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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



IPs cited for role in protecting PH eagle

Published June 8, 2021, 4:11 PM
by [Ellson Quismorio](#)

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy A. Cimatu has hailed the contribution of Indigenous Peoples (IPs) in the efforts to conserve the critically endangered Philippine eagle.



(Photo from DENR)

“The Philippine eagle’s presence in the forests is intrinsically connected to the web of life, in the lives of our brethren katutubos and resonates in their everyday lives, deeming the eagle sacred and providing utmost protection from harm,” Cimatu said last June 4 during the launch of this year’s celebration of Philippine Eagle Week (PEW).

“It is through these indigenous practices, we are able to learn from their culture and beliefs and understand how wildlife and humans can co-exist harmoniously...what better way to learn of these stories through local stewards who serve as our eyes and ears in the forests,” he said.



DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu (Photo from DENR Facebook page)

Known as the largest of the extant eagles in the world in terms of length and wing surface, the Philippine eagle (*Pithecophaga jefferyi*) is currently classified as a “critically endangered” raptor in the Updated National List of Philippine Threatened Fauna or DENR Administrative Order 2019-09), and by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature or IUCN.

The wild population of the species throughout the archipelago remains precarious at approximately 400 pairs. Hunting and loss of forest habitats remain the primary threats to birds’ survival.

The PEW is observed from June 4 to 10 of every calendar year by virtue of Proclamation No. 79. The declaration aims to promote awareness on the importance of the Philippine eagle as a biological indicator of our forest ecosystems, a national symbol and a truly unique heritage.



The year 2021 marks the 23rd iteration of PEW. This year's theme, "The Philippine Eagle and Indigenous Peoples: Protecting our forests, protecting our future," highlights the vital role of IPs in protecting the Philippines eagles' forest homes.

"There is no opportune time to learn how to take care of our fragile environment, especially during this pandemic than now," stressed Cimatu.

The event was organized by the DENR-Biodiversity Management Bureau (DENR-BMB) in partnership with the Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF), Haribon Foundation, and the University of the Philippines-Diliman, Institute of Biology.

**23RD
PHILIPPINE
EAGLE
WEEK**
4-10 JUNE 2021

**The Philippine eagle and Indigenous Peoples:
Protecting our Forests, Protecting our Future.**



During the event, various IP communities—together with the DENR regional and field offices, PEF, and local government units—shared their inspirational stories of Philippine eagle rescues, rehabilitation, and releases.

Hailed as "Local Biodiversity Champions," five IP communities, which include the Manuvu Tinonanon of Arakan, North Cotabato; Bukidnon (Higaonon) of Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon; Samahan ng Bantay Kalikasan sa Lupaing Ninuno (SBKALN); Indigenous Mandaya of Pantuyan, Caraga; Obu Manuvu of Davao City; and the Bagobo Tagabawa in Mt. Apo, Davao City, presented their own stories of hope, success, and goodwill.

A new partner in conservation, the Philippine Fauna Art Society (PhilFAS) through its founder Ms. Bing Famoso, also presented a virtual art exhibit dubbed "Haring Agila: An Online Art Exhibition."

A livestream of the exhibit can be seen on the group's Facebook page until the end of PEW on June 10.



Cimatu kinilala ang kontribusyon ng IPs sa PH eagle conservation



June 8, 2021 @ 7:29 PM 11 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines – Kinilala ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy A. Cimatu sa pagdiriwang ng 23rd year ng Philippine Eagle Week (PEW), ang papel ng Indigenous Peoples (IPs) bilang katiwala ng gubat partikular na sa pangangalaga ng ating national bird, ang critically endangered Philippine eagle na nagpapanatili ng ecological balance ng malawak na kagubatan ng bansa.

“The Philippine eagle’s presence in the forests is intrinsically connected to the web of life, in the lives of our brethren katutubos and resonates in their everyday lives, deeming the eagle sacred and providing utmost protection from harm. For it is through these indigenous practices, we are able to learn from their culture and beliefs and understand how wildlife and humans can co-exist harmoniously,” sabi ni Cimatu sa ginanap na selebrasyon noong Hunyo 4.

Ayon sa press release ng DENR ang okasyon na ito ay pinangunahan ng DENR-Biodiversity Management Bureau (DENR-BMB) sa pakikipagtulungan ng Philippine Eagle Foundation, Haribon Foundation, at ng University of the Philippines-Diliman, Institute of Biology..

“There is no opportune time to learn how to take care of our fragile environment, especially during this pandemic than now. Dagdag pa ni Cimatu, “what better way to learn of these stories through local stewards who serve as our eyes and ears in the forests”.

Ayon sa DENR ang tema sa pagdiriwang ngayong taon ay ang “The Philippine Eagle and Indigenous Peoples: Protecting our forest, protecting our future,” kung saan naka-highlight ang mahalagang papel ng IPs sa pagbibigay ng proteksiyon sa tahanan ng agila sa kagubatan lalo na sa most endangered wild fauna na Philippine eagle.

Sa ginanap na selebrasyon, nagbigay ng inspirational stories ng rescue, rehabilitation at releases ng Philippine eagle ang IP communities, kasama na ang DENR regional at field offices, PEF at local government units.

Binansagan bilang “Local Biodiversity Champions,” nagbahagi ng kuwento ng pag-asa, tagumpay at goodwill ang limang IP communities na kinabibilangan ng Manuvu Tinonanon ng Arakan, North Cotabato; Bukidnon (Higaonon) ng Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon; Samahan ng Bantay Kalikasan sa Lupaing Ninuno (SBKALN); Indigenous Mandaya ng Pantuyan, Caraga; Obu Manuvu ng Davao City; at ang Bagobo Tagabawa sa Mt. Apo, Davao City.

Bilang bagong partner sa konserbasyon ay nagsagawa naman ang Philippine Fauna Art Society (PhilFAS), sa pamamagitan ng founder nito na si Ms Bing Famoso, ng virtual art exhibit na “Haring Agila” na mapapanood sa kanilang Facebook page hanggang sa katapusan ng PEW sa Hunyo 10, 2021.



Kaugnay nito sa kanyang panig, sinabi ni DENR Undersecretary for Special Concerns at concurrent DENR-BMB Director Edilberto DC Leonardo na ang Philippine Eagle Week ay nagpapaalala sa atin na ang konserbasyon ng wildlife ay tungkulin ng bawat Pilipino at ang mundo ay hindi lamang para sa atin.

“As this magnificent bird of prey continues to uphold the ecological balance of our forests, we reach out to every Filipino to adopt a culture of respect for all life forms, most especially for our national bird,” saad ni Leonardo.

Ang PEW ay ginugunita simula Hunyo 4 hanggang 10 kada taon batay na rin sa bisa ng Proclamation No. 79. Ang proklamasyon na ito ay naglalayong isulong ang kamalayan sa kahalagahan ng Philippine eagle bilang biological indicator ng forest ecosystems ng bansa, national symbol, at kakaibang pamana.

Kinikilala bilang pinakamalaki sa mga nabubuhay na agila sa mundo sa tuntunin ng length at wing surface, ang Philippine eagle (*Pithecophaga jefferyi*) ay nakatala bilang “critically endangered” raptor sa Updated National List of Philippine Threatened Fauna o ng DENR Administrative Order 2019-09 at ng International Union for the Conservation of Nature o ang IUCN.

Ang wild population ng Philippine eagle sa buong archipelago ay nanganganib sa tinatayang 400 pairs. Ang hunting at pagkawala ng forest habitats ang siyang pangunahing banta sa survival ng mga ito. **Santi Celario**



IPs' crucial role as stewards of PH eagle cited

posted June 09, 2021 at 12:30 am

by [Rio N. Araja](#)

In celebration of the 23rd year of the Philippine Eagle Week (PEW), Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu on Tuesday underscored the role that indigenous peoples (IPs) play as stewards of the forests, especially the national bird.

The critically endangered Philippine eagle maintains the ecological balance of the country's vast forests, Cimatu said in a statement.

"The Philippine eagle's presence in the forests is intrinsically connected to the web of life, in the lives of our brethren 'katutubos' and resonates in their everyday lives, deeming the eagle sacred and providing utmost protection from harm. For it is through these indigenous practices, we are able to learn from their culture and beliefs and understand how wildlife and humans can co-exist harmoniously," he said.

"There is no more opportune time than now to learn how to take care of our fragile environment, especially during this pandemic. What better way to learn of these stories through local stewards who serve as our eyes and ears in the forests," Ano added.

The theme of this year's celebration, "The Philippine Eagle and Indigenous Peoples: Protecting our forests, protecting our future," highlights the vital role of IPs in protecting the eagles' forest homes and especially most endangered wild fauna.

Undersecretary for Special Concerns Edilberto Leonardo, the concurrent Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Biodiversity Management Bureau Director, said the Philippine Eagle Week "reminds us that conservation of wildlife is every Filipino's duty, and that this fragile world is not ours alone."

"As this magnificent bird of prey continues to uphold the ecological balance of our forests, we reach out to every Filipino to adopt a culture of respect for all life forms, most especially for our national bird," Leonardo said.

Known as the largest of the extant eagles in the world in terms of length and wing surface, the Philippine eagle (*Pithecophaga jefferyi*) is currently classified as a "critically endangered raptor in the Updated National List of Philippine Threatened Fauna or the DENR Administrative Order 2019-09 and by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

The wild population of the species throughout the archipelago remains precarious at approximately 400 pairs. Hunting and loss of forest habitats remain the primary threats to birds' survival.



New policy sets mining exploration period's automatic renewal

By Catherine Teves June 8, 2021, 6:27 pm



(PNA file photo)

MANILA – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is targeting to facilitate the continuity of mining exploration projects in the country.

A still-unnumbered and soon-to-be-published DENR Administrative Order (DAO) will provide guidelines for automatic renewal of the exploration period covering such projects and timely declaration of mining project feasibility under various mining tenements, noted Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) Mining Tenements Management Division OIC chief Danilo Deleña.

He said the DAO will cover all exploration permits and mineral production sharing agreements, financial or technical assistance agreements, and other similar mining tenements under the exploration stage.

"That DAO's issuance aims to ensure continuous conduct of exploration activities by all permittees, contractors and other holders of mining tenements," he said Tuesday during the virtual MGB stakeholders' forum on government mining policies.

The existing renewal process is for parties concerned to submit all required documents and pay the renewal fee so MGB can evaluate their applications and approve these if justified, he noted.

He said MGB has been studying how to facilitate the process as several mining stakeholders already clamored for this, citing difficulty in complying with renewal requirements.

"The DAO answers their clamor," he said.

Such DAO will still require mining stakeholders concerned to pay the renewal fee and MGB to review their applications, he added.

Unlike the existing renewal process, he said documentary requirements in the DAO are minimal but stakeholders concerned must submit these 60 days before their respective exploration periods expire.

"If all's well with their applications, they'll be automatically renewed," he said.



According to Deleña, preparations are already underway for the DAO's publication in a newspaper of general circulation and submission to the University of the Philippines Office of the National Administrative Register.

"We're hoping to have the DAO published in a few days," he said.

MGB said of the Philippines' total land area of 30 million hectares, some nine million hectares have high mineral potential.

However, only 2.42 percent of the country's total land area was covered by mining tenements as of May 31, 2020, noted MGB.

The country's primary mineral commodities are gold, nickel and nickel products as well as copper, MGB said.

Available MGB data showed mining contributed some PHP102.3 billion to the country's gross domestic product last year.

National and local taxes, fees, and royalties from mining totaled PHP25.52 billion during the said period, MGB added. (**PNA**)



Lifting of ban on open-pit mining seen

By: [Karl R. Ocampo](#) - Reporter / [@kocampoINQ](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:14 AM June 08, 2021



An open-pit gold-copper mining area in Barangay Didipio, Kasibu in Nueva Vizcaya.—RICHARD BALONGLONG

The ban on open-pit mining is expected to be lifted soon as the draft implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of Executive Order No. 130 have been finalized for the approval of Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu.

Wilfredo Moncano, director of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), confirmed in a text message that after consultations with miners and environmental advocates, the MGB submitted on Monday the proposed IRR to Cimatu for his signature.

Moncano noted that a repealing clause in the draft IRR will lift the four-year ban on the use of open-pit mines to extract minerals, imposed by the late former environment chief Regina Paz Lopez.

While the IRR alone cannot lift the ban, these nevertheless pave the way for Cimatu to issue an administrative order to specifically allow open-pit mining activities to resume.

“The EO 130 lifts the moratorium on all new mining projects so there is no discrimination. Besides, the MICC (Mining Industry Coordinating Council) has also recommended [the lifting of the ban] in 2019,” Moncano said.

The MICC is an inter-agency committee chaired by Cimatu and Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III. It was tasked to conduct a “fact-finding and science-based” review of the mines ordered either closed or suspended by Lopez, as well as review the open-pit ban.

President Duterte later rejected MICC’s proposal to lift the moratorium, noting that the method “is destroying the soil,” but has since changed his mind with the issuance of EO 130.

Mr. Duterte issued in April EO 130 that lifted the nine-year moratorium on the issuance of new mining permits. The policy was meant to boost government revenue, create more jobs, and prop up the pandemic-battered economy through mining.

Billions of dollars are expected to flow from the mining industry once the ban is lifted as this will allow two mines to resume operations.

These are Sagittarius Mines Inc.’s \$5.9-billion Tampakan copper project in South Cotabato – touted to be the largest copper project in the country – and St. Augustine Gold and Copper Limited’s \$2-billion King-king copper-gold project in Compostela Valley.



Philex Mining's Silangan Project in Surigao del Norte, valued at \$750 million, used to employ an open-pit method but changed its mode of extraction following the ban.

Environmental advocates, however, oppose the lifting of the ban saying it will only hasten the environment's destruction.

Efenita Taqueban of the Legal Rights and Natural Resources Center noted that Sagittarius' Tampakan project, for instance, could potentially impact five major river systems in the area and affect numerous terrestrial and marine species.

Moreover, clearing forests for mining could put several communities at risk of flash floods and landslides.

Alyansa Tigil Mina in a statement, meanwhile, claimed that the latest policy changes have completed President Duterte's turnaround from being an environmental advocate to a pro-mining president who "legitimizes the destruction of the country's resources." Environment Undersecretary Jonas Leones, in turn, said that Mr. Duterte has been "very consistent" with his views on the mining sector.

"He's after the maximum benefit [of mining] as well as environmental compliance. If you cannot comply with regulations, you don't have the right to mine. But if you can comply and we can maximize benefits, we can find the middle ground," he said.

The MGB has already issued 309 mining permits all over the country. Around 100 mining projects are still in the pipeline, 35 of which are likely to be approved.



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June 8, 2021 3 min read

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Source: https://maharlika.tv/2021/06/08/new-policy-sets-mining-exploration-periods-automatic-renew/?fbclid=IwAR2TXH1G31lk5N1mIHMGRRoBz9kpdLEkYYIZocOOkC_NVQ9f_pBn8mEEAiM



Pamalakaya seeks DENR help to stop mining firm's dredging ops in Cavite

By: [Karl R. Ocampo](#) - Reporter / [@kocampoINQ](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 09:41 AM June 08, 2021

MANILA, Philippines—A progressive fishing group has urged the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to deny a mining company of its permits to dredge within the municipal waters of Cavite for a reclamation project.

The Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) is pertaining to Silverquest Mining Resources Inc. (SMRI) as it is currently securing an environmental compliance certificate (ECC) from DENR's Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) to begin a seabed quarrying project.

It would involve the dredging of mud, silt, and sand across 2,124 hectares of seabed to supply the 318-hectare Manila Waterfront Project with quarry materials.

SMRI's seabed quarrying project is valued at P12 billion. According to Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) director Wilfredo Moncano, granting a company with an ECC rests on EMB and is only one of several permits that the company has to secure before it could start operations.

However, Pamalakaya believes that the project will push through given that the Manila Waterfront Project is a joint partnership with Manila's local government unit.

In fact, Acesite (Phils) Hotel Corp. of the Gatchalian family already expressed plans to mortgage its Waterfront Manila Hotel and Casino in Manila to raise P8 billion to bankroll the said reclamation project together with Waterfront Manila Premier Development Inc. and Manila's LGU.

"Dredging-related stressors such as movement of solid particles, habitat loss, discharging of toxic contaminants, and noise pollution inflict damage to marine biodiversity. It can cause trauma and even death to fish species that thrive in the bottom of the sea. Consequently, it has a huge impact on the livelihood of small fishers who would endure a decrease in fish catch," said Pamalakaya national chair Fernando Hicap.

Several fishers from Manila and Cavite troop to the waters of Manila Bay to catch squid, anchovies, mackerel, and white shrimp among other marine species.

The P34.38-billion Manila Waterfront City project involves the construction of a central business district, a gateway, a marina, as well as entertainment, health, and education hubs. It also aims to decongest Manila and boost opportunities in the capital.

It also requires at least 60 million cubic meters of backfilling materials for land reclamation. A total of four sea vessels will be used by SMRI to dredge the proposed quarry area.

"Reclamation has been widely opposed and proven as environmentally disastrous by fisherfolk and even science and environmental experts. It must be a no-brainer for the DENR to reject this proposal as it obviously runs contrary to its mandate to rehabilitate Manila Bay and restore its waters for fishery resources development and recreational use," Hicap said.

In a phone interview with Environment Undersecretary Jonas Leonen, he said that the DENR is prioritizing rehabilitation efforts in Manila Bay.

JPV

Source: <https://business.inquirer.net/324406/pamalakaya-seeks-denr-help-to-stop-mining-firms-dredging-ops-in-cavite>



DENR-1 targets to plant trees on 3,700 hectares of forest cover in 2021

By Anne Hazel Fajardo-Flores Published on June 7, 2021

SAN FERNANDO CITY, Jun. 7 (PIA) – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Ilocos (DENR-1) targets to plant trees on 3,700 hectares of forest cover in the region for this year.

The said target was reported during the Kapihan sa Ilocos program of the Philippine Information Agency-Region 1 on June 4 with DENR-1 as guest agency during the kick-off celebration of the 2021 Philippine Environment Month with the theme: “*Sama-samang Pagkilos, Sama-samang Paghilom, Ikaw, Ako, Tayo ang Kalikasan.*”

According to DENR-1 Assistant Regional Director for Technical Services and in-charge of the Office of the Regional Executive Director Felix Taguba, “In compliance with Executive Order No. 26 or the National Greening Program (NGP), from 2011 to 2020,



NATIONAL GREENING PROGRAM 2021 - Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR-1) Assistant Regional Director for Technical Services and in-charge of the Office of the Regional Executive Director Felix Taguba (right) reports the accomplishments of their agency during the Kapihan sa Ilocos program of the Philippine Information Agency-Region 1 on June 4, 2021. (AHFF/PIA-1)

Further, he said that with the aim of the NGP to plant 1.5 billion trees in 1.5 billion hectares of lands of public domain for a period of six years in the entire country, DENR-1 is implementing various programs to reach the target together with its partner agencies.

“Some of the NGPs objective is to reduce poverty in the upland areas, be able to provide food security to the people, for environmental stability and biodiversity conservation, and most importantly mitigation and adaptation to climate change,” Taguba added.

Taguba said that Executive Order No. 193 or Enhanced NGP, which was signed on November 12, 2015, will rehabilitate all the remaining unproductive, denuded and degraded forestlands estimated at 7.1 million hectares from the years 2016 up to 2028.

He expressed that through the support of DENR’s partners and the community, the said target is not impossible to reach.



The NGP, as the DENR's banner program, is a convergence initiative with the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Agrarian Reform, where DENR stands as the lead agency.

Meanwhile, DENR Environmental Management Bureau Regional Director Engr. Ma. Dorica Naz-Hipe also reminded the local government units (LGUs) to comply with Republic Act (RA) 9003 or the Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 during the said program.

"It is fortunate that some of the LGUs in the Ilocos region, which have non-compliant dumpsites, have the initiative to voluntarily discontinue their operations and did not wait for a cease and desist order from our agency to act on the matter, since they already know that our agency is strictly implementing the law," Hipe said.



RA 9003 - Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Environmental Management Bureau Regional Director Engr. Ma. Dorica Naz-Hipe reminds the local government units to comply with Republic Act (RA) 9003 or the Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 during the Kapihan sa Ilocos program of the Philippine Information Agency-Region 1 on June 4, 2021. (AHFF/PIA-1)

The RA 9003 provides the necessary policy framework, institutional mechanisms and mandate to the LGUs to achieve 25 percent waste reduction through establishing an integrated solid waste management plan based on 3Rs (reduce, reuse and recycling). (JCR/AMB/AHFF/PIA-1)



HIGIT 90,000 NA EKTARYA NG KAGUBATAN SA REGION 1, NATAMNAN NA NG PUNO AYON SA DENR-REGION 1

By IFM Dagupan Team Jun. 8, 2021 at 7:53am



BALITANG LOKAL

HIGIT 90,000 NA EKTARYA NG KAGUBATAN SA REGION 1, NATAMNAN NA NG PUNO AYON SA DENR-REGION 1

Bilang selebrasyon sa National Environment Month aabot na sa 90,841 hectares ang tinamnan ng mga puno ayon sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources o DENR Region 1 sa ilalim ng programang National Greening ng nasabing ahensya.

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Ayon kay Assistant Director ng DENR-Region 1 Director Felix C. Taguba ang layunin ng nasabing programa ay upang mapaigting ang conservation management pagdating sa kalikasan, upang maprotektahan ang rehiyon sa pagbaha, pagguho ng lupa at iba pa. Vc: yan ang tinig ni ARD Taguba ng DENR.

Dagdag pa nito, dahil rin sa patuloy na pagtulong ng ibang ahensya sa pagsasagawa ng tree planting activities nasa 80, 847,000 ng mga puno ang naitanim sa rehiyon. Samantala, sa susunod na taon target ng ahensya ang 3700 hectares na taniman ng puno.

Source: <https://rmn.ph/higit-90000-na-ektarya-ng-kagubatan-sa-region-1-natamnan-na-ng-puno-ayon-sa-denr-region-1/>



P227-K hot logs seized in Butuan

By Alexander Lopez June 8, 2021, 1:49 pm



HOT LOGS. Butuan City Police personnel intercept a truck carrying about 6,500 board ft. of illegally-cut lawaan lumber worth PHP227,000 in Barangay Ampayon on Monday (June 7, 2021). Authorities arrested Bryan Maycong Lovinarion, 29, the driver of the truck, and his helper, Jear Madelo Halop, 22, for failing to present pertinent documents on the lumber products. *(Photo courtesy of BCPO Information Office)*

BUTUAN CITY – Police operatives and personnel of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) intercepted 6,500 board ft. of illegally gathered lawaan lumber products here Monday night.

The confiscated logs have a total market value of PHP227,000.

In a statement Tuesday, Butuan City Police Office (BCPO) Director, Col. Excelso Lazaga Jr., said they received information on Monday afternoon on illegally-cut lumber being transported in a wing van truck from the town of Esperanza, Agusan del Sur.

A team consisting of BCPO, the DENR, and the Agusan del Sur Police's Provincial Mobile Force Company personnel, was immediately formed to intercept the lumber products.

The vehicle was flagged at the national highway in the area of Purok 1, Barangay Ampayon, this city.

The truck driver, identified as Bryan Maycong Lovinarion, 29, and his helper, Jear Madelo Halop, 22 were arrested for failing to present pertinent documents on the lumber products.

The BCPO is also determining other personalities behind the gathering and transport of these products.

"The confiscation of the lumber products was pursuant to Executive Order 23 that declared a moratorium on the cutting and harvesting of timber in natural and residual forests," Lazaga said.

He added that the arrested suspects would also be charged with violation of Section 68 of Presidential Decree 705, as amended by Republic Act 7161, otherwise known as the Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines.

Lazaga said the BCPO's environmental protection campaign would remain unhampered amid the pandemic.

He also cited the support of communities by providing the police with vital information on illegal logging activities in the area. **(PNA)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1142944>



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June 8, 2021 2 min read

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Source: https://maharlika.tv/2021/06/08/p227-k-hot-logs-seized-in-butuan/?fbclid=IwAR0Md2pY0AamlF98LHZcWs5iC0fqXTf3qY0Vth_hTceIxcvCsHmh4ub01Rb0



Illegal cut lumber worth P48,000 seized in Occidental Mindoro

By: [Madonna T. Virola](#) - Correspondent / [@mvirolaINQ](#)

[Inquirer Southern Luzon](#) / 10:45 AM June 08, 2021



CITY OF CALAPAN — At least P48,000 worth of illegally cut lumber was seized Tuesday by police and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) personnel in Sablayan town in Occidental Mindoro province.

A report from the Mimaropa (Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon, Palawan) police said Miguel Toreta, 58, a farmer residing in Nueva Vizcaya, and Joey Gregorio, 37, a laborer from Iloilo City, were caught with a minitruck loaded with undocumented logs in an anti-illegal logging operation around 3 a.m. in Barangay Ligaya.

Seized were three pieces of narra measuring 136 board feet worth around P20,400, and five pieces of ipil with a length of 184 board feet and worth P27, 600.

The suspects are under the custody of Sablayan police.

A case of violation of the Revised Forestry Code will be filed against the suspects.

LZB

Source: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1443142/illegal-cut-lumber-worth-p48000-seized-in-occidental-mindoro>



12 open dumpsites, sanitary landfill in Ilocos Region closed

By Hilda Austria June 8, 2021, 4:19 pm



CLOSED. Officials of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB) close on March 5, 2021 the gates of the Urdaneta City sanitary landfill following the cease and desist order issued by the central office. The order was issued due to several violations. *(Photo courtesy of DENR-EMB)*

MALASIQUI, Pangasinan – Twelve local government units (LGUs) in the Ilocos Region voluntarily closed their open dumpsites while the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB) shut down a sanitary landfill as of April this year.

In an interview on Tuesday, EMB Ilocos regional director Dorica Hipe said a show cause order has been issued to the LGUs due to their violation of Republic Act (RA) 9003, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, for operating open dumpsites, while a cease and desist order has been issued to the sanitary landfill in Pangasinan.

The operation of the landfill violated the Clean Water Act upon the recommendation of the Pollution Adjudication Board, as well as the Presidential Decree 1586 or the Philippine Environmental Impact Statement, and the RA 9003.

Although it is a sanitary landfill, wastes were just dumped and it was no longer being managed properly hence, it has become an open dumpsite.

Hipe said the analysis on its water sample exceeded the effluent standard and indicated occurrence of water pollution.

“We are continuously monitoring to ensure these closed areas are not being used,” she said.

However, she said there are no local chief executives in the region who are charged yet due to violation of the RA 9003 unlike in the other regions.

“They wanted to comply unlike some local chief executives in the other regions who were charged for blatantly violating the law,” she added.

Under the provision of the law, Hipe said these LGUs need to have a memorandum of agreement or contract with existing and compliant sanitary landfills.



"The closest is in Central Luzon. The solid wastes are stored in residual containment areas temporarily for six months maximum before these are transported through a container van," she said.

Meanwhile, Hipe said some LGUs are working on their Ecological Solid Waste Management Plan despite the pandemic.

"(The plan of) one LGU in Pangasinan and one in Ilocos Norte have been approved. We really appreciate these LGUs," she said. *(PNA)*



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June 8, 2021 2 min read

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Gov't, private agencies urged to 'invest in nature'

Biodiversity investment generates \$350B yearly in improved ecosystem services, could help eliminate future pandemics

posted June 08, 2021 at 06:10 pm

by [Manila Standard](#)

Biodiversity financing strategist Biofin Philippines has urged government and private agencies to "invest in nature" as this will generate globally \$350 billion per year in improved ecosystem services and contribute to elimination of pandemics.



As the International Day for Biological Diversity is celebrated this year, BIOFIN, a project of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), prodded policy makers to contribute to financing the Philippines' 13-year biodiversity plan.

The Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (PBSAP), which started in 2015 and will last until 2028, will cost P24 billion yearly. A budget deficit of P19 billion yearly exists.

"According to Campaign for Nature, Protecting the world's land and ocean resources outweighs financial costs at least five-to-one. Globally, this can lead to \$250 billion in increased yearly economic output, plus \$350 billion in improved ecosystem services annually," said Angelique Ogena of Biofin.

The other critical reason for investing in nature is human health itself. When watersheds and forests—the habitat of wild animals — are destroyed, direct interaction between humans and the wildlife that carries diseases unknown to man becomes imminent.

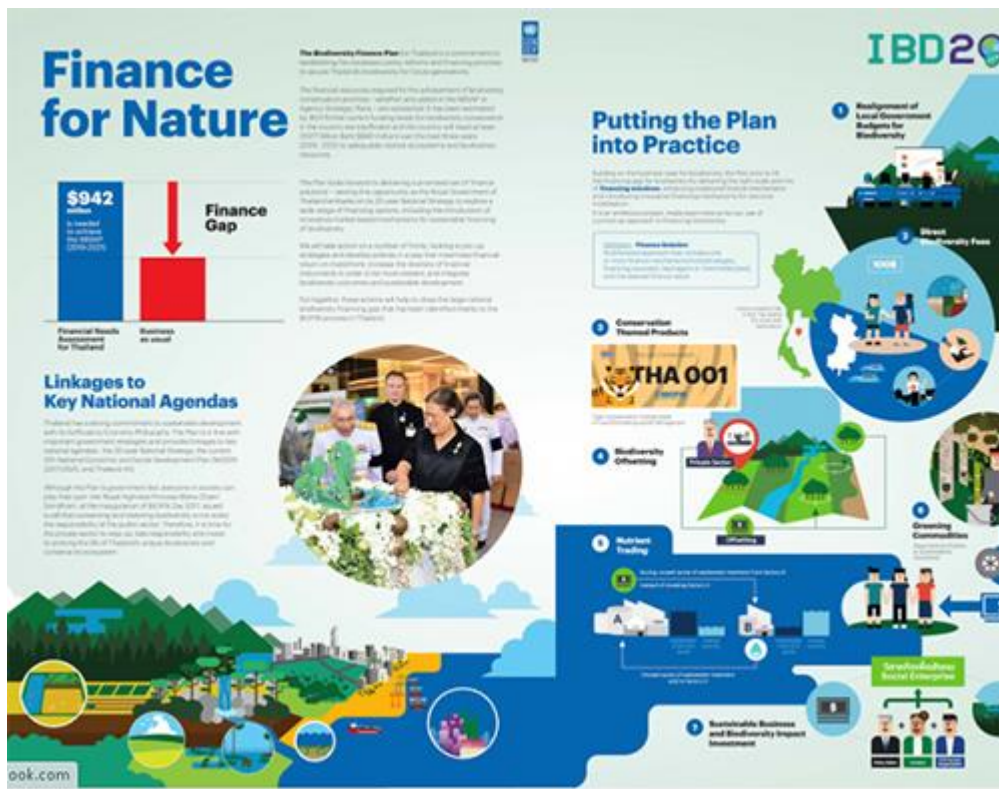
"The International Day for Biological Diversity puts us at the center of conservation efforts in the fight to save biodiversity amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic," said Ogena.

"Seventy-five percent of emerging infectious diseases in humans originate from zoonotic pathogens. That is enough reason to revisit and reprioritize resources toward the improvement of natural resources management especially in protected areas to prevent future pandemics."

Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN), co-implemented by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in the Philippines, seeks to raise awareness on the economic and ecological values of PAs (protected areas).

The campaign aims to increase BIOFIN's revenue by establishing partnerships with the private sector and other agencies that can have a common mission to support PAs.

BIOFIN is pushing for a proposed Presidential Proclamation to proclaim June 2021 to May 2022 as the "Year of the Protected Areas" and June of each year as "Month of Protected Areas."



Both are in support of Republic Act 11038 or the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System Law (NIPAS).

“Nature is a reliable provider of our daily basic needs such as clean water for drinking, air for breathing and other resources such as medicine, jobs, and climate change mitigation to create a more resilient nation,” said Ogena.

“If we zoom in to the ecosystem and species levels, national parks are at the top tier when it comes to natural wealth and therefore the most in need of protection and sustainable management.”

According to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, a global network of protected areas can store at least 15 percent of terrestrial carbon, boosting the value of conserving protected areas to new heights.

Nature-positive solutions follow a holistic approach, which is highlighted in an opinion piece written by the biodiversity finance legislative champion, Rep. Josephine Ramirez-Sato.

Sato, representative of the lone district of Occidental Mindoro, aims to “spur ideas to generate resources and jobs for conservation of nature.”

“This will help in the allocation and implementation of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF)’s P1.3 trillion stimulus and recovery package,” according to Sato.

Part of the stimulus package equivalent to P650 billion has been allotted for the Enhanced Build, Build, Build Program. This includes construction of climate-smart and resilient infrastructure where biodiversity and ecosystem enhancement can be mainstreamed.

“The stimulus package is heavy on economic provisions and budget appropriations to enable the country to recover faster, but with proper environmental considerations,” Ramirez-Sato said in her opinion piece.

“Nature-positive solutions can create stable jobs and protect our planet,” she added.



Sato suggests a seven-step approach to build back greener from the pandemic. These are: 1) Include Protected Areas (PAs) and key biodiversity areas (KBAs) as key elements of nature-based solutions; 2) Invest more in PAs and KBAs; 3) Fast-track the passage of biodiversity conservation-related policies; 4) Embrace Agrobiodiversity; 5) Leverage partnerships and private sector engagement for PAs; 6) Strengthen human resources; and 7) maximize technology and citizen engagement.

“Our actions now to address the pandemic should not amplify the risks of future outbreaks and crises. The UN World Health Organization predicts that ‘reducing the environmental and social factors people are exposed to, nearly a quarter of the global health burden could be prevented.’”

Post-COVID19 recovery plans must be inclusive and sustainable, taking into prime consideration biodiversity conservation and financing to prevent future pandemics. Moving forward to the ‘new normal,’ business as usual is no longer an option.

Putting the environment at the core of what all agencies do should be the new paradigm of doing business so building back can be greener and better from this pandemic.

While the economic losses caused by the COVID-19 pandemic continue to exist, both public and private sectors should also pay attention to long-term solutions – one of which is investing in nature. Such investment will take quite some time before returns are realized in the form of an equitable, environmentally sound, and sustainable growth. As an old saying goes, “Whatsoever man sows, he shall also reap.”



Duterte calls for proper waste disposal

By Keith Calayag

June 9, 2021



President Rodrigo Duterte

President Rodrigo Duterte has called for proper waste disposal as he expressed concern over the rise in medical and plastic waste production in the country since the Covid-19 pandemic started.

"A serious concern is the proper disposal of medical waste. There have been several reports of poor disposal," Duterte said in his public address on Monday.

"I remember one time when I was mayor [of Davao City], parang isang nurse diyan lang sa Talomo area sa beach, doon siya naghukay doon sa sand at doon niya inilibing (I remember one time when I was mayor of Davao City, there was a nurse in Talomo area who buried the waste in the sand)," the President said.

"That is not the proper way to do it. You might as well wait for the garbage men. Alam nila kung ano na ang gawin nila (That is not the proper way to do it. You might as well wait for the garbage men. They know what to do),» he added.

Duterte noted that aside from medical waste, the country also saw an increase in plastic waste as a result of the "popularity of delivery services" during the pandemic.

"Sadly, however, the Covid-19 crisis has also given a rise to plastic waste," he said.

"The popularity of delivery of services has produced considerable solid waste such as the delivery of packaging of both food and nonfood products," the President added.

He raised awareness against improper waste disposal two days after the observance of World Environment Day last June 5.

PRRD, nanawagang muli ng maayos na medical waste disposal

June 8, 2021



President Rodrigo Roa Duterte talks to the people after holding a meeting with the Inter-Agency Task Force on the Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) core members at the Kingdom of Jesus Christ Compound in Davao City on June 7, 2021. JOEY DALUMPINES/ PRESIDENTIAL PHOTO

Nanawagan na si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte sa publiko hinggil sa wastong pagtatapon ng basura, lalo na ang mga medical waste.

Sa kaniyang public address nitong Hunyo 7, ipinunto niyang nakakaalarma ang pagdami ng basura ngayong may pandemya. Ang pahayag ng Pangulo ay kasabay ng pagdiriwang ng World Environment Day.

“The COVID-19 crisis has also given rise to plastic waste and pandemic. The popularity of delivery of services has produced considerable solid waste such as the delivery of packaging of both food and non-food products,” ani Duterte.

“Also, a serious concern is the proper disposal of medical waste. There have been several reports of poor disposal,” dagdag niya.

Hiniling ng Pangulo na pangasiwaan nang maayos ng publiko ang kanilang mga basura, lalo na ang mga itinapong maaaring makasama sa kalusugan.

“Balutin ninyo ‘yang mga ano ninyo, mga medisina ‘yong naturok na at saka ‘yong mga syringe, balutin ninyo, ibigay ninyo sa basurero. Alam nila kung ano na ang gawin nila,” abiso niya. – **Ulat ni Mela Lesmoras/AG-rir**



Medical wastes itapon ng tama — Duterte

By [Malou Escudero](#)(Pang-Masa) - June 9, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Muling pinaalalahanan ni Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte ang publiko sa kanyang Talk to the People ng wastong pagtapon ng mga medical wastes.

Nakarating kay Duterte ang ulat na may mga nakuhang gamit na face masks ang ilang divers sa ilalim ng karagatan ng Bauan, Batangas.

Ito ang dahilan aniya kung bakit labis siyang nalungkot at nadismaya dahil sa maling pagtatapon ng medical wastes.

Binigyang diin ng Pangulo ang paggunita ng buong mundo ng “World Environment Day” noong June 5 kung saan isinulong ang commitment ng bansa sa pag-aalaga sa kapaligiran.

Ikinuwento pa ng Pangulo ang isang karanasan noong mayor pa siya ng Davao na kung saan isang nurse umano ang nagbaon ng basura sa isang beach.

“You might as well wait for the garbage men to look the garbage and balutin ninyo ‘yang mga ano ninyo, mga medisina ‘yong naturok na at saka ‘yong mga syringe, balutin ninyo, ibigay ninyo sa basurero,” ayon kay Pangulong Duterte.



Basurang medical itapon sa tamang lugar – Duterte

By Abante News Online — Last updated Jun 8, 2021

NEWS



Photo courtesy of pcoo.gov.ph



7 0

Iniutos ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang maayos na pagtatapon ng medical waste partikular ang mga ginagamit sa mga hospital ngayong panahon ng pandemya.

Sa kanyang regular Talk to the People, sinabi ng Pangulo na may mga report na hindi maayos ang pagtatapon ng basurang medical at ito ay seryosong concern lalo na sa kalusugan at kapaligiran.

Inatasan ng Pangulo ang mga hospital at iba pang health care facilities na tiyaking naitatapon nang maayos ang mga ginamit na herenggilya at iba pa para hindi makapaminsala.

“Balutin ninyo yang mga ano nyo, mga medisina yong naturok na at saka yung mga syringe. Ibigay ninyo sa basurero. Alam na nila kung ano ang gawin nila,” anang Pangulo. (Aileen Taliping)



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Pres. Duterte, umapelang maging responsible sa pagtatapon ng basura

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Group of killer whales or orcas spotted in Antique

Published June 8, 2021 9:19pm



A group of killer whales or orcas with their babies were seen in Antique seas, according to a “24 Oras” report.

In Raffy Tima’s story, Tuesday, science specialist Diuvs de Jesus said that the creatures’ sightings could be the result of something positive or negative.

“If they see lots of prey here, that’s a good sign. However, they can also be here because of climate change or overfishing in other areas,” he said in a mix of English and Filipino.

Because only a few people study about such creatures, data are insufficient to confirm if killer whales or orcas are endangered species.

According to the report, orcas usually live in cold climate areas, although they are widely found in oceans all over the world.

It also said further studies should be conducted to identify the reason why such creatures had recently been spotted in different parts of the Philippines.

With this sighting, De Jesus said this was a good reminder for everyone to take care of the environment especially on World Oceans Day.

“Because plastic pollution is a threat to killer whales, if possible, let’s lessen the use of plastic that goes into our oceans,” he said.

Last month, a [pygmy blue whale](#) was also spotted in Bohol. – **Franchesca Viernes/RC, GMA News**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/lifestyle/content/790747/group-of-killer-whales-or-orcas-spotted-in-antique/story/>



- Headline
- Editorial
- Column
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Yesterday at 8:25 PM · 🌐



Mga orca sa Antique.

Mga orca sa Antique.

Nakunan ng video ni Youscooper Haron Deo Vargas ang ilang orca or killer whale sa karagatan ng Libertad, Antique.

Ayon kay Haron na isang Project Support Officer sa DENR CENRO Boracay at dive master, nakita niya ang mga orca noong pauwi sila mula sa isang dive noong May 31, alas-4 ng hapon.

Kinuwento niya ang mga orca ay nagmi-migrate sa tropical regions para maganak.

Haron Deo Vargas

Bisitahin ang www.gmanews.tv para sa mga balita ngayong araw. See Less



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Mga Killer Whale o Orca na karaniwang nasa malalamig na klima, namataan sa Antique | SONA

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May namataang grupo ng killer whale o Orca sa Antique. Bihira ang pagkakataong ito dahil karaniwang sa malalamig na lugar naglalagi ang mga ito.

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Source: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=81Gnff0ytu0&ab_channel=GMANews



PH wildlife criminals get slap on wrist as gov't struggles to increase penalties

By: [Jhesset O. Enano](#) - Reporter / [@JhessetEnanoINQ](#) [Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 04:53 AM June 01, 2021
(First of two parts)

MANILA, Philippines — In October 2019, police officers manning a checkpoint in Tandag City, Surigao del Sur province, stopped two luxury vehicles for a cursory scan, only to realize they had stumbled upon a multimillion-peso smuggled haul.

The three men inside the vehicles, who were from different cities in Mindanao, were transporting nearly 340 wild animals—an assortment of birds, reptiles and mammals—crammed in cages. They could not present any permits for their cargo, valued at least P95 million in the local market.

They said the animals were en route from Mati City, Davao Oriental province, to Pasay City in Metro Manila, a distance of over 1,500 kilometers, but these could have originated much farther.

Wildlife law enforcers said the rescued species, which included 156 blue-tongue skinks, 40 sulphur-crested cockatoos and seven cassowaries, were not endemic in the Philippines and most likely poached from neighboring Indonesia and Papua New Guinea.

The three men were arrested and charged with illegally transporting wildlife, but after three months of trial, they were sentenced by the court to pay only a fine of P5,000 each.

Weak link

This conviction illustrates how the Philippines struggles in its gargantuan fight against wildlife trafficking and illegal trade.

Despite government efforts to step up surveillance and enforcement operations, wildlife criminals get away with mere slaps on the wrists. The measly penalties are but momentary hiccups in a lucrative business where kingpins evade justice, and in the few cases of convictions, the small-time smugglers — often coerced to take on jobs with promises of easy profits — take the fall.

The difficulty in prosecuting wildlife cases stems from a myriad of challenges, from scarce resources to scant wildlife knowledge on both enforcement and judicial sides. Experts point to another weak link in the chain: the 20-year-old Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act, or Republic Act No. 9147.

The law seeks to conserve and protect wildlife species and their habitats, and regulate the collection and trade of wild animals. But two decades since it was passed, both government officials and wildlife experts agree that it no longer responds to the current magnitude of wildlife crime.

In the Philippines, which serves as source, transshipment and destination points for wildlife, at least P50 billion is lost annually due to the illegal trade when economic and ecosystem services are factored in, according to the Asian Development Bank.

“I think there is a lack of appropriate provisions under existing legislation that deals with wildlife trafficking, not only as a simple environmental crime but as a transnational crime,” said lawyer Teodoro Jose Matta, executive director of the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development, an attached agency of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) that oversees the environmental plan in biodiversity-rich Palawan province.

“With the environmental damage that wildlife criminals do, it’s an intergenerational crime,” Matta said.

The penalties prescribed by RA 9147 no longer serve as deterrents to big criminal networks and poachers by opportunity, according to wildlife law enforcers.

Few convictions

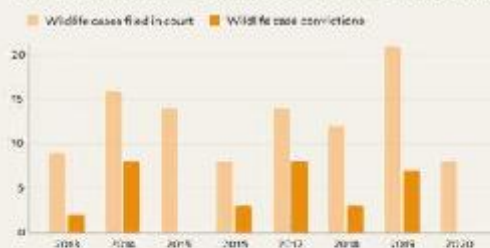
“It is kind of frustrating for us enforcers [that] after these painstaking efforts of running after the criminals, they only end up serving the least of the penalties,” said lawyer Theresa Tenazas, officer in charge of the wildlife resources division of the DENR’s Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB).

“However, it is the law that provides them or allows them to avail [themselves] of the protection, or...the least penalty that requires less punitive [action],” she said.

Records from the BMB showed that out of 144 wildlife enforcement operations carried out between 2013 and 2020, only 102 cases had been filed in court. In this seven-year period, there are 31 confirmed convictions, with trial courts handing down sentences to 67 criminals. The rest of the cases are ongoing, at least based on their records, said Tenazas, but most are not updated to reflect actual statuses.



PHILIPPINE WILDLIFE CRIME CASES AND CONVICTIONS



Source: Department of Environment and Natural Resources/Biodiversity Management Bureau (DENR-BMB)

ENVIRONMENTAL CRIMES Enforcement operations against wildlife criminals have intensified in the past few years, but prosecuting them remains a challenge, wildlife law enforcers and conservationists say. In 2014, 12 Chinese fishermen were sentenced to six to 12 years in jail for poaching, after the discovery of nearly 10 tons of dead and frozen pangolins (above) in their ship that ran aground at Tubacaha Reef National Park in Palawan. The foreigners were released in 2016 after the Court of Appeals overturned their conviction. In 2019, a wildlife criminal was sentenced to two years in jail for trading peregrine falcons (left) and other wild animals, but immediately applied for probation. He was arrested for the same offense last year. —PHOTOS COURTESY OF PALAWAN COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND DENR-BMB





The BMB, based in Quezon City, gathers wildlife enforcement reports submitted by 16 regional environmental offices and other partner agencies across the country. The government does not have a centralized database to closely monitor wildlife crimes and validate its success in fighting transnational offenses.

Minimum penalties

Of the 31 confirmed convictions of illegal wildlife traders and traffickers, data studied by the Inquirer showed some only received minimum jail time and fines. Under the wildlife law, penalties depend on both the illegal act and conservation status of the seized wildlife.

The highest penalties are meted out to those who kill critically endangered species, with imprisonment of 12 years and/or a fine of up to P1 million. For illegal trading, possession and transport, which make up the bulk of convictions, the maximum penalties are two years' imprisonment and/or a fine of P300,000.

For illegal transport of wild animals not considered threatened, the penalties can go as low as a paltry P500 and five days behind bars.

Wildlife law enforcers say this means that accurate identification of wildlife in case documents are crucial in determining penalties.

But challenges also hound the proper scientific knowledge of enforcers, especially in far-flung provinces. The courts, too, do not take into account the number of wildlife involved in each seizure in deciding the penalties.

“Let’s say you’re trading a pangolin, you still receive a low penalty even if you have 10 pieces,” said lawyer Edward Lorenzo, policy and governance adviser of Conservation International Philippines, of the critically endangered species. “You’re still being charged with one act.”

“Even if you sell a hundred birds, if their classification is near-threatened or vulnerable, selling or transporting them would still result in low penalties,” he added.

In some cases, the penalties handed down are nowhere near the actual market value of the animal in possession or being traded. INQ

(To be continued)

(This story was produced with the support of Oxpeckers Center for Investigative Environmental Journalism and Internews’ Earth Journalism Network. –Ed.)



TRASH TO CASH

A unique way to protect the environment

JUN 7, 2021, 8:55 AM

Ismael Amigo

Columnist

LIPA CITY– THE month of June is officially declared as Philippine Environment Month even as it also coincides with the World Environment Day.

With these declarations, it comes to mind how we should take care of Mother Nature, such as through proper trash disposal and recycling our refuse in the best possible way.

Truly, “may pera sa basura” (there is money in trash) can be realized if taken with a deeper look and perspective.

Right track

And Lipa is on the right track in productively dealing with insurmountable mounds of trash collected each day from all over 72 barangays in the city.

This progressive LGU has simply adopted a more productive way in dealing with its mountains of waste materials.

With the able leadership of Mayor Eric Africa, the city is even buying waste materials now through its “Trash to Cash” program in cooperation with the City Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) headed by Ricardo Libon.

Effective and efficient way of segregating recoverable and recyclable materials cannot, however, be done without the necessary facility and CENRO has put up its own Centralized Materials Recovery Facility located in Tanco Drive, Bgy. Maraouy, Lipa City.

Biodegradable materials

Only biodegradable materials go to the landfill while recyclable materials like old car tires and even branches of trees are collected and hauled off to the multi-task shredding machine.

Old tires are never burnt; rather, after the shredding is done and at least a truckload is gathered, these are delivered to the Republic Cement and Building Materials, Inc. (RCBMI) plant in the municipality of Taysan, Batangas in exchange for sacks of cement.

Shredded wood branches, on the other hand, are treated and mixed with other biodegradable waste materials in the compost that will then later on be used as fertilizer.



Plastic containers or sachets of food and shampoos are likewise treated in the shredding machine for plastics.

After which, materials will be used as ingredient for making “Ecobricks.” These are made using the Bricks Making Machine of the city.

Libon said these are but a few of their city’s unique ways of converting trash into reusable materials while at the same time dealing with the seemingly insurmountable problem of trash and litter.

Violators warned

But make no mistake about it. When in Lipa, don’t mess around as the Lipa City Special Task Force (LCSTF) is on the lookout for violators of RA #9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

Last Tuesday, the LCSTF nabbed three residents of Barangay Sabang aboard a tricycle and two other men on a pickup vehicle who were “throwing garbage at the wrong time and wrong place” in the said barangay.

As such, the local government once again reminded residents to comply with the laws and ordinance that exists throughout the city or join productively by turning over trash that will be converted into construction reusable materials.

And so with the city’s cleanliness drive too.

Trash to cash

With its “Trash to Cash” program now in full swing, the city has provided cash awards and plaques of recognition to participating barangays within which the winners are based on the biggest points obtained in each category (Small, Medium, Large Category).

The winner in the Small Category for Residual and Marketable Waste was Barangay Halang under the leadership of Fernando R. Rocafort, while in the Medium Category it was Barangay San Isidro under the leadership of Tasian O. Mea.

Barangay San Jose won the Large Category in Residual Waste under Bgy. Chairwoman Melody Endozo and for Marketable Waste award went to Barangay Sabang behind the leadership of Wilfredo D Lescano.

Lipa City’s “Trash to Cash” Program is one of the LGUs environment-related projects under Mayor Eric B. Africa in partnership with City ENRO, LIPENA ACES.

It also includes the RESPONSE and Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4 Ps) beneficiaries for the better management and cleanliness of the city.

Collected wastes can be exchanged at accredited EBA stores according to the points they have accumulated. For marketable waste, three pesos worth (of trash) is equal to one point.

While a kilo of cut residual that they can bring is equivalent to 12 points they can immediately convert to cash through the CENRO and City Cooperative Office or EBA stores.

Buy-out savings include residual wastes (plastic from junk foods, sachet, paper cups, fabric and other types of disposable cloths) and marketable wastes (garbage can be sold like bottles, plastic pet bottles, any type and size of paper, etc.)

The “*Trash to Cash*” Program of Lipa City is a two-pronged continuous program for the people of Lipa: one is helping people earn a living while keeping the surroundings and environment clean.



It is greatly hoped for other towns and cities of Batangas and other provinces of PH to toe the line in this unique way of combating trash the productive way.

Depending on the material and structure, plastics can take anywhere from 20 to 500 years to decompose.

Stockholm Convention on POPs

The Philippines is a member of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants or POPs, which was adopted in 2001 and was in force in 2004.

Needless to say, the POPs global treaty espouses the principle for member countries to take measures to eliminate or reduce the release of pollutants into the environment, and protect human health and the environment.

POPs are extremely toxic chemicals that are oftentimes referred to as 'forever chemicals' as they remain in our bodies and the environment for decades and can disperse over thousands of miles on land, our atmosphere and oceans.

As such, exposure to them could lead to serious health effects including certain cancers, birth defects, dysfunctional immune and reproductive systems, greater susceptibility to disease, and damages to the central and peripheral nervous systems.

Every month of June is Philippine Environment Month by virtue of Proclamation 237 signed in 1988 by then-President Corazon Aquino to raise environmental consciousness among Filipinos.

The celebration also coincides with World Environment Day, which was observed worldwide last week on June 5. (IA)

Villar says plastic waste remain as ‘most pressing environmental problem’

BYBMPLUS JUNE 7, 2021



Sen. Cynthia A. Villar

Senator Cynthia Villar, chairperson of the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, reiterates that the overwhelming plastic wastes remain a major environmental problem.

“In the Philippines, one the most pressing environmental problems we have is our overwhelming volume of plastic wastes. A 2015 University of Georgia study revealed that the Philippines is the world’s third largest source of plastic waste leaking into the ocean, next to China and Indonesia,” said Villar

The senator said it is also linked with the 2021 theme of World Environment Day which is ‘Ecosystem Restoration’. She cites, “Plastic wastes in the ocean destroy marine life and the oceans’ ecosystem. And so, our plastic waste problem is an environmental issue we need to urgently address if we are to help in ecosystem restoration and in the conservation of our oceans.”

Villar was part of Twin Celebration of World Environment Day (June 5) and Oceans Day (June 8) organized by the Earthsavers UNESCO DREAM Center/Artist for Peace led by UNESCO Artist for Peace, Ms. Cecile Guidote-Alvarez.

Villar also cited her efforts in recycling plastic wastes into school chairs which Villar SIPAG distributes nationwide to various public schools and farm schools as a way of raising awareness on plastic wastes recycling.

In her capacity as the Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Climate, Villar strongly pushing for the passage of the bill institutionalizing EPR or the Extended Producers Responsibility mechanism as part of the country’s solid waste management system and as a strategy to reduce the proliferation of single-use plastics that end up in the oceans and pollute the environment. It is due for sponsorship in the plenary.

Senate Bill No. 1331 or the Extended Producers Responsibility (EPR) Act of 2021 authored by Villar, seeks to institutionalize the practice of EPR in waste management. It also amends the 20-year-old Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act.

The measure makes sure that the responsibility for the entire life cycle of plastic products rests on the manufacturers. It will mandate manufacturers to recover plastic wastes from their products as a mechanism towards achieving an efficient solid waste management.

“I hope all sectors of our society will come together to strengthen our collaboration and our collective action towards eliminating our plastic waste problem. I am looking forward for our country to achieve success in this within the decade,” said Villar.

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/06/07/villar-says-plastic-waste-remain-as-most-pressing-environmental-problem/>



Masks and plastic waste wash up on the shore of so-called Baseco Beach in Manila.

[## On World Oceans Day, group calls for better implementation of policies addressing plastic pollution](https://philstar.com/EC>Toledo IV</p></div><div data-bbox=)

[Gaea Katreena Cabico](#) (Philstar.com) - June 8, 2021 - 5:10pm

MANILA, Philippines — A non-governmental organization on Tuesday called on government agencies to ensure the implementation of environmental laws to help address the garbage problem that is choking the country's seas.

Plastic pollution is a major problem in the Philippines. The archipelagic nation was frequently listed among the top contributors to marine plastic pollution along with China, Vietnam and Indonesia.

Environmental lawyer Gloria Estenzo-Ramos said the Philippines has a strong law addressing the garbage problem: Republic Act 9003, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

The law mandates the segregation of solid waste at source and directs local governments to divert at least 25% of all solid waste disposal activities through re-use, recycling and composting activities. Another salient point of the law is the creation of a list of non-environmentally acceptable products (NEAP).

The law was passed in 2000 but it was only in February, after two decades, that the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) included plastic soft drink straws and coffee stirrers in the list of NEAP. The resolution, however, has yet to be fully signed.

“RA 9003 is one of the best laws ever, but it’s just so unfortunate that our government feels that they have the luxury of time to decide when to implement them,” Ramos, who also serves as the vice president of Oceana Philippines, said in a forum held on World Oceans Day.

“We hope the judicial, legislative, and especially executive departments will already do their mandates. We have the laws but the political will to ensure the implementation of our laws that is sadly lacking,” she added.

Early this month, House Deputy Speaker Loren Legarda filed a resolution seeking to investigate and audit the NSWMC for the “massive” delay in the implementation of the NEAP.

Endangering human health

The struggle of the Philippines in addressing plastic pollution in its waters is also endangering the country's rich marine life and compromising human health.



According to a report of the International Pollutants Elimination Network released in April, pollutants such as industrial chemicals, pesticides, heavy metals, plastics and microplastics have “deleterious impacts” to aquatic ecosystems from plankton to whales.

“Our health as human beings is very much dependent on healthy marine environment,” said Ramon San Pascual, executive director of Health Care Without Harm Southeast Asia.

Pandemic-era rise of plastic products

In a taped address aired Monday, President Rodrigo Duterte expressed concern on the increase of plastic waste as the world continues to battle the COVID-19 crisis.

“The popularity of delivery of services has produced considerable solid waste such as the delivery of both food and non-food products. Also, a serious concern is the proper disposal of medical waste,” he said.

Data from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources showed the country generated more than 52,000 metric tons of medical waste from April 2020 to March 31, 2021. The figure was based on the special or online permits to transport issued by the department.

Waste audits conducted by HCWH in five Metro Manila hospitals during the pandemic found the bulk of plastic waste generated there was non-essential. Non-essential plastics refer to those used in activities not directly related to patient care, such as food containers, bottles of water, plastic food wares and plastic utensils.

The organization urged healthcare institutions to prioritize shifting to reusable items, and determine and utilize sustainable alternatives for single-use plastic products.



Face masks add to sea pollution at popular Philippines dive site

By [Peter Blaza via Reuters](#) - June 8, 2021 - 1:24 PM



Resort owner and dive instructor Carmela Sevilla shows a plastic trash she recovered underwater during a scuba diving activity in Bauan, Batangas, Philippines, June 6, 2021. Picture taken June 6, 2021. (Reuters/Peter Blaza)

BAUAN, Philippines — The coronavirus pandemic is adding a new unwelcome element to sea pollution off the town of Bauan, a popular dive site in the Philippines' Batangas province.

Regular visitors and locals have reported a rise in the number of face masks and PPE shields being collected from the seabed.

"It might be because some people who get on the boat just loop their masks on one end and it comes off, or others just do not throw them away properly," said Arnel Vergara, a Filipino professional diver who has been diving in the area for the past decade.

Carmela Sevilla, a resort owner and diving instructor, said the masks were adding to plastic bags, sachets, diapers and packaging materials that plague local waters during the monsoon season.

"I think we'll be seeing more of the face masks," said Sevilla. "I think we'll be wearing face masks for a while."

Girro Maranan, an official at the Batangas tourism office, said officials were aware of the issue and spearheading clean-up drives.

"Our marine diversity is the most affected," Maranan said.

Marian Ledesma, a campaigner for Greenpeace in the Philippines, said poor management of the country's waste disposal strategy had led to rubbish accumulating in its tributaries.

—Reporting by Peter Blaza; Editing by Jane Wardell

Source: https://interaksyon.philstar.com/politics-issues/2021/06/08/193351/face-masks-add-to-sea-pollution-at-popular-philippines-dive-site/?fbclid=IwAR0IGzS5t46_tpXSRzjOLjIn0SM3e_98KjQhBQUUkSc_UoqGfr1YBc-wkOE



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Mga face mask, face shield at iba pang PPE, kabilang sa mga basura sa baybayin at ilalim ng dagat | BT

Balitanghali: Sa pagdiriwang ng World Oceans Day, may hiling ang ilang diver para sa kapakanan ng karagatan.

Dumagdag na kasi sa karaniwang basura nakikita sa dagat ang mga gamit na pangkaligtasan ngayon pandemic, ang mga face mask at face shield. See Less



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Another bad Covid-19 side effect; face masks pollute PH waters

JUN 8, 2021, 3:59 PM

Rose De La Cruz

Columnist

A study reports that 3.4 billion face masks or face shields are discarded every day. Asia is projected to throw away 1.8 billion face masks daily, the highest quantity of any continent globally.

ASIDE from plastics, face masks thrown improperly are now polluting our waters.

According to an article by Reuters, the shores of Batangas Bay are now being inundated with another unwelcome side effect of the global health crisis.

Samantha Arnold has been diving in the area for about four years and is now picking up trash on her expeditions.

"The marine life has been able to take a break from us personally. However, they are getting inundated with a new source of trash, which is face masks, face shields and the bunny suits (PPE) that people are wearing," she said.

Resort owner and diving instructor Carmela Sevilla said the masks were adding to plastic bags, diapers and packaging materials that plague local waters during the monsoon season.

While there is currently some separation of rubbish, she added that she thought there should be dedicated bins for pandemic-related trash.

"We will still keep seeing that because they just get blown away, they fall out of the hands of people and then oftentimes, just really not disposed of properly, just like the plastic bags."

The Batangas tourism office said officials were aware of the issue and are spearheading clean-up drives.

A 2021 report by scientific online publication Our World in Data said majority of ocean plastics around the world originates from rivers and coastlines.

Of that, 81 percent is from Asia, with a third of all Asian plastic coming from the Philippines alone.

Pandemic wastes

Globally, 65 billion gloves are used every month. The tally for face masks is nearly twice that—129 billion a month.

That translates into 3 million face masks used per minute, wrote the National Geographic.



A separate study reports that 3.4 billion face masks or face shields are discarded every day. Asia is projected to throw away 1.8 billion face masks daily, the highest quantity of any continent globally.

China, with the world's largest population (1.4 billion) discards nearly 702 million face masks daily.

All may be called disposable, because they are cheap enough to be used once and then thrown away. But here is the hitch: they don't actually go away.

Disguised plastic

Face masks, gloves, and wipes are made from multiple plastic fibers, primarily polypropylene, that will remain in the environment for decades, possibly centuries, fragmenting into smaller and smaller microplastics and nanoplastics.

A single face mask can release as many as 173,000 microfibers per day into the seas, according to a study in Environmental Advances.

Face masks, gloves, and wipes are not recyclable in most municipal systems and should not be added to any household recycling bin.

Masks can contain a mix of paper and polymers, including polypropylene and polyester, that can't be separated into pure streams of single materials for recycling.

They are also so small they get caught in recycling machinery, causing breakdowns.



Startups trying to solve plastic problem receive support from WWF, investor groups

June 7, 2021 | 5:56 pm



Five startups working on a different piece of the plastic waste puzzle will receive support from World Wide Fund for Nature Philippines (WWF-PH) and several investor groups.

[AtoANI BioPack](#), [AUDEO](#), [Cloop](#), [Nanolabs](#), and [Salin PH](#) were selected from a pool of enterprises that were part of [earlier incubation programs](#) by makesense, a social entrepreneurship community; and The Incubation Network (TIN), a connected network of innovators, investors, organizations, and government leaders across South and Southeast Asia.

“While all the innovations and business models in the pool were promising, these five enterprises were selected because the entrepreneurs behind them expressed their commitment to solve the problem, embark on this learning journey, and move their enterprises forward,” said Love Gregorie M. Perez, director of xchange, an active investor in early-stage impact enterprises in the Philippines.

AtoANI BioPack is working on packaging alternatives made from agricultural waste, Salin PH is working on finding a refilling model that is scalable, while AUDEO, Cloop, and Nanolabs are taking plastic waste and using them in innovative ways to come up with value-added products.

Plastic pollution threatens communities, marine life, and the Earth’s ecosystems. An [October 2020 WWF Philippines report](#) estimated that about 2.15 million tons of plastics are generated annually in the country. The average Filipino generates about 15.43 kilograms of plastic per year. Packaging wastes that are commonly found in wastes streams include packaging for consumer goods, disposable food containers, and multi-layered sachets.

TINGI/MENTALITY

Until August, the five enterprises are undergoing a program with activities on innovation and systems thinking, marketing, accounting, strategic planning, the circular economy, gender lens investing, and pilot designing.

“It’s been a learning and collaborative process especially during a pandemic. We learned that there are many ways to solve the plastic problem, so clarity is key because it provides direction. Going in the right direction is much more important than scaling because we have to consider social and environmental issues; we have to be more inter-sectional. With a possible ban on single-use plastics, it’s important to start opening conversations with key stakeholders to ease the transition by collaborating on possible solutions,” said Donna Formalejo, cofounder and chief creative officer of Salin PH.



Among the mentors are TJ Agulto of AHA! Behavioral Consulting, who will conduct a masterclass on understanding behavioral science and applying these concepts to drive behavior change in individuals and organizations towards zero waste and the circular economy. Another is Marie Torres of Investing in Women, who will conduct a masterclass on understanding the principles of gender, diversity, and inclusivity and how these impact businesses.

The role of impact entrepreneurs is to ideate, test, and execute innovative market-based solutions, said Czarina Constantino-Panopio, WWF-PH project manager for Plastic Smart Cities and national lead for the No Plastics in Nature Initiative.

“We acknowledge the *tingi* mentality is something that has been instilled in Filipinos due to reasons of buying capacity and current need for the item,” she told *BusinessWorld* in a separate e-mail interview. “We want to come up with ways on how Filipinos can still buy in *tingi* while taking in consideration the environmental impact of these plastics. What we want to emphasize is that sustainability is something that is also economical.”

Apart from working with impact entrepreneurs, WWF is also working with other stakeholders to address the Philippines’ plastic pollution situation. This includes working with policy makers to advocate for an Extended Producer Responsibility where producers take responsibility for the full life cycle of the plastics they bring into the market.

“We believe that we need to work with stakeholders in the entire plastic value chain to stop plastic waste leakage into nature,” added Ms. Panopio. — **Patricia B. Mirasol**

Source: <https://www.bworldonline.com/startups-trying-to-solve-plastic-problem-receive-support-from-wwf-investor-groups/?fbclid=IwAR30Zh70L6ax9ObA4y93pM9hQkuir3gU9AqMQ4vb08k6wWLBCQQnot1vK-Q>



Albay beauty queen bats for waste segregation

By [Rhaydz Barcia](#) June 9, 2021



NATURAL BEAUTY Aubrey Asuncion, a beauty queen and a licensed engineer, recently visited El Miro De Shie, a tourist destination in Albay promoting green programs. Asuncion is the sole representative of the Bicol region in the Miss Earth beauty pageant next month. PHOTO BY RHAYDZ BARCIA

Camalig, Albay: A beauty queen from Albay urged the public to help protect and preserve the environment by properly disposing of plastic wastes and masks.

Aubrey Asuncion, 28, a licensed engineer, is the sole representative of Bicol Region in the Miss Earth pageant next month.

Asuncion, a graduate of Bicol University, recently visited El Miro De Shie Integrated Farm, a popular tourist destination in Barangay Salugan that promotes organic farming and use of renewable energy.

She lauded the initiatives made by the owners of the seven-hectare tourist destination.

"We're happy that we have an eco-tourism destination in Bicol promoting a green program in the countryside that is harmless and not contributing to carbon footprints," Asuncion told The Manila Times.

Asuncion urged the public, specifically the youth, to be vigilant in the segregation of plastic wastes and masks so as not to pollute and contaminate the environment, specifically the waterways.

El Miro De Shie, owned by couple Shiela and Edmiro Dino, was established during lockdown last year to help workers in their construction business survive the impact of the pandemic.

Currently, the farm produces various vegetables such as lettuce, cucumber, eggplants, pechay, kang kong, tomatoes, bitter gourd, string beans, peppers, okra, peanuts, sweet corn, dragon fruit, among others.

The farm also propagates ornamental plants like cock's comb or Celosia sunflowers, Marigolds, and different varieties of orchids.

With the innovations the Dino couple introduced in their farm, the Agriculture Training Institute of the Department of Agriculture and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority in Bicol and Rep. Joey Salada established a farm school in partnership with the farm owners following the successful establishment of the Gulayan sa Barangay on the farm.



Fe Buela, officer-in-charge of the Department of Tourism (DoT) in Bicol, also lauded the farm as a new tourism destination in Albay.

Buela describes the farm as having a "stunning scenery of assorted flowering plants with the backdrop of Mayon Volcano, perfect for people in search of a relaxing place in the countryside."

"What makes it unique is that they're (Dino couple) so innovative. The owners of this farm were able to introduce a new tourism product in Camalig. They transformed the pandemic lockdown into a productive one that provides employment even during the pandemic," she told The Manila Times.

Buela said the DoT promotes local travel to perk up the economy in the countryside under the modified general community quarantine.

"Since there are so many restrictions on travel, especially those coming from other regions, we are more into promoting local travel. That's why we're glad we have something new to offer," Buela said.



EDITORIAL - Basura, dahilan ng baha sa Metro Manila

(Pilipino Star Ngayon) - June 9, 2021 - 12:00am

Sabi ng Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) ang numero unong dahilan nang pagbaha sa Metro Manila ay basura na itinatapon ng mga walang disiplinang mamamayan. Sabi ng MMDA, kung paiiralin ang disiplina sa pagtatapon ng basura, maiiwasan na ang pagbaha. Payo ng MMDA, ilagay sa lugar at oras ang basura kung saan hahakutin ito ng mga garbage truck. Kapag hindi naging maayos sa pagtatapon ng basura, babara ang mga ito sa daanan ng tubig na magiging sanhi ng pagbaha.

Taun-taon, laging problema ang baha sa Metro Manila. Ito ay sa kabila na laging nagsasagawa ng paglilinis sa drainages at mga estero ang Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) at MMDA mismo. Kahit pa nagkaroon ng flood control program na ginastusan nang malaki noong 2010, nananatiling problema ang baha sa Metro Manila. Sa Maynila, hindi na nawala ang baha sa España Blvd, ganundin sa kahabaan ng Taft at Rizal Avenues.

Idineklara noong Biyernes ng Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) na umpisa na ng tag-ulan. Kahapon, maghapon ng umulan sa Metro Manila at may mga lugar na nakaranas ng baha. Inaasahan na ang mga pag-ulan at pagbaha sa mga susunod na araw dahil sa namataang low pressure area. Ang nagbibigay pangamba kung panahon ng tag-ulan at baha ay ang pagkalat ng mga sakit gaya ng dengue at leptospirosis.

Karaniwang bumabara sa mga daanan ng tubig ang mga single-used plastic na gaya ng sando bags, grocery bags, sachet ng 3-in-1 coffee, catsup, shampoo, toothpaste, at iba pang basura na hindi nabubulok. Ang mga ito, itinatapon sa kung saan-saan na lang. Sa kasalukuyan, pati na rin face masks ay kabilang na rin sa mga basurang lulutang-lutang sa estero na nagiging dahilan na rin ng baha. Lahat nang basurang itinatapon sa mga estero ay tatangayin naman sa Manila Bay.

Isa sa mga paraan para mabawasan ang mga basura sa Metro Manila at maiwasan ang pagbaha ay ang pagbabawal sa single-used plastic. Tanging ang Quezon City pa lamang ang nagpapatupad nito. Noong nakaraang linggo, hinikayat ni QC Mayor Joy Belmonte ang mga residente na mag-recycle ng basura. Papalitan ng pagkain at cash ang mga basura. Mabisa itong paraan para mabawasan ang plastic pollution na nagdudulot ng pagbaha.

Magkaroon ng disiplina sa pagtatapon ng basura at ipatupad ang pagbabawal sa paggamit ng single-use plastics. Ito ang solusyon sa plastic pollution at maging sa baha.



IOM report: More Pinoys forced to migrate due to climate crisis

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA JUNE 8, 2021



Soil degradation, climate change, heavy tropical monsoonal rain and pests are some of the challenges the young farmers face. Soil degradation will impact two-thirds of humanity, who will be food-insecure, while societies are left with a heightened risk of instability.

THE Climate Change Commission (CCC) has committed to integrate migration as a key theme in policy discourse as a new report indicate that more and more Filipinos are forced to migrate in urban areas due to climate crisis.

The CCC, as part of its commitment, also vowed to develop migrant-centered policies and programs.

Citing a report from the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Office in the Philippines, "Framing the Human Narrative of Migration in the Context of Climate Change: A Preliminary Review of Existing Evidence in the Philippines," CCC said farmers and fisherfolk, women, elderly, and urban poor are the most vulnerable to climate impacts due to slow and rapid onset events, physical constraints to move, and low capacities to adapt.

The report sheds light on the state of environmental migration in the Philippines, engaging the cities of Manila, Malabon, Iloilo, and Davao, as well as Samar Province, in the community consultations conducted for the report.

The areas were selected due to their high exposure and vulnerability to climate impacts.

"This is a long fight against the climate crisis. All institutions must unite and have the collective resolve to really ensure that across generations, we create champions from the communities. Our government is all prepared in terms of policy and programming support mechanisms and this IOM study is a policy-support decision tool. We know that the road towards resilience may be long and bumpy, but if we are together knowing that our mission is to make sure that no one is left behind, we will survive and thrive in this era of climate change," Jerome Ilagan, chief of the CCC Policy Research and Development Division, said in a statement.

The report defined an environmental migrant as "persons or groups of persons who, predominantly for reasons of sudden or progressive change in the environment that adversely affects their lives or living conditions, are obliged to leave their habitual homes, or choose to do so, either temporarily or permanently, and who move either within their country or abroad." It also provided an initial framework for in-depth policy research on climate migration, building on the existing evidence on migration and climate change in the Philippines strengthened by interviews with local governments and vulnerable sectors and communities who have been impacted.

The climate emergency worsens the already vulnerable geographic status of the Philippines and bring about more, extreme weather events, rising temperatures, sea level rise, heavy rainfall, and drought.



The physical effects of sea-level rise include inundation of low-lying areas, erosion, saltwater intrusion, increased risk of flooding, and storm surge damage.

Such exposure and high vulnerability affect migration patterns in the country.

Municipalities and cities located along coastal areas are projected to be directly impacted and submerged by sea-level rise and inundation within three decades. The report said there are already 5.4 million Filipinos occupying land whose elevation is below the annual flood level.

This scenario leads to not only substantial socioeconomic losses of coastal structures, but also displacement of the population and forced shifts in livelihood sources and strategies. As people forge new ways of living, they also face increased vulnerabilities.

During the launch of the report on June 4, the CCC expressed its commitment to enhance efforts to respond to the immediate needs of affected populations while ensuring migration is utilized as a tool towards sustainable adaptation and risk mitigation for those affected by climate change.



CLIMATE CHANGE | Carbon dioxide in air at highest level since measurements began

June 8, 2021 , 09:13 AM

(Reuters) – Despite a massive reduction in commuting and in many commercial activities during the early months of the pandemic, the amount of carbon in Earth’s atmosphere in May reached its highest level in modern history, a global indicator released on Monday showed.

Scientists from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California San Diego, said the findings, based on the amount of carbon dioxide in the air at NOAA’s weather station on Mauna Loa in Hawaii, was the highest since measurements began 63 years ago.

The measurement, called the Keeling Curve after Charles David Keeling, the scientist who began tracking carbon dioxide there in 1958, is a global benchmark for atmospheric carbon levels.

Instruments perched on NOAA’s mountaintop observatory recorded carbon dioxide at about 419 parts per million last month, more than the 417 parts per million in May 2020.

Because carbon dioxide is a key driver of climate change, the findings show that reducing the use of fossil fuels, deforestation and other practices that lead to carbon emissions must be a top priority to avoid catastrophic consequences, Pieter Tans, a scientist with NOAA’s Global Monitoring Laboratory, said in a report on the emissions.

“We are adding roughly 40 billion metric tons of CO2 pollution to the atmosphere per year,” Tans wrote. “That is a mountain of carbon that we dig up out of the Earth, burn, and release into the atmosphere as CO2 – year after year.”

The amount of carbon in the air now is as much as it was about 4 million years ago, a time when sea level was 78 feet (24 meters) higher than it is today and the average temperature was 7 degrees Fahrenheit higher than it was before the Industrial Revolution, the report said.

Despite the pandemic lockdown, scientists were not able to see a drop in the overall amount of carbon in the atmosphere partly because of wildfires, which also release carbon, as well as the natural behavior of carbon in the atmosphere, the report said.

The carbon dioxide levels measured were not affected by the eruption of Hawaiian volcanoes, Tans said, adding the station is situated far enough from active volcanoes that measurements are not distorted, and occasional plumes of carbon dioxide are removed from the data.

Reporting by Sharon Bernstein in Sacramento, California; Editing by Howard Goller

Source: https://news.tv5.com.ph/breaking/read/climate-change-carbon-dioxide-in-air-at-highest-level-since-measurements-began?fbclid=IwAR38FgG6ZWjvqPnYk3B7YkOfSLs7ZntXHKCli2U07N_dlw4IaouC0oBELJc



A 'Bubble Barrier' is trapping plastic waste before it can get into the sea

Maheshpreet Kaur Narula, CNN

Updated 0933 GMT (1733 HKT) June 8, 2021



A boat passing through the "Bubble Barrier" in Amsterdam's Westerdok canal.

(CNN)What do old televisions, street signs, motorbike helmets, windsurf boards, and Christmas trees have in common? They were all caught floating down Amsterdam's Westerdok canal -- by a curtain of bubbles.

"The Bubble Barrier" was developed as a simple way to stop plastic pollution flowing from waterways into the ocean. An air compressor sends air through a perforated tube running diagonally across the bottom of the canal, creating a stream of bubbles that traps waste and guides it to a catchment system.

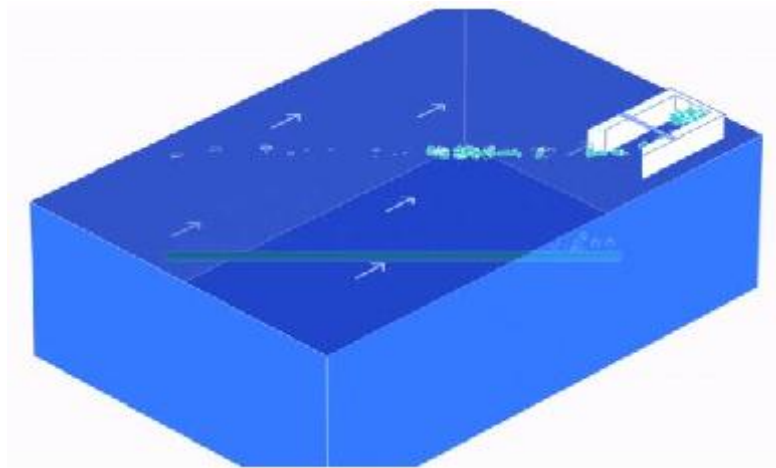
It traps 86% of the trash that would otherwise flow to the River IJssel and further on to the North Sea, according to Philip Ehrhorn, co-founder and chief technology officer of The Great Bubble Barrier, the Dutch social enterprise behind the system.

Commissioned by the municipality of Amsterdam and the region's water authority, the Bubble Barrier was installed in October 2019 in under five hours.

Ehrhorn says the idea is to catch plastic without having a physical barrier like a net or boom blocking the river, which could disrupt aquatic life or interfere with shipping.



Trash is lifted to surface, and guided to a catchment system.



To minimize noise, the compressor is located 50 meters away from the barrier, in a repurposed shipping container, and is powered by Amsterdam's renewable energy.

Ehrhorn says that while the bubble curtain can trap plastics down to 1 millimeter in size, the catchment system only retains objects that are 10 millimeters and larger. Small drifting aquatic life can get caught in the bubble curtain's current, but with time is able to pass through the catchment system, according to Ehrhorn. He adds that an independent third party is currently assessing the movement of fish around the Bubble Barrier.

'Like a jacuzzi'

With a background in naval architecture and ocean engineering, Ehrhorn, who is from Germany, first conceived the Bubble Barrier when he spent a semester abroad in Australia, studying environmental engineering. At a wastewater treatment plant, he saw how oxygen bubbles were used to break down organic matter.

"It was like a jacuzzi," says Ehrhorn. "And what I noticed is that some of the plastic that people had flushed down the toilet was collecting in one corner." This observation sparked his thesis and later the technology behind the Bubble Barrier.

Unbeknownst to Ehrhorn, three Dutch women were working on the exact same idea in Amsterdam. Anne Marieke Eveleens, Saskia Studer and Francis Zoet were at a bar one evening discussing plastic pollution when they looked at the bubbles in their beer glasses and inspiration struck.

By chance, a friend of Ehrhorn's saw their pitch video for a competition inviting solutions for removing plastic from the environment.

"We connected and found that we have the same vision and mission," remembers Ehrhorn. "So I handed in my thesis and moved to the Netherlands the next day." Together, the four turned a simple idea into a fully fledged Bubble Barrier pilot in Amsterdam's River IJssel.



Bubbles guide trash to the catchment system, bottom right.



The plastic problem

[Up to 80%](#) of ocean plastic is thought to come from rivers and coastlines. Ehrhorn says much of the plastic in Amsterdam's Westerdok canal comes from trash bags that local residents leave outside their homes. If the bags tear, wind and rain can carry trash into the canal.

[Read: Could mealworms help solve our plastic crisis?](#)

Globally, [11 million metric tons](#) of plastic waste flows into the oceans every year, where it can suffocate and entangle some aquatic species. Plastic debris less than five millimeters in length, known as microplastics, can also affect marine life. Often mistaken for [food](#), microplastics are ingested and have been found in zooplankton, fish, invertebrates and mammalian digestive systems.



Photos: What is ocean plastic doing to marine animals?

Albatross chick – Plastic pollution in the ocean is a massive -- and growing -- problem. Midway Atoll, a remote island situated on the edge of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, is covered with plastic debris swept onto its beaches by oceanic currents. This Laysan albatross chick is being fed pieces of plastic by its parents, which mistake the waste for food. Seabirds which ingest plastic waste are [smaller, lighter and suffer from a litany of health problems](#). Plastic waste kills up to [one million seabirds](#) every year.

Seabird conservation ecologist Stephanie B. Borrelle is the Marine and Pacific Regional Coordinator for BirdLife International. [Her research](#) on plastic pollution has found that even with "ambitious commitments currently set by governments," we could release 53 million metric tons of plastic waste into the world's freshwater and marine ecosystems by 2030.

As a member of the Plastic Pollution Emissions Working Group, a team of self-described "scientists, policy wonks and conservation practitioners," Borrelle has also researched the Bubble Barrier.

"It was a really interesting one for us to look at, mostly because other types of barriers placed into aquatic environments can be a bit problematic in the way they interact with ecological functioning and animals moving through that system," she says.

Borrelle has some reservations about the technology; she questions how suitable the system would be for wide rivers and in developing economies, with a pump that needs continuous electricity and occasional maintenance, and she notes that heavy bits of plastic may not be lifted up by the bubbles.

"Also, if you've got a large amount of traffic going through, that's going to disrupt the plastic accumulation," Borrelle says, adding that boats plowing through the barrier could potentially drag plastic along.



"There are certain limitations, but as I see it, it's an important part of the toolbox we have to address plastic that's already in the environment," she says. "The thing about plastic pollution is that there is no one single solution to fixing it. Once it's in the environment, it's about trying to get it from every angle you possibly can."

5 ways to cut your plastic waste 01:30

For the moment, the Great Bubble Barrier team works with Amsterdam's water authority and the Plastic Soup Foundation NGO to analyze what kind of plastic has been caught and identify its sources, to help develop new policies around plastic waste.

Amsterdam's water authority empties the catchment system's 1.8-meter by 2-meter basket three times a week. The contents are sent to a waste processor for sorting, and suitable materials are recycled. Ehrhorn says that the pandemic means they haven't been able to quantify how much plastic the Bubble Barrier has caught to date.

The startup, which is for-profit, plans to install more Bubble Barriers across the Netherlands, in Portugal and in Indonesia. It says the installation cost and energy use depends on the location and the flow of the river.

Beyond keeping plastic from our oceans, the system could help change attitudes. Because the waste inside the catchment system is easily visible to passersby, Ehrhorn believes it helps people realize how much waste is ending up in our waterways; in this way, the barrier also acts as an educational tool to discourage waste and littering.

"It concentrates on the trash that would otherwise flow off unseen and underwater even," he says. "It literally brings to the surface, [that] which was otherwise never seen."

09 JUNE 2021, WEDNESDAY



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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

PRRD: If people will not follow protocols, COVID-19 will not end

June 8, 2021



President Rodrigo Roa Duterte talks to the people after holding a meeting with the Inter-Agency Task Force on the Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) core members at the Kingdom of Jesus Christ Compound in Davao City on June 7, 2021. JOEY DALUMPINES/ PRESIDENTIAL PHOTO

President Rodrigo Roa Duterte warned that the government may implement stricter health protocols if more individuals fail to comply with the minimum health standards.

In his weekly public address on Monday (June 7), President Duterte shared that he has personally observed many people violating the health protocols in Visayas and Mindanao.

“We might calibrate our response to the intransigence that you will show. Depende sa [gagawin] ninyo. Kung talagang ayaw ninyong sumunod, then we can go into marami, marami. Ayaw ko lang sabihin but we have the power to control it actually kung ginusto lang namin pahirapan ang tao.”

Duterte agreed with Chief Presidential Legal Counsel Salvador Panelo on filing charges against the violators such as murder.

“Pumunta siya sa isang lugar, alam niyang may sakit siya ng coronavirus at nakahawa siya at namatay, ay ‘yan po ay talagang sadyang pagpatay ‘yan. Papasok po ‘yan sa murder sapagkat intentional,” Panelo said.

The Chief Executive asserted that “for as long as people do not honor the protocols prescribed by the government,” COVID-19 will not end.

Report from Mela Lesmoras/NGS-rir



Members of the Hijos del Nazareno and the Manila Police Department set up a new entrance along Carriedo Street for a more organized influx of devotees as they strictly enforce proper social distancing and other health protocols for devotees wanting to hear mass inside the Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene in Quiapo, Manila during the first Friday mass of the month on June 4, 2021.

The STAR/Miguel de Guzman

Coronavirus deaths in the Philippines cross 22,000

(Philstar.com) - June 8, 2021 - 4:00pm

MANILA, Philippines — Local health authorities on Tuesday reported 4,777 more COVID-19 infections, bringing the national caseload to 1,280,773.

- Active cases: 56,452 or 4.4% of the total
- Recoveries: 7,122, pushing total to 1,202,257
- Deaths: 95, bringing total to 22,064

What's new today?

- A brief return to strict lockdowns to arrest an unexpected COVID-19 flare-up **erased** some gains in restoring jobs destroyed by the pandemic, as more Filipinos were unemployed in April, data from the Philippine Statistics Authority show.
- The country's Food and Drug Administration has **approved** the use of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for individuals aged 12 to 15 years.
- Foreign nationals with approved visas may **leave** the Philippines even though they have not yet been issued their alien certificate of registration identity card (ACR I-Card), the Bureau of Immigration said.
- All international flights to Mactan-Cebu International Airport will **continue to be diverted** to the Ninoy Aquino International Airport until June 12, Malacañang announced.
- The Palace also **clarified** that the Emergency Use Authorization issued for the COVID-19 vaccine developed by Chinese state-owned Sinopharm only covers the 1,000 doses donated to the Philippines.
- These are the same jabs that were used on President Rodrigo Duterte and his security detail.
- The Quezon City government is taking steps to **contain** COVID-19 infections attributed to the feeding program of a councilor, whom it said did not act irresponsibly, where protocols like physical distancing were disrupted by heavy rain.

— **Bella Perez-Rubio with a report from Xave Gregorio**

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/06/08/2103982/coronavirus-deaths-philippines-cross-22000>



Minimum health protocol violators are being profiled and issued with ticket at Quezon City Memorial Circle after they were nabbed during a one time big time operation of Quezon City Task Force Disiplina Task force, QCPD and DPOS on May 12, 2021.

The STAR/Michael Varcas

Davao overtakes Quezon City in average new cases – OCTA

[Janvic Mateo](#) (The Philippine Star) - June 9, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Davao City has overtaken Quezon City in the average number of new COVID cases recorded daily in the past week, the OCTA Research Group said yesterday.

Citing data from the Department of Health, OCTA said Davao City recorded an average of 213 new cases per day from June 1 to 7, up by 44 percent from the average of 147 daily in the preceding week.

Quezon City ranked second with an average of 207 new cases, down by 27 percent from the 283 recorded in the preceding week.

Davao City had an average daily attack rate (ADAR) of 11.71 infections per 100,000 population, above the high-risk threshold of 10 infections per 100,000.

Its hospital bed and intensive care unit (ICU) utilization rates remain below the critical threshold at 53 percent and 66 percent, respectively.

Last week, the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases approved a request of Mayor Sara Duterte-Carpio to place Davao City under modified enhanced community quarantine until June 20.

Eleven other areas, all outside Metro Manila, were also identified as local government units (LGUs) of concern due to rising new cases, high ADAR and high hospital or ICU bed utilization rates.

These include Cagayan de Oro with an average of 118 new cases per day (down 11 percent), Bacolod with 112 (up 26 percent), Iloilo City with 111 (up six percent), General Santos with 72 (up five percent), Tuguegarao with 63 (down 16 percent) and Butuan with 57 (up two percent).

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/06/09/2104100/davao-overtakes-quezon-city-average-new-cases-octa>

Philippines COVID-19 vaccination latest numbers

June 8, 2021



In this file photo taken on March 4, 2021 vials of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine against Covid-19 are seen as elderly people are inoculated amid the novel coronavirus pandemic, at the Belisario Porras school San Francisco neighbourhood in Panama City. Luis ACOSTA / AFP

The government announced that the country has already administered 6,096,208 COVID-19 vaccine doses as of Monday evening (June 7) from the total delivered 9,329,050 doses.

Based on National COVID-19 Vaccination Operations Center data, 4,491,948 have been given their first doses while 1,604,260 have been injected with their second dose.

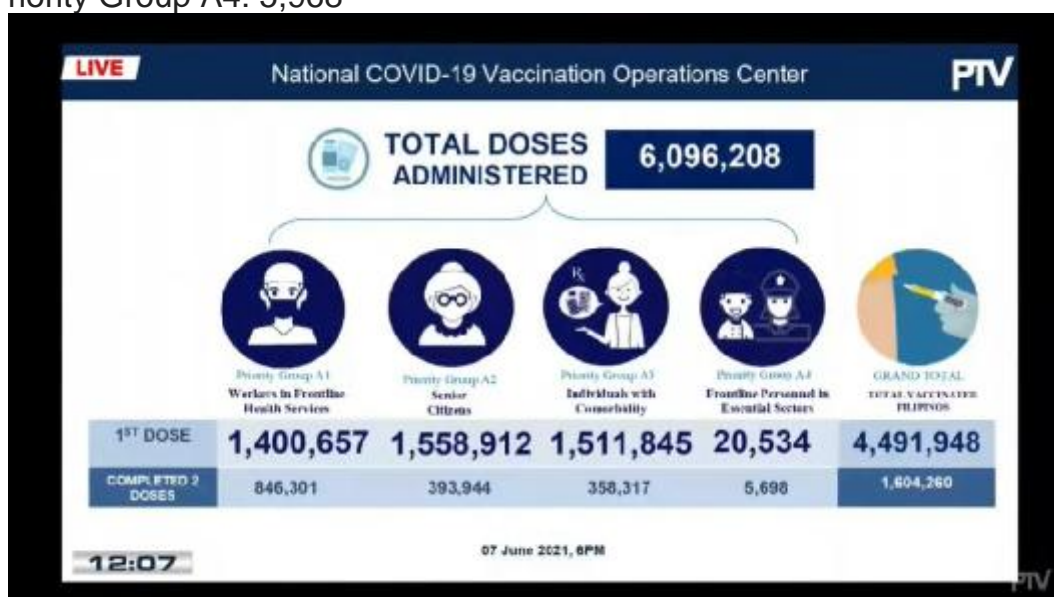
Below is the administered doses breakdown per priority group:

First dose

- Priority Group A1: 1,400,657
- Priority Group A2: 1,558,912
- Priority Group A3: 1,511,845
- Priority Group A4: 20,534

Second dose

- Priority Group A1: 846,301
- Priority Group A2: 393,944
- Priority Group A3: 358,317
- Priority Group A4: 5,968





On Monday night, President Rodrigo Duterte urged vaccine recipients to “find time” to have their second dose amid reports of missed schedules. The Department of Health (DOH) said those who missed their schedules can still have their doses administered.

Vaccine czar Secretary Carlito Galvez Jr. said during the President’s public address that the vaccination of the indigent population or those under the A5 group will begin once the vaccine supply becomes sufficient.

He said the country is expecting 11.058 million doses this June, to be followed by another 10.67 million doses in July.

Below is the schedule of arrivals this month:

- June 9: 100,000 Sputnik V doses
- June 10: 1 million CoronaVac doses
- June 10 to 11: 2.28 million Pfizer doses through COVAX
- June 17: 1 million CoronaVac doses
- June 21: 250,000 Moderna doses for the private sector
- Third week: 2.028 million AstraZeneca doses

The country has already received the following vaccines since March:

- 6.5 million CoronaVac
- 2.556 million AstraZeneca
- 80,000 Sputnik V
- 193,050 Pfizer
- 1,000 Sinopharm for the Presidential Security Group

/AG- jlo



PH aims to finish first dose vaccination of essential workers by September or October

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#) Published Jun 8, 2021 2:44:21 PM



FILE PHOTO

Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, June 8) — The government has set a new target for its COVID-19 vaccination program as the country's supply is expected to get a boost beginning this month.

Vaccine czar Carlito Galvez said Tuesday they want all the 35.5 million frontline workers under the A4 priority group to have their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine by September or October.

"We are targeting yung (the) first dose dahil kasi ang (because the) second dose, more or less mga (it would take around) two months before it can be finished," Galvez told CNN Philippines' The Source.

The country expanded its COVID-19 inoculation drive to the [A4 group](#) on Monday. This sector includes private sector employees required to physically report to work, government personnel, workers in the informal sector, the self-employed who work outside of their homes, and private household workers.

Amid the limited stocks, A4 vaccination is being carried out first in Metro Manila, Rizal, Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna, Metro Cebu, and Metro Davao -- collectively called the NCR+8. These areas make up the majority of COVID-19 cases in the country. They are being inoculated alongside healthcare workers, senior citizens, and persons with comorbidities.

But inoculations are seen to pick up pace as around 38 million doses of COVID-19 shots are expected to arrive in the country this month until August. They include 10 million doses in June, 11 million in July, and 17 million in August, according to Galvez.

LGUs to take the lead in A4 vaccination?

He said those under the A4 group must pre-register in local governments' COVID-19 vaccination programs.

The local governments, with the guidance of the Department of Health, will then decide who will receive the shots first among the A4 sector, provided they have enough vaccine supply, the czar said.

Meanwhile, LGUs with limited supply must prioritize workers aged 40 and above as they have a high risk of requiring hospitalization or dying if they catch the SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, Galvez added.

Health Secretary Francisco Duque III earlier urged local governments to give priority to workers aged 40 to 59.

Source: <https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2021/6/8/First-dose-A4-vaccination-.html>



Philippines gets P8.78 billion COVID-19 loan from Japan

[Louise Maureen Simeon](#) (The Philippine Star) - June 9, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines has formally received nearly P9 billion in loans from the Japanese government to be used in boosting the country's COVID-19 response.

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Japan's bilateral aid agency, on Tuesday released 20 billion Japanese yen (P8.78 billion) under the Post-Disaster Standby Loan Phase 2 (PDSL 2).

The disbursement comes less than a month after the teleconference between President Duterte and Japan Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga.

The third and latest disbursement under the PDSL 2 aimed to augment the Philippines' COVID-19 war chest as the government lifted the strict restrictions in Metro Manila and nearby provinces.

The loan will also help finance the government's pandemic response measures including testing and quarantine facility expansion and will be used for the social amelioration program for vulnerable sectors.

PDSL 2 is a contingency fund that allows the Philippines to withdraw up to 50 billion yen (P22 billion) worth of loans to help finance its response measures in the aftermath of natural and health-related disasters.

Since the PDSL 2's signing in September 2020, Japan has so far disbursed a total of 40 billion yen (P17.44 billion) out of the total agreement.

The first tranche worth 10 billion yen (P4.39 billion) was made available in October 2020 following the extension of the state of calamity in the country due to COVID-19.

The same amount under the second tranche was released last January following the state of calamity declaration in Luzon due to typhoons Quinta, Rolly and Ulysses.

The loan has a repayment period of 40 years, including a grace period of 10 years, with a fixed interest rate of 0.01 percent per annum. Meanwhile, San Miguel Corp., the country's diversified conglomerate, is spending P1 billion to vaccinate its roughly 70,000 employees, their families, as well as the company's business partners.

SMC president and CEO Ramon Ang said the company continues to strengthen and recover from the onslaught of the COVID-19 pandemic and that it remains committed to investing in nation building.

"We will build back better," Ang said during the company's stockholders meeting yesterday.

He said the company is on track with the construction of SMC's planned aerotropolis in Bulacan.

Ang said SMC is also in talks with international schools to locate in the area.

SMC is pursuing the construction of the P95.4 billion Pasig River Expressway.



Aside from these projects, the company will continue to support the government's response against COVID-19.

The company had already spent P14 billion in various COVID-19 response efforts as part of its role as nation builder.

Ang said the company is committed to sustaining its growth momentum and further strengthening its recovery.

SMC reported a net income of P17.2 billion in the first quarter of 2021, up by a whopping 1,471 percent from P1.1 billion a year ago.

Almost all major businesses saw significant recoveries during the period led by Petron Corp. and San Miguel Foods. Ginebra San Miguel Inc. and SMC Global Power likewise registered strong growth.

SMC's businesses include oil through Petron; food and beer through San Miguel Food and Beverage Inc.; liquor through Ginebra San Miguel; infrastructure through SMC Infrastructure.

Consolidated revenues amounted to P201.2 billion, down six percent versus as volumes of Petron, San Miguel Brewery and SMC Infrastructure were still affected by quarantine restrictions.



SUMUNOD SA HEALTH PROTOCOL AT MAGPABAKUNA



June 8, 2021 @ 11:26 AM 19 hours ago

HUMINA man nang kaunti ang coronavirus disease-19 o COVID-19 sa Metro Manila at mga lalawigan ng Rizal, Bulacan, Cavite at Laguna na nakapaligid sa una, lumalakas naman ang pandemya sa Visayas at Mindanao at ilang bahagi ng Northern Luzon gaya ng Cagayan.

Dahil dito, halos hindi rin bumaba ang kabuuang bilang ng mga biktima kundi tumataas pa mula sa 6,000 sa nasa 7,000 araw-araw.

Ang kapuna-puna pa, pang-apat na araw na ngayong mahigit 100 at halos 200 ang mga patay.

Hindi maganda ang pakiramdam natin sa nagaganap na ito.

6 URI NG VIRUS

Sinasabi mismo ng ating Department of Health na mayroon na tayong malalakas makahawa na virus ng COVID-19.

Tulad ng United Kingdom variant (B117), South Africa variant (B1351), Brazil variant (P1), at India variant (B1617).

Siyempre pa, nariyan din ang orig na virus ng COVID-19 at ang Philippine variant.

Sa kabuuan, malinaw na 6 na uri ng virus ang tumitira sa atin bagaman pinakamalalakas sa ngayon ang orig na virus at mga variant nito na galing ng UK, South Africa at Brazil.

PHILIPPINE GENOME CENTER PAGANAHIN NANG HUSTO

Magandang magtrabaho nang husto ang Philippine Genome Center upang makatulong ito sa pakikipaglaban natin sa pandemya.

Malalaman natin sa PGC kung ano-ano ang mga bakuna na ikakalat natin sa mga lugar na may malakas na variant, halimbawa.

Halimbawa, ang AstraZeneca ay hindi gaanong epektibo sa South Africa variant at, kung ganoon, ibang bakuna ang gagamitin.

Napakahalaga ang gawain ng PGC kaya naman, ito ang isang ahensya ng pamahalaan na dapat na buhusan ng pondo ng pamahalaan upang makaagapay sa giyera sa pandemya.

MAGPABAKUNA LAHAT

Sa gitna ng lahat ng pangyayari sa pandemya sa mahal kong Pinas, dapat ding sumabay ang mga mamamayan sa pagkilos o giyera rito para sa sarili nating kaligtasan sa pagkakaospital at kamatayan.



Isa sa pinakamabisa na sandata natin ang bakuna laban sa COVID-19 kaya naman dapat tayong magpabakuna.

Grupo-grupo o klase-klase ang mga binabakunahan gaya ng mga health frontliner, senior citizen, mga may mabibigat na sakit at ngayon milyong-milyong obrero o economic frontliner mula sa sari-saring larangan ng negosyo ang nasimulan nang bakunahan.

KALUNGKUTAN SA PAGBABAKUNA

Nakalulungkot lang malaman na sa nasa 9 milyong dose ng bakunang dumating na sa bansa, nasa 6 milyon pa lang ang nagpapabakuna.

Nakalulungkot ding isipin na marami o milyon ang hindi bumabalik sa vaccination sites para magkaroon ng second dose.

Ito ang alalahanin natin, lahat ng mga bakuna na ginagamit sa Pinas ay magkakapantay na sa bisa at pagiging ligtas dahil kinilala na ang mga ito mismo ng World Health Organization.

Sinovac, Sputnik V, Pfizer, AstraZeneca at darating pa ang iba gaya ng Johnson and Johnson at Moderna.

Bagaman may mga nadidisgrasya sa bakuna, paisa-isa lang kumpara sa milyon-milyong nababakunahan ng alinman sa mga bakuna.

Malinaw na higit na naliligtas sa pagkakaospital at kamatayan ang mga nababakunahan kaysa hindi.

HINDI LANG PAGLULUWAG NG QUARANTINE

Sinasabing ang pagluluwag umano ng pamahalaan sa mga uri ng quarantine na pinaiiral ang dahilan ng hindi paghupa kundi paglala ng COVID-19.

Matatandaang noong una, pinairal sa buong bansa ang Enhanced Community Quarantine sa ilang buwan nitong nakaraang taon hanggang ibinaba ito sa General Community Quarantine at pasulpot-sulpot na Modified Community Quarantine.

Pero sa huli, hindi ang pagluluwag kundi ang hindi pagsunod sa mga health protocol ang napakalaking dahilan.

MAGHIGPIT SA HEALTH PROTOCOL

Sa pag-aaral mimso ng DOH, itong hindi pagsunod sa mga health protocol ang isang napakalaking dahilan ng hindi masugpo-sugpong pandemya.

Naririyang ang mga superspreader na pagtitipon gaya ng swimming, kasalan, piyesta, inuman, religious gathering at maging ang pagtanggap ng ayuda.

Nakalilimutan ng mga mamamayan ang pagsusuot ng face mask, face shield, social distancing at pagiging malinis lagi sa kamay.

Naririyang din ang mga walang labasan ng hangin na gusali, opisina, pagawaan at iba pa na ikinakukulong ng mga virus para dumapo sa mga nasa loob ng mga ito.

Kung magagawa lang sana nating lahat na sumunod sa mga health protocol, kakambal ng pagpapabakuna, makaasa tayo lahat ng pagbabalik natin sa normal na pamumuhay na makababawas sa labis nating mga paghihirap, kawalan ng kalayaan at iba pa.

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