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Peatland conservation sa gitna ng pandemya, palakasin – Cimatú



July 8, 2021 @ 4:49 PM 15 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines – Para sa proteksyon ng peatlands sa ASEAN region nanawagan si Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Roy A. Cimatú kasabay ng pagbanggit sa mahalagang papel nito para mapigilan ang haze pollution at mabawasan ang epekto ng climate change.

Ayon sa DENR bagama't 3% lamang ng Earth's land surface ang nasasakupan ng peatlands, tinukoy ni Cimatú na kaya nitong makapag-imbak ng mas maraming carbon o doble kumpara sa kabuuan ng kagubatan sa planeta kung ito ay nasa maayos na estado.

"This is why protecting peatlands in our region is of global significance. Keeping the ASEAN peatlands in their natural state, however, is a great challenge, given population pressures and the competition over the uses of land and water resources that they generate," saad ni Cimatú sa video message sa ginanap na 6th meeting ng ASEAN Task Force on Peatlands (ATFP) noong Hunyo 30.

"Despite the current pandemic that hinders us from doing in-person meetings, I am optimistic that through these virtual sessions, we will be able to concretely chart the way forward for our regional programs and projects in peatland management," dagdag pa nito.

Ang ASEAN region ay mayroong 27.4 million hectares ng peatlands.

Binubuo ito ng 56 percent ng global tropical peatlands na kayang mag-imbak ng 68 billion tons ng carbon o 14 percent ng naiimbak na carbon sa peatlands sa buong mundo.

Ayon sa DENR ang Pilipinas ay mayroong dalawang kilalang peatlands, ito ay ang Leyte Sab-a Basin Peatland na matatagpuan sa Alangalang at Sta. Fe, Leyte at ang Caimpugan Peat Swamp Forest sa Agusan Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary sa Agusan del Sur. Ito ay nakatala bilang bahagi ng tropical peatlands sa ASEAN region at mayroon itong sukat na 20,000 hectares.

Kaugnay nito ayon kay Cimatú, ang adapsiyon ng 2006-2020 ASEAN Peatland Management Strategy (APMS) ay upang magkaroon ng promosyon para sa sustainable management ng peatlands sa pamamagitan ng collective actions at pagpapalakas ng kooperasyon na susuporta at magpapanatili sa local livelihoods at upang mabawasan ang banta ng sunog at associated haze.



Ang APMS at ang programa nito ay iniimplementa ng ASEAN Member-States na pinangangasiwaan ng ATFP.

Layunin nito na mapalakas ang “public awareness on capacity on peatlands; address transboundary haze pollution and environmental degradation; promote sustainable management of peatlands; and promote regional cooperation.”

Ang Pilipinas, sa pamamagitan ng DENR ay naging host ng magkakasunod na pulong, tungkol sa peatlands — “Third Programme Steering Committee (PSC 3) of the Sustainable Use of Peatland and Haze Mitigation in ASEAN, PSC 3 of the Measurable Action for Haze-Free Sustainable Land Management in Southeast Asia, at ang 6th Meeting of the ASEAN Task Force on Peatlands or ATFP 6.”

Nagsilbing chair si DENR Undersecretary for Policy, Planning, and International Affairs Jonas Leones sa ATFP 6 at sa associated PSC meetings.

Ang pulong ay dinaluhan ng mga kinatawan mula sa ASEAN member-states; donors tulad ng International Fund for Agricultural Development, European Union, Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety; at mga implementing partners kabilang na dito ang International Union for Conservation of Nature, Center for International Forestry Research, Global Environment Centre, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH, at World Resources Institute.

Pinangunahan ng DENR Biodiversity Management Bureau ang Philippine delegation bilang National Focal Point ng ATFP at ang Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) ang Alternate National Focal Point.

Ang pulong ng ATFP ay layuning magkaroon ng koordinasyon at mapalakas ang pagsisikap ng ASEAN member-states sa pagbibigay ng proteksiyon, konserbasyon at pagpapanatili sa paggamit ng peatlands sa rehiyon.

Nagsilbi rin itong lugar para sa “update” ng member-states para sa kanilang implementasyon ng APMS na may kaugnayan sa kanilang National Action Plan on Peatlands.

Sa kanyang panig, sinabi ni Undersecretary for Special Concerns at concurrent BMB Director Edilberto Leonardo na ang DENR ay “able to continue raising awareness on peatlands with the use of social media, and webinars.” **Santi Celario**



DENR pushes for comprehensive reporting on wastewater discharge by ships

July 7, 2021 | 8:29 pm



PHILIPPINE STAR/ EDD GUMBAN

THE ENVIRONMENT department called for more detailed monitoring of and reporting on sewage collection, treatment and disposal by ships, in aid of efforts to restore Manila Bay.

In a statement Wednesday, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said that Undersecretary Benny D. Antiporda made the proposal in a recent meeting with the coast guard, shipyard associations and vessel owners.

“We cannot track the vessels if they discharge it within Manila Bay or outside the bay. Maybe we could come up with something that could safeguard the bay from discharges,” he was quoted as saying.

Leovigildo G. Panopio, Central Luzon Commodore of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), said that the PCG is “taking marine protection seriously.”

He said there is currently an ongoing review of the coast guard’s memorandum circulars (MCs).

PCG Lieutenant Precious Lonie Z. Omalsa said the discharge of wastewater in Manila Bay violates a PCG MC.

Under PCG MC 10-14, ships discharging treated sewage must do so at a distance of more than four nautical miles from the nearest shoreline.

Meanwhile, vessels discharging untreated wastewater must do so more than 12 nautical miles from the nearest shoreline.

Mr. Omalsa cited vessels that have discharged waste within three nautical miles of Bataan and four nautical miles of Metro Manila. — **Angelica Y. Yang**

Source: <https://www.bworldonline.com/denr-pushes-for-comprehensive-reporting-on-wastewater-discharge-by-ships/?fbclid=IwAR24pKcNmKlo5ffshwtQygNmn8w2fE44oF5wVvS2ZM0KSdz1JhEzqCQC AEg>



DENR taps Army brigade to save remaining forests in C. Luzon

By Zorayda Tecson July 8, 2021, 7:03 pm



CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) regional office here has partnered with the Philippine Army's (PA) 703rd Infantry Brigade (703rd IBde) to save the remaining forests in Central Luzon.

Paquito Moreno, executive director of the DENR regional office, on Thursday said forest and wildlife protection is one of the challenging tasks of the DENR and has been its battle cry for many decades now.

“Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu’s marching order to us is to prevent the cutting of trees in our forests, protected areas and watersheds,” Moreno said in an official social media post.

He said protecting the region’s more than 900,000 hectares of forestland is a big challenge to the DENR due to its limited human resources, with only about 150 forest rangers patrolling and monitoring the area.

Thus, he said the partnership with the Army is a welcome development, giving a big boost to the efforts to end forest destruction in the region.

“Collaboration with other agencies and stakeholders of the environment is vital in our campaign to end illegal logging, and the Philippine Army has been our steady partner in our anti-illegal logging campaign,” Moreno said.

Under the partnership agreement, the 703rd IBde will provide intelligence support, assist in the monitoring of illegal forest activities and in the enforcement of forestry and other environmental laws.

The DENR-Region 3, on the other hand, shall take the lead in the conduct of forest protection activities, conduct skill enhancement training on forest and environmental laws and deputize all units of the 703rd IBde.

Brig. Gen. Andrew Costelo, 703rd IBde commander, said with or without the memorandum of partnership, the PA is committed and required to undertake environmental protection activities as their contribution to mother earth.

“We assure the DENR that the 703rd IBde, 7ID (7th Infantry Division) of the PA is one with you against illegal logging and in the implementation of any environmental activities,” he said.



Earlier, the DENR likewise partnered with the Philippine National Police to protect the established forest plantations in Tarlac.

The agreement included 10 local PNP units and the 2nd Provincial Mobile Force Company in the protection of forest plantations established under the National Greening Program (NGP).

Since 2011, DENR-Central Luzon has established more than 122,000 hectares of forest plantations within degraded watersheds and forestlands in the region. **(PNA)**



DENR inks pact with Army for forest, wildlife protection



PARTNERSHIP. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources forged a Memorandum of Partnership with the 703rd Infantry Brigade, 7th Infantry Division of the Philippine Army to further boost the forest and wildlife protection and save the remaining forests in Central Luzon. (DENR)

[IAN OCAMPO FLORA](#) July 08, 2021

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in the City of San Fernando, Pampanga forged Thursday, July 8, 2021, a Memorandum of Partnership (MOP) with the 703rd Infantry Brigade (IB), 7th Infantry Division (ID) of the Philippine Army (PA) to further boost the forest and wildlife protection and save the remaining forests in Central Luzon.

Paquito Moreno, executive director of the DENR regional office, said forest and wildlife protection is one of the challenging tasks of the DENR and has been the battlecry for many decades now.

“Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu’s marching order to us is to prevent the cutting of trees in our forests, protected areas and watersheds,” he explained, adding that the limited human resources with about 150 forest rangers patrolling and monitoring the region’s more than 900,000 hectares forestland pose a challenge to the DENR.

He said the partnership with the 703rd IB, 7ID of the PA is a welcome development in the government’s forest protection program and a big boost to end forest destruction in the region.

“Collaboration with other agencies and stakeholders of the environment is vital in our campaign to end illegal logging, and the Philippine Army has been our steady partner in our anti-illegal logging campaign,” he added.

Under the partnership agreement, the 703rd IB, 7ID of the PA will provide intelligence support, assist in the monitoring of illegal forest activities and enforcement of forestry and other environmental laws.

The DENR-Central Luzon will take the lead in the conduct of forest protection activities, conduct skill enhancement training on forest and environmental laws and deputize all units of the 703rd IB, 7ID of the PA as forest protection officer.



For his part, Brigadier General Andrew Costelo, commander of 703rd IB, 7ID of the PA, said with or without the MOP, the PA is committed and required to undertake environmental protection activities as their contribution to mother earth.

“We assure the DENR that the 703rd IB, 7ID of the PA is one with you against illegal logging and in the implementation of any environmental activities,” he said, adding that the agreement formalizes the partnership in ensuring the protection of the environment.



‘New normal’ waste

[BIZLINKS](#) - [Rey Gamboa](#) (The Philippine Star) - July 9, 2021 - 12:00am

The pandemic and its enforced lockdowns have only added to the environmental degradation in the country. Adding to the millions of disposable facemasks thrown away everyday is packaging of just about anything delivered from producers to consumers. Add to that the millions of new syringes and needles that come with the government’s push to vaccinate up to 80 million Filipinos against the ill effects of COVID-19.

Despite these “new normal” aggravations, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) continues to be several steps behind in responding. There seems to be zero initiatives to provide Filipinos with guidance on how to safely dispose of the increasing waste.

The ability to strictly enforce environment compliance edicts is just one of the sore weak points of the current DENR dispensation, something that hopefully will be addressed by a belatedly late administrative order establishing an Environmental Law Enforcement and Protection Service (ELEPS).

The interim measure is expected to give way to a proposed new government agency under the DENR that would have better policing powers. The DENR is hoping that Congress will be able to approve a proposed Environmental Protection and Enforcement Bureau in the next few months... a slim possibility given the upcoming elections and the general aversion of lawmakers to “fatten” up the bureaucracy.

I remember two decades ago when, as part of the management of a major multinational company operating in the Philippines, newly passed environment laws were vigorously pursued at both local and national levels for any new projects. Enforcement was very much evident and anticipated, even feared.

Circular economy and sustainability fallacy

Today, many environment activists decry the inadequacy of the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 to protect public health and the environment. For one, the two-decades-old law has clearly failed to ensure that solid waste is properly segregated – from the household level up to collection dumps.

Even before the pandemic, the amount of plastic waste has exponentially increased to unmanageable levels, while erratic enforcement of its use and disposal failed to measure up. The law itself has many blind spots, foremost of which is on how to deal with the growing use – more than disposal or recycling – of plastic in consumer products. Companies that produce and use plastics have always evoked the circular economy and sustainability principle that espouses the benefits of plastic use in modern life.

Truth, though, is far from this utopian view. There are now more phones than people in the world, and the metals and batteries from these will only aggravate the toxic contribution of its plastics in harming the environment and humans.

The circular economy and sustainability tenets are a cowardly surrender by the world’s governments to the strong lobby of businesses that support the belief that progress and growth can only be achieved by supporting increased production and sales of consumer products.

In the expected aftermath of this pandemic, the sustainable circular economy approach is even more vigorously pursued by developed economies despite its failure to curb irresponsible disposal of polluting products, all because of the need to get back to pre-pandemic economic growth levels.



It's unfair that the third world gets blamed for all the pollution in waterways and oceans, when it is the developed world that abets the production and marketing of polluting consumer products to countries beyond their borders, especially those that have weak or non-existent laws on waste disposal.

Still, our government must come up with better laws to address the engulfing pollution problem caused by a growing population and compounded by increasing personal wealth.

Our environment laws are terribly outdated: the Environment Impact Assessment System was passed in 1978 and badly needs a fresh update to guide stakeholders to mitigate consequences or risks to the environment, or even to proactively deal with them.

Even the Clean Air Act of 1999 and the Clean Water Act of 2004 need to be updated according to new scientific findings and provide the necessary platforms to allow the country to deliver on its various commitments on the environment.

Detailed score card

A detailed and transparent score card is a great way to keep the bureaucracy attuned to its goals and the country's needs in dealing with the environment. We must have a viable system in place where accomplishments in air, water, and land protection are measured against targets.

These should provide the alarms necessary to support the development of tools, including amendments to or new laws to prevent further degradation of the country's natural assets.

Recent published independent studies about a reduction once again of the country's forest cover should have been earlier flagged down by the DENR and promptly dealt with. In 2010, the Global Forest Watch dashboard estimated the Philippines' natural forest cover at 13.2 million hectares; in a span of a decade, 46.8 thousand hectares has been recorded lost, presumably with the resurgence of illegal logging in recent years.

The same is true with our marine resources, which includes fish population and other sea life. The country's antiquated Fisheries Code, passed in 1998, has failed to guard against overfishing in recent years, raising calls for a fresh look at existing policies that overly depended on a 1974 community-based approach to protecting and managing marine life.

Not only are municipal fishing communities citing dwindling fish caught in recent years, but also the disappearance of many species. Reports have also been monitoring the degradation of many coral reefs.

Surely, such major findings should prod government to start "looking at the forest, and not just the trees."

Facebook and Twitter

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Should you wish to share any insights, write me at Link Edge, 25th Floor, 139 Corporate Center, Valero Street, Salcedo Village, 1227 Makati City. Or e-mail me at reydgamboa@yahoo.com. For a compilation of previous articles, visit www.BizlinksPhilippines.net.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/business/2021/07/09/2111109/new-normal-waste>



Rama wants state of emergency in Inayawan after closure of transfer station

By: Delta Dyrecka Letigio - CDN Digital Multi-Media Reporter|July 07,2021 - 07:34 PM



With the closure of the Inayawan Transfer Station in effect starting today, July 7, Cebu City Vice Mayor Michael Rama is pushing for the declaration of a state of emergency in Barangay Inayawan to ensure that garbage collection will be unhampered.

CEBU CITY, Philippines — Cebu City Vice Mayor Michael Rama is planning to push for a state of emergency in Barangay Inayawan following the closure of the transfer station there.

The Environment Management Bureau in Central Visayas (EMB-7) closed the city's only transfer station due to environmental violations of the operators particularly the piling garbage reaching 10.8 meters high.

Rama said the garbage dilemma following this closure is “unfortunate” because there is a domino effect to the collection and disposal of the city's waste.

“A state of emergency is no longer apparent, it is now imminent,” said Rama.

Rama said that when he found out about the issue last month as Acting Mayor, he has requested the City Council to declare a state of emergency.

However, the council at that time opted not to declare a state of emergency after the Department of Public Services (DPS) said that the garbage situation is manageable despite a contractual issue between the transfer operator and Binaliw landfill operator affecting the hauling of the garbage.

This time, the EMB-7 has found out more violations in the transfer station that needs to be immediately addressed and Rama said the city government should have an immediate backup as well.

Councilor Joel Garganera, the environment committee chair of the council, said that he expected a cease and desist order to be issued when he saw how high the garbage pile stood in the transfer station in one of their inspections.

Garganera pointed out that the area looked more like a dumpsite than a transfer station, an observation echoed by the EMB-7 in their report.

“For the last five months, we are not in control of the situation. Even the DPS cannot provide a report because they are dependent on the contractor. The right thing to do is for the city government to be on top of the situation,” said Garganera.



He asked the DPS to take back control of the garbage system and fix it for the long term.

DPS head, Lawyer John Jigo Dacua told CDN Digital that while the transfer station is closed, all garbage trucks in the city will dispose directly to the Binaliw or Consolacion landfills.

The contractor of the transfer station will help the city collect garbage directly from the barangays and dispose of this at the landfill.

Due to contractual issues between the transfer station operator with the Binaliw landfill operator, their trucks will have to dispose of garbage at Consolacion town while the city's own trucks and the barangays' trucks will dispose at the Binaliw Landfill.

Councilor Eduardo Rama, Jr., the committee chair for public services, said the closure of the transfer station will be a burden to southern barangays.

He said that the southern barangays do not have enough resources to dispose of its garbage as far as Barangay Binaliw, much more in Consolacion town.

"I am more concerned on what will happen after ani," he said.

Vice Mayor Rama plans to raise his concerns to the council on their next regular session scheduled on Friday or Wednesday next week.

He said this should be a priority because the barangays will suffer through the closure whether the closure is short or long.

Rama hopes for the support of the City Council so that they can allocate disaster funds to help the affected barangays. /rcg



Cebu City garbage trucks to have 200 liters more



GAS ALLOCATION In this July 6, 2021 file foto, garbage trucks, including those operated by barangays in Cebu City, form a long queue at the Inayawan Transfer Station awaiting their turn to dispose of the garbage they had collected.

Scenes like this will not be seen for a time following a cease and desist order issued by the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) 7 against the City's private contractor in charge of the transfer station effectively shutting down the facility. To dispose of collected garbage, Cebu City barangays will now have to directly dump their waste in a sanitary landfill in Barangay Binaliw in the north district. The Cebu City Government said it will provide gas allocations for south district barangays to cover the longer trip. / SunStar file

[JERRA MAE LIBREA](#) July 08, 2021

ALL 34 barangays in Cebu City's south district will be given an additional gas allocation of 200 liters per month for each of their garbage trucks to cover the distance of traveling all the way up to Barangay Binaliw in the north district to dispose of garbage.

The move comes in the wake of the temporary shutdown of the garbage transfer station in Brgy. Inayawan ordered by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) on Wednesday, July 7, 2021.

The EMB Central Visayas served a cease and desist order against RMI Solid Waste Management and Hauling Services, effectively shutting down the Inayawan waste transfer station, where a 10.8-meter-high pile of trash has accumulated.

RMI, which operates the transfer station, was given 15 days to pay a fine of P105,000 for violating conditions 2 and 3 of its environmental compliance certificate (ECC), which was issued in 2017.

A cease and desist order was also served by the EMB to the City's private contractor, Docast Construction, directing it to stop accepting wastes and to immediately dispose of the trash it has collected at the sanitary landfill in Brgy. Binaliw, instead of bringing this to Inayawan.

Due to the EMB orders, Cebu City Administrator Floro Casas Jr. said all barangays in the city will have to dispose of their garbage directly, preferably in the sanitary landfill in Binaliw.

The directive prompted south district barangay captains to air their concerns in a meeting on Thursday morning, July 8, with the Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (LDRRMO) headed by Ramil Ayuman.

Among their concerns was that more fuel would be needed for the trucks to transport garbage all the way up to the northern barangay of Binaliw.



Casas said Mayor Edgardo Labella instructed Department of General Services (DGS) head June Maratas to process the additional fuel allocation for the 34 south district barangays.

“The mayor assured us that we should not worry because our system is in place from garbage collection to disposal,” Casas said in a mix of Cebuano and English.

“Rest assured that our city will not be dirty because of the closure of our transfer station in Inayawan,” Casas added.

Meanwhile, Maratas said while the DGS will start with a 200 liters per month increase for each of the south barangay garbage truck, this may be subject to change depending on the actual situation.

Currently, Cebu City’s fuel allocation for each of its 80 barangays range between 300 to 400 liters per month.

Turn around time

Casas said the village chiefs also expressed concern that the long distance will affect the usual turn around time of their garbage collection and disposal considering that it will take longer for the garbage trucks to travel to Binaliw.

Barangays in the south district will be clustered so that they can assist each other when there are uncollected garbage left.

For each cluster, three garbage trucks will be deployed, said Department of Public Services (DPS) head John Dacua.

A total of 23 trucks, both from the DPS and Docast Construction, will also be deployed to augment the barangay garbage trucks.

Dacua said a group chat on Facebook will be created for a faster relay of information and requests from the different barangays.

Councilor David Tumulak, committee on disaster risk reduction and management chairman, said the extraction of garbage from the Inayawan transfer station is now ongoing and there would be no need to declare a state of calamity.

Earlier, Vice Mayor Michael Rama described this as an “unfortunate” event.

He said the declaration of a state of emergency or state of calamity was “imminent.”

Rama said he will have the matter “seriously” discussed in Cebu City Council.

Docast has 50 garbage trucks including those operated by its sub-contractor.

Cebu City averages 700 to 800 tons of garbage daily. **(PAC)**

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1900182/Cebu/Local-News/Cebu-City-garbage-trucks-to-have-200-liters-more>



After transfer station's closure: Barangays' garbage trucks step up

By [Mary Ruth R. Malinao](#) (The Freeman) - July 9, 2021 - 12:00am



According to Department of Public Services chief John Jigo Dacua, the city government will shoulder the tipping fees for the dumping.

CEBU, Philippines — Instead of taking the collected trash to the now-closed transfer station in Inayawan, barangay garbage trucks will now be the ones to dump them straight to the landfill in Binaliw.

According to Department of Public Services chief John Jigo Dacua, the city government will shoulder the tipping fees for the dumping.

“With respect to the tipping fee, nag-emergency purchase ta og tipping fee so ang city ang mo-shoulder at a lower cost,” said Dacua.

Before the transfer station's closure, private garbage hauler Docast General Contractor had to haul the trash in Inayawan, dump it in Binaliw, and pay tipping fees.

Under the new temporary arrangement, the city government will increase the fuel allocation for the garbage trucks in 34 barangays in the south district.

As instructed by Mayor Edgardo Labella, city officials led by administrator Floro Casas Jr. met with affected barangay officials to discuss the new scheme with them.

Casas said among the main concerns of the barangays is their fuel allocation, considering that they will already be the ones directly disposing of their garbage in Binaliw for the mean time, which takes longer travel than their usual route to Inayawan.

“Ang necessary effect ani niya is that ang barangay, motaas ang ilahang fuel consumption sa ilahang garbage trucks. So si Mayor already instructed Atty. (June) Maratas nga patas-an ang fuel allocation sa atoang mga garbage trucks sa barangay, depende sad sa consumption nila,” said Casas.

Maratas is the head of the Department of General Services (DGS).

The increase will be applicable to the south district barangays.

Maratas also confirmed being instructed by Labella to augment fuel allocation for barangay garbage trucks.



“The increase (of) fuel allocation will be taken from Cebu City's own supply. Perhaps we can start with an increase of 200 liters per month per garbage truck. Then let's see if it is enough,” said Maratas in a text message.

Altered Schedule

Casas said another concern is that the barangays' garbage collection schedules will also be altered.

Dacua said they have come up with a clustering scheme wherein five clusters will be made to assist the barangay garbage trucks in case their trucks cannot anymore collect and dispose of more wastes.

Trucks from the city and the city's private garbage hauler will be put on standby.

“What we did, ato sila gi-clusterize naay mga Barangays nga gipang-cluster nato and with that cluster atong butangan og rescue teams, atong providedan og duha sa tulo ka mga trucks coming from service providers ug sa DPS para og unsa man gani, kanang mga areas kinahanglan i-rescue makapadagan dayon ta,” said Dacua.

“We came up also with the plan nga maghimo og group chat per cluster para paspas ang communication, paspas ang response kung naay mga angay kolektahon. For example, sa mga villages nga dili maagian for that tungod kay nagbiyahe pa ang sa barangay trucks makapadagan dayon ning stand by trucks nga atong i-inplace for that cluster,” he added.

Dacua said the garbage collected in the city is at 700 to 800 tons per day.

The garbage collection schedule is in two shifts: from 11 p.m. to 8 a.m. and from 3 p.m. to 11 p.m.

To recall, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-7's Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) served on Wednesday, July 7, a cease and desist order against the Inayawan transfer station's operator, RMI Solid Waste Management and Hauling Services, as well as to the hauler of trash in Cebu City, Docast Construction.

EMB also ordered Docast to move to a sanitary landfill all the trash it has brought to the transfer station.

The cease and desist orders were issued after inspection of the transfer station on July 5 showed that trash was left there for more than 24 hours, which violates Section 25 of the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act.

EMB also noticed that the piles of garbage have reached approximately 10.8 meters, which pose danger to the lives of people in the area, particularly the waste pickers. The situation, EMB said, essentially makes the transfer station an open dumpsite.

Cebu City 'is clean'

Casas said the city will not interfere in the closure since it is the service provider and the owner of the transfer station who has a contract.

“Para namo ba, it's a private matter between katong atoang contractor ug iyahang... ilaha nang responsibility to settle, to correct whatever defect nga nakit-an sa EMB... Kung unsay ilang request namo, we will just give our assistance or cooperation sa EMB,” he said.

Casas added the city government is in control in terms of garbage collection, stressing that Cebu City is generally clean.



“We never lost control sa atong garbage collection. In fact, kung mosuroy ka sa syudad karon, palihog pakit-a kuno mi kung asa dapita nagkatag gyud ang basura. Generally limpyo kaayo ang atong syudad,” he said.

No to State of Calamity

Meanwhile, Councilor David Tumulak said he does not agree with the proposal to place Barangay Inayawan under a state of calamity due to the garbage problem.

Tumulak said that the problem is already present and a solution can be found while saying that, if possible, the city's funds should be used properly, especially now that a public health crisis is still ongoing.

“If ever the Cebu City Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office will make a resolution declaring moagi man na diri sa akong komitiba sa Council. I will review it if it is justifiable ug dili gani justifiable I will turn it down,” he said.

He clarified, though, that this does not mean that the city is neglecting the area, especially that many residents are affected there, adding that the City Health Department also visited there to implement certain health programs. — JMD (FREEMAN)



Too much 'plantito-ism?' BOC seizes illegally imported insect-eating plants on warehouse

By [Jeline Malasig](#) - July 8, 2021 - 7:42 PM



Pots of carnivorous plants seized by government authorities on July 5, 2021. (Photo from Facebook/Bureau of Customs PH)

Filipinos' increased interest in gardening amid quarantine was brought up after government authorities on Monday seized several carnivorous plants shipped to the country.

Officers from the **Bureau of Customs (BOC)** at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport and the **Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)** discovered 276 carnivorous plants at the Paircargo Warehouse in Pasay which were from the Netherlands.

They were illegally imported to the Philippines without the required Sanitary and Phytosanitary Import Clearance and a CITES permit from DENR.

CITES refers to the **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora**. It is an international agreement among governments ensuring that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival.

BOC said that the carnivorous plants were identified as Drosera, Nepenthes, Dionaea, Sarracenia, Pinguicula, and Cephalotus.

It has an estimated total value of P150,000.

Carnivorous plants have been globally declared as critically endangered and are among the world's rarest and most endangered plants.



Collecting and trading these insect-eating plants are restricted under Republic Act 9147, also known as the **Philippine Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act**.

Following the reported interception of the carnivorous plants, some Filipinos recalled plant enthusiasts who have grown in number due to the increased interest in gardening amid quarantine.

"May mga plantitos and plantitas bang interesado sa ganyan?" a [Twitter user](#) commented in response to the report.


The ongoing community quarantine and lockdown in different parts of the country have fostered Filipinos to develop various hobbies such as indoor gardening, especially during the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic.






 Bureau of Customs PH 
on Tuesday

LOOK: BOC-NAIA and DENR seized smuggled 276 carnivorous plants

Bureau of Customs-NAIA (BOC-NAIA) together with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) seized illegally imported 276 carnivorous plants at Paircargo Warehouse in Pasay City on July 05, 2021. The seized carnivorous plants were discovered during the 100% physical examination of imported ten (10) packages from Netherlands. Verification with the DENR revealed that the said plants were unlawfully im... [See More](#)



 144  38  198

Homebound individuals resorted to sprucing up their living spaces with greens to occupy themselves as the government regulate mobility in a bid to reduce the transmission of the virus.

Among those who have joined the indoor gardening trend include celebrities like Kathryn Bernardo, Bea Alonzo, Gabbi Garcia, Heart Evangelista and Pauleen Luna.

The increased interest in the hobby previously prompted DENR to [caution](#) Filipinos against purchasing plants that are considered exotic and said that it is plant poaching.

Source: <https://interaksyon.philstar.com/trends-spotlights/2021/07/08/195536/bureau-of-customs-seizes-illegally-imported-insect-eating-plants-on-warehouse/>



Critically endangered carnivorous plants seized in Pasay City raid

Coconuts Manila

Thu, 8 July 2021, 1:24 pm



A total of 276 carnivorous plants illegally smuggled from the Netherlands were seized at a warehouse in Pasig City by the Bureau of Customs-NAIA (BOC-NAIA) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

With an estimated street value of P150,000, the illegal shipment included sundew plants, Venus flytraps, butterworts, and three species of pitcher plants. According to a press release by the BOC, "Carnivorous plants have already been globally declared as critically endangered and are among the world's rarest and most endangered plants. The collection and trade of these insect-eating plants are restricted under Republic Act (RA) No. 9147 otherwise known as the Philippine Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act."

The intercepted shipment was turned over to the DENR for rehabilitation and care.



BARMM environment ministry grants ECCs to LGUs, biz firms

July 8, 2021 2 min read

COTABATO CITY – The Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources, and Energy in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (MENRE-BARMM) has awarded Wednesday environmental compliance certificates (ECCs) to three local government units (LGUs) and three business firms in the region.

During the awarding rites held at the BARMM government center here, Environment Minister Abdulraof A. Macacua awarded the ECCs to representatives of the Cotabato Light and Power Company in Cotabato City, and also the Eka Salam Agriventures Corporation, and Delinanas Development Corporation, both in Maguindanao. Also given ECCs were the LGUs of Parang, Maguindanao; and Wao, Lanao del Sur, and received their commendation for the establishment of sanitary landfills.

Maguindanao province, for its part, was given a plaque for having 50 percent of their municipalities with approved and legitimized 10-year solid waste management plan.

“All of these acts are mandated under the Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000,” Macacua said in an interview with the PNA here Thursday.

“Environmental protection is our responsibility. Our participation in this endeavor is both our moral and social obligation,” he added.

MENRE Senior Consultant Alindatu K. Pagayao also recognized the efforts that the entities exerted to ensure their environmental compliance and encouraged them to continue doing so.

“Let us perform this act of service to our environment sincerely, and not just for mere compliance and good image. Firstly, we owe it to nature that we protect it,” Pagayao said.

Last month, the MENRE’s Environment Management Services (EMS) office has visited companies and municipalities in BARMM to check, monitor, and evaluate their performance and commitment in terms of their implementation, or the lack thereof, of environmental laws.

Macacua said the ECC awarding is in connection with the annual celebration of June as Philippine Environment Month. **(PNA)**

Source: <https://maharlika.tv/2021/07/08/barmm-environment-ministry-grants-eccs-to-lgus-biz-firms/?fbclid=IwAR1Tc-4gRXnM7HqB53rwPbXgchsCJp4BwuF9JQu7ZVirXyDCM-tbUpQdSrK>



House panel OKs bill declaring portion of Philippine Rise as protected area

By: [Neil Arwin Mercado](#) - Reporter / [@NAMercadoINO](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 01:12 PM July 07, 2021



OCEAN FLOOR WONDER A diver explores the spectacular marine biodiversity of Benham Rise, now renamed Philippine Rise, in this screen grab from a film by Oceana Philippines. —OCEANA VIDEO

MANILA, Philippines — A committee in the House of Representatives approved a measure seeking to declare a portion of the Philippine Rise—also known as Benham Rise—as a protected area.

During its meeting on Wednesday, the House committee on natural resources approved the substitute bill to House Bill No. 36 or the “Philippine Rise Marine Resource Reserve Act.”

The measure seeks to declare a portion of the Philippine Rise situated within the exclusive economic zone of the Philippine Sea as a protected area with the category of marine resource reserve under the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS), to be referred to as the Philippine Rise Marine Resource Reserve (PRMRR).

“It shall be the policy of the State to ensure the protection and conservation of the globally significant economic, biological, sociocultural, educational, and scientific values of the Philippine Rise and the *Benham Bank* into perpetuity for the enjoyment of present and future generations,” the measure states.

“In the pursuit of this policy, it shall protect portions of the Philippine Rise region, namely the *Benham Bank* and its surrounding waters, through sustainable and participatory management, taking into consideration all applicable laws and international conventions to which the Philippines is a signatory,” it adds.

According to the measure, among the acts are prohibited within PRMRR are as follows:

- Poaching, killing, destroying, disturbing of any wildlife within the protected area;
- Hunting, taking, collecting, gathering, or possessing of any wildlife or by-products derived therefrom, or resources, whether living or nonliving within the protected area without the necessary permit, authorization or exemption;
- Using any fishing or harvesting gear or employing any practices, or any of their variations, that is unsustainable, that is unsustainable, or detrimental to coral reefs, seagrass or seaweed beds or other marine life and their associated habitats;
- Holding fast or securing a vessel in place either by using an anchor or tying onto any part of the reef: *Provided, That* all vessels permitted to enter shall utilize the mooring buoys provided by the PRMRR;



- Dumping, throwing, using, or causing to be dumped into or placed in the protected area of any toxic chemical, noxious or poisonous substance or non-biodegradable material, untreated sewage or animal waste products or products whether in liquid, solid, or gas state, including pesticides and other hazardous substances;
- Operating any motorized conveyance within the protected area without a permit from the PAMB;
- Altering, removing, destroying, or defacing boundary marks, buoys, or signs;
- Mutilating, defacing, destroying, excavating, vandalizing or, in any manner, damaging any natural formation, religious, spiritual, historical sites, artifacts and other objects of natural beauty, scenic value, or objects of interest;
- Littering or depositing refuse or debris within the protected area;

Depending on the violation, a person will be penalized ranging from P50,000 to P1 million on top of imprisonment.



[Measure declaring portion of PH Rise 'protected area' passed](#)

JUL 8, 2021, 2:02 PM

Heloise Diamante
Writer

The unnumbered substitute bill seeks to protect Benham Rise and its surrounding waters as a marine reserve instead of a natural park.

THE House of Representatives on Wednesday has approved a measure seeking to declare a portion of the Philippine Rise as a protected area.

The House Committee on Natural Resources chaired by Cavite Rep. Elpidio Barzaga Jr., approved the unnumbered substitute bill to House Bill 36 or the Philippine Rise Marine Resource Reserve (PRMRR) Act authored by Muntinlupa Rep. Ruffy Biazon.

The bill seeks to protect Benham Bank and its surrounding waters as a marine reserve instead of a natural park.

"Upon consultation, we were enlightened that it would be best that we make it a marine reserve in order for us to be able to take advantage of the natural resources therein," Biazon said.

The bill also states that the areas outside the protected zone will be designated as the Multiple-Use Zone and the Special Fisheries Management Area.

The Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DA-BFAR) will be tasked to monitor all finishing activities within the SFMA and provide technical and financial aid if needed.

The bill prohibits acts within the protected area, such as poaching, killing, destroying, disturbing of any wildlife; hunting or gathering of any wildlife; using any fishing or harvesting gear that is unsustainable or detrimental to marine life, among others.

The new protected area will then be referred to as the "Philippine Rise Marine Resource Reserve."

House Deputy Speaker Lito Atienza, however, questioned if the bill will limit the country's claims to the Philippine Rise.

"Would it be to our advantage to limit the intentions of this bill to a small area, when tomorrow, China becomes present again in that area and declare the area as part of their territorial, ancestral, historical whatever?" questioned Atienza.

In response, Biazon says that the bill was "in no way a surrender of our rights over the Benham Rise," and will even give the country an opportunity to benefit from its natural resources.

Source: <https://opinyon.net/national/measure-declaring-portion-of-ph-rise-protected-area-passed?fbclid=IwAR1EHeK6IXV4ftQfQXADQTMOnv9GzqJcQLdUKp5W5IbBrCcz1abYupR0l-o>



Local cargo ship, foreign dredger collide off South Harbor

By Raymond Carl Dela Cruz [July 8, 2021, 6:48 pm](#)



HALF-SUBMERGED. Local cargo vessel M/V Palawan Pearl is half-submerged after colliding with Cyprus-registered BKM 104 off South Harbor, Manila early Thursday morning (July 8, 2021). The Philippine Coast Guard is monitoring the distressed vessel for a possible oil spill. *(Photo courtesy of PCG)*

MANILA – A local cargo ship was half submerged after colliding with a foreign utility vessel off South Harbor in Port Area, Manila on Thursday.

Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) spokesperson Commodore Armando Balilo said investigators found out that M/V Palawan Pearl, running on seven knots, came from the Pasig River while Cyprus-flagged BKM 104 was running on 10 knots when the collision happened at about around 2:10 a.m.

A knot is equivalent to one nautical mile per hour or 1.15 miles per hour.

No injuries were reported by both ships.

“[M/V Palawan Pearl] was hit by the said utility vessel on her quarter port. *Sa gawing kaliwa ng unahan ng barko malapit sa engine ‘yung tinamaan* (Around the front left side of the ship, near the engine, was hit),” Balilo said in a statement.

BKM 104 was contracted to perform dredging and other land developments needed for the construction of the New Manila International Airport in Bulakan, Bulacan.

M/V Palawan Pearl is currently about 100 meters from the Baseco Beach shoreline, with oil sheens observed to be surrounding the distressed vessel.

To mitigate the effects of a possible oil spill, the Marine Environmental Protection Force of the PCG will lay down four segments of oil spill boom around the ship.

The PCG said M/V Palawan Pearl was carrying around 3,000 liters of diesel oil in its storage tank, a single drum of diesel oil, 60 liters of engine oil, and five liters of bilge oil when the incident occurred.

BRP Panglao (FPB-2402) was deployed to monitor and help M/V Palawan Pearl. **(PNA)**

Source:

https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1146449?fbclid=IwAR39S1Auk6sAEUpq9pcrLvc5COBM76M4yNkFNx2x1XkEO3rtezNHGgb7g_M



2 BARKO NAGBANGGAAN SA SOUTH HARBOR

9 hours ago jake



NANGANGAMBA ang Philippine Coast Guard na maaaring magkaroon ng oil spill kung hindi agad maaksiyunan ang nangyaring banggaan ng isang cargo vessel at isang foreign utility vessel sa karagatang sakop ng South Harbor Anchorage Area nitong Huwebes ng madaling araw sa Port Area, Manila

Batay sa ulat ng PCG, bandang alas- 2:10 ng madaling araw nang magbanggaan ang MV Palawan Pearl at BKM 104.

Ayon sa PCG, ang MV Palawan Pearl ay nakalubog na ang kalahating bahagi at may “oil sheen” sa paligid ng cargo vessel.

Nabatid kay Rexchel Fabrigas ng MV Palawan Pearl, naglalaman ng 3,000 litro ng diesel ang oil storage tank ng vessel.

Bukod pa rito ang drum ng diesel oil, 60 liters ng engine oil at limang litro ng bilge oil.

Ang vessels ay nasa 100 metro ang layo mula sa Baseco Beach shoreline.

Dahil dito, naglagay na ng oil spill boom ang PCG Marine Environmental Protection Command para makontrol ang posibleng oil spill sa lugar.

Ang BKM 104 naman ay isang foreign utility vessel na inupahan para magsagawa ng dredging at iba pang development activities sa gusali ng itinatayong New Manila Airport.

Wala namang nasugatan o namatay na tripulante sa dalawang barko sa nasabing insidente.

Pinayuhan ng PCG ang dalawang barko na maghain ng marine protest sa hinggil sa nangyaring banggaan sa dagat. (RENE CRISOSTOMO)

Source: http://saksingayon.com/metro/2-barko-nagbanggaan-sa-south-harbor/?utm_source=ReviveOldPost&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=ReviveOldPost&fbclid=IwAR3lLGGj4YgXmxLili6MnFgyjEV2ZhQYMT41toT9ZW10_lqK8BN7hrDmQhk



Oil spill feared as two cargo vessels collide

Published 7 hours ago on July 9, 2021 12:20 AM

By [Raffy Ayeng](#) @tribunephil_raf



A Cyprus-flagged dredging vessel and a local cargo vessel collided at the South Harbor anchorage, 100 meters away from the Baseco Beach, Tondo, Manila, Thursday dawn.

Reports released by the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) said the incident involved foreign dredger BKM 104, and MV Palawan Pearl. The collision transpired at around 2:10 am.

The PCG said dredger BKM 104 was contracted for dredging and other land development activity for the construction of the New Manila Airport.

“By this time, cargo vessel MV Palawan Pearl is still half-submerged and the PCG operatives are observing if it will release “oil sheen” at the vicinity waters of the anchorage,” the PCG said in its advisory.

According to 2/E Rexchel Fabrigas of MV Palawan Pearl, the vessel carries 3,000 liters of diesel in its oil storage tank, apart from a drum of diesel oil, 60 liters of engine oil, and 5 liters of bilge oil, when the collision happened.

The PCG Marine Environmental Protection Command immediately deployed four segments of oil spill boom to contain a possible spill.

The PCG said no one was injured during the incident, while its water asset BRP Panglao (FPB-2402) and the PCG Station Manila conduct an assessment as part of its initial investigation.

Source: https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2021/07/09/oil-spill-feared-as-two-cargo-vessels-collide/?_cf_chl_jschl_tk=__edb50a358a80a464e11b358868cbd63f98a7052a-1625784620-0-AQHjA-NT4l3LLkmK4QW_t6xd3G9Yn7D8rGHU5ho7GbVwDbv8Ba0Z4OhRyVovtbyZCfUuX-a9Jt4etKifG9UPumYbsoQtf8-uqqZd22Z5yBZFLaqHqHBusFo7g7j5J5k5moo6tJeeoePpOJl8_ERW_EH40RzdhuL7dDmTHAugeVOA0VPSstOMAO9KztqVGOTEeh4TZbyNy4BKNwWegjg1jCPsOB7G95LmzTZ5rSWna-S6dkBap185zgt-BzBTpjuyy0PvczpLz87WnUU8s9BQ6d10GQz76MADZ00iiMwf_JzI-areHRb4LkTT85NMK4qMtqNBpR67BiUwDMwyg4V2yAB6_-2nD0TJUx7F_2jiWU-K7ShruAUWbINlkjczqt-c12tY01yaGwGZSVdMg6Aq_AQVC7JD5tK7hM2Z1uIW1yr3LV1BOUHFzSbObU-WU-NxO-ORiEJ3-rfbQOoi80pS5IIFC2MDGflzh9oqS9AIYziz



Photo dated Thursday, July 8, shows the partially submerged MV Palawan Pearl after it collided with a foreign dredger.

Release/Philippine Coast Guard

Oil spill off Manila after cargo ship collides with dredger

(Philstar.com) - July 8, 2021 - 1:34pm

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Coast Guard is moving to contain some 3,000 liters of oil that was spilled off the Manila South Harbor after a Filipino cargo ship collided with a foreign-flagged dredger in the early morning.

In a release sent to reporters, the PCG disclosed that the MV Palawan Pearl collided with the BKM 104, a foreign utility vessel, approximately 100 meters from the Baseco Beach shoreline off the South Harbor Anchorage area at around 2:10 a.m. Thursday.

No crew members from either vessel were reported injured in the incident.

Besides the 3,000 liters of oil in its storage tank, the cargo ship was also reportedly carrying a drum of diesel oil with 60 liters of engine oil, and five liters of bilge oil, its crew told the responding PCG personnel.

According to the Coast Guard, the BKM 104 is registered under the flag of Cyprus and was in the area to conduct dredging and other land development activities for the construction of the New Manila Airport, a reclamation project off the coast of Bulacan province.

The BRP Panglao (FPB-2402), together with PCG Station Manila, was sent to conduct an assessment as part of its initial investigation.

Oil sheens have already been detected in the area, the PCG added.

The PCG added that its Metro Manila-Central Luzon Marine Environmental Protection Force is now preparing for the laying of four segments of oil spill boom as a mitigating contingency measure.



Photo dated Thursday, July 8, shows the cargo load of the partially sunken MV Palawan Pearl.
Release/Philippine Coast Guard

This is a developing story. Check back for updates.



Climate reading

The 2022 elections are a chance for us to instill much-needed changes in our nation. The party system can do with a shakeup.

Published 4 hours ago on July 9, 2021 03:00 AM

By [Concept News Central](#)



It doesn't take an expert to deduce that something is up.

One only has to step down from that high horse, that self-righteous perch, or maybe take that poor nose down a few notches from the air and look around to see what's what. It will honestly do you some good as a person.

“Gising na (Wake up)!” as this paper's daily morning news show — live-streamed on our social media page and channel, and on RJ TV and Radio at 8 o'clock — screams every day. Wake up to reality.

Or simply, by God, just open your eyes to see how changed our world has been.

And think: Are you still living in the past?

That something which is “up” (not your self-regard or that nose, dear) is the earth's dire condition.

Climate change is real.

We are living in a ticking time bomb unless we act now — but, then again, are we too late?

Taal Volcano, which was the explosive precursor to something worse to come last year, is bursting out again.

Phivolcs said five phreatomagmatic eruptions were recorded on Wednesday.

Taal Volcano in Batangas province first “belched a 300-meter-high grayish column” when the cocks crowed, and we await more data from the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology's Taal Volcano Observatory.

So, if Taal's ash forced everyone all the way to Manila to wear masks in 2020, just before the Covid-19 pandemic, what could its latest activity possibly be ushering in this time, in 2021? What's been hiding beneath the surface that's just waiting to erupt?



It was in late 2019 when some poor souls had the guts to warn about this potentially dangerous, highly contagious virus, but only in March 2020 when the entire world found out about it. At the time, those who had prior knowledge chose to keep mum about Covid-19, and we all know what happened.

These days, while Taal is grumbling, other things seem to be reaching their boiling point.

There are the pre-election rumbles, the most prominent one lately being that bout involving Senator Manny Pacquiao whose actions appear to have rubbed off on some of his PDP-Laban partymates the wrong way.

There was the military plane that fell in Sulu, inflaming an issue long ignored, that of the Armed Forces of the Philippines modernization plan.

One supposes that all these incendiary developments are meant to wake us up.

“Weather-weather lang” — a term commonly used subscribing to the belief that people usually “don’t have control of the circumstances that happen to their lives,” as one netizen defined the line popularized by TV host Kim Atienza — does not have to apply in these cases.

The 2022 elections are a chance for us to instill much-needed changes in our nation. The party system can do with a shakeup.

The defense and security sector should take a long, hard look at itself.

If we can read the signs of the times, we should know that the winds of change cannot be contained. Our world could very well combust, if not from life-threatening diseases, then man-made wars and climate change.



Study: N. America heat wave 'virtually impossible' without climate change

posted July 08, 2021 at 09:30 am

by [AFP](#)

A record-breaking heat wave that hit the western United States and Canada at the end of June would have been "virtually impossible" without human-caused climate change, according to an analysis by a group of leading climate scientists.

The World Weather Attribution group said that global warming, caused by greenhouse gas emissions, made the heat wave at least 150 times more likely to happen.

Pacific Northwest areas of the two countries saw temperatures that broke records by several degrees, including a Canadian record of 49.6 degrees Celsius in the village of Lytton, which was subsequently mostly destroyed in a wildfire.

"There's absolutely no doubt that climate change played a key role here," Friederike Otto, a climatologist at the University of Oxford said during a press conference discussing the findings.

To investigate whether climate change played a role, the scientists analysed historical observations and computer simulations to compare the climate as it is today, after about 1.2 degrees Celsius (2.2 degrees Fahrenheit) of global warming since the late 1800s, with the climate of the past.

They found the observations were so extreme they lie far outside the range of historically observed temperatures. But with the climate of today, it was estimated the event could take place once in a thousand years.

Looking into the future, if the planet were to warm by two degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) -- which could happen as early as the 2040s at the current rate -- heat waves like these would occur every five to ten years and be around a degree Celsius (1.8 degrees Fahrenheit) hotter.

- Two theories -

The heat wave meant that last month was the hottest June on record in North America, according to data released by the European Union's climate monitoring service on Wednesday.

The death toll isn't yet known but is thought to run into the hundreds.

The researchers suggested two broad explanations for how climate change made the stunning heat more likely.

The first was that, while climate change made the event more likely to occur, it remains an extreme outlier.

In this explanation, pre-existing drought that deprived the area of evaporative cooling, together with a slow-moving high pressure system in the atmosphere called a "heat dome," were supercharged by climate change.

According to this theory, without the influence of climate change, the peak temperature would have been about 2 degrees C (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) lower.

The second hypothesis is more dire: that the climate system has crossed a threshold where a small amount of overall global warming is now causing a faster rise in extreme temperatures than has been observed so far.



"Everybody is really worried about the implications of these events because this is something that nobody saw coming that nobody thought possible," said co-author Geert Jan van Oldenborgh of the Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute.

"We feel that we do not understand heat waves as well as we thought we did," he said, adding it might mean that such temperatures are also possible at other high latitude locations such as northern Europe, the rest of the US, China and Japan.

This meant that adaptation plans need to be designed for temperatures well above the range witnessed in the past, the team warned.



Pena: Unprecedented warming

[ROX PENA](#) July 08, 2021

A JOINT study conducted by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), both agencies of the United States, found that the Earth's energy imbalance approximately doubled during the 14-year period from 2005 to 2019. In simple language, it means that the Earth is trapping twice as much heat from the Sun now than it did in the early 2000s.

The study finds that the doubling of the heat imbalance is caused by both man-made and natural causes. Human contributions include increasing use of fossil fuels for power plants and motor vehicles and deforestation. Trees absorb carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas. They are cut down to make way for development and agriculture.

The natural cause is the Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO), a pattern of Pacific climate variability. Intensely warm PDO phase that began around 2014 and continued until 2020 caused a widespread reduction in cloud coverage over the ocean and a corresponding increase in the absorption of solar radiation. Clouds reflect sunlight and cool the Earth. You can clearly notice that when clouds provide shade from the hot afternoon Sun.

When the sun's heat reaches the Earth, some of it is absorbed and the rest bounces back into space. However, because of the thick layer of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere that acts like a blanket, a big percentage of that heat is unable to escape, thus, making the surface of the Earth hotter. This, my dear readers, is global warming.

The Earth has been warming since the start of the industrial revolution. But the speed at which the Earth is trapping heat now - double in 14 years - is unprecedented. No wonder glaciers are melting fast, ice covers are receding and typhoons are getting stronger. Some countries are experiencing heat waves.

In the last two weeks, parts of Canada and the United States have experienced heat waves with some areas having record temperatures. Canada set an all time high record of 49.5 degrees Celsius in Lytton, British Columbia. In Vancouver, Canada, more than a hundred people have died according to news reports.

For comparison, the hottest temperature in the Philippines was only 42.2 degrees Celsius, recorded in Tuguegarao, Cagayan on April 22, 1912 and May 11, 1969. This is seven degrees less than the record heat experienced by Canada a few days ago. No wonder people there are dying. They are not used to this hot weather.

My brother, who lives in Vancouver, said that ice, portable aircons, and even the smallest electric fans, are all sold out. The elderly are affected the most, he said. There were also forest fires but were put under control.

So the million dollar question is: will it be hotter in the future? The researchers said that "the study is only a snapshot relative to long-term climate change, and that it's not possible to predict with any certainty what the coming decades might look like for the balance of Earth's energy budget."



Dispose of face masks safely, properly

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:01 AM July 09, 2021

Dr. Wong Chen Seong of the National Centre for Infectious Diseases of Singapore said that improper discarding of face masks that are soiled or have a “large amount of respiratory secretions” is a potential health hazard. The virus on such masks that are left exposed is said to survive for a few hours to a few days and even for months to years if kept in a cold place.

According to Dr. Wong, one should wash his or her hands before taking off the mask. Remove it not under the chin but rather through the ear loops. Next, fold the mask in half inward so the droplets from the mouth and nose will not be exposed. Fold it again to another half, then to another half until the mask looks like a roll. Finally, wrap it with its ear loops and put inside a piece of tissue before throwing it into a

rubbish bin.

Associate Professor Alex Cook of National University of Singapore also said that those infected with the virus “should be more mindful of where they discard their mask. It would be a good idea to put it in a bag and throw it immediately in the trash rather than leave it sitting exposed.”

Experts say used face masks are getting into waterways, where they reach fresh water and the marine environment. Oceans Asia reported in February 2020 the presence of face masks in waters off Hong Kong. BBC has also reported that in Anilao, Batangas, scuba divers found numerous face masks in sea corals and in other marine areas, posing a danger to fish and other sea animals.

In my morning walks, I have seen face masks on streets, dogs biting into face masks, and children playing with dirty masks. Just recently, a friend forwarded a plea from garbage collectors asking that homes segregate their face masks from other waste.

A study conducted by the University of Phayao, Thailand last year showed that in 49 Asian countries including the Philippines, 16,659.48 tons of medical waste, mostly face masks, were being generated daily during the COVID-19 pandemic. In India, it's 6,491.49; Iran, 1,191.04; Pakistan 1,099.30; the Philippines, 353.03.

As we continue to grapple with the pandemic, we must do our share to protect the environment. We should also kneel harder in prayer that our garbage collectors, like our other frontliners, may do their job well and will not get sick.

MARIO D. DALANGIN, Kapatirang Bihiya treasurer, marprayer58@yahoo.com.ph



Lorenzana says West PH Sea situation stable

By Priam Nepomuceno July 8, 2021, 9:57 am



Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana (PPD photo)

MANILA - The situation in the West Philippine Sea (WPS) is stable right now as Filipino vessels are able to conduct their patrol without getting in conflict with vessels of other claimant nations.

During the virtual pre-State of the Nation Address (SONA) media launch Wednesday, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said ships from the Philippine Navy, Philippine Coast Guard, and Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources are consistently patrolling the WPS.

"So peaceful diyan, stable sa West Philippine Sea ngayon (it is peaceful and stable at the WPS)," Lorenzana said.

Also, the defense chief added that Chinese ships earlier spotted massing on the WPS have largely dispersed but there are still some near the area.

"Itong ginagawa naman natin dito sa West Philippine Sea ay mina-manage natin iyong sitwasyon, dahil China naman ay nag-i-insist na sila ay may claim, may claim din tayo. Sa katunayan, hindi lang China at saka Pilipinas ang may claim diyan, kung hindi kasama na rin ang Vietnam, Taiwan at saka Malaysia. So maraming 'claimants' diyan. (what we are doing now in the WPS is we are managing the situation as China is insisting on their claim, we also have a claim, in fact, China and the Philippines are not the only countries with claims on the WPS, also included are Vietnam, Taiwan, and even Malaysia. There are a lot of claimants there)," Lorenzana said.

He added that the Philippines is talking with other claimant nations to settle the issue.

"Siguro hindi naman natin mapupwersa itong ayusin kaagad, dahil matatagalan siguro bago magkaroon ng kaayusan itong sigalot na ito sa West Philippine Sea (We cannot force everyone to settle this dispute in the WPS as this will immediately take time)," Lorenzana said. (PNA)

09 JULY 2021, FRIDAY



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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On the **ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE REPORT AND MANAGEMENT PLAN (EPRMP)** of the proposed **6X135 MW CIRCULATING FLUIDIZED BED COAL-FIRED POWER PLANT EXPANSION PROJECT** of the **FDC MISAMIS POWER CORP.** located in **PHIVIDEC INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, BARANGAYS TAMBObONG AND BALACANAS, MUNICIPALITY OF VILLANUEVA, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL.**

Notice is hereby given to all parties who wish to give their opinion regarding the implementation of the proposed **6X135 MW CIRCULATING FLUIDIZED BED COAL-FIRED POWER PLANT EXPANSION PROJECT** to attend the Public Hearing scheduled on:

Date	Time	Zoom Details
16 July 2021 (Friday)	9:00 AM <i>Registration starts at 8:30 AM</i>	https://zoom.us/j/95968089150?pwd=dGNar3lnVDFvSjNjQTdVUWF6L29SUT09 Meeting ID: 959 6808 9150 Passcode: 8M32hc

The Public Hearing is being conducted in connection with the review of the EPRMP of the aforementioned project by the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The following is the project information:

Project Name	6x135 MW Circulating Fluidized Bed Coal-Fired Power Plant Expansion Project
Project Location	Phividec Industrial Estate, Barangays Tambobong and Balacanas, Villanueva, Misamis Oriental
Project Capacity	Total Capacity: 810 MW
Project Type	Coal-Fired Power Plant
Proponent	FDC Misamis Power Corp.

All interested parties who wish to attend or participate in this Public Hearing should preferably confirm their attendance/participation and may give their opinion(s) in a concise position paper to the **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION (EIAMD)** of this Office through email at eia@emb.gov.ph, three (3) days before the Public Hearing schedule. Those who will not be able to register or submit written positions may be given the opportunity to share their issues on the day of the hearing itself.

The project's EPRMP and Executive Summary for the Public are downloadable on our website: (*kindly access the Notice of Public Hearing/ Consultation link found in our website*) while copies will be available in the following offices:

- **EMB Region X**
DENR 10 Compound, Macabalan, Cagayan De Oro City
- **Villanueva Municipal Hall**
Municipality of Villanueva, Province of Misamis Oriental

For more details, please contact the EIAMD Division at this Office at telephone number 8920-2240 to 41 and look for the project case handlers **Engr. Dexter Tabada** and **Engr. Carlo Vic Arida, EnP.**

09 JULY 2021, FRIDAY



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COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DOH tallies 5,484 new COVID-19 cases, 191 more deaths

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Jul 8, 2021 4:30:00 PM



The country again tallied over 5,000 new COVID-19 cases on Thursday after 5,484 more people got infected, pushing the total to 1,455,585, the Department of Health said. (FILE PHOTO)

Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, July 8) — The country again tallied over 5,000 new COVID-19 cases on Thursday after 5,484 more people got infected, pushing the total to 1,455,585, the Department of Health said.

The daily case count was under 5,000 the past two days. The DOH daily case bulletin said 49,036 or 3.4% of the nationwide tally are active cases - with 90.9% experiencing mild symptoms, 3.7% without symptoms, 2.2% with severe symptoms, 1.62% in moderate condition, and 1.5% in critical condition.

The death toll climbed to 25,650 or 1.76% of the total case count after 191 more people lost their lives to the disease. It's the third day in a row this week that over a hundred deaths were reported.

The recovery count also climbed to 1,380,899 or 94.9% of the case total after 3,925 more people were cleared of the coronavirus.

The DOH said it reclassified 152 survivors into fatalities after validation and removed nine duplicates - including six recoveries.

All laboratories submitted their reports on time, the department added.



191 katao sa bansa kamamatay lang sa COVID-19, highest sa halos 1 buwan

(Philstar.com) - July 8, 2021 - 4:00am



A patient who has recovered from the COVID-19 coronavirus donates plasma at a hospital in Manila on April 22, 2020. Scientists have pointed to the potential benefits of plasma -- a blood fluid -- from recovered individuals who have developed antibodies to the COVID-19 coronavirus enabling the body's defences to attack it.

AFP/Maria Tan

MANILA, Philippines — Nakapagtala ang Department of Health (DOH) ng 5,484 bagong infection ng coronavirus disease, Miyerkules, kung kaya nasa 1,455,585 na sumatutal ang nahahawaan nito sa bansa.

Batay sa mga bagong nakalap na datos ng Kagawaran ng Kalusugan, narito ang bagong mga pasok na datos para araw na ito:

- **lahat ng kaso:** 1,455,585
- **nagpapagaling pa:** 49,046, o 3.4% ng total infections
- **bagong recover:** 3,925, dahilan para maging 1,380,899 na lahat ng gumagaling
- **kamamatay lang:** 191, na siyang nag-aakyat sa total local death toll sa 25,650

Navotas naghigpit sa mga bisita; Singapore: Naka-Sinovac di kasama sa bilang

- Ngayong araw naitala ang pinakamaraming bilang ng arawang namamatay sa COVID-19 sa nakalipas na 27 araw. Huling mas marami ang daily death toll noong ika-11 ng Hunyo.
- Inanunsyo naman ni Navotas City Mayor Toby Tiangco na [pagbabawalan nila](#) ang pagpasok ng mga taong nasa labas ng NCR Plus Bubble sa kanilang lungsod. Inilabas ni Tiangco ang kautusan matapos sabihin ng gobyerno na vaccination card na lang ang kailangan para sa mga interzonal travel.
- Idiniin naman ni Dr. Ted Herbosa, adviser ng National Task Force on COVID-19, [kung gaano pa kalayo ang Pilipinas sa pagli-lift ng face mask requirement sa gitna ng pandemya](#). Nasa 40-50 milyong fully vaccinated daw ang kailangan dito pero lagpas 3 milyon pa lang ang may kumpletong jabs sa Pilipinas
- Naninindigan naman ngayon si vaccine czar Carlito Galvez Jr. na [walang "favoritism"](#) pagdating sa mga nabibigyan ng alokasyon ng COVID-19 vaccines sa Pilipinas. Tugon niya ito sa paratang ni Iloilo Rep. Janette Garin na merong palakasan sa mga binibisitang lugar nina Galvez pagdating sa distribusyon ng gamot.



- [Pormal naman nang tinanggal ng bansang Singapore mula sa kanilang tally ng COVID-19 vaccinations ang mga naturukan ng gamot ng Sinovac lalo na't "kulang" daw ang kanilang efficacy data, lalo na sa mas nakahahawang Delta variant.](#)
- Umabot na sa 184.32 milyong tinatamaan ng COVID-19 sa buong daigdig, ayon sa [huling datos ng World Health Organization](#). Sa bilang na 'yan, patay na ang 3.99 milyong katao.

— James Relativo



Philippines receives Japan's donation of 1.1 million AstraZeneca doses

By JOAHNA LEI CASILAO, GMA News Published July 8, 2021 9:23pm

The Philippines on Thursday night received 1,124,100 doses of AstraZeneca vaccines from Japan as the donated shipment landed at the Villamor Air Base.

President Rodrigo Duterte, Japanese embassy officials, National Task Force (NTF) Against COVID-19, and the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) executives, were at the ceremonial turnover.

In his speech, Duterte thanked Japan, saying the vaccines would help the Philippines in its quest for herd immunity.

“Japan continues to be our strong partner in various development programs, our cooperation in fighting the pandemic is truly an indication of the deep friendship between our two countries,” Duterte said.

“Let me assure everyone that throughout our vaccination rollout, we will prioritize the safety and quality of all vaccines that we are distributing across the country,” he added.

Duterte urged the public to get vaccinated against COVID-19. He also urged all Filipinos to follow health protocols, even those fully vaccinated.

“I, therefore, urge everyone to get vaccinated and help prevent the further spread of the virus. We should all continue to follow safety rules and health protocols even when fully vaccinated,” he said.

Malacanang said the donation was part of Japan's initiatives to support Southeast Asian countries amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Japan's Economic Minister Masahiro Nakata vowed to assist the Philippine government in its fight against the pandemic.

It was Nakata delivered the message of Japan Prime Minister Suga Yoshihide.

Japanese Ambassador Kazuhiko Koshikawa is currently on quarantine.

“Japan has ensured to provide COVID-19 vaccines to the Philippines. This initiative is a clear testament to the deep-rooted bonds of friendship between our two nations,” Nakata said.

“Gagawin namin ang lahat ng aming makakaya upang malampasan ang mga pagsubok ng dala ng pandemya kasama ang Pilipinas,” he added.

[We will do everything we can to defeat this pandemic together with the Philippines.]

The Philippines has reported a total of [1,455,585 COVID-19 cases](#), of which 1,380,899 have recovered and 25,650 have died.

Meanwhile, the country has administered [12 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines](#). —NB, GMA News

Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/794649/philippines-receives-japan-s-donation-of-1-1-million-astrazeneca-covid-19-vaccine-doses/story/?just_in



Passengers bound to their respective destination line up at EDSA carousel bus station in Caloocan City on March 17, 2021.

The STAR/Michael Varcas, file

WHO warns vs lifting COVID-19 curbs too soon

(Agence France-Presse) - July 9, 2021 - 12:00am

'It's not over'

The World Health Organization on Wednesday urged "extreme caution" for countries considering lifting COVID-19 restrictions, warning that high vaccination rates would not stop transmission of the virus increasing.

The UN health agency urged governments not to squander hard-won gains and return to scenes of overwhelmed hospitals and exhausted health workers.

Asked about England's plans to ditch most of its coronavirus restrictions from July 19, WHO emergencies director Michael Ryan said: "I would urge extreme caution in the complete lifting of public health and social measures at this time, because there are consequences for that."

WHO figures show that globally, after a decline in newly reported cases for seven consecutive weeks, there was a slight increase in new cases in the past two weeks.

Cases jumped 30 percent in the WHO's European region over the past week.

European countries have administered 70 vaccine doses per 100 inhabitants, according to AFP figures.

"Making assumptions that transmission will not increase because we're opening up, because of vaccine, is a false assumption," said Ryan.

"Transmission will increase when you open up, because we don't have vaccines in everybody... and we're still not sure to what extent vaccination protects against the ability to be infected or have onward transmission.

"With increased transmission in the community, we then put our most vulnerable at risk again."

'Open up very carefully'

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Monday revealed plans to lift most of England's legal coronavirus restrictions, including face masks and social distancing, urging personal responsibility rather than government edict.

Ryan stressed he did not want to comment on specific countries, but said: "The idea that everyone is protected... and everything goes back to normal, I think right now is a very dangerous assumption anywhere in the world."



And that included Europe, where “we’ve seen wave after wave of cases,” he said.

“We would ask governments to be really careful at this moment not to lose the gains we’ve made. To open up very carefully.

“I would hope that in the European environment we won’t see a return to the overwhelmed hospitals and the exhausted health workers. But that’s not a given.”

Ryan said countries lifting restrictions needed to follow the data and give themselves the option of rowing back if it resulted in negative consequences.

Opening up with low vaccine coverage and variants circulating “is a real toxic mixture for your hospitals filling up again, and this is something that must absolutely be avoided,” he added.

Ryan flatly rejected the notion that it would be better to lift restrictions and risk triggering a fresh wave of infections in the summer than doing so in the winter months.

“The logic of more people being infected is better, is, I think, logic that has proven its moral emptiness and its epidemiologic stupidity,” he said.



Delta variant is 'Covid-19 on steroids,' expert says, with cases increasing in nearly half of US states

By Aya Elamroussi, CNN

Updated 1837 GMT (0237 HKT) July 8, 2021

(CNN)Twenty-four states have seen an uptick of at least 10% in [Covid-19 cases](#) over the past week, Johns Hopkins University data shows, as health experts and the federal government keep pressing for more people to get vaccinated.

The rapid spread of the [Delta variant](#) of the coronavirus has only ratcheted up the pressure.

That variant, first identified in India, accounted for 51.7% of all new Covid-19 infections in the country over the two weeks that ended Saturday, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [has estimated](#).

"We should think about the [Delta variant](#) as the 2020 version of Covid-19 on steroids," Andy Slavitt, a former senior adviser to Joe Biden's Covid Response Team, told CNN on Wednesday. "It's twice as infectious. Fortunately, unlike 2020, we actually have a tool that stops the Delta variant in its tracks: It's called vaccine."

For fully vaccinated people, the variant "presents very little threat to you, very unlikely that you're gonna get sick," he said

Full approval for vaccines from the US Food and Drug Administration could encourage more people to get vaccinated, Slavitt and other experts have said. The current vaccines distributed in the US are authorized for emergency use only. Full approval for the Pfizer vaccine could come as early as this month, Slavitt said Tuesday.

As of Wednesday, less than half of the US population -- 47.6% -- was [fully vaccinated](#). The percentage of eligible people who were fully vaccinated -- ages 12 and up -- was 55.6%.

Cases and hospitalizations are up especially in parts of the country where vaccination coverage is low, CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky said at a White House Covid-19 briefing Thursday.

Counties with the highest case rates tended to have low vaccination rates. In the last week, 173 counties had at least 100 cases per 100,000 residents -- and in more than 90% of those counties, vaccination coverage was less than 40%, Walensky said.

More than 9 million people live in those counties, she said.

"Many of these counties are also the same locations where the Delta variant represents the large majority of circulating virus," Walensky said.

"Low vaccination rates in these counties, coupled with high case rates -- and lax mitigation policies that do not protect those who are unvaccinated from disease -- will certainly, and sadly, lead to more unnecessary suffering, hospitalizations and potentially deaths," she added.

The case rate has been rising for the US as a whole. The country averaged more than 15,060 new cases a day over a week ending Wednesday -- 20.7% higher than the average from the week prior, according to Johns Hopkins data.

The average is still well below this spring's peak -- an average of 71,320 daily for a week ending April 14 -- and the pandemic peak average of more than 251,000 daily for a week ending January 8.

Covid-19 hospitalizations also have been ticking up recently. The number of Covid-19 patients in US hospitals was nearly 18,000 Tuesday, according to the US Department of Health and Human Services.



That's slightly above the total of 16,792 two weeks earlier, though well below the pandemic peak of more than 136,000 on January 5.



Wearing face masks, people walk last month through Union Station in Los Angeles. California is one of the 24 states seeing an uptick in Covid-19 cases.

5 largest undervaccinated clusters largely in the South

A [new data analysis](#) has identified clusters of unvaccinated people, most of them in the southern United States, that are vulnerable to surges in cases and could become breeding grounds for even more deadly Covid-19 variants.

The analysis by researchers at Georgetown University identified 30 clusters of counties with low vaccination rates and significant population sizes. The five most significant of those clusters are sprawled across large swaths of the southeastern United States and a smaller portion in the Midwest.

The five clusters are largely in parts of eight states, starting in the east in Georgia and stretching west to Texas and north to southern Missouri. The clusters include parts of Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Tennessee, and are made up of mostly smaller counties but also cities such as Montgomery, Alabama; Shreveport, Louisiana; and Amarillo, Texas.

Most of these states are currently seeing increases in Covid-19 cases.

"Parts of the country are just as vulnerable if not more vulnerable than they were in December 2020," said Shweta Bansal, an associate professor of biology at Georgetown University. Bansal heads up the US COVID-19 Vaccination Tracking project, which has been gathering data on the US vaccine rollout since it began in December.

Vaccinations saved hundreds of thousands of lives in US, researchers say

In a grim reminder of the scale of the pandemic, the global death toll from Covid-19 has reached more than 4 million, [data from Johns Hopkins](#) on Wednesday showed.

Three countries account for more than a third of all global deaths. The US, which has the highest number of fatalities at 606,000, accounts for 15% of the global total, followed by Brazil and India.

Underscoring vaccines' effectiveness, researchers say the American toll would have been a lot worse without inoculations.

The US would have seen about 279,000 more Covid-19 deaths by June 28 had vaccinations - which first became available in December -- not have taken place, [according to](#) researchers at Yale University and the Commonwealth Fund. The country also would have seen as many as 1.25 million additional hospitalizations, the researchers said.

Fears about more variants if people don't get vaccinated

The Delta variant is not the only one worrying health experts.

"Right now, you want to look at who's getting sick, whether from the Delta variant or any other variant: It's people who haven't been vaccinated," Dr. Megan Ranney told CNN on Wednesday.



"I don't want it to come to this, but I am hopeful that these surges will drive more people in those states with low vaccination rates to finally go out and get their shot."

Vaccinated people don't have much to worry about, said [Ranney](#), an emergency physician at Rhode Island Hospital and an associate professor at Brown University.

But she offered an unsettling insight on the current surge of cases.

"What worries me more are the variants yet to come. And every time this virus is passed from one person to another, it has a chance to mutate. And it's only a matter of time until we have a variant against which the vaccines no longer protect us," she explained.

Some [experts have begun asking](#) whether it may be time to start testing vaccinated people to ensure the Delta variant does not evade the effects of vaccines.

urrent federal guidelines say fully vaccinated people can refrain from routine testing. Studies and experts have also said the vaccines are still highly protective.

"I think now we should revisit this policy with the Delta variant and determine if the current recommendations hold up," Dr. Peter Hotez, dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine, wrote in an email to CNN on Wednesday.

The CDC is only reporting data on "breakthrough" infections that cause severe disease. That could mean scientists and health officials will not know how many vaccinated people have mild or asymptomatic infections -- and it will be very difficult to track whether a new variant such as Delta is causing more vaccine failure.

CNN's Deidre McPhillips, Jason Hanna, Jacqueline Howard, Keri Enriquez, Virginia Langmaid, Elizabeth Cohen, John Bonifield and Hannah Sarisohn contributed to this report.



#OneDENR

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Situation and Response**

STOPPING COVID-19 IS POSSIBLE BY GETTING YOUR COVID-19 SHOT!



In Minnesota, USA, they've vaccinated 60% of their population.

THE RESULT:

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