during the monitoring activities. (*Photo courtesy of DENR-12*)

**GENERAL SANTOS CITY** – Environment personnel have spotted over 300 whales and dolphins in a series of monitoring activities in parts of Sarangani Bay.

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## Endangered Ph hawk-eagle nareskyu sa Olongapo



February 8, 2021 @ 6:37 PM 10 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Nareskyu ang endangered na Philippine hawk-eagle sa Olongapo City nang matagpuan sa isang residential area sa Barangay Barreto.

Batay sa mga residente, pinaniniwalang nakatakas ito mula sa pagkakakulong.

Ibinigay ito ng nakakita kay Cpl. Juan Carlos Ventura ng Olongapo City Police Office para sa temporary custody bago dalhin sa Win Animals Rescue Center sa loob ng Subic Bay Freeport.

Sinabi ni Ventura na nasa 3-4 anyos ito at ginawa umanong alaga dahil nakita nila ang pinsala sa mga kuko.

“The eagle is not weak but appears to be malnourished,” aniya sa Inquirer. **RNT/FGDC**

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/endangered-ph-hawk-eagle-nareskyu-sa-olongapo/>



## Agila nasagip sa Olongapo

By Abante News Online — Last updated Feb 8, 2021

NEWS



Photo courtesy of Cpl. Juan Carlos Ventura

Isang agila ang nasagip ng mga residente sa Olongapo City nitong Linggo.

Ayon sa mga awtoriad, pinaniniwalaang nakatas ang Philippine hawk-eagle mula sa pagkakaulong, nang matagpuan sa isang compound sa Brgy. Barretto.

Dinala ng isang residente ang nasabing agila sa Olongapo City Police Office (OCPC) bago ito dinala sa Win Animals Rescue Center sa Subic Bay Freeport.

Pahayag ng mga awtoridad, tinatayang 3 hanggang apat na taong gulang na ang agila at maaari umanong ginawang pet dahil sa pinsala nito sa kanyang mga kuko at walang tuka.

Sa isang panayam sa OCPC, nabatid na sasailalim sa 30 araw na rehabilitasyon ang agila bago ito pakawalan.

Ang mga Philippine hawk-eagle ay bahagi ng mga uri ng hayop na nanganganib nang maubos kaya naman pinoprotektahan ito sa ilalim ng Wildlife Conservation Act.



## CENRO now part of business permit renewal process in Paranaque City

Published February 8, 2021, 7:59 AM

by [Jean Fernando](#)

The Paranaque City government is now requiring all commercial and industrial establishments in the city to register with and secure clearance from the City Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO).



(Screenshot / Facebook / Mayor Edwin L. Olivarez / MANILA BULLETIN)

Mayor Edwin Olivarez said that with the approval of the “ordinance establishing the comprehensive water quality management and user fee system in Paranaque City and appropriating funds thereof,” CENRO shall be implementing and enforcing the ordinance in compliance with RA 9275, the Philippine Clean Water Act of 2001, and in support of the Supreme Court’s continuing mandamus to clean, rehabilitate, and preserve Manila Bay.

Olivarez said CENRO is now part of the Business One Stop Shop (BOSS) processing in issuing environmental permits with a fee of P1,000 and a filing fee of P200.

He explained that under the ordinance, establishments discharging effluent/wastewater into drainages and other water bodies shall be required to secure a clearance and discharge permit.

Engr. Tere Quiogue, supervising environmental specialist management of CENRO, said those that need to apply for a discharge permit are the industrial establishment/infrastructure projects and other similar projects; condominiums; institutions, industrial subdivision; theme parks, malls, golf courses; land transport terminals and parking areas; warehouse/storage facilities; car wash and repair shops and water retailer, water stations and laundry shops.

Quiogue also said the CENRO will also implement the mandatory desludging of septic tanks.

She said all owners and users of septic tanks shall be required to desludge once every five to seven years and must be done only by the concerned water utility or a private desludging company duly



## CENRO now part of business permit renewal process in Paranaque City

accredited by the Department of Health, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and CENRO.

Quiogue added that violators will be fined P10,000 and not more than P200,000 for everyday violation and the fines will increase by 10 percent every two years to compensate for inflation and to maintain the deterrent function of such fines.



## BAKUNA VS COVID-19 'DI NA NGA LIBRE, PAGDATING SA PINAS 'DI PA TIYAK



February 8, 2021 @ 11:00 AM 18 hours ago

NOONG una, mga Bro, tuwang-tuwa tayo sa balita mula sa World Health Organization na libre ang mga bakuna laban sa coronavirus disease o COVID-19 mula mismo sa WHO.

Siyempre pa, inisip natin na mapalad tayo, kasama ang nasa 92 bansang mahihirap na mabibiyayaan nito.

Pero nagbago na ang ihip ng hangin.

'Yun bang === may bayad na pero maliit lang naman umano ang halagang ibibigay natin.

Co-financing umano ang tawag dito o magkatuwang sa gastos ang WHO at ang benepisyaryo.

Kung ano-ano ang mga pagkakagastusan, hindi tayo tiyak pero maaaring mismo sa halaga ng bakuna, sa transportasyon nito at iba pa.

### BAKUNA WALA RING TIYAK NA PAGDATING

Gusto natin sa mga araw na ito na magbakunahan.

Sa katunayan, naipasa na ang patakaran na lahat ng regional at local government units ay maghanda ng vaccine center.

At sa totoo lang, marami na ang nakahanda hindi lang sa pagtatayo ng vaccination center kundi mismo sa ehersisyo kung paano isagawa ang pagbabakuna, sa mga taong magsasagawa nito, gayundin sa paglalagakan ng mga bakuna na nangangailangan ng -70 o -80 na temperatura o sinlamig ng dry ice.

Pero medyo nanlumo tayo sa huling balita mismo ni Health Secretary Francisco Duque na zero pa ang lahat.



## **BAKUNA VS COVID-19 ‘DI NA NGA LIBRE, PAGDATING SA PINAS ‘DI PA TIYAK**

Zero sa petsa, oras at maging sa biyahe ng eroplano na pagsasakyan ng bakuna.

Kung magkakaroon man tayo, maaaring sa huling dalawang linggo ng Pebrero para sa 117,000 dose lang na maaaring Pfizer na gawang Kano at hindi 400,000 dose gaya ng napabalita noong una.

Ito namang AstraZeneca na gawang British o United Kingdom, maaaring may darating hanggang katapusan ng Marso.

Pero walang nakatitiyak, mga Bro, kung mahigit limang milyon hanggang siyam na milyong dose lahat.

### **WALANG DATUNG, WALANG BAKUNA**

Depende mismo sa WHO, lumalabas na hindi pa talaga nito nakakamit ang kabuuang \$7 bilyong dolyar na kailangan nito para makakuha ng sapat na suplay para sa 72 mahihirap na bansa.

Ang malinaw, hanggang \$2B pa lang ang hawak nito at nangangalap pa ng \$5B para kahit papaano ay matugunan nito ang pangangailangan ng nasabing mahihirap na bansa.

Pero mukhang hirap na hirap ang ahensya sa pagkakaroon ng pondo dahil umiiral na ang matinding COVID vaccine nationalism para sa mga mayayamang bansa at tagagawa ng bakuna.

‘Yun bang === sarili muna bago ang iba.

Meron namang sinasabi ang United States at 27-miyembrong European Union na tulong nila pero wala pang linaw ang mga ito sa aktuwal at ang malinaw talaga ay ang patakarang “sarili muna bago ang iba.”

Kung meron mang tumutulong ngayon sa WHO, isa na ang China na nangakong magbibigay ng libreng 10 milyong dose sa ahensya.

### **NASAAN ANG PINAS?**

Mismong si Pangulong Rodrigo ‘Digong’ Duterte at pamahalaan nito ang panay ang tulak para magkaroon na tayo ng bakuna.

Hangga’t maaari, gusto nilang mabakunahan ang nasa 70 milyong Pinoy kahit sa loob ng taong ito para makapanumbalik na tayo sa normal na pamumuhay.

Pero marami talagang balakid dahil, bukod sa vaccine nationalism, lumalabas namang hindi ganoon kadali ang paggawa ng bakuna.

‘Yang suplay ng hilaw na materyales o mahahalagang sangkap, lalo na sa mga bagong uri ng bakuna, ang isang problema.

Nararanasan ito ng Pfizer at AstraZeneca na ngayo’y bulto-bultong binibili ng mga mayayamang bansa para magkaroon sila ng reserba lalo’t wala pang nakaaalam kung gaano katagal ang proteksyon nito sa tao laban sa COVID-19.





## **BAKUNA VS COVID-19 'DI NA NGA LIBRE, PAGDATING SA PINAS 'DI PA TIYAK**

Lumalabas na hanggang 6 buwan lang ang bisa ng mga bakuna at paano ang sinasabi ng WHO at ibang mga bansa na maaaring magtagal ang pandemya sa loob na dalawa pang taon mula ngayon o hanggang 2022?

Meron namang nababatay sa lumang teknolohiya gaya ng pagkuha ng virus mula sa nagka-COVID-19 o SARS pero gayundin na hindi ganoon kadali ang paggawa nito.

Itong lumang teknolohiya, mga Bro, ay madaling intindihin at natutulad ito sa pagkuha ng kamandag ng ahas bilang panlaban sa kamandag ng ahas na tutuklaw sa atin.

### **PROBLEMA SA BAKUNANG WHO**

Isa pa sa dapat nating problemahin, mga Bro, kung manggagaling lahat sa WHO ang bakunang gagamitin natin, ang mga kondisyon mismo ng ahensya.

Sinasabi ng WHO na uunahing bakunahan ang mga health frontliner at matatanda bago ang lahat.

Itong mga frontliner at matatanda o senior citizen kasi ang nakikita ng ahensya na pinaka-vulnerable o may pinakadelikadong kalagayan dahil ang frontliner ang pangunahing nahahawa at masakitin naman ang mga matatanda na kung kinapitan ng COVID-19 ay tepok ang inaabot nila.

Paano ngayon ito?

Gusto natin siyempre na magkaroon pero totoo ang sinasabi ng ating mga lider ng bansa, kasama ang DOH.

Wala silang makausap na matinong kompanya ng gamot at gumagawa ng pang-COVID-19 na bakuna.

Walang matinong usapan dahil mas gusto ng mga kompanya ang gumawa at magsuplay ng bakuna sa mga may pera na handang magpakawala ng salapi, kahit overpriced pa ang bakuna.

Tingnan ninyo, halimbawa, ang Pfizer at Moderna.

Ngayon pa lang ay sinasabi na ng kompanyang ito na kapat o  $\frac{1}{4}$  ng kabuuang kita nito sa sari-sari nitong gawang gamot at bakuna ang nagmumula sa bakunang pang-COVID-19 at \$19B para lang sa 2021.

Ang Moderna naman na gawang Kano rin ay inaasahang kikita ng \$13B para rin sa 2021.

Kaya ba nating makipagkumpitensya sa mga mayayamang bansa at salagin ang pagsasamantala ng mga kompanya ng gamot?

### **MAGDASAL NA, MAG-HEALTH PROTOCOL PA**

Sana nga darating na ang 117,000 dose ng Pfizer at sana nga, matuloy ang 5-9M dose ng AstraZeneca mula sa Pebrero hanggang Marso.



## **BAKUNA VS COVID-19 ‘DI NA NGA LIBRE, PAGDATING SA PINAS ‘DI PA TIYAK**

Para maitulak natin ang pangyayari, dagdagan natin ang nakahanda nating badyet na pambili ng bakuna ng dasal.

Pero hindi lang dasal ang kailangan.

Habang wala pang bakuna, mga Bro, dapat tayong sumunod sa mga patakaran laban sa pandemya o health protocol.

Magsuot ng face mask at face shield, mag-social distancing, palaging maging malinis sa kamay at katawan, tumulong sa contact tracing, magtulungan sa pagsagip sa mga mahihirap at nawalan ng hanapbuhay at magtiwala sa pamahalaan na ginagawa nito ang lahat para sa kaligtasan natin sa pandemya at pagbangon mula sa sobrang paghihirap at krisis.

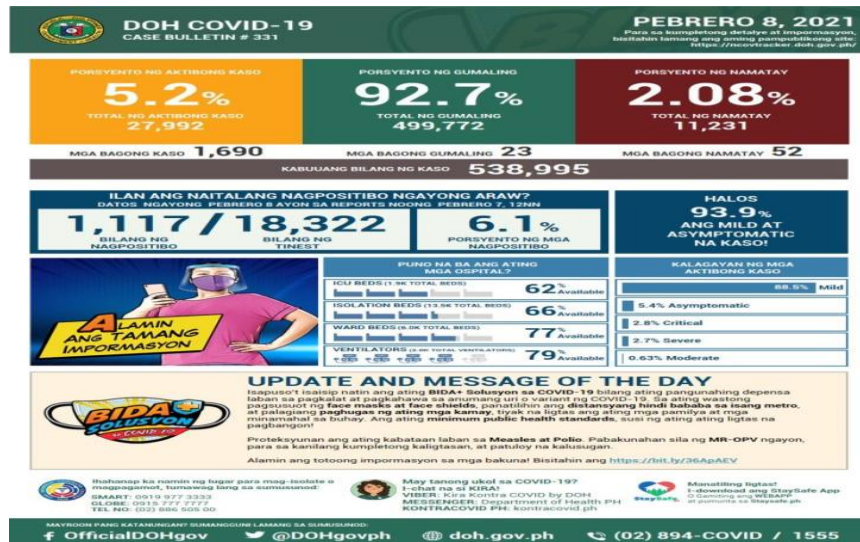
Huwang nating pairalin ang katigasan ng ulo, kawalan ng pakialam, pamemeke sa mga health certificate at iba pa.

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/bakuna-vs-covid-19-di-na-nga-libre-pagdating-sa-pinas-di-pa-tiyak/>



# BREAKING: COVID-19 cases sa Pilipinas, pumalo na sa higit 538,000

By Angellic Jordan February 08, 2021 - 04:07 PM



Halos 2,000 ang panibagong kaso ng Coronavirus Disease o COVID-19 sa Pilipinas.

Sa huling datos ng Department of Health (DOH) bandang araw ng Lunes (February 8), umabot na sa 538,995 confirmed cases ng nakakahawang sakit sa bansa.

Sa nasabing bilang, 27,992 o 5.2 porsyento ang aktibong kaso.

Sinabi ng kagawaran na 1,690 ang bagong napaulat na kaso ng COVID-19 sa bansa.

88.5 porsyento sa active COVID-19 cases ang mild; 5.4 porsyento ang asymptomatic; 0.63 porsyento ang moderate; 2.7 porsyento ang severe habang 2.8 porsyento ang nasa kritikal na kondisyon.

Nasa 52 naman ang napaulat na nasawi.

Dahil dito, umakyat na sa 11,231 o 2.08 porsyento ang COVID-19 related deaths sa bansa.

Ayon pa sa DOH, 23 naman ang gumaling pa sa COVID-19.

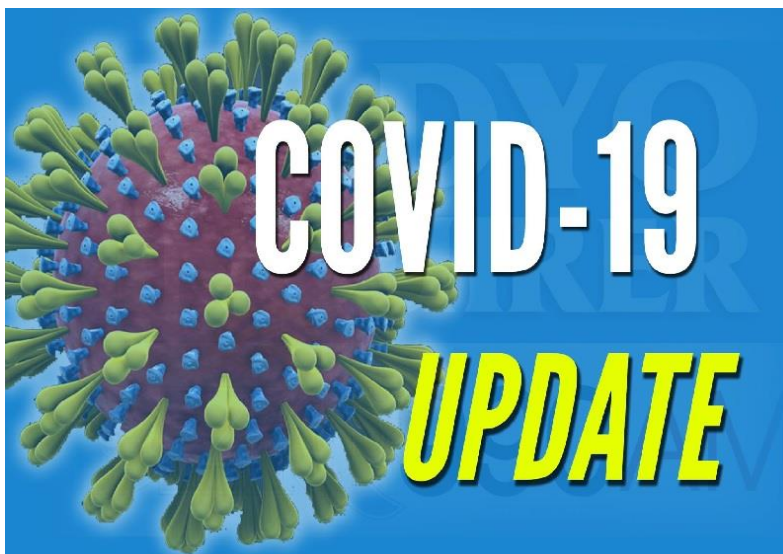
Dahil dito, umakyat na sa 499,772 o 92.7 porsyento ang total recoveries ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas.

Read more: <https://radyo.inquirer.net/284590/breaking-covid-19-cases-sa-pilipinas-pumalo-na-sa-higit-538000#ixzz6lv5c63Du>

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## Kaso ng COVID-19 sa mundo, umabot na sa 106.6 milyon

By Angellic Jordan February 08, 2021 - 02:15 PM



Pumalo na sa 106.6 milyon ang bilang ng kumpirmadong kaso ng COVID-19 sa buong mundo.

Batay sa huling tala, pumalo na sa kabuuang 106,691,461 ang tinamaan ng nakakahawang sakit sa iba't ibang bansa.

Nangunguna pa rin sa may pinakamaraming naitalang kaso ng COVID-19 ang Estados Unidos na may 27,611,403 cases.

Sumunod na rito ang India na may 10,838,843 na nagpositibo sa pandemiya.

Nasa 9,524,640 naman ang kaso sa Brazil habang 3,967,281 ang napaulat na kaso sa Russia.

Narito naman ang naitalang COVID-19 cases sa iba pang bansa at teritoryo:

- United Kingdom - 3,945,680
- France - 3,337,048
- Spain - 2,971,914
- Italy - 2,636,738
- Turkey - 2,531,456
- Germany - 2,291,441
- Colombia - 2,157,216
- Argentina - 1,980,347
- Mexico - 1,932,145
- Poland - 1,550,255
- South Africa - 1,476,135
- Iran - 1,466,435
- Ukraine - 1,244,849
- Peru - 1,186,698
- Indonesia - 1,157,837
- Czechia - 1,034,975
- Netherlands - 1,005,760



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## Kaso ng COVID-19 sa mundo, umabot na sa 106.6 milyon

Samantala, lumabas din sa pinakahuling datos na umakyat na sa kabuuang 2,327,369 ang bilang ng nasawi sa iba't ibang bansa.

Nasa 78,526,046 naman ang total recoveries ng COVID-19 pandemic sa buong mundo.

Read more: <https://rado.inquirer.net/284577/kaso-ng-covid-19-sa-mundo-umabot-na-sa-106-6-milyon#ixzz6lvC5t8nr>

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## LPA, Amihan magdudulot ng pag-ulan sa ilang parte ng bansa

By Angellic Jordan February 08, 2021 - 07:36 PM

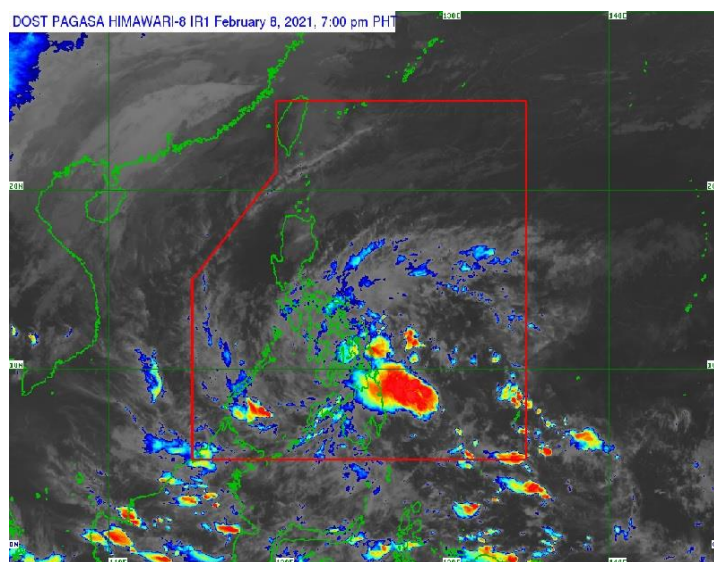


Photo grab from DOST PAGASA website

Patuloy na binabantayan ng PAGASA ang low pressure area (LPA) sa loob ng Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR).

Ayon kay PAGASA weather specialist Chris Perez, huling namataan ang LPA sa layong 175 kilometers Silangan ng Davao City dakong 3:00 ng hapon.

Inaasahan aniyang magdudulot ang trough o extension ng LPA ng maulap na papawirin at kalat-kalat na pag-ulan, pagkidlat at pagkulong sa buong Visayas at Mindanao, MIMAROPA, Bicol region at southern part ng Quezon.

Makararanas pa rin aniya ng mahihinang pag-ulan sa Cagayan Valley, at Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) bunsod naman ng Northeast Monsoon o Amihan.

Sa natitirang bahagi ng Luzon, magiging maaliwalas ang panahon maliban na lamang sa ilang isolated light rains o thunderstorm.

Read more: <https://radyo.inquirer.net/284607/lpa-amihan-magdudulot-ng-pag-ulan-sa-ilang-parte-ng-bansa#ixzz6lv53h3gl>

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## Tacloban suspends work, classes due to heavy rains

By Sarwell Meniano February 8, 2021, 11:29 am



**TACLOBAN CITY** – The city government here has suspended classes and work in the government on Monday due to a low pressure area (LPA) that dumped heavy rains in the Eastern Visayas region.

In an Executive Order issued early Monday, Mayor Alfred Romualdez suspended the classes and work as “precautionary measures and in anticipation of any developments that may arise out of the weather disturbance.”

Since Sunday, the region has been experiencing cloudy skies with moderate to at times heavy rainfall, which may possibly result in landslides and flooding in low-lying areas, according to a forecast of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA).

Under the Local Government Code, governors and mayors are allowed to suspend classes as chairman of the Local Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council especially during disasters and calamities to ensure the safety of learners.

Not covered by work suspension are those involved in the maintenance of peace and order, disaster risk management, health and sanitation, and traffic management.

Meanwhile, the weather bureau has advised people living near mountain slopes and low-lying areas near river systems to take precautionary measures as continuous rainfall may trigger landslides and flooding.

At 3 a.m. on Monday, the LPA was estimated based on all available data at 580 kilometers east of Davao City. **(PNA)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1129948>



## Strong earthquake rattles Mindanao



By [Al Jacinto, TMT](#)

February 8, 2021

**ZAMBOANGA CITY:** A 6.1 magnitude earthquake, registering at 5 on the intensity scale, struck southern Philippines on Sunday, but there were no immediate reports of casualties or damage to structures.

The tremor was traced to the town of Magsaysay in Davao del Sur in eastern Mindanao, according to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs).

Phivolcs said the earthquake was tectonic in nature and was felt in many areas as far as Cagayan de Oro City in northern Mindanao.

North Cotabato Gov. Nancy Catamco said the tremor was felt in Kidapawan City, Koronadal City and the towns of Arakan, Carmen, Kabacan, Makilala, M'Lang and Matalam.

“Ginahangyo ang tanan sa pag-tan aw sa inyong palibot. Palihog i-report dayon sa mga barangay opisyaes kung aduna kamaoy naobserbahan nga pagkaguba gumikan sa pagtay-og. Ginahangyo ang mga namuyo sa mga high risk areas, mga pangpang ug sa tunga sa mga bukid nga magma-abtikon sa possible nga landslides (Everyone is asked to look around you. Please report immediately to barangay (village) officials if there is any observed damage due to the quake. Residents of high-risk areas, cliffs and the middle of the mountains are urged to be vigilant about possible landslides),” she told residents.

Phivolcs said it expects aftershocks and damage to structures.

The German Research Center for Geosciences was the first seismological agency to report the earthquake at 6.0 magnitude near Digos town in Davao del Sur at a shallow depth of 10 km below the surface, according to Volcano Discovery.

It said a second report was later issued by Indonesia’s Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysical Agency, which listed it as a magnitude 6.3 earthquake.

A third agency, the European-Mediterranean Seismological Center, reported the same quake at magnitude 6.0.

Based on the preliminary seismic data, the quake should have been felt by everybody in areas of the epicenter.

In those areas, dangerous ground-shaking occurred with the potential to inflict moderate to heavy damage to buildings and other infrastructure.

Towns or cities where the quake likely caused strong ground-shaking included Digos, located 14 km from the epicenter, and Kidapawan, 30 km away.





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## Strong earthquake rattles Mindanao

In Davao City, located 53 km from the epicenter; Malita, 59 km away; Samal, 62 km away; Panabo, 77 km away; and Budta, 99 km away, light shaking should have been felt.

The Philippines sits on the so-called Pacific Ring of Fire, a 40,000-km area where a large number of earthquakes and volcanic eruptions occur in the basin of the Pacific Ocean.

The ring has more than 400 volcanoes and is sometimes called the circum-Pacific seismic belt.



## A solution to plastic pollution: circular economy

PUBLISHED : 8 FEB 2021 AT 12:30

NEWSPAPER SECTION: [ASIA FOCUS](#)

WRITER: [RANA KARADSHEH-HADDAD](#)

The dire state of the world's oceans can no longer be ignored. Discarded plastic waste -- particularly single-use plastic -- is putting marine life at risk.

It's not only big chunks of plastic and bags that pose a danger: plastic exposed to salt water and ultraviolet solar rays can fragment into minuscule microplastics that are easily ingested by birds, fish and simple marine life forms, eventually leaching chemicals into the food chain.

Businesses, consumers and investors are starting to pay attention -- and it's about time. Without a practical and expedient approach for tackling discarded plastic, waste management systems will become overwhelmed.

Communities dependent on industries such as fishing and tourism, in particular low- and middle-income countries, could experience irreparable economic harm, not to mention health, safety and environmental damage.

That's why solutions to support a circular economy are growing in importance. Getting rid of plastic waste requires more than landfills. It requires rethinking how we recycle, reuse and redesign products -- and manage the materials that go into making those products -- to cut down on waste in a way that also allows industry to thrive economically and boost opportunities.

Recently there has been some good news on that front. Within the next five years, Thailand-based Indorama Ventures, the biggest global producer of polyethylene terephthalate (PET) -- the polymer used to make 30% of all plastic bottles and products ranging from clothing to carpets to automotive products -- has committed to quadruple its PET recycling capacity and eliminate 750,000 tonnes of plastic annually from landfills and open dumps that pollute rivers and oceans.

The Indorama initiative was supported with a novel US\$300-million "blue loan" from the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the development finance arm of the World Bank. These loans were created to incentivise companies to embrace a circular economy approach for combatting marine pollution. It is part of the accelerating global effort to eliminate waste and conserve resources while addressing the health, safety and financial well-being of vulnerable communities.

There is a compelling business argument for doing just that. According to the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, which promotes a circular economy, 95% of plastic packaging, valued at between \$80 billion to \$120 billion a year, is lost to the economy after a short first use.

The primary reason companies don't recycle, experts say, is that collecting and sorting all that discarded PET is a labour-intensive endeavour and not a very lucrative business. On balance, most PET manufacturers still find it cheaper to manufacture virgin PET than to reuse and reprocess discarded material.

IFC envisions its blue loans, the first of which was extended to Indorama, as helping to change that mindset. By supporting the development of a functional and profitable reusability infrastructure, we are hoping to encourage more companies to embrace circularity.



## A solution to plastic pollution: circular economy

The result will be fewer natural resources used and less greenhouse gases emitted to produce new PET, and less waste leaking out of landfills into streams, rivers and oceans.

The partnership with Indorama will help the company expand its existing network of recycling facilities into Brazil, India, Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand -- countries that are particularly vulnerable to ocean pollution because of their large coastal populations and their reliance on fishing and tourism.

To put Indorama's efforts into context, it will recycle 50 billion PET bottles alone every year, conserving 3 million barrels of crude oil that would have gone into making new bottles and eliminating 1.65 million tonnes of carbon pollution.

The loan will also help the company implement resource-efficient measures while spurring investment in the recycling industry, creating employment for local communities and hopefully embedding the ethos of sustainability into the PET industry.

"To make progress on the problem of ocean plastics we need a strategy for persistence a way to work on the problem long enough to make a difference," says Reid Lifset, a research scientist with the Yale University School of the Environment.

"If IFC loans turn into long-term commitments by Indorama and other companies to increase the capture and recycling of PET, this will be a great step forward for the world's oceans."

By helping a global plastic resin producer up its recycling game, IFC is tackling head-on the issue of ocean pollution and is accelerating the circular economy business model away from "take-make-and-waste" into a more sustainable future.

There is more to be done, and we are actively strategising -- and investing -- to promote sustainable development to improve lives and protect the environment.

**Rana Karadsheh-Haddad is the IFC regional industry director for manufacturing, agribusiness and services in Asia and Pacific.**



## 2022 Winter Olympic Games: Beijing air pollution fears raised in new report

By David Lockwood **BBC Sport**

Last updated 09 hours ago 09 hours ago. From the section [Winter Sports](#)



The Beijing Winter Games will start in February 2022

**Athletes competing at next year's Winter Olympics could be doing so in potentially hazardous, polluted air, a new academic study says.**

The report, to be published in the journal *Sport and Society* and shared with the BBC, looked at air quality data over the past five years for the month of February - when the games will be held - and found poor to hazardous conditions on as many as 15 days, with an average of 9.5 days.

"I am very concerned about the air quality in Beijing," said the report's co-author Dr Madeleine Orr, assistant professor at the State University of New York.

"The challenge for athletes with air quality is that they are at higher risk because they are outdoors and they're exerting themselves. Tiny particles in the air that you can't see lodge themselves in your airways and in your lungs and that can be damaging in the long term. It also can impede performance in the immediate. We're talking carbon, methane, sulphur and so on," she explained.

Similar concerns about air quality were reported before the 2008 summer Games when Chinese authorities introduced measures to reduce pollution - something Orr expects to see again. "The question is will it be enough," she said.



## 2022 Winter Olympic Games: Beijing air pollution fears raised in new report

The athlete's view



US biathlete Maddie Phaneuf is also an ambassador for Protect Our Winters, which aims to raise awareness of the impact of climate change on winter sports

The biggest impact of any pollution would be felt by competitors in the snow sport endurance events. American biathlete Maddie Phaneuf said: "It's extremely worrying, not only for my own personal health and the effects of breathing that air but also everyone that lives in Beijing and people who will be coming to watch the Olympics, or other athletes competing.

"We're an endurance sport and breathing pretty heavily during our competitions. It's enough where even the slightest change in air pollution is going to affect our lungs and how we feel when we're racing and training so it is challenging and it would be a big concern for me if they didn't clean it up."

What does the International Olympic Committee say?



Chinese authorities are investing in a nine-year programme to improve air quality in Beijing



## 2022 Winter Olympic Games: Beijing air pollution fears raised in new report

The IOC, which raised the issue of air pollution when assessing Beijing's bid to host the 2022 Winter Games, says it has been working with local organisers to address it.

"Beijing 2022 Organising Committee has made commitments to curb air pollution to meet World Health Organization standards during Games-time in 2022. Beijing 2022 has already made progress with its efforts to improve air quality. A large number of initiatives have been put in place," it told BBC Sport.

Initiatives include having all venues powered with renewable energy, while the government has invested in a Beijing Clean Air Action Plan.

The IOC also pointed to lower air pollution rates achieved during the 2008 Summer Games in Beijing.

It also said endurance events, such as biathlon and cross country skiing - which are most heavily affected by air pollution - will be taking place in the city of Zhangjiakou, which China says has the best air quality in the region.

The local organising committee has not responded to BBC requests for comment.

Could water use be a problem?



The Beijing Games will be almost entirely dependent on fake snow

The report also looked at historical data to confirm Beijing's weather is not conducive to winter sports events, with low snow fall meaning the Games will be almost entirely dependent on fake snow - which, as Dr Orr points out, has its own environmental impact with "a severe need for water" to fuel snow guns.

"This is great in terms of providing conditions in order to have the event but is bad from an environmental standpoint."



## 2022 Winter Olympic Games: Beijing air pollution fears raised in new report

The IOC says "the snow production capabilities for the Olympic Games Beijing 2022 have been developed according to the highest technical and environmental standards".

The lack of available, real snow, does however raise longer-term concerns about the threat posed to snow sports by climate change, according to Phaneuf, who is an ambassador for an organisation called Protect Our Winters, which wants to raise awareness about this issue.

"That is the scary thing about the viability of the Winter Olympics continuing or our sports continuing as it's going to start getting worse and worse with whether we can even race or what countries can even host the Olympics," she said.

09 FEBRUARY 2021, Tuesday



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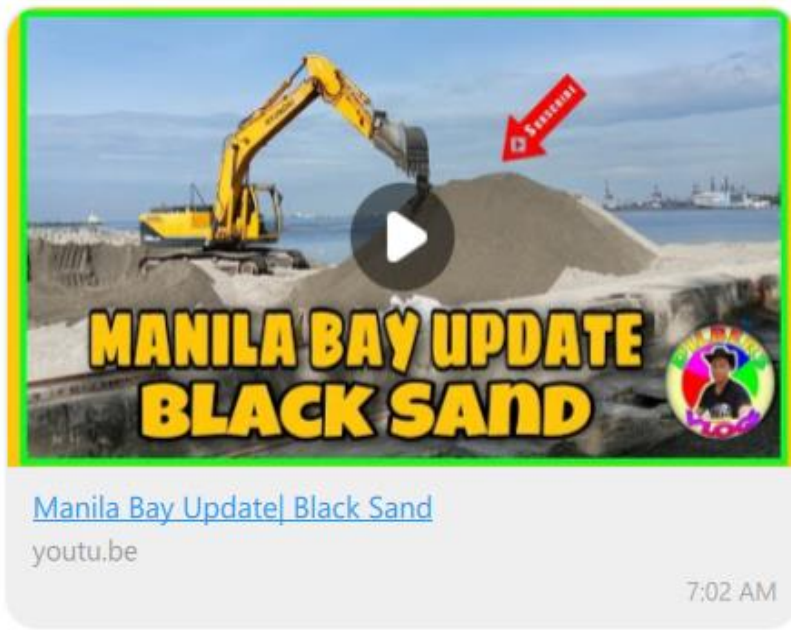
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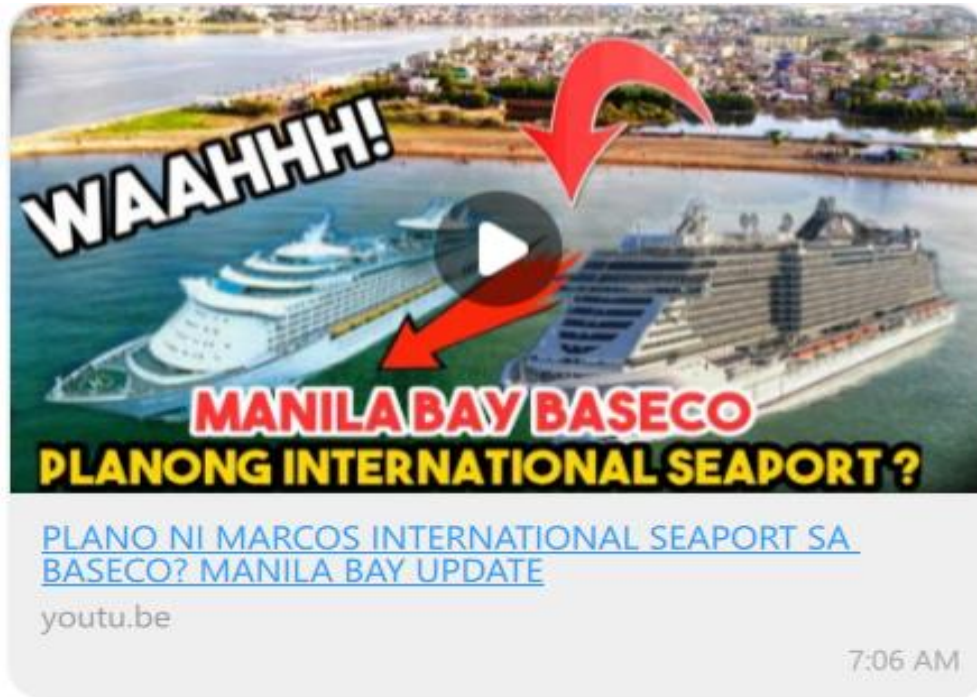
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