

09 NOVEMBER 2020, MONDAY



NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR probe quarrying around Mayon

Published November 8, 2020, 11:17 AM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

A composite team of experts led by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources has been created to investigate the alleged quarrying operations around Mayon Volcano that may have caused the mudflow or lahar during the onslaught of super typhoon "Rolly" last week.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
(MANILA BULLETIN)

At least 300 houses were buried and six residents were killed in Guinobatan, Albay due to the deadly mudflow.

After he ordered the suspension of activities of at least 12 quarrying operators around Mayon Volcano, DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu directed the formation of a composite team to investigate the incident.

Cimatu pointed out that the temporary shutdown of the quarry sites will give the composite team time to review the compliance of the operators on quarrying regulations.

He said the team is composed of representatives from the Mines and Geosciences Bureau, Environmental Management Bureau, and the provincial government of Albay. "The task force that we sent there is already working on the investigation. But I also directed one of my Undersecretaries and the MGB Director to go to Albay."

The DENR chief explained that the investigation will examine quarrying operations within the perimeter of the volcano, but will focus on the 12 quarrying sites that have been earlier identified.

"The concentration of the investigation is the culpability of these 12 quarrying sites which operate at the same river that there were casualties," Cimatu said. "But I also want to look at quarrying operations around the volcano. Not only that particular area in Guinobatan."

"Due to the persistent rains and typhoons, we have to review the quarrying operations there so that if they are cleared, they can start their operations again if I have already checked their compliance on quarrying regulations," he added.

Cimatu also noted that a Provincial-City Regulatory Mining Board (PCRMB) manages quarrying operations in the province.

As stated in Section 70 of DENR Administrative Order No. 2010-21 or the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act (RA) 7942, or the Philippine Mining Act of 1995, the PCRMB must be formed to "accept, process, and evaluate applications and determine administrative charges and fees for Quarry, Sand and Gravel, Guano, Gemstone Gathering, and Small-Scale Mining Permits duly filed."



“All quarrying in the provinces are being managed by the regulatory board there composed of DENR, local government unit, and other agencies of government in one province. The chairman of that is the regional director of MGB and the vice chairman is the governor,” Cimatú said.

He said that the provincial governor also issues permit to quarrying operators as stated in RA 7160 or the Local Government Code.



Quarry operations around Mayon probed

[Elizabeth Marcelo](#) (The Philippine Star) - November 9, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has formed a team that will look into the possible liability of quarry operators in the lahar flow from Mayon Volcano in Albay during the onslaught of Super Typhoon Rolly.

Six persons were buried alive as lahar rushed down toward Guinobatan town, burying a community of at least 300 houses.

“The investigation will focus on the culpability of these 12 quarry sites, which operate in the same river where the casualties were recovered,” Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said over the weekend.

“I also want to look at quarry operations around the volcano, not only in that particular area of Guinobatan,” Cimatu added.

The investigating team is composed of representatives from the DENR’s Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), Environmental Management Bureau and the local government.

“The task force that we sent there is working on the investigation. But I also directed one of my undersecretaries and the MGB director to go to Albay,” he said.

Cimatu earlier suspended the operations of 12 quarry sites around Mayon as the DENR is reviewing the operators’ compliance with the quarry regulations.

The investigating team will get additional information from the provincial or city regulatory mining board, which manages quarrying operations in provinces as provided under Republic Act 7942 or the Philippine Mining Act of 1995, Cimatu said.

He said the team would also coordinate with the office of the governor, which issues quarry permits in accordance with the Local Government Code.

Quarry operations around Mayon probed

Elizabeth Marcelo

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has formed a team that will look into the possible liability of quarry operators in the lahar flow from Mayon Volcano in Albay during the onslaught of Super Typhoon Rolly.

Six persons were buried alive as lahar rushed down toward Guinobatan town, burying a community of at least 300 houses.

“The investigation will focus on the culpability of these 12 quarry sites, which operate in the same river where the casualties were recovered,” Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said over the weekend.



“I also want to look at quarry operations around the volcano, not only in that particular area of Guinobatan,” Cimatú added.

The investigating team is composed of representatives from the DENR’s Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), Environmental Management Bureau and the local government.

“The task force that we sent there is working on the investigation. But I also directed one of my undersecretaries and the MGB director to go to Albay,” he said.

Cimatú earlier suspended the operations of 12 quarry sites around Mayon as the DENR is reviewing the operators’ compliance with the quarry regulations.

The investigating team will get additional information from the provincial or city regulatory mining board, which manages quarrying operations in provinces as provided under Republic Act 7942 or the Philippine Mining Act of 1995, Cimatú said.

He said the team would also coordinate with the office of the governor, which issues quarry permits in accordance with the Local Government Code.



Quarrying around Mayon probed

November 8, 2020 | Filed under: Headlines, News | Posted by: Tempo Desk

A composite team of experts led by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has been created to investigate the alleged quarrying operations around Mayon Volcano that may have caused the mudflow or lahar during the onslaught of super typhoon "Rolly" last week.

At least 300 houses were buried and six residents were killed in Guinobatan, Albay due to the deadly mudflow.

After he ordered the suspension of activities of at least 12 quarrying operators around Mayon Volcano, DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu directed the formation of a composite team to investigate the incident.

Cimatu pointed out that the temporary shutdown of the quarry sites will give the composite team time to review the compliance of the operators on quarrying regulations.

He said the team is composed of representatives from the Mines and Geosciences Bureau, Environmental Management Bureau, and the provincial government of Albay. "The task force that we sent there is already working on the investigation. But I also directed one of my Undersecretaries and the MGB Director to go to Albay."

The DENR chief explained that the investigation will examine quarrying operations within the perimeter of the volcano, but will focus on the 12 quarrying sites that have been earlier identified. (Ellaalyn Ruiz)



Featured

Composite team, binuo para imbestigahan ang quarrying sa Albay

By Chona Yu November 08, 2020 - 08:08 PM



Bumuo na si Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu ng isang composite team na mag-iimbestiga sa quarrying sa paligid ng Bulkang Mayon sa Albay.

Matatandaang ang quarrying ang sinisi sa lahar flow sa pananalasa ng Bagyong Rolly kung saan 300 kabahayan ang natabunan at anim katao ang nasawi.

Ayon kay Cimatu, binubuo ang composite team ng mga kinatawan mula sa Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), Environmental Management Bureau, at local government units.

Kasabay nito, sinuspinde na ni Cimatu ang 12 quarrying operations sa paligid ng bulkan.

“The task force that we sent there is already working on the investigation. But I also directed one of my Undersecretaries and the MGB Director to go to Albay,” pahayag ni Cimatu.

“The concentration of the investigation is the culpability of these 12 quarrying sites which operate at the same river that there were casualties,” dagdag ng kalihim.

Lalawakan na rin aniya ang imbestigasyon at hindi lamang ang quarrying sa Albay ang iimbestigahan.



Drone-aided DENR-led teams 'mapping' areas around Mayon after mudflow

By [Jonathan L. Mayuga](#)

November 8, 2020



Residents watch as a backhoe clears boulders and mudflows from Mayon Volcano triggered by heavy rains from Typhoon Rolly in the town of Guinobatan, Albay, on Monday, November 2, 2020.

AIDED by unmanned aerial vehicles or drones, at least eight teams led by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) have started to investigate claims that quarrying operations around Mayon Volcano triggered a landslide of volcanic debris that buried at least 300 houses and killed six residents in Guinobatan, Albay during the onslaught of Typhoon Rolly.

Meanwhile, the governor of Albay Province has issued suspension orders on quarry operations in Guinobatan and Legazpi, Albay, effectively stopping quarry operations in those areas.

In a telephone interview, Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) Region 5 Director Guillermo A. Molina Jr. said at least eight teams were on-site on Sunday following DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu's order to conduct a no-nonsense investigation on the ground.

Under the small-scale mining act, Molina is the chairman of the Provincial Mining Regulatory Board (PMRB) within his area. Aside from Region 5 where he is currently assigned, Molina holds the item for Region IV as MGB Regional Director.

LGU cooperation

Molina said Albay Governor Francis B. Bichara has expressed his cooperation in the investigation and started to issue suspension orders in some areas.

"Our recommendation was to suspend all quarry operations in Albay pending investigation. He already issued suspension orders in Guinobatan and Legazpi. As far as operation in other areas, we have not seen any active quarry operation. Based on feedback from communities, also, other quarry operations voluntarily stopped quarrying," he said.

For faster and wider coverage of the area covered by their investigation, the MGB-led composite teams were divided into eight teams, each covering a watershed or river system.

Drone use

"We started last Saturday but the bad weather limits our movement. Only four of the teams are able to fly the drones in the area so far," Molina said.



He said drones will help the DENR get a complete picture of what has happened around Mayon, including the areas affected and a more accurate estimate the volume of volcanic debris was swept by the rain from Mayon.

On Friday, a team from the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) conducted an aerial survey around Mayon Volcano to do its own assessment of the volume of lahar and other volcanic debris swept away by the rampaging rivers around the volcano.

He said the drones will capture images which will then be used to create a map in affected areas around Mayon Volcano.

Molina said it will take at least three days to cover a specific area, but it will depend on the weather condition.

Risky business

DENR Undersecretary Jonas R. Leones said he received reports from the site in Albay that "secondary landslide or remobilization of lahar may occur".

It is still not safe to go there, said Leones. "Our teams there are having some problems because the soil is still soft and unstable. We are not taking any chances. Maybe in 15 days, we will have a comprehensive report ready."

Quoting a member of the ground team, Leones said "I am concerned with our teams in Bicol. We are rushing to get data on the ground. But our people are at risk. The mountain slopes are still saturated. Very unstable. Not only because of this ongoing typhoon, but also from Rolly," noting the "600mm of rainfall in 10 hours" that it poured.

Cimatu's order

On November 6, Cimatu ordered the temporary suspension of all quarry operations around Mayon Volcano after lahar and volcanic debris buried at least 300 houses and killed at least six residents in Guinobatan, Albay.

Cimatu's order covers at least 12 quarrying operations around the active volcano.

The DENR composite team is composed of representatives from the MGB, Environmental Management Bureau, and the local government.

"Some teams were also accompanied by a representative from the Department of Public Works and Highway (DPWH). There is one Phivolcs [worker] on the site also," Molina said.

In his order, Cimatu said the DENR-led composite team sent to assess the situation will examine quarrying operations within the perimeter of the volcano focusing on the 12 quarrying sites that have been earlier identified.

"The concentration of the investigations is the culpability of these 12 quarrying sites which operate at the same river that there were casualties," he said in a statement.

However, the DENR chief said he also wants to look at all other quarrying operations around the volcano and not only in Guinobatan.

According to Cimatu, the temporary shutdown of the identified quarry sites will give time to the composite team to review the compliance by operators with quarrying regulations.



"Due to the persistent rains and typhoons, we have to review the quarrying operations there so that if they are cleared, they can start their operations again if I have already checked their compliance on quarrying regulations," Cimatu added.

Mining regulatory board

A regulatory board, known as the Provincial/City Regulatory Mining Board (PCRMB), manages quarrying operations in the provinces.

"All quarrying in the provinces is being managed by the regulatory board there composed of DENR, local government unit, and other agencies of government in one province. The chairman of that is the Regional Director of MGB and the vice-chairman is the governor," Cimatu said.

Section 70 of DENR Administrative Order No. 2010-21 or the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act (RA) 7942, or the Philippine Mining Act of 1995, the PCRMB must be formed to "accept, process, and evaluate applications and determine possible administrative charges and fees for Quarry, Sand and Gravel, Guano, Gemstone Gathering, and Small-Scale Mining Permits duly filed."

PCRMB is composed of representatives from large-scale mining, small-scale mining, and a nongovernment organization.

However, Cimatu pointed out that the Provincial Governor also issues a permit to quarrying operators, as stated in RA 7160 or the Local Government Code.

"The one that provides or gives to the quarry operators is the governor, it is his mandate *na siya ang magbibigay ng permit, nasa local government code 'yan*," Cimatu stressed.

Image credits: AP



DENR nagbigay ng P359,000 donation sa K4 upang makatulong sa DENR employees na naapektuhan ni 'Rolly'

Saturday, November 7, 2020 People's Tonight



Ibinibigay ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy A. Cimatu (panglima sa kanan) kay Kalipunan ng mga Kawani sa Kagawaran ng Kalikasan (K4) National President Joselyn Sarile (panglima sa kaliwa) ang calamity donation na nilikom ng DENR management na nagkakahalagang P359,000. Layunin ng donasyon na matulungan ang mga empleyado ng DENR na labis na naapektuhan ng Super Typhoon Rolly partikular na sa mga probinsiya ng Catanduanes at Marinduque. Katuwang ni Cimatu sa ginanap na turn over noong Nobyembre 5 sa OSEC Conference Room, DENR Main Building, Visayas Avenue, Quezon City si Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny D. Antiporda (dulog kanan). Kabilang sa larawan sina (mula sa kaliwa) Alvin Legaspi at Wilhelmina Diez, miyembro ng K4 Secretariat at DENREU Central Office, Administrative Service Director Rolando Castro; K4 Treasurer at LMB Union President Engr. Beato Cefre, Jr.; BMB Union President Elpidio Gelera; DENREU Director Ethel De Guzman; at DENREU President Alvin Gatbonton. Kasama naman sa nakibahagi sa pamamagitan ng Zoom sina K4 Chairperson Emma Delima, mga DENR Regional Union Presidents at dating K4 Presidents, Atty. Camilo Garcia, Atty. Alvin Constantino at Juan Evangelista.

Source: <https://journal.com.ph/news/provincial/denr-nagbigay-ng-p359000-donation-sa-k4-upang-makatulong-sa-denr-employees-na-naapektuhan-ni-rolly/>



Bill seeking to hike forest rangers' starting pay to P42-K pushed

November 8, 2020, 2:43 pm

MANILA – While the nation is observing Environmental Awareness Month, Buhay Rep. Lito Atienza wants Congress to triple the starting pay of the country's forest rangers and grant them a wide range of new job benefits, including extra wages for working under dangerous conditions.

Under his House Bill 2597, Atienza seeks to increase the minimum base pay of forest rangers from Salary Grade 4 (PHP13,807 per month) to Salary Grade 18 (PHP42,159 per month).



Atienza's proposed Magna Carta for Forest Rangers also seeks to grant the guardians of the nation's forest and timber lands new employment benefits, such as:

- Subsistence allowance for three meals per day while in the field, travel time being counted as time in the field;
- Overtime pay of 10 percent and night-shift differential pay of 10 percent;
- Hazard pay consistent with prevailing practices;
- Longevity pay equal to 5 percent of the monthly basic pay for every five years of continuous service;
- Transportation allowance; and
- Full compensation for work injuries.

"Our forest rangers have endured hard work and low pay. Many of them have even sacrificed lives in the line of duty. They deserve these long-overdue benefits," said Atienza, former Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources.

Atienza, a former three-term mayor of Manila, said the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is spending another PHP5.2 billion in 2021 for the National Greening Program.

"If Congress can earmark billions of pesos every year to renew our denuded forests, surely we can also provide our rangers highly improved compensation and welfares," he said.

The program seeks to rehabilitate 150,000 hectares of forests and preserve and protect 318,871 hectares of forests and watersheds.

Atienza's bill also mandates the creation of enough new positions in the DENR so that the country would have "at least one forest ranger for every 500 hectares of lands classified as forest or timber." (PR)



Solon out to triple forest rangers' pay

Published November 8, 2020, 3:40 PM

by [Ellson Quismorio](#)

A forest ranger could get a handsome pay raise to at least P42,000 per month if and when a bill filled by Buhay Party-List Rep. Lito Atienza gets enacted.

Atienza, through House Bill (HB) No.2597, is seeking to increase the minimum base pay of forest rangers from Salary Grade 4 (P13,807 per month) to Salary Grade 18 (P42,159 per month).

“If Congress can earmark billions of pesos every year to renew our denuded forests, surely we can also provide our rangers highly improved compensation and welfares [*sic*],” noted Atienza, a former three-term mayor of Manila and Environment secretary.

He made the call to triple the starting pay of forest rangers during the observation of Environmental Awareness Month.

The Atienza measure, also known as the proposed Magna Carta for Forest Rangers, also seeks to grant the so-called guardians of the nation’s forest and timber lands the following new benefits: subsistence allowance for three meals per day while in the field, travel time being counted as time in the field; overtime pay of 10 percent and night-shift differential pay of 10 percent; hazard pay consistent with prevailing practices; longevity pay equal to five percent of the monthly basic pay for every five years of continuous service; transportation allowance; and full compensation for work injuries.

“Our forest rangers have [been enduring] hard work and low pay. Many of them have even sacrificed lives in the line of duty. They deserve these long-overdue benefits,” the outspoken solon said.

Atienza said the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is spending another P5.2 billion in 2021 for the National Greening Program.

The program seeks to rehabilitate 150,000 hectares of forests and preserve and protect 318,871 hectares of forests and watersheds.

Atienza’s bill also mandates the creation of enough new positions in the DENR so that the country would have “at least one forest ranger for every 500 hectares of lands classified as forest or timber.”



Deputy Speaker Mikee Romero filed House Bill 1334 aimed at creating a magna carta for environment and natural resources personnel, while Rep. Lito Atienza of Buhay party-list filed HB 2597 that seeks to triple the base pay of forest rangers.

The STAR, Boy Santos

Lawmakers seek better pay, benefits for environmental workers

[Delon Porcalla](#) (The Philippine Star) - November 9, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Key administration members of the House of Representatives are pushing for the passage of measures that will not only help protect the country's resources, but also uplift the lives of personnel who ensure environmental sustainability.

Deputy Speaker Mikee Romero filed House Bill 1334 aimed at creating a magna carta for environment and natural resources personnel, while Rep. Lito Atienza of Buhay party-list filed HB 2597 that seeks to triple the base pay of forest rangers.

The two administration lawmakers made their statements in relation to the country's observation of Environmental Awareness Month.

Romero said the government must help uplift the lives and personnel from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and include as well agencies in the management and development of environmental related projects and programs.

The 1Pacman party-list congressman is pushing for the immediate passage of HB 1334 to encourage those with proper qualifications and excellent abilities to remain in government service and in the country to work together for a clean and healthy environment.

For his part, Atienza – a former three-term Manila mayor – proposed the tripling of the starting pay of the country's forest rangers and grant them as well a wide range of new job benefits, including extra wages for working under dangerous conditions.

Under HB 2597, he wants to increase the minimum base pay of forest rangers from Salary Grade 4 (P13,807 per month) to Salary Grade 18 (P42,159 per month).

“Our forest rangers have endured hard work and low pay. Many of them have even sacrificed lives in the line of duty. They deserve these long-overdue benefits,” Atienza, one-time secretary of DENR, said.



“If Congress can earmark billions of pesos every year to renew our denuded forests, surely we can also provide our rangers highly improved compensation and welfares,” he said.

Atienza said the DENR is spending another P5.2 billion in 2021 for the National Greening Program. This seeks to rehabilitate 150,000 hectares of forests and preserve and protect 318,871 hectares of forests and watersheds.

HB 2597 also mandates the creation of enough new positions in the DENR so that the country would have “at least one forest ranger for every 500 hectares of lands classified as forest or timber.”



Very risky job entitles forest rangers to tripled starting pay, says Atienza

By Jovee Marie de la Cruz November 8, 2020



Buhay Rep. Lito Atienza

AS the nation marks the Environmental Awareness Month, a senior lawmaker is pushing for the passage of a bill seeking to triple the starting pay of forest rangers.

In House Bill 2597 or the Magna Carta for Forest Rangers, Buhay Rep. Lito Atienza wants Congress to triple the starting pay of the country's forest rangers and grant them a wide range of new job benefits, including extra wages for working under dangerous conditions.

Atienza said his bill seeks to increase the minimum base pay of forest rangers from Salary Grade 4 (P13,807 per month) to Salary Grade 18 (P42,159 per month).

The measure will provide the guardians of the nation's forest and timber lands new employment benefits, including subsistence allowance for three meals per day while in the field, travel time being counted as time in the field; overtime pay of 10 percent and night-shift differential pay of 10 percent; hazard pay consistent with prevailing practices; longevity pay equal to 5 percent of the monthly basic pay for every five years of continuous service; transportation allowance; and full compensation for work injuries.

"Our forest rangers have endured hard work and low pay. Many of them have even sacrificed lives in the line of duty. They deserve these long-overdue benefits," Atienza, one-time Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources, said.

Atienza said the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is spending another P5.2 billion in 2021 for the National Greening Program. The program seeks to rehabilitate 150,000 hectares of forests and preserve and protect 318,871 hectares of forests and watersheds.

Also, Deputy Speaker and 1PACMAN Party-list Rep. Mikee Romero is pushing for his version of the Magna Carta for Environment and Natural Resources Personnel.

HB 1334 aims to promote and improve the health, physical safety, social and economic well-being of the environment and natural resources personnel, their living and working conditions, security and terms of employment; to develop their skills and capabilities in order that they will be more responsive and better equipped to deliver environmental management functions and sustainable development of natural resources in their attainment of projects and programs; and to encourage those with proper qualifications and excellent abilities to join, contribute their expertise and remain in government service and in the country.

Image credits: [Alysa Salen/Philippines Graphic](#)

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2020/11/08/very-risky-job-entitles-forest-rangers-to-tripled-starting-pay-says-atienza/>



Triple salaries of forest rangers—Atienza

posted November 08, 2020 at 10:40 pm

by [Rio N. Araja](#)

In the midst of the observance of the Environmental Awareness Month, Buhay party-list Rep. Joselito Atienza wants Congress to triple the starting wage of forest rangers and grant them new benefits, including extra wages for working under dangerous conditions.

He filed House Bill No. 2597 or the Magna Carta for Forest Rangers to increase the minimum base pay of a forest ranger from Salary Grade 4 (P13,807 per month) to Salary Grade 18 (P42,159 per month).

Among the benefits are the subsistence allowance for three meals per day while in the field, travel time being counted as time in the field, overtime pay of 10 percent and night-shift differential pay of 10 percent, hazard pay consistent with prevailing practices, longevity pay equal to 5 percent of the monthly basic pay for every five years of continuous service, transportation allowance and full compensation for work injuries.

“Our forest rangers have endured hard work and low pay. Many of them have even sacrificed lives in the line of duty. They deserve these long-overdue benefits,” Atienza said.

“If Congress can earmark billions of pesos every year to renew our denuded forests, surely we can also provide our rangers highly improved compensation and welfares,” he added.

Atienza is a former Manila City mayor and Department of Environment and Natural Resources secretary.



Additional benefits for forest rangers urged

Sunday, November 8, 2020 Ryan Ponce Pacpaco



Lito Atienza

WHILE the nation is observing Environmental Awareness Month, Buhay Hayaang Yumabong (BUHAY) party-list Rep. Lito Atienza on Sunday said he wants Congress to triple the starting pay of the country's forest rangers and grant them a wide range of new job benefits, including extra wages for working under dangerous conditions.

In House Bill (HB) 2597, Atienza wants to increase the minimum base pay of forest rangers from Salary Grade 4 (P13,807 per month) to Salary Grade 18 (P42,159 per month).

Atienza's proposed Magna Carta for Forest Rangers also seeks to grant the guardians of the nation's forest and timber lands new employment benefits, such as:

- Subsistence allowance for three meals per day while in the field, travel time being counted as time in the field;
- Overtime pay of 10 percent and night-shift differential pay of 10 percent;
- Hazard pay consistent with prevailing practices;
- Longevity pay equal to five percent of the monthly basic pay for every five years of continuous service;
- Transportation allowance; and
- Full compensation for work injuries.

"Our forest rangers have endured hard work and low pay. Many of them have even sacrificed lives in the line of duty. They deserve these long-overdue benefits," Atienza, one-time Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources, said.

If Congress can earmark billions of pesos every year to renew our denuded forests, surely we can also provide our rangers highly improved compensation and welfares," Atienza, former three-term mayor of Manila, said.

Atienza said the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is spending another P5.2 billion in 2021 for the National Greening Program.

The program seeks to rehabilitate 150,000 hectares of forests and preserve and protect 318,871 hectares of forests and watersheds.

Atienza's bill also mandates the creation of enough new positions in the DENR so that the country would have "at least one forest ranger for every 500 hectares of lands classified as forest or timber."

Source: <https://journal.com.ph/editorial/opinion/additional-benefits-for-forest-rangers-urged/>



PHOTOGRAPH BY ALFONSO MADILLA FOR THE DAILY TRIBUNE @mbnewsph

LEAVE it to kids to find excuses not to take a dip at the inviting waters of Manila Bay albeit prohibited, as they defy safety and health hazards just to cool things off.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2020/09/03/denr-hit-for-planning-to-fill-manila-baywalk-with-white-sand/>



MANILA BAY

DENR BINISITA ANG MANILA BAY! WATER TESTING! GANU NABA KALINAW ANG TUBIG SA MANILA BAY!

20,147 views • Nov 7, 2020

457 7 SHARE SAVE ...



Vincent Tabigue
116K subscribers

JOIN

SUBSCRIBE

#Mayorsko #President Duterte #Denroy Cimatu #Usecbennyant porda #Savemanilabay
#Denrbinisitamanilabay #Pinoyabroad #Dfw #Manilabayupdate #Manilaupdate #Vincenttabigue

Source:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x2ljvooXoNU&feature=youtu.be&ab_channel=VincentTabigue



MANILA BAYWALK
Manila Bay PINATAOB NA SILA ANG KAMANDAG NG DOLOMITE SAND! Miz July

63,158 views • Nov 5, 2020

👍 1K 🗨️ 25 ➦ SHARE 📌 SAVE ⋮



Miz July
39.4K subscribers

SUBSCRIBE

MANILA BAY UPDATE NOVEMBER 6, 2020 Update po tayo ngayon sa may DOLOMITE SAND

#ManilaBay
#SaveManilaDay

SHOW MORE

Source:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I8mANTATIKs&feature=youtu.be&ab_channel=MizJuly



BASECO BEACH

MANILA BAY UPDATE, BAKIT NAG KAGANITO BASECO BEACH SOBRANG LINAW NG DAGAT! Miz July

7,042 views · Nov 7, 2020

257 6 SHARE SAVE ...



Miz July

39.4K subscribers

SUBSCRIBE

MANILA BAY UPDATE NOVEMBER 6, 2020 Update po tayo ngayon sa may BASECO

#Baseco

#BasecoBeach

SHOW MORE

Source:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NsKjOny0EiQ&feature=youtu.be&ab_channel=MizJuly



MANILA BAY

FIRST TIME NA GANITO KA BABAW ANG MANILA BAY | LALONG LUMUTANG ANG GANDA NG DAGAT

630 views • Nov 8, 2020

42 0 SHARE SAVE ...



Alvin TV Im still learning
16.7K subscribers

SUBSCRIBE

Ngayon araw ay may pinaka mababa na tubig ang Manila Bay. Isang retired PNP ang ragbigay allw sa mga namamasyal.

Source:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UVz14iKPT9g&feature=youtu.be&ab_channel=AlvinTVImstilllearning



SHOW CHAT REPLAY

IT'S MORE FUN NA TALAGA IN MANILA BAY!

7,249 views • Streamed live 13 hours ago

👍 371 💬 0 ➦ SHARE 📌 SAVE ⋮



engr. berto
127K subscribers

SUBSCRIBE

Source:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WGoPBRksvTc&feature=youtu.be&ab_channel=enr.berto



BASECO COMPOUND

MANILA BASECO SUBDIVISION UPDATE MAG LILIWANAG NA! Miz July

2,681 views · Nov 7, 2020

89 likes · 0 comments · SHARE · SAVE · ...



Miz July
39.4K subscribers

SUBSCRIBE

MANILA BAY UPDATE NOVEMBER 6,2020 Update po tayo ngayon sa may BASECO SUBDIVISION NI YORME
#Baseco

SHOW MORE

Source:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WnexZymInpg&feature=youtu.be&ab_channel=MizJuly



- [Headline](#)
- [Editorial](#)
- [Column](#)
- [Opinion](#)
- [Feature Article](#)



SHOW CHAT REPLAY

MANILA BAY

HAPPENING NOW! MANILA BAY! PUNO NG TAO ANG DALAMPASIGAN!

11,462 views • Streamed live 21 hours ago

504 13 SHARE SAVE ...



ESME TVKo
122K subscribers

JOIN

SUBSCRIBE

Source:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W53lAy1cAzw&feature=youtu.be&ab_channel=ESMETV Ko](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W53lAy1cAzw&feature=youtu.be&ab_channel=ESMETV%20Ko)



#BattleForManilaBay #NewManilaBay

BIHIRANG PANGYAYARI! MGA IBON, ALIMASAG, BAHAGHARI AT MAGANDANG SUNSET SABAY-SABAY NAGPAKITA!

10,657 views · Nov 8, 2020

 564  4  SHARE  SAVE ...



enr. berto
127K subscribers

SUBSCRIBE

#BattleForManilaBay #NewManilaBay

Source:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bk4UBHmrilE&feature=youtu.be&ab_channel=enr.berto



MANILA BAY

MANILA BAY UPDATE | MGA ISDA AT CRABS NAGLABASAN NA! | PANOORIN | NOVEMBER 8, 2020

2,822 views • Nov 8, 2020

172 3 SHARE SAVE ...



KHOPARS VLOG
90.2K subscribers

JOIN

SUBSCRIBE

#ManilaBayUpdate

#ManilaBay

#HarborView

SHOW MORE

Source:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dSYlpgnJguc&feature=youtu.be&ab_channel=KHOPARS_VLOG



MANILA BAY

SPEARFISHING!! LIBO LIBONG ISDA! LUMANTAD! UNDERWATER EXPLORATION MANILA BAY! FAKE PADIN?

23,548 views • Nov 6, 2020

1K 21 SHARE SAVE ...



ESME TVKo
122K subscribers

JOIN SUBSCRIBE

WOW PART 3 UNDERWATER SCENERY NG MANILA BAY ETO NA ANG SASAMPAL SA KATOTOHANAN SA LAHAT NG MGA KEEP KONTRA.MGA DIVERS NG MANILA BAY NAGPAMALAS NG GAI ING. 🥰❤️ II AI IM NG TURIG MANII A BAY SOBRANG GANDA NA MAI A PARAISO
SHOW MORE

Source:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9T6LZdtw0M0&feature=youtu.be&ab_channel=ESMETVKo



New species of PH Begonia plant officially named

Published November 8, 2020, 2:36 PM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

A new species of the Philippine Begonia plant discovered in Surigao del Norte three years ago has been officially named *Begonia makuruyot*.



(Philippine Taxonomic Initiative / MANILA BULLETIN)

A new paper published on Nov. 5 in the international research journal *Biotaxa* described the species as distinctive and inhabiting shaded limestone walls on the Daywan/Baoy River in Surigao del Norte.

The discovery made in 2017 was formally published by Mark Gregory Q. Rule, Yu Pin Ang, Rosario R. Rubite, Rudolph Valentino A. Docot, Rene Alfred Anton Bustamante, and Alastair S. Robinson.

Its name *Begonia makuruyot* was derived from the Surigaonon adjective “makuruyot” or wrinkled, which refers to the distinctly rugose surface of the new species.

The article said the new species is distinguished from other Philippine *Begonia* by its “rugose laminae, pendent leaves, pilose petioles, and stipules fused with fleshy, aristate trichomes that are occasionally branching.”

Due to its restricted distribution and threats from various human activities, the experts said *Begonia makuruyot* appears to be critically endangered – the most threatened conservation status assigned by the International Union for Conservation of Nature or IUCN to a species that still exists in the wild.

The team who discovered the new species of *Begonia* was supported by the Philippine Taxonomic Initiative, an independent, non-profit, non-government organization focused on advancing the discovery and description of plants and animals in the Philippines.



Cebu City goes after waterway encroachers

Published 14 mins ago on November 9, 2020 05:02 AM

By [Rico Osmeña](#)



At least 83 business establishments and residential establishments in Cebu City were given 10-day notices to demolish their encroachments on waterways if they don't want the local government to sue them.

Among those warned was a hotel along General Maxilom Avenue for erecting a structure right above the Kamputhaw River tributary.

"To the hotel, we notified them to demolish the encroachment. We will give them a chance," Mayor Edgardo Labella said. "We cannot take the law into our hands."

Other establishments near riversides were told to remove their structures as well within the grace period before court orders are issued.

An ad hoc committee and task force to handle obstructions have been formed, composed of City Engineer Kenneth Carmelita Enriquez, legal officer Rey Gealon, City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office, Department of Public Works and Highways, Department of Environment and Natural Resources and other agencies.

Many of the structures have been on waterways for 30 years now, Labella lamented.



150 QUARRY TRUCKS BINARIKADA SA TOLL GATES NG NLEX

23 hours ago [jake](#)



IBINALANDRA ng mga Pampanga quarry-based hauler ang 150 naglalakihang 12-wheeler at 14-wheeler dump trucks sa mga toll gate ng North Luzon Expressway (NLEX) bilang protesta sa ipinatutupad na truck ban sa mga overloaded na malalaking truck nitong Sabado ng umaga.

Ang barikada ay nagdulot ng mahigit isang oras na pagkaparalisa ng daloy ng trapiko.

Tinututulan ng grupo ang nasabing polisiya ng NLEX Corporation kung saan pansamantalang hindi pinadadaan ang mga quarry truck o dump truck sa loob ng nasabing expressway sanhi ng ongoing major rehabilitation sa bahagi ng 5-kilometer Candaba Viaduct.

Nagsimula ang barikada bandang alas-6:00 ng umaga dahilang upang hindi umusad ang daloy ng trapiko sa bahagi ng mga toll gate ng San Simon, San Fernando, Mexico, Floridablanca, Porac, Angeles City, Dau, Mabiga at Sta Inez.

Dumating sa lugar si Pampanga Governor Dennis Pineda upang makipag-usap sa mga hauler at nakiusap na alisin na ang mga iniharang na truck at ipinangako na ipararating niya sa kinauukulan ang kanilang mga hinaing gayundin sa pamunuan ng NLEX.

Agad namang tumalima sa negosasyon ang mga truck owner at mga driver sa pakiusap ng gobernador at isa-isang inalis ang mga truck bandang alas-7:30 ng umaga.

Samantala, sa press statement ng pamunuan ng NLEX, tiniyak nito na anomang usapin ang nais ipaabot ng mga public motorist kaugnay sa legal load limits ay seryosong pag-uusapan at pamamahalaan.

Mababatid na nitong buwan ng nakaraang Agosto ay sinimulan ng NLEX ang rehabilitasyon ng 35-year-old Manila-bound carriageway ng Candaba Viaduct kung saan pansamantalang kinontrol ang pagpasok ng mga overloaded 12-wheeler dump trucks.

“Prior to the project’s implementation, the tollway company reached out to the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Department of Transportation (DOTr), Toll Regulatory Board (TRB), Pampanga Governor Dennis Pineda’s office and the mayors of San Fernando City, Angeles City, Mabalacat City, San Simon, Apalit in Pampanga, Calumpit, Pulilan, Malolos City, and Guiguinto in Bulacan, the affected trucking groups, and the Pampanga Chamber of Commerce to highlight the urgency of repairing the Candaba Viaduct to assure its long-term viability as a vital road link between North and Central Luzon and Metro Manila,” pahayag ng NLEX.

“To assuage the concerns of the affected quarry-based truckers and haulers, dialogues are ongoing to demonstrate proper and compliant procedures for loading their trucks. The NLEX currently implements the load limits provisions of R.A. 8794 and the Joint DOTR-DPWH Implementing Rules and Regulations revised in 2012 which sets the maximum load limits for trucks nationwide,” base pa sa pahayag. (ELOISA SILVERIO)

Source: http://saksingayon.com/probinsiya/150-quarry-trucks-binarikada-sa-toll-gates-ng-nlex/?utm_source=ReviveOldPost&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=ReviveOldPost&fbclid=IwAR2sWc37LaSZhmHRTzPxc5cAu1Sa8naZk53kvMQgSBHA00r6AF70M9gOMRk



Maynilad sanitation trucks

posted November 08, 2020 at 08:45 pm



West zone concessionaire Maynilad Water Services Inc. spends more than P179 million to acquire 19 new vacuum truck units to boost septic tank cleaning services for residential and semi-business customers in unsewered areas. Attending the presentation of the newly-acquired trucks are (from left) Maynilad chief operating officer Randolph Estrellado, Maynilad president and chief executive Ramoncito Fernandez, Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System administrator Emmanuel Salamat, Manila Mayor Francisco Domagoso, Environment Assistant Secretary Daniel Nicer and Maynilad wastewater management head Apollo Tiglao.



SITWASYON NG TUBIG NGAYONG BUWAN NG NOBYEMBRE



November 9, 2020 @ 12:41 AM 6 hours ago

MALAKING bahagi ng Bicolandia ang napuruhan ng Super Typhoon Rolly lalo na ang mga lalawigan ng Catanduanes at Albay.

Habang ang bagyong “Rolly” ay patuloy na kumikilos patungo sa kanluran timog-kanluran ng Philippine Sea at napananatili ang kanyang lakas.

Ang inyong lingkod ay nagdasal ng taimtim at natatakot baka matulad uli sa bagyong Ondoy, kung saan nagdulot ng malakas na pagbuhos ng ulan sa Metro Manila at mga kalapit na lalawigan.

Sa loob ng siyam na oras, nagbaha sa iba’t ibang lugar at nagbunga ito ng pagkawala ng tahanan at halos lahat ng mga sasakyan nalubog sa tubig.

Hindi ako masyadong nakatulog dahil sa pag-alala, ang tanong ko sa sarili ko, kung sakali sumobrang lakas ang pagbuhos ng ulan, maaabot na kaya ang 212 normal high water level (NHWL)? Kung walang tigil o mahabang oras ang pagbuhos ng malakas ng ulan, hindi kaya mag spill over ang tubig sa Angat Dam at bubuksan ang mga gate? Ano na naman kaya mangyayari sa ating lahat sa NCR?

Hindi nasagot ang mga katanungan ng inyong lingkod dahil bigla nalusaw kaya hindi tumama si Typhoon Rolly sa Metro Manila o National Capital Region. Salamat sa Panginoon Hesus Kristo!

Base sa ulat ng Hydrological Information ng Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (PDRRMC), ang lebel ng tubig sa Angat Dam noong Nobyembre 6 ay nasa 202.67 meters, kulang ng 9.33 meters base sa 212 NHWL.

Maganda ang datos ng lebel ng tubig sa Angat Dam sa unang linggo ng buwan:

- November 2 – 201.91
- November 3 – 202.26
- November 4 – 202.55
- November 5 – 202.68



Ayon kay Dr. Seville David, Jr. Executive Director ng National Water Resources Board (NWRB), ang lebel ng tubig sa Angat Dam ay mahigit na sa minimum operating level na 180 meters, ngunit, mababa pa rin kung ikukumpara sa normal high water level (NHWL) na 210 meters, kulang pa rin sa end of the year target na 212 meters.

Kahit na may malalakas na pag-ulan tayong nararanasan, mahalaga pa rin ang pagtitipid sa tubig, sa totoo lang, malaki ang maitutulong ng pag-iipon ng mga tubig ulan.

May payo si Dr. David, sa mga nasa tahanan, opisina at industriya, dapat samantalahin ang malalakas na pag-ulan sa pamamagitan ng pag-iimpok nito sa proseso ng "Rain Harvesting" kung saan ang tubig ulan ay kinukolekta at gamitin bilang alternatibong gamit sa paglilinis ng bahay, pangbanlaw ng mga damit na nilabhan, sa pang-flush o pambuhos sa banyo o kaya pandilig sa halaman o paglinis ng garahe.

Paulit-ulit ang panawagan ng NWRB at nang mga water concessionaires tulad ng Manila Water at Maynilad na nagsisilbi sa NCR, tipid-tipid pa rin sa tubig dahil kahit halos araw-araw nang umuulan ay hindi pa rin sapat ang taas ng tubig sa Angat dam.



Prominenteng politikong negosyante, nakopo ang water right?

By AbanteTonite — Last updated: Nov 8, 2020

OPINION



Dapat ay imbestigahan ang National Water Resources Board (NWRB) dahil sa ibinigay nito sa isang pamilya ng politikong negosyante ang water right sa halos sa buong Pilipinas.

Nakapaloob kasi sa Presidential Decree 1067 na may kaugnayan sa Water code na pag-aari nga ng estado ang tubig pero nabibigyan ng permit water right ang isang kompanya.

Dahil dito ay ang anumang konstruksyon, paggalaw sa isang lupain o ari-arian ay kailangang dumaan sa kompanya na may hawak ng water right.

Ang water right ay ipinagkakaloob ng National Water Resources Board (NWRB).

Hindi masyadong napapansin ang NWRB lalo na sa isyu ng katiwalian o kalokohan subalit ayon sa ating impormante ay grabe din pala sa ahensiyang ito lalo na sa pag-iisyu ng water right.

Ayon pa sa ating impormante na unang nag-imbetiga sa Kongreso ay nagulat siya at tila isang pamilya lang ang nagmamay-ari ng water right sa halos lahat ng lugar sa buong bansa.

Lumilitaw na isang pamilya lamang ang may-ari bagamat iba't ibang pangalan ng kompanya ang ginamit sa pagkuha ng water right sa bansa.

Napakahalaga ng nasabing water right dahil sa anumang pagbungkal sa lupain o kalsada ay kailangang alam ng mga ito at kung gagawing negosyo ay tiyak na kailangang-sila ay kasali sa usapan.

Kaya naman pala ang politikong negosyanterig ito ay pumasok na rin sa negosyo ng tubig sa ilang mga subdivision pero palpak naman ang serbisyo na inireklamo ng mga residente.



Hulaan kung sino ang pamilyang politiko at negosyante pa? Kaya naman pala walang tigil sa pagyaman ang mga ito sa bansa at sana ay maimbestigahan ng mega task force ng Department of Justice (DOJ) ang NWRB.

Ang pamilyang politiko na negosyante pa ay si?

Hulaan kung sino... ipadala ang inyong sagot sa FB page na Mediaman Ely or sa mediamanely@gmail.com



'PINAS BASURAHAN NG MGA DAYUHAN



November 9, 2020 @ 12:08 AM 6 hours ago

Pinuri ni United Nations Environment Program(UNEP) Regional Director and Representative for Asia Pacific ang gobyerno sa matagumpay na pagbalik nito sa South Korea ng 7,500 toneladang basura kamakailan.

Ang naturang hazardous waste na naglalaman ng adult diapers at basura mula sa mga hospital ng nabanggit na bansa na nasabat ng mga otoridad noong nakaraang taon sa Mindanao ay itinuturing na pinakamalaking volume ng basurang itinapon sa ating bansa.

Hindi na bago ang kawalanghiyaang ito na ginagawa ng mapang-aping mayayamang bansa sa atin.

Taong 1999 nang ipinuslit dito ng Japan ang kanilang 122 containers na hazardous waste ngunit agaran ding ibinalik sa nabanggit na bansa nang masakote ng mga otoridad.

Kasikatan naman ni dating Pangulong Noynoy noong 2013 at 2014 ay itinapon ng Canada rito ang 100 container van na basurang may lamang used electrical at household items kung saan ipinabalik ni Tatay Digong sa bansang ito noong siya na ang umupong Pangulo.

Naging kontrobersyal ang ginawang ito ng Canada dahil binalaan ito ni Tatay Digong na kung hindi hakutin ang basura ng naturang bansa ay makikipag giyera siya rito.

Bagaman patuloy na kinokondena ng gobyerno at sambayanan ang pagiging dump site natin ng mga pesteng bansa na ito ngunit naipupuslit pa rin ang toxic wastes dito sa pamamagitan ng mga kababayan nating kakutsaba ng mga animal na bansang 'yan.

Katulad nitong 211 toneladang basura na ipinuslit ng Australia noong nakaraang taon na ibinenta naman sa mga buwayang negosyante rito.

Hindi ba 'yan ang sinasabi nilang 2nd hand na mga damit, kitchenware at appliance ngayon na tinatangkilik naman ng taumbayan dahil mura ito ngunit basura pa rin ng naturang bansa?

Kawawa talaga ang katulad nating bansang pobre sa paningin ng mga burgis na bansang 'yan at ginagawa tayong tapunan ng kanilang mga tae.



Bagama't ipinagbabawal ang pagtatapon ng hazardous wastes batay sa Basel Convention kung saan pirmado ito ng 53 bansa ngunit ang ilan sa mga ito ang hayagang nagpupuslit pa rin ng mga toxic wastes sa bansa natin.

At hanggang ngayon ay patuloy ang pambabalasubas ng mga bansang ito sa atin sa gitna ng malawakang pagtutol ng greenpeace, pro-environmentalists at mga kababayan natin bunsod sa panganib na dulot nito sa kalusugan at kalikasan.

Para sa inyong komento o suhestyon mag-text sa 09999388537/email normanlaurio17@gmail.com.



Plastic recycling

posted November 08, 2020 at 08:35 pm



Mondelez Philippines, maker of Eden Cheese and Cheez Whiz, launches a movement to reduce its packaging footprint and support recycling activities. The company teams up with The Plastic Flamingo to collect and recycle plastic packaging to help reduce marine litter. The Plastic Flamingo is a social enterprise which aims to tackle marine plastic pollution by collecting and recycling ocean-bound plastic waste in emerging countries with maximum social impact.



Gov't climate change programs gone adrift – COA

By Peter Tabingo

-November 9, 2020

THE Climate Change Commission (CCC) spent P275 million of taxpayers' money in the previous two years but it has shown an appalling performance in ensuring compliance with the country's commitments after signing the Paris Agreement in 2017.

In the 2019 report on the CCC, the Commission on Audit noted the absence of “structured guidelines on the monitoring and evaluation of the climate change policy and advisory program.”

The Philippines, listed by the Global Climate Risk Index in 2015 as the number one most affected country by climate change, supported the Paris Agreement to halt global temperature rise at 1.5 degrees Centigrade above the pre-industrial temperature levels – the global warming threshold for the survival of vulnerable states.

Among its commitments was a shift to clean energy to support its economy, creation and promotion of green jobs, strengthening the resilience of indigenous communities and the urban poor, and the submission of regular reports on the monitoring of the nationally determined contribution (NDC).

To pursue these objectives, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the CCC issued Joint Memorandum Circular No. 2015-01 dated July 23, 2015 requiring all local government units (LGUs) to submit electronic copies of their Annual Investment Programs (AIPs).

Responding to the audit findings, the CCC management claimed it has already undertaken “corrective and enhancement measures” to strengthen the monitoring and evaluation protocols.

It said it is “exploring the possibility” of designating focal person per province to consolidate climate change data expenditure tagging (CCET) data and is improving collaboration with other government agencies.

The idea is to facilitate monitoring and tracking of climate-related projects in all levels of the government to be supervised by the CCC's Implementation and Oversight Division. Compliance-wise, it was embarrassing.



Bicol students call for strong climate commitment from gov't

Published November 8, 2020, 6:15 PM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

Young climate advocates from typhoon-hit Bicol demanded the Philippine government to show strong political will to declare a national climate emergency following the devastation of super typhoon “Rolly.”



Residents carrying their belongings arrive at an evacuation center in Legaspi, Albay province, south of Manila on October 31, 2020, ahead of Typhoon Goni's landfall.

(Photo by Charism SAYAT / AFP / FILE PHOTO / MANILA BULLETIN)

The call for strong climate commitments also came as the country commemorated the seventh year of super typhoon “Yolanda.”

“Rolly should be a wake-up call. We, along with my fellow young Bicolanos, are scared because if we do not take this seriously, we will be expecting more catastrophic events. There will be more super typhoon Yolanda and super typhoon Rolly—with the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic on top of it,” Bicol University’s (BU) Science Alliance Club president Bill Bontigao said in a statement.

Twenty-year-old Bontigao is from Tabaco, Albay and was one of those whose houses were damaged during the onslaught of typhoon Rolly.

Bontigao among other Bicol residents have been experiencing some of the worst typhoons to hit the country in the past two decades.

In a position paper released on Sunday, BU Science Alliance Club expressed its support to scientists, environmental organizations, and climate activists in calling for a climate emergency declaration to ensure urgent actions to mitigate climate change.

“We believe that the declaration will create ripples of gearing us up to a better normal because the normal that we have in mind is the problem itself. Let’s modify our thinking and understand that we need to focus on the things that will lead us to something that we truly deserve. We’ve had enough, never again! This is the last wake-up call and reminder for us to do better,” the statement read.

“With sympathy, (we) acknowledge the (struggles) of our fellow Bicolanos due to the typhoons Quinta and Rolly, (plus) the fact that we are still going through the COVID-19 pandemic. These typhoons are induced more by climate change and global warming. We have experienced enough and we deserve a sustainable, liveable, lovable, and a better way of living,” it added.



Greenpeace Philippines previously called on the Duterte administration to show climate leadership as once again, the marginalized sectors, such as the youth, are bearing the brunt of climate crisis.

“When the youth calls for climate emergency declaration, the government must listen. They are relentless in calling for urgent actions because their future is on the line,” Greenpeace campaigner Virginia Benosa-Llorin said.

“In a country that is regularly battered by strong typhoons, Filipino youth need protection. One way to ensure they are protected is to set policy directions that put people and planet first,” she added.



RENEWABLE ENERGY SA GITNA NG PANDEMYA ISINULONG

23 hours ago [jp admin](#)



NANAWAGAN si Senador Win Gatchalian sa gobyerno na samantalahin ang potensyal ng renewable energy sa bansa habang patuloy na bumababa ang paggamit ng coal mula nang magkaroon ng pandemya dulot ng COVID-19.

“Ito na ang tamang pagkakataon para itaguyod ang paggamit ng renewable energy dahil napatunayan natin sa mga nakaraang buwan na dumami ang mga gumagamit ng solar, geothermal, at biomass,” ayon sa chairman ng Senate Energy Committee.

Suportado ni Gatchalian ang hakbang ng Department of Energy (DOE) na magpataw ng moratorium sa coal at binigyang diin niya ang kahalagahan ng mga regulasyon para dito.

Sinabi nito na bumaba ang paggamit ng enerhiya mula sa uling magmula noong ipatupad ang lockdown sa bansa kasunod ng huminang paggamit ng langis bunsod ng epekto ng COVID-19.

Batay sa pag-aaral ng S&P Global, isang market research provider, dumadami na ang bilang ng mga kumpanya ng langis na lumilipat o dumadaan sa tinatawag na ‘energy transition’ at gumagamit na ng renewable energy dahil sa isyu ng climate change. Lalaki pa ang kapasidad nito ng 50 porsiyento mula 2019 hanggang 2024, ayon sa International Energy Agency (IEA).

Kasabay nito ay kinalampag ni Gatchalian ang mga tanggapan ng goyerno na puksain ang red tape upang mapabilis ang pagsasakatuparan ng pagtangkilik sa renewable energy at makahikayat pa ng mas maraming mamumuhunan sa renewable energy projects sa bansa.

Aniya, may mga sapat nang mekanismo na magpapabilis sa proseso sa mga gustong mamuhunan dito.

Ayon sa mga opisyal ng DOE, umabot na sa 1,038 ang bilang ng renewable energy projects na aprubado na at may kapasidad na 31,886 megawatts (MW).

“Halos buong mundo ay lumilipat na sa renewable energy at kailangan nating makipagsabayan para na rin sa mga makabagong teknolohiya,” ani Gatchalian.

Binigyang halimbawa niya ang pagsusulong sa tinatawag na sustainable transportation tulad ng electric vehicles (EVs).

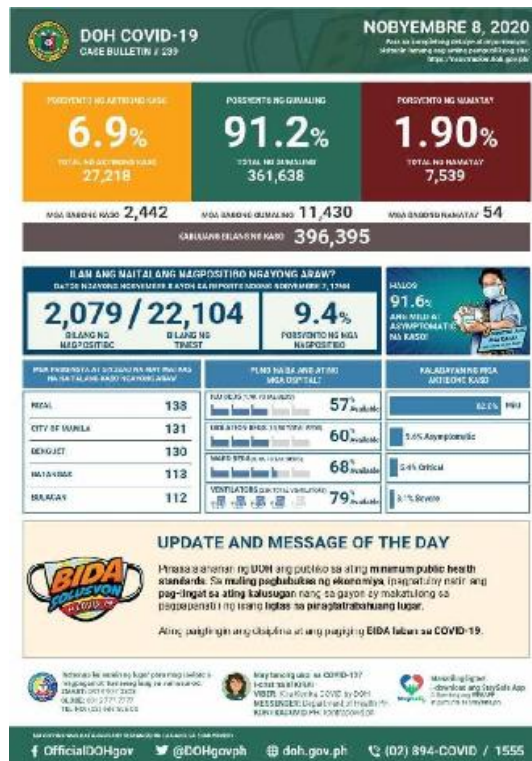
“Napapanahon na para paigtingin natin ang kampaya para sa mga pagbabagong ito nang sa gayon ay makapanghikayat pa ng mas maraming mamumuhunan at higit sa lahat, makatulong sa mga kababayan nating nawalan ng trabaho sa panahon ng pandemya,” ani Gatchalian. (NOEL ABUEL)

Source: http://saksingayon.com/nasyunal/renewable-energy-sa-gitna-ng-pandemya-isinulong/?utm_source=ReviveOldPost&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=ReviveOldPost&fbclid=IwAR0ksSfjFkB8xZVpdEoXPqYv508EnPPcej8LfxTP-UsNtkTbkinSCeaxJ0



BREAKING: Mga gumaling sa COVID-19 sa Pilipinas, pumalo na sa 361,638; 11,430 ang nadagdag

By Angellic Jordan November 08, 2020 - 04:24 PM



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

Sa huling datos ng Department of Health (DOH) bandang araw ng Linggo (November 8), umabot na sa 396,395 ang confirmed cases ng nakakahawang sakit sa bansa.

Sa nasabing bilang, 27,218 o 6.2 porsyento ang aktibong kaso.

Sinabi ng kagawaran na 2,442 ang bagong napaulat na kaso ng COVID-19 sa bansa.

82.0 porsyento sa active COVID-19 cases ang mild; 9.6 porsyento ang asymptomatic; 3.1 porsyento ang severe habang 5.4 porsyento ang nasa kritikal na kondisyon.

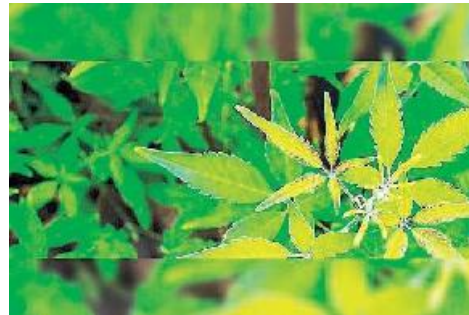
Nasa 54 muli ang napaulat na nasawi.

Dahil dito, umakyat na sa 7,539 o 1.90 porsyento ang COVID-19 related deaths sa bansa.

Ayon pa sa DOH, 11,430 naman ang gumaling pa sa COVID-19.

Dahil dito, umakyat na sa 361,638 o 91.2 porsyento ang total recoveries ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas.

Source: <https://radyo.inquirer.net/274102/breaking-mga-gumaling-sa-covid-19-sa-pilipinas-pumalo-na-sa-361638-11430-ang-nadagdag>



Lagundi, which has long been used to treat asthma and coughing in the Philippines, is now being studied as a potential cure for COVID-19.

STAR/ File

Study underway for lagundi vs COVID-19 cure

[Rainier Allan Ronda](#) (The Philippine Star) - November 9, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Science and Technology (DOST)-funded research and development on lagundi as a supplementary treatment for the coronavirus disease 2019 is well underway, according to Science Secretary Fortunato dela Peña.

Dela Peña said that of the 280 target participants in the lagundi clinical trials, 75 mild or suspected COVID-19 cases have already been enrolled at the Quezon Institute and the Philippine National Police-National Capital Region Police Office (PNP-NCRPO) quarantine centers.

As of Oct. 30, 59 patients have completed the regimen, Dela Peña said.

The screening and enrollment of participants are still ongoing.

The R&D project evaluates the efficacy and safety of lagundi tablets in patients suspected or with mild COVID-19 without co-morbidities, Dela Peña said.

“It’s a study on lagundi as an adjunctive therapy for COVID,” Dela Peña told The STAR over the weekend.

The study commenced early last September after the Food and Drug Administration gave its approval for the R&D.

Dela Peña had earlier said the DOST has approved the P4.9-million funding for the lagundi clinical trials.

Dela Peña announced last July that a University of the Philippines Manila ethics committee had given the greenlight to the lagundi R&D.

Aside from lagundi, melatonin, convalescent plasma and virgin coconut oil (VCO), the DOST will also fund R&D on tawa-tawa as potential cure for COVID-19.

The DOST has allocated P5 million each to the two new R&D projects on VCO to be conducted by the Food and Nutrition Research Institute with DOST-Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon); Santa Rosa, Laguna local government unit headed by Mayor Arlene Arcillas; Philippine Coconut Authority; UP-Philippine General Hospital, and UP-National Institutes of Health.



Prior to this, the DOST has already been supporting the R&D on VCO of Ateneo de Manila University professor Fabian Dayrit.

2,442 new cases

Meanwhile, the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases nationwide jumped to 396,395 yesterday with the addition of 2,442 new cases reported by the Department of Health.

Of the newly reported cases, 90 percent or 2,200 occurred within the past 14 days.

The DOH noted that 361,638 or 91.2 percent of the confirmed COVID infected individuals have survived the illness, after 11,430 new recoveries were recorded.

Fifty-four new deaths brought to 7,539 the total COVID-related fatalities nationwide. Of the figure, 39 or 72 percent occurred this month while the rest occurred from August to October.

There are still 27,218 active cases, 91.6 percent of which are mild and asymptomatic.

Rizal posted the biggest number of new cases with 138, followed by Manila with 131 and Benguet with 130. Batangas also recorded a high of 113 new cases and Bulacan with 112.

The National Capital Region (NCR) remained the top region with the highest number of newly reported as well as active COVID cases, followed by Calabarzon and Central Luzon.

As of last Saturday, the DOH recorded a total of 11,398 healthcare workers who have tested positive for COVID-19. Most of them or 96.9 percent have recovered while 71 have died.

The DOH said of the 560,840 Filipinos who have returned from various countries, 9,709 were positive for the disease. Among them, 262 are currently admitted in hospitals, five died and the rest have already survived. – **Mayen Jaymalin**

‘Tonyo’ makes landfall, signal number 1 up in Luzon

By Arlie O. Calalo

November 8, 2020



TROPICAL depression Tonyo made landfall in San Juan, Batangas on Sunday morning, prompting the weather bureau to raise Signal No. 1 in some parts of Luzon including Metro Manila.

Signal No. 1 was hoisted in northern and central portions of Quezon (Gumaca, Pitogo, Quezon, Alabat, Perez, Unisan, Plaridel, Atimonan, Agdangan, Padre Burgos, Pagbilao, Mauban, Tayabas City, Lucena City, Sariaya, Candelaria, Tiaong, San Antonio, Dolores, Lucban, Sampaloc, Real, Infanta and General Nakar) including Polillo Islands, Cavite, Laguna, Rizal, Batangas, Bataan, Bulacan, Pampanga, the southern portion of Aurora (Dingalan), the southern portion of Zambales (San Marcelino, San Felipe, San Narciso, San Antonio, Castillejos, Subic and Olongapo City), Marinduque, the northern portion of Romblon (Romblon, San Andres, Calatrava, San Agustin, Corcuera, Banton and Concepcion), the northern and central portions of Oriental Mindoro (Bongabong, Bansud, Gloria, Pinamalayan, Socorro, Pola, Naujan, Victoria, Calapan City, Baco, San Teodoro and Puerto Galera), the northern and central portions of Occidental Mindoro (Sablayan, Santa Cruz, Mamburao, Paluan and Abra de Ilog) including Lubang Island and Metro Manila.

In its 11 a.m. severe weather bulletin, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said Tonyo maintained its strength and is expected to move west-northwest over Batangas-Cavite area.

“It is forecast to intensify into tropical storm within the next 24 hours,” Pagasa said.

“Tonyo” has maximum sustained winds of 45 kph near the center and gustiness of up to 60 kph. It is expected to leave the country on Monday.



Passersby are silhouetted against a big screen showing reports on Joe Biden's US presidential election victory in Tokyo, Japan November 8, 2020. REUTERS/Issei Kato

Biden's victory a mighty relief in battle to save the planet

Published November 8, 2020 8:40pm

By AMELIE BOTTOLLIER-DEPOIS, Agence France-Presse

PARIS — Joe Biden's victory over President Donald Trump has brought hope to climate warriors who now see a better chance to save the planet through massive projects to limit global warming.

Activists and scientists feared further climate change destruction from another four years of Trump in denial in the White House.

His defeat totally changes the landscape.

The veteran Democrat leader has pledged to take the United States back in to the Paris climate agreement that Trump forced the country to leave, and which happened officially only on November 4.

The Democrats have drawn up a \$1.7-billion plan to turn the US carbon-neutral by 2050.

"Joe Biden's historic election win is the first step towards avoiding climate catastrophe," tweeted Jennifer Morgan, executive director of Greenpeace International.

"The American people are demanding a climate champion in president-elect Biden and in Kamala Harris," his vice-president, she added.

France's former prime minister Laurent Fabius, who chaired the Paris agreement negotiations, cheered Biden's success saying it "raises new hopes in the indispensable fight against climate change."

"Now is the moment to relaunch global, concrete and coordinated climate action" ahead of next year's COP15 conference on biodiversity and COP26 on climate, Fabius urged.

'Tipping point'

For Laurence Tubiana, one of the architects of the Paris accords, "The Biden-Harris Administration has an historic opportunity to enact one of the world's largest green stimulus efforts, to accelerate the US economy toward sustained emissions reductions while rebuilding and creating a fairer society."



To stay within the Paris deal's 1.5°C warming limit since pre-industrial times and cut the growing ferocity of wild weather, greenhouse gas emissions need to be slashed almost 50 percent by 2030, UN climate experts say.

That will require radical economic reform on a global scale, a challenge experts hope will be more within reach under a Biden presidency.

The Climate Action Tracker group put out a statement saying the election outcome could prove "a tipping point" that puts the Paris agreement's 1.5°C limit "within striking distance."

That would however need the US to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 and for Europe, China and Japan to also keep their climate commitments.

Said Johan Rockstrom, director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research: "If the US adopts net-zero emissions by 2050, we would have the four largest economic regions in the world aligning with science and showing the path towards a safe, clean and modern future."

'Sobering reality'

Pennsylvania State University climate scientist Michael Mann declared himself "cautiously optimistic" with Biden at the helm.

"But make no mistake. The sobering reality is that even if every country meets their commitments under the Paris agreement (and many, including the US and EU are currently falling at least a bit short), that gets us less than half way to where we need to be."

"I.e. on a path to limiting warming below 2°C (let alone the more stringent 1.5°C many are now calling for)," Rockstrom said.

Biden's room for maneuver will depend greatly on his ability to push through ambitious climate legislation.

And for that he will need the US Senate, which may yet stay under a Republican majority. With both parties equal on 48 senators, two seats will be run-off in the state of Georgia on January 5.

Without the Senate, Biden will have to count on the multitude of non-federal bodies from the states and cities to companies in the effort to meet previous Paris targets. According to Climate Action Tracker that means by 2025 a 26-28 percent reduction in emissions from a 2005 base.

With the Paris agreement's fifth anniversary next month, the green lobby is hoping at the very least for a return of American leadership to the climate front.

"By re-entering the Paris Agreement on Day One, President-elect Biden can boost confidence in the international cooperation and begin to restore US standing the world," said World Resources Institute president Andrew Steer.



"This is a new day for the climate, the environment and the American people... a better tomorrow is possible," the think-tank head added.

However, Potsdam Institute co-director Ottmar Edenhofer warned: "Generations to come can either remember the Biden-Harris Administration as one that failed great expectations—or as one that really served the US people, and the world." —AFP

Nograles: government working to ensure Yolanda resettlement sites are livable communities

November 8, 2020



PR

"We want to do more than rebuild their homes--we want to help the victims of Typhoon Yolanda rebuild their lives."

This, according to Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles, sums up the government's philosophy in the resettlement sites that have been established as part of the government's Yolanda Permanent Housing Program (YPHP).

Nograles, who also heads Task Force Yolanda, stressed on Sunday that "aside from building new houses for the families displaced by this devastating typhoon, government wants to make sure that these are homes which allow these families to thrive, not just survive."

According to the lawyer, the YPHP resettlement sites had been identified and construction on the houses had already begun when the current administration took over the program in 2016.

"What we did was to focus on making these areas livable, because we know that livelihood and education would be concerns that need to be factored in to ensure the long-term viability of these relocation sites," said the Palace official.

The former legislator pointed out that one major concern is the accessibility of these communities to schools.

"Resettlement sites should have schools close by; kawawa kasi ang mga bata kung malayo ang mga komunidad na ito sa mga paaralan. So it's good that the DepEd (Department of Education) has this Last Mile Schools Program, wherein they work to provide geographically isolated, disadvantaged, and conflict-affected (GIDCA) areas with access to basic education," said Nograles.

"I talked to Sec. Briones and they are willing to consider including Yolanda resettlement sites under this program."

The Palace official also revealed that the Task Force has already reached out to the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the Department of Health (DOH) to put up day care centers and health centers in resettlement sites.

"We cannot just stop with building their houses; we have to make sure that these displaced families also have access to basic necessities: schools, day care centers, health centers. Naiintindihan naman nina [DWSW] Sec. Bautista at [DOH] Sec. Duque ito, and they have said their agencies will be helping out in this regard."

Source: <https://ptvnews.ph/nograles-government-working-to-ensure-yolanda-resettlement-sites-are-livable-communities/>



UN enhances support to PH response following Typhoon Rolly

November 8, 2020, 12:16 pm

MANILA – The United Nations (UN) in the Philippines accelerated its assistance to lessen the impact of Super Typhoon Rolly, the strongest typhoon to hit the Philippines in 2020, which swept through the country on Nov. 1.

According to government figures, around 1.2 million people are affected with 811,000 of them displaced. The worst-hit areas are Albay province and the island province of Catanduanes.



“The UN family is one with the Philippine Government in ensuring that the needs of the affected families are met. We echo the government’s mandate in leaving no one behind at this time of great need,” stressed Mr. Gustavo Gonzalez, UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator in the Philippines.

The UN joined the Philippine government in a field assessment mission immediately after the typhoon, in close coordination with the Office of Civil Defense.

Key immediate needs and priorities include provision of food and cash assistance, hygiene kits and shelter repair kits. Repair of water systems, cash for work program and community engagement are also priorities identified by the UN.

On Sunday, Gonzalez will visit the affected areas in and around Albay together with UN experts and the ambassadors from Australia and Spain in the Philippines to witness first-hand the damage wrought by the typhoon to thousands of families.

UN and its agencies will provide their expert assistance in additional assessments to measure impact on livelihoods and the damage to the agricultural sector.

In collaboration with development partners, UN is assisting in the provision of PPE (personal protective equipment) gears and food packs, shelter, sanitation items, tents for child-friendly spaces, and education materials. Satellite imagery of affected areas has also been provided.

The objectives of the UN response to the typhoon include saving lives and livelihoods by providing immediate, integrated humanitarian assistance and protection to those in the most urgent need; restoring livelihoods and access to critical services to promote the rapid recovery of the most affected communities; and addressing the needs and advocating for the rights of vulnerable populations such as women, girls, and persons with disabilities.

On Monday, a more detailed response document will be released by the UN that identifies urgent needs and priorities in the aftermath of the typhoon. (PNA)



Air pollution falls, plastic use soars in lockdowns

Published 2 mins ago on November 9, 2020 01:10 AM

By [Agence France-Presse](#)



SHOWN are vehicles as they move on Paris' ring road known as 'Le peripherique' on the seventh day of a lockdown aimed at containing the spread of the novel coronavirus (Covid-19). THOMAS COEX /AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

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

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

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

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

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

Noise pollution also fell significantly.

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

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

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

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

Source: https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/11/09/air-pollution-falls-plastic-use-soars-in-lockdowns/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=air-pollution-falls-plastic-use-soars-in-lockdowns



Study: 1 Million Tons of US Plastic Waste Ends Up in Wrong Place

November 07, 2020



In this Oct. 22, 2019, photo, plastic and other marine debris sits on the beach on Midway Atoll in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. (AP Photo/Caleb Jones)

A new study estimates that more than 1 million tons of plastic waste from the United States does not end up where it should.

The researchers say the U.S. generated 42 metric tons of plastic waste in 2016 – the largest amount of any country in the world. Of that, between 2.7 percent and 5.3 percent was not burned, placed in landfills or otherwise correctly processed, the study found. The research was recently [published](#) in *Science Advances*.

Between 1 to 2 million metric tons of plastic generated in America ended up being dropped on land or in rivers, lakes and oceans. Some U.S. plastic waste was shipped to other countries where it was not correctly disposed of, the study found.

Jenna Jambeck is an environmental engineering professor at the University of Georgia. She helped lead the research. Jambeck told The Associated Press that if 2.2 million metric tons of plastic waste was placed on the White House lawn, “it would pile as high as the Empire State Building.”

Past studies had not put America among the 10 worst offending nations for plastic waste in oceans. That is because the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) only documents what goes into official parts of the waste processing system, such as landfills and recycling centers. The U.S. data does not capture information on other ways plastic waste can be disposed of, the study said.

Some researchers decided to look deeper into what happens to the waste. They found that so much is incorrectly handled that America ranks as high as third as the worst ocean plastic polluter.

The study estimated that 510,000 to 1.5 million metric tons of U.S. plastic waste likely went into oceans.

“We are facing a global crisis of far too much plastic waste,” said the study’s lead writer, Kara Lavender Law. She is an oceanography professor at the Sea Education Association in Cape Cod, Massachusetts. Law said the new research was driven “by the fact that we know the United States was leaking more plastic than estimated.”



The study's estimates differ widely, Law added. She said this is because many of the waste disposal activities the researchers explored are not easy to measure.

Law said a large part of the problem involves about 51 percent of U.S. plastic waste shipped to other countries for recycling. Some nations have a history of mismanaging such waste. The situation has changed in recent years, Law said. China and other countries have become more restrictive about taking U.S. waste imports, and more plastic is ending up in American landfills.

Chelsea Rochman is an ecology professor at Canada's University of Toronto. She was not part of the study. She told the AP the study's new estimates provide "a more realistic view of our mismanaged waste and leakage."

Joshua Baca is vice president for plastics at the American Chemistry Council, an industry group. He told the AP that U.S. exports of plastic waste have dropped sharply, nearly 70 percent, since reaching a high in 2016.

Baca said that beginning next year, many countries will not accept U.S. waste exports because of a new international agreement. He added that the industry is spending billions of dollars in an effort to try to fix the problem. This includes investing money in modern recycling technology and creating new business models that support reduced waste.

Last month, the EPA launched new plans aimed at cutting ocean waste and said it will hold a recycling summit this month, agency spokesman James Hewitt said.

I'm Bryan Lynn.

The Associated Press reported on this story. Bryan Lynn adapted the report for Learning English. Hai Do was the editor.

We want to hear from you. Write to us in the Comments Section, and visit our Facebook page.

Source: <https://learningenglish.voanews.com/a/study-1-million-tons-of-us-plastic-waste-ends-up-in-wrong-place/5645374.html>



UNTUV News and Rescue

Pangato ang Estados Unidos sa mga bansang nagdudulot ng matinding coastal plastic pollution sa buong mundo batay sa isang pag-aaral.

US: 3rd plastic polluter sa buong mundo batay sa isang pag-aaral - YouTube

Pangato ang Estados Unidos sa mga bansang nagdudulot ng matinding coastal plastic polluti...

707

22 Comments 78 Shares



BUSINESS

'Go Green' amid COVID-19

Published 2 mins ago on November 9, 2020 03:20 AM

By [Raffy Ayeng](#) @tribunephil_raf



In order to seize business opportunities and increase profits, companies are now encouraged to “Go Green” amid the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

“If we are in times of crisis, we really need to cut our operational expenses to a level where we can sustain. No point in us going out of business, we really need to be very, very tight,” Matthias Gelber, an advocate for green sustainability, said in a recent webinar.

According to him, cutting down on operational expenditures involves understanding electricity bills, either in factories, workplaces or even at homes.

As an example, he cited a hotel using hundreds of light bulbs and by calculating, its power consumption was about a quarter of a million pesos per year just by running these light bulbs.

Less is more

Gelber, likewise director of Sustainability at GSX Exchange, and Environment, Social and Governance advisor for the Philippines Stock Exchange, added that some firms have changed their packaging after doing full cost accounting and identifying the “hidden money” in the waste. “So, less is more. Eco-innovation should be about you looking at your manufacturing processes, you can innovate your products and your packaging,” he said. “The less packaging you have, the less weight you have when you are shipping your product overseas.”

Meanwhile, Gerber likewise advised entrepreneurs to increase domestic sales where the “biggest opportunity” lies at this time of crisis while enhancing online sales.

“Actually, the consumers are starting to say we want local products, we want to support the local economy. This is a global trend that we are seeing at the moment,” he said.

“I personally believe that in a time of crisis, in addition to still keeping the exports channel open, (you) need to massively ramp up the domestic sales and look for those kinds of sweet spots where we could potentially find opportunities,” he added.

Strategic opportunity

Gerber said going online is a “big strategic opportunity” under the new normal when people find most things on the Internet.

“You need to get yourself a great online presence and you need to tell a story to create a loyal tribe. If you don’t have a loyal tribe that continuously contributes to your sales, and you have to again and again create a new sale every time, that’s gonna be hard work,” he said.



“My recommendation is conduct webinars to create that loyal tribe so you have continuous people domestically and overseas that order from you because they love your brand, they love your story, they connect with what you do as a company,” he added.

Gerber said entrepreneurs can create a local customer base within the barangay first, and then within the province.

“If you have that strong customer base, then you can weather the storm, and you expand your export without being dependent on your export,” he said.



Back from the dead: Race to save Romania's 65 million-year-old fish

By Stephen McGrath
Curtea de Arges, Romania

Published 22 hours ago



ANDREI TOGOR/MARCUS DRIMBEA/ALEX GAVAN FOUNDATION

image captionThe Asprete fish has survived unchanged for millions of years

On a tiny stretch of the fast-flowing Valsan river in Romania lives one of the rarest fish in Europe, and quite possibly the world.

The 65-million-year-old Asprete was first discovered by a biology student in 1956, and for decades it has teetered on the brink of extinction.

"After many years trying to save [it], people were telling us that the species was extinct," Nicolae Craciun, a 59-year-old biologist, told the BBC. "But we were sure they still existed."

The Asprete, a small nocturnal fish that hides under rocks, has an uncertain future and faces myriad threats.



ALEX GAVAN/ALEX GAVAN FOUNDATION

Official estimates number the population at around 10-15 specimens, which are thought to exist on a 1km (0.6 mile) stretch of the shallow, rocky Valsan. This compares with around 200 specimens in the early 2000s.

But a small team of scientists and conservationists are campaigning to save the endemic fish species, also known as *Romanichthys valsanicola*.

And they have been encouraged by a recent discovery in the river.



'One of the biggest rewards'

One day in late October, Andrei Togor, a 31-year-old fish biologist, was monitoring angling fish species of the Asprete when he discovered 12 specimens in a small section of the Valsan river.

"Having an Asprete in front of our eyes was fantastic," he told the BBC. "It's one of the biggest rewards a field biologist can get."



A small stretch of the Valsan river is thought to be home to the entire Asprete population

The Asprete is a so-called living fossil, which means it has survived for millions of years largely unchanged. But a mere six decades of human activity has severely impacted its habitat and population.

One of the major impacts on the species has been a series of hydroelectric dams, built on the mountainous river network under Romania's communist regime in the late 1960s.

Until then, the Asprete is thought to have inhabited around 30km of the Valsan as well as two parallel rivers: the Arges and Raul Doamnei.

"It disappeared from the Raul Doamnei because there was no water any more. For one year the riverbed was almost dry," says Andrei Togor. "The communist plan didn't care about this endemic species. This fish is so rare because of humans."



Alex Gavan has drafted an action plan to save the ancient fish

During the spring, prominent mountain climber and conservationist Alex Gavan decided to use his public profile to raise awareness of the Asprete, which means "the rough" in Romanian.

"I spent my childhood on the Valsan," he says. "The legends about the fish then were like myths, people wondered whether they were still in the river."

Together with biologist Nicolae Craciun and several others, he drafted an action plan to save the prehistoric fish.

"It was done with volunteers and our own money," he says. "To save this species would be an inspiration that not all is lost."



Mountain rescue worker Adrian Dascalescu says people damage the fish's habitat

On a bright morning in early November, mountain rescue worker Adrian Dascalescu stands on a mountain road adjacent to a large hydroelectric dam. He remembers the dams being built.

"I saw that water was missing on the Valsan, half of what it was before," he says. "I used to see the fish and then it became less visible."

As we venture along the bumpy mountain road we pass several logging sites. Deforestation is just one of many additional pressures on the river that threaten the survival of the living fossil fish.

Other threats include river fragmentation, habitat degradation, illegal waste disposal, and the theft of riverbed gravel and large stones. "Many people take rocks and sand from the river to use in construction," he explains, as the river gushes through the rich alpine landscape.



Deforestation in the region is one of many threats the species faces

The Asprete is included on the critically endangered species list of the Berne Convention of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats.

Its environment is protected by law as an EU Natura 2000 site and as part of the Valsan Valley Nature Reserve.

But campaigners complain that rules are still ignored.

An official 2016 plan by Romania's environment ministry, seen by the BBC, appears to back up arguments from campaigners that Hidroelectrica, the state-owned company that manages the dams, is failing to observe regulations on how much water it should release downstream.

Even by the state's own admission, this threatens the Asprete.

"The flow of the river decreases to zero, immediately downstream of [the dam]. In the summer season, the decrease in downstream accumulation flow is sometimes extremely severe," the document states.



Part of the riverbed has been exposed

Another document by the National Agency for Environmental Protection states: "For the Asprete, the most important species of fish in the area, the main danger is the non-compliance with the easement flow from the Valsan dam."

"It's unacceptable and me and my team are here to change that," says Alex Gavan.

The BBC has approached Hidroelectrica for comment but has not received an official response. Off the record, they insisted they listened to the environmental protection agency and respected all Romania's rules.



The action plan to save the Asprete also includes ecological restoration of the Valsan river basin, an around-the-clock warden, raising local awareness — and, ultimately, a riverside conservation centre that will double up as a captive breeding facility.

"Having some Asprete in captivity could be a back-up, should a catastrophe occur on the river," says Nicolae Craciun, adding that they could potentially repopulate the Arges and Raul Doamnei rivers.

Alex Gavan says the action plan will require millions of euros in funding, and he sees it as significant as it will be signed by ministerial order. "It will be the roadmap to save the Asprete." As with all conservation projects where humans lay waste to the wilderness, it is a race against time.

However, the recent discovery of 12 Asprete has raised hopes that the population is more abundant than official estimates suggest.

"The Asprete is a living fossil, they need to be protected with the utmost importance by scientists and conservationists," says Mr Craciun. "They are witnesses of evolution."

And for Andrei Togor, the survival of the fish is "a barometer to the health of our planet." "It was here 65 million years ago. People cannot just destroy it in 50 years — it's not right," he says.

Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-54823866>