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NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Lead in paint policy ng DENR nominado sa prestihiyosong Future Policy Award 2021



June 9, 2021 @ 5:12 PM 13 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines – Ipinatutupad ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang policy solution para epektibong mabawasan ang matinding epekto ng chemical exposure sa kalusugan ng tao at sa kapaligiran ay isa sa top candidates para sa Future Policy Award 2021

Ayon sa DENR mula sa 55 polisiya na nagmula sa 36 na bansa na nakapasok sa nominasyon, ang DENR Administrative Order (DAO) 2013-24 o ang Chemical Control Order for Lead and Lead Compounds ang isa sa 12 policies mula sa limang kontinente na shortlisted para sa award.

Sa press release sinabi ng DENR na tinawag bilang “Oscar on Best Policies,” ang Future Policy Award ng World Future Council ay kumikilala sa mga bansa na mayroong “most effective policy solutions” na layuning mabawasan ang epekto ng chemical exposure sa kalusugan ng tao at kapaligiran.

Kaugnay nito malugod namang tinanggap ni DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu ang pagkakasama ng Pilipinas para sa award at sinabi pa ng kalihim na ito ay nagpapakita na tama ang ginagawang kampanya ng pamahalaan sa pag-regulate, phase-out o pag-ban ng chemicals upang matanggal ang panganib nito sa public health, workplace at environment.

“We are elated to know that our effort to protect our people from the harmful effects of chemicals has been recognized, not to mention, on the international stage,” sabi ni Cimatu.

“This just shows that we are on the right track as we regulate, phase-out, and ban chemicals for the serious risks it could bring to public health and our environment,” dagdag pa nito.

Nagbibigay ng mandato ang Section 4 ng DAO 2013-24 para sa pagbabawal ng paggamit ng lead at lead compounds sa production/manufacturing ng packaging ng pagkain at inumin, fuel additives, water pipes, laruan, school supplies, cosmetics at pintura.

Idinagdag pa ng DENR ang polisiyang ito ay nag-aatas sa pagbabawal ng paggawa ng pintura bilang pigment, drying agent o sa iba pang gamit na may hindi hihigit sa 90 parts per million o ppm na itinakdang threshold limit.

Ang moratorium sa production ng higit sa nakatakda sa threshold limit ay inumpisahang ipatupad simula pa noong 2013 nang inilabas ang kautusan.



Samantala, pinayagan naman ang paggamit ng lead sa pintura noong 2013 hanggang 2016 para sa architectural, decorative, household applications, at anim na taon naman (2013-2016) para sa industrial applications.

Lagpas ng itinakdang transitional period, ang paggamit ng lead sa pintura ay mahigpit nang ipinagbawal.

Ayon sa DENR-Environmental Management Bureau, ang paggamit ng lead sa pintura ay isang global issue na tinalakay sa maraming “international fora” kung saan ay ibinahagi ng Pilipinas ang karanasan nito sa pag-phase out ng lead sa pintura.

Ang Future Policy Award ay taunang isinasagawa ng World Future Council simula pa noong 2010. Ito ay ang nag-iisang award na kumikilala sa mga polisiya na pakikinabangan ng kasalukuyan at susunod na henerasyon sa international level.

Bukod sa Philippines’ Chemical Control Order for Lead and Lead Compounds, shortlisted din sa award ngayong taon ang polisiya ng Columbia, Cuba, Denmark, Ethiopia, India, Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Netherlands, Sri Lanka, Sweden, at United States.

Iaanunsiyo ang nanalo sa Future Policy Award 2021 sa Hunyo 29 habang ang virtual awarding ceremony ay gaganapin sa Hulyo 6. **Santi Celario**



[Victory for public health; DENR's 'war' against lead in paint shortlisted for Future Policy Award 2021](#)

JUN 9, 2021, 5:15 PM
Santiago Celario Writer

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources said out of the 55 policies from 36 countries that were nominated, the DENR's Administrative Order (DAO) 2013-24, or the Chemical Control Order for Lead and Lead Compounds, was chosen as one of the top 12 from five continents that have been shortlisted for the Future Policy Award.

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources' (DENR) campaign against lead in paint has been named as one of the top candidates for the Future Policy Award 2021.

DENR said out of the 55 policies from 36 countries that were nominated, the DENR's Administrative Order (DAO) 2013-24, or the Chemical Control Order for Lead and Lead Compounds, was chosen as one of the 12 policies from five continents that have been shortlisted for the award.

Dubbed as the "Oscar on Best Policies," the Future Policy Award of the World Future Council recognizes countries with "the most effective policy solutions" that aim to abate the detrimental effects of chemical exposure to human health and the environment.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu welcomed the inclusion of the Philippines, saying that it is an indication that the government is doing right in its campaign to "regulate, phase-out, or ban chemicals" to eliminate risks to public health, workplace and the environment.

"We are elated to know that our effort to protect our people from the harmful effects of chemicals has been recognized, not to mention, on the international stage," Cimatu said.

"This just shows that we are on the right track as we regulate, phase-out, and ban chemicals for the serious risks it could bring to public health and our environment," he added.

Ban on lead on paint products

Section 4 of DAO 2013-24 mandates the prohibition of the use of lead and lead compounds in the production/manufacturing of packaging for food and drink, fuel additives, water pipes, toys, school supplies, cosmetics, and paints.



DENR said the policy has ordered the prohibition of production of paints--as a pigment, drying agent, or for some intentional use--with more than 90 parts per million or ppm, set as the threshold limit.

A moratorium for the production beyond the threshold limit was enforced since the implementation of the order in 2013.

Lead in paints, however, was allowed for three years (2013-2016) for architectural, decorative, household applications, and six years for industrial applications (2013-2019).

Beyond the set transitional period, the use of lead in paints will be prohibited.

In other development according to the DENR-Environmental Management Bureau, lead in paints is a global issue and is being discussed in several international fora, where the Philippines has shared its experience in phasing out lead in paints.

The Future Policy Award, the first and only award that recognizes policies for the benefit of present and future generations on an international level, is an annual event by the World Future Council since 2010.

Aside from the Philippines' Chemical Control Order for Lead and Lead Compounds, policies from Colombia, Cuba, Denmark, Ethiopia, India, Korea, Kyrgyzstan, the Netherlands, Sri Lanka, Sweden, and the United States were also shortlisted for the award this year.

The winners of the Future Policy Award 2021 will be announced on June 29, while a virtual awarding ceremony will be held on July 6. (SC)

Tags: #DepartmentofEnvironmentandNaturalResources, #leadonpaintpolicy, #FuturePolicyAward



SMC starts massive Pasig River rehab, doubles budget to P2 billion

June 9, 2021 6 min read

Blog-ph.com photo courtesy

MANILA — San Miguel Corporation (SMC), in partnership with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), other national government agencies, and Metro Manila mayors, yesterday officially launched its ambitious, five-year plan to clean up and rehabilitate the Pasig River.

The project is set to become the largest ever river rehabilitation project in the country, with SMC president Ramon S. Ang announcing that the company's budget for the undertaking is being doubled to P2 billion.

“There have been many cleanup efforts in the past, and government has successfully implemented a number of programs these past few years,” Ang said. “But decades of pollution and compounding problems that have rendered the river biologically dead since the 1990s are too significant and complex to overcome—even for the best-intentioned advocates and organizations.”

“We hope that with the resources and technical know-how that we are bringing into the effort today—along with the continued support of our national government agencies and local government units—we can all make a bigger difference,” he added.

Present at the simple launching ceremony were DENR secretary Roy Cimatu, MMDA chairman Benhur Abalos, Manila Mayor Isko Moreno Domagoso, Mandaluyong Mayor Menchie Abalos, DILG Usec. Epimaco Densing III, DPWH Asec. Antonio Mulano, and PCG Station Commander for Pasig Crisanto Anas.

To further underscore the problem of pollution in the Pasig River, Ang cited a study published by OurWorldinData.org last May, that Pasig River has emerged as the top plastics polluter of oceans in the world.

Our World in Data is a collaborative effort between researchers at the University of Oxford and UK-based non-profit, Global Change Data Lab.

Joining the Pasig River in the top ten list of rivers in the world that have the highest share of plastics emitted are six other rivers in the Philippines: the Tullahan River (no. 4), Meycauayan River (no.5), Pampanga River (no.6) Libmanan river (no.7), Rio Grande de Mindanao (no.9) and Agno river (no.10).



San Miguel Corporation (SMC) president Ramon S. Ang joins local and national government officials during yesterday's launch of the P2 billion Pasig River Dredging Project in Manila. Attendees included DENR secretary Roy Cimatu, MMDA chairman Benhur Abalos, Manila Mayor Isko Moreno Domagoso, Mandaluyong Mayor Menchie Abalos, DILG Usec. Epimaco Densing III, DPWH Asec. Antonio Mulano, and PCG Station Commander for Pasig Crisanto Anas. SMC aims to extract 50,000 metric tons of silt and solid waste a month or 600,000 metric tons a year from the historic river by utilizing advanced and specialized equipment that include a weed harvester to remove floating garbage and watery hyacinths.

"Solid waste in our rivers is a serious issue, not only because it endangers our oceans, marine life, and traditional fishing grounds—which are a source of food and livelihood for our countrymen—but also because they worsen our flooding situation," Ang said.

"Silt and accumulated garbage have made the Pasig river shallow and restrict the flow of water, worsening the flooding situation in Manila, Mandaluyong, Makati and Pasig. Our goal is to remove years-worth of wastes and increase Pasig River's carrying capacity to divert floodwaters to Manila Bay and make it more conducive to marine life over the coming years," he added.

The project is actually the company's second major river rehabilitation initiative. Its ongoing P1-billion cleanup of the 27-kilometer Tullahan-Tinajeros River, launched last year, supports the rehabilitation of the Manila Bay

The company is targeting to remove some 50,000 metric tons of waste from the Pasig River per month, or 600,000 metric tons of waste per year, using advanced and specialized equipment, which the company has already acquired.

"This is a monumental task, but it is not impossible if we all work together. We are giving this same project the same commitment and focus we have put into the Tullahan project. We are confident that with the political will of President Rodrigo Duterte and the support of local and national government agencies and other stakeholders, we will be able to bring Pasig River back to life," Ang said.

"Our experience in dredging the Tullahan for a year has allowed us to determine the most effective approach and best equipment to be used. In Tullahan, we were able to extract over 260,000 metric tons of silt and solid waste so far and the dredging has reduced the heavy flooding in the cities of Navotas, Malabon, and Valenzuela," he said

A bathymetric survey or depth survey used to determine the topography and characteristics underwater of the Pasig River showed that some parts of the river have become shallower and measure only one to two meters in depth while some parts will have to be widened.

"We are coordinating with the DPWH to develop a dredging plan that will establish the target depth that will best handle heavy rainfall during extreme weather and minimize flooding," he said.



Following the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement this morning at the Petron Sales Training Office in Pandacan, Ang and the government officials proceeded to inspect the new dredging equipment at the former Pandacan Oil Terminal.

The equipment to be used for the Pasig River dredging include a Cutter Suction Dredger and large 800 metric ton hopper barges.

“We will also utilize equipment similar to the ones we are using in the Tullahan river dredging. These are 45-ton backhoes in a special barge to be used especially in the removal of garbage from the bottom of the river. We also have a weed harvester to remove any floating garbage and watery hyacinths that also block in the navigation of ferries and boats passing thru the river,” Ang said.

Cleaning the Pasig River, according to Ang, also bears historical significance for San Miguel. In 1890, La Fabrica de Cerveza de San Miguel was established along the banks of Pasig River, on Malacanang Street in the San Miguel district of Manila. The original site is now part of Malacanang Palace grounds.

Aside from the Tullahan and Pasig River cleanups, San Miguel is also looking to undertake a river channel improvement program for tributaries belonging to Marilao-Meycauayan-Obando River System (MMORS) as part of its flood mitigation component to benefit Bulacan province, future site of the New Manila International Airport (NMIA). (ai/mtvn)

Source: https://maharlika.tv/2021/06/09/smc-starts-massive-pasig-river-rehab-doubles-budget-to-p2-billion/?fbclid=IwAR3yQ9CPs_LF1LLkhsb0-FKSpJJo9cRX2RXHS7q61t2aCr4M-oF-oZfCzg



San Miguel doubles budget for Pasig River cleanup

BY BUSINESSMIRROR
JUNE 10, 2021



San Miguel Corp. formally launched its P2-billion Pasig River rehabilitation initiative, which will extract silt and solid waste from the historic river using advanced and specialized equipment.

San Miguel Corp. (SMC) on Wednesday said it will increase the budget for its ambitious, 5-year project to clean up and rehabilitate Pasig River.

The company said it will double the budget for the project to P2 billion. It will carry out the river cleanup in partnership with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, other national government agencies and Metro Manila mayors.

Pasig River, which used to be a major trade route, was declared biologically dead due to the dumping of waste from both residential and industrial facilities that dot the river banks.

“There have been many cleanup efforts in the past, and government has successfully implemented a number of programs these past few years,” San Miguel president Ramon S. Ang said.

“But decades of pollution and compounding problems that have rendered the river biologically dead since the 1990s are too significant and complex to overcome—even for the best-intentioned advocates and organizations.”

San Miguel cited a study published by OurWorldinData.org last May, which said that Pasig River has emerged as the eighth top plastics polluter of oceans in the world, dumping some 38,000 tons of plastics in seas.

Our World in Data is a collaborative effort between researchers at the University of Oxford and United Kingdom-based non-profit, Global Change Data Lab.

“The Philippines alone contribute around one-third of the global total. Since the number of contributing rivers is much higher than previously thought, we will need global efforts to improve waste management and plastic collection rather than targeting only a few of the largest rivers,” according to the study.

The other local rivers that contribute to dumping of plastics in the oceans include Tullahan River, Meycauayan River, Pampanga River, Libmanan River, Rio Grande de Mindanao and Agno River.



The project is San Miguel's second major river rehabilitation initiative. Its ongoing P1-billion cleanup of the 27-kilometer Tullahan-Tinajeros River, launched last year, supports the rehabilitation of the Manila Bay.

The company is targeting to remove some 50,000 metric tons (MT) of waste from the Pasig River per month, or 600,000 MT of waste per year, using advanced and specialized equipment, which the company has already acquired.

"This is a monumental task, but it is not impossible if we all work together. We are giving this same project the same commitment and focus we have put into the Tullahan project. We are confident that with the political will of President Rodrigo Duterte and the support of local and national government agencies and other stakeholders, we will be able to bring Pasig River back to life," Ang said. "Our experience in dredging the Tullahan for a year has allowed us to determine the most effective approach and best equipment to be used. In Tullahan, we were able to extract over 260,000 metric tons of silt and solid waste so far and the dredging has reduced the heavy flooding in the cities of Navotas, Malabon, and Valenzuela," he said.

Following the signing of the memorandum of agreement on Wednesday at the Petron Sales Training Office in Pandacan, Ang and the government officials proceeded to inspect the new dredging equipment at the former Pandacan Oil Terminal.

Cleaning the Pasig River, according to Ang, also bears historical significance for San Miguel. In 1890, La Fabrica de Cerveza de San Miguel was established along the banks of Pasig River, on Malacañang Street in the San Miguel district of Manila. The original site is now part of Malacañang Palace grounds.

Present at the launching ceremony were Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, Metro Manila Development Authority Chairman Benhur Abalos, Manila Mayor Isko Moreno Domagoso, Mandaluyong Mayor Menchie Abalos, Interior Undersecretary Epimaco Densing III, Public Works Assistant Secretary Antonio Mulano and Philippine Coast Guard Station Commander for Pasig Crisanto Anas.

Image courtesy of Contributed Photo



SMC doubles budget to P2b for Pasig River rehabilitation

posted June 09, 2021 at 08:20 pm

by [Jenniffer B. Austria](#)

Diversified conglomerate San Miguel Corp. said Wednesday it doubled to P2 billion its committed budget for the five-year clean-up and rehabilitation of Pasig River.

The project, which is set to become the largest river rehabilitation project in the country, was officially launched Tuesday.

“There have been many cleanup efforts in the past, and government has successfully implemented a number of programs these past few years. But decades of pollution and compounding problems that have rendered the river biologically dead since the 1990s are too significant and complex to overcome—even for the best-intentioned advocates and organizations,” San Miguel president and chief operating officer Ramon Ang said.

“We hope that with the resources and technical know-how that we are bringing into the effort today—along with the continued support of our national government agencies and local government units—we can all make a bigger difference,” he said.

The company is targeting to remove some 50,000 metric tons of waste from Pasig River each month, or 600,000 metric tons of waste a year, using advanced and specialized equipment, which the company already acquired.

Ang said cleaning Pasig River would bear historical significance for San Miguel. In 1890, La Fabrica de Cerveza de San Miguel was established along the banks of Pasig River on Malacanang Street in the San Miguel district of Manila. The original site is now part of Malacanang Palace grounds.

Those who attended the simple launching ceremony were Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority chairman Benhur Abalos, Manila Mayor Isko Moreno Domagoso, Mandaluyong Mayor Menchie Abalos, Interior Undersecretary Epimaco Densing III, Public Works Assistant Secretary Antonio Mulano and Philippine Coast Guard Station Commander for Pasig Crisanto Anas.

The Pasig River project is San Miguel’s second major river rehabilitation initiative. Its ongoing P1-billion cleanup of the 27-kilometer Tullahan-Tinajeros River, launched last year, supports the rehabilitation of the Manila Bay.

Aside from the Tullahan and Pasig River cleanups, San Miguel plans to undertake a river channel improvement program for tributaries belonging to Marilao-Meycauayan-Obando River System as part of flood mitigation program in Bulacan province, the site of the New Manila International Airport.



Pasig River world's top plastic polluter

By [Eireene Jairee Gomez](#) June 10, 2021



BIG AND DIRTY The Pasig River, which snakes around several cities in Metro Manila, will soon undergo massive rehabilitation. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Pasig River as well as 18 other rivers in the Philippines were identified as among the top 50 polluting rivers in the world, a study released by the Rotterdam-based Ocean Cleanup said.

Ocean Cleanup is a nonprofit engineering environmental organization based in the Netherlands that develops technology to extract plastic pollution from the oceans and intercept it in rivers before it can reach the ocean. It also conducts scientific research into oceanic plastic pollution.

The study found that a quarter of the rivers that were found to be responsible for 80 percent of ocean plastic pollution are found in the Philippines.

The researchers used a tool that could track plastics flowing into the ocean.

The study found the Philippines as the biggest contributor to plastic pollution. Of the 1,656 rivers monitored worldwide, 466 were in the Philippines. Together, the rivers dumped more than 356,371 metric tons of plastic waste annually.

The 27-kilometer Pasig River, which runs through Metro Manila, accounts for 63,000 tons of plastic entering oceans from rivers per year.

The study also said that coastal countries like the Philippines have a relatively high probability of plastic entering the ocean due to various factors, including short distances from land-based sources to rivers and much shorter distances to oceans.

Plastic also flows more easily into rivers from paved urban areas than it does in rivers from forests and travels farther in rainy climates than dry ones.

The researchers also considered the proximity of landfills and dumpsites to riverbanks, finding out that those within 10 kilometers of rivers are likely to spill into them.

Aside from Pasig River, making the infamous list were the Tullahan River, Meycauayan River, Pampanga River, Libmanan River, Rio Grande de Mindanao River, Agno River, Agusan River, Paranaque River, Iloilo River, Imus River, Zapote River, Cagayan de Oro River, Davao River, Malaking Tubig River, Tambo, Pasay (storm drain), Jalaur River, Cagayan River and Hamulauon River.

Reacting to the study's findings, the Climate Change Commission (CCC) said the study findings raise "extreme" concern on the issue of mismanaged plastic wastes in the country.



The CCC noted that the study supports its call for urgent efforts to solve the plastic crisis by implementing measures to regulate and in turn, halt the production of unnecessary plastics-made straws and stirrers, spoon and fork, and plastic labo, among others.

The CCC mentioned House Bill 9147 or the "Single-Use Plastics Products Regulation Act," recently approved on second reading in the House of Representatives, which serves as a potential measure that will effectively address the country's high rate of plastic waste leakage and plastics' impacts on the environment, public health and climate change through a nationwide phaseout of single-use plastics and implementation of producers' responsibility schemes.

For the CCC, the HB 9147 ushers in the start for producers to shift their dependence on throwaway packaging models to more sustainable reuse and refill systems.

"The agency strongly urges the public to use alternatives and adopt workable community-based solutions to shift away from the single-use, throwaway culture that currently dominates our market," the CCC said.

The Ocean Cleanup study was released as San Miguel Corp. (SMC), in partnership with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), other national government agencies, and Metro Manila mayors, launched its ambitious, five-year plan to clean up and rehabilitate the Pasig River.

The project is set to become the largest river rehabilitation project in the country, with SMC President Ramon Ang announcing that the company's budget for the undertaking is being doubled to P2 billion.

"There have been many cleanup efforts in the past, and government has successfully implemented a number of programs these past few years," Ang said. "But decades of pollution and compounding problems that have rendered the river biologically dead since the 1990s are too significant and complex to overcome - even for the best-intentioned advocates and organizations."

"We hope that with the resources and technical know-how that we are bringing into the effort today - along with the continued support of our national government agencies and local government units - we can all make a bigger difference," he added.

Present at the simple launching ceremony were Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, Metro Manila Development Authority Chairman Benhur Abalos, Manila Mayor Francisco "Isko Moreno" Domagoso, Mandaluyong City Mayor Menchie Abalos, Interior and Local Government Undersecretary Epimaco Densing 3rd, Public Works Assistant Secretary Antonio Mulano, and Coast Guard station commander for Pasig Crisanto Anas.



Pasig river, other Philippine rivers among top plastic waste carriers in the world, says study

By [Catalina Ricci S. Madarang](#) - June 9, 2021 - 7:25 PM



Screenshots from the Ocean Cleanup website on June 9, 2021

Pasig, Agno, Davao and Iloilo rivers are among the top 50 rivers in the world that carry the most pollution into the ocean, according to a recent study.

Environmental organization **Climate Change Commission** also reported the same study on Facebook on Wednesday.

Climate Change Commission PH
18 hours ago

PASIG, TULLAHAN, OTHER PH RIVERS ARE THE TOP PLASTIC-EMITTING RIVERS IN THE WORLD – STUDY

More than a quarter of rivers worldwide responsible for 80% of ocean plastic pollution are found in the Philippines, with Pasig River and 18 other Philippine rivers among the top 50 polluting rivers in the world, according to a scientific study released by the publication Ocean Cleanup in the journal Science Advances.

The researchers designed a tool to track plastics flowing into the oce...
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46 likes, 4 comments, 99 shares



The study titled “More than 1000 rivers account for 80% of global riverine plastic emissions into the ocean” was released by a non-profit organization called the **Ocean Cleanup** in the journal *Science Advances* on April 30.

The Ocean Cleanup is an international organization that seeks to rid the oceans of plastic through advanced technologies.

In the study, the researchers estimated that at least 1,000 rivers are responsible for nearly 80% of plastic waste in the world’s overall plastic emissions.

“We estimate that more than 1000 rivers account for 80% of global annual emissions, which range between 0.8 million and 2.7 million metric tons per year, with small urban rivers among the most polluting,” the researchers [said](#).

The remaining 20%, meanwhile, are found and scattered over 30,000 rivers.

An interactive world map featuring these rivers could also be accessed through the Ocean Cleanup’s [website](#).

The rivers are represented by the red dots while small urban rivers are represented by smaller blue dots.



Screenshot of the Ocean Cleanup interactive map on June 9, 2021

In the Philippines, the rivers included in the list of top 50 plastic waste carriers are:

- Pasig River
- Tullahan River
- Meycauayan River
- Pampanga River
- Libmanan River
- Rio Grande de Mindanao River
- Agno River
- Agusan River
- Parañaque River
- Iloilo River
- Imus River
- Zapote River
- Cagayan de Oro River
- Davao River
- Malaking Tubig River
- Tambo, Pasay (Storm drain)



- Jalaur River
- Cagayan River
- Hamulauon River

Based on the study's model, the Philippines is also the largest contributing country with 4,820 rivers emitting 356,371 MT (metric tons) per year.

The rest are India with 126,513 MT year, Malaysia with 73,098 MT per year, and China with 70,707 MT year.

Pasig River is also the most polluting river in the world, according to the researchers.

In line with these findings, the Climate Change Commission called for urgent efforts to implement measures to regulate single-use plastics in the country.

“The study findings raise extreme concern on the issue of mismanaged plastic wastes in the country, and supports the call of the Commission for urgent efforts to solve the plastic crisis by implementing measures to regulate and in turn, halt the production of unnecessary plastics-made straws and stirrers, spoon and fork, and plastic labo, among others,” it [said](#).

The commission cited House Bill No. 9147 or the “**Single-Use Plastics Products Regulation Act**,” which had been approved on second reading in the House of Representatives, as a potential measure to address this concern.

“The agency strongly urges the public to use alternatives and adopt workable community-based solutions to shift away from the single-use, throwaway culture that currently dominates our market,” the environmental group said.



\$1M flows in Pasig River cleanup

A particular machine will convert the collected plastic waste into oil before being converted back into plastic

Published 4 hours ago on June 10, 2021 02:30 AM

By [Raffy Ayeng](#) @tribunephil_raf



The International Container Terminal Services Inc. (ICTSI) Foundation has earmarked \$1 million (P47.8 million) to support a financially sustainable river waste collection system along the 25.2 kilometers Pasig River.

The Foundation has partnered with Finnish NGO RiverRecycle to spearhead the project, which complements existing efforts to revive one of the country's main waterways.

"As a good corporate citizen, supporting this project with RiverRecycle is part of our commitment to environmental conservation and the welfare of our host communities along the Pasig River and the port area. We are very optimistic about the potential environmental impact of this endeavor," ICTSI Foundation president Christian R. Gonzalez said. Gonzalez said the initiative has two components, including collecting plastic waste from the river using a device designed by RiverRecycle to capture between 70 and 200 tons of waste daily.

A particular machine will convert the collected plastic waste into oil before being converted back into plastic.

The project also involves an awareness campaign to empower local communities to adopt more responsible waste management behaviors — a pivotal step to reduce and eventually eliminate plastic pollution.

For his part, RiverRecycle founder and chief executive officer, MAnssi Mikola, said they are enthusiastic about starting cooperation with ICTSI Foundation, which has excellent insights in achieving the project's goals.

"Our solution not only removes the plastic already in the rivers but also provides sustainable waste management where it's needed most. The project will take us one step closer to converting the plastic 'waste' problem into a circular economy model that keeps plastic in the economy and out of the environment," Mikola stressed.



DENR: 80 show-cause orders issued vs resorts, establishments encroaching Marikina Watershed

Job Manahan, ABS-CBN News
Posted at Jun 09 2021 08:02 PM



Photo from the Masungi Georeserve Foundation

MANILA - The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has issued at least 80 show-cause orders against private resorts and other entities encroaching the protected Marikina Watershed in Rizal, an environment official said.

In an interview with ABS-CBN News on Tuesday, DENR Calabarzon Executive Director Nilo Tamera said as of June 7, of the 80 show-cause orders, 40 are considered "pending for the issuance of cease and desist orders" related to the incursions and environmental law violations in the Upper Marikina Watershed.

Those who received the orders included piggeries, resorts, retreat centers, houses, swimming pool owners, gamefowl farms, among others.

Sixteen people, meanwhile, have already been arrested and charged for violation of Republic Act No. 11038 or the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System (E-NIPAS) Act of 2018, a separate press release on May 27 showed.

The measure maintains that a protected area such as the Rizal watershed, formally known as the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape, should be "protected against destructive human exploitation."

"Mayroon tayong mga nahuli na kinasuhan dahil doon sa kanilang illegal activities, patuloy pa rin yon at kasabay ng pag-iimbentaryo, kasabay ng pagse-serve ng show cause orders," Tamera, who is also the watershed's Protected Area Management board chairperson, told ABS-CBN News.

(We already arrested and charged some people due to the illegal activities. It is still ongoing and this is concurrent to our agency serving show cause orders.)

The environment official added that they are streamlining and regulating businesses and occupants in the area through their "management zoning" to determine environmental law violators.

He also pointed out that limited human activities are allowed inside the watershed under the "multiple use zone," which, under the law, refers to areas where human settlement, sustainable land use, and income-generating activities are allowed.

The "strict protection zone," meanwhile, refers to natural areas with "high biodiversity values" which will be closed to human activities except for "scientific studies and/or ceremonial or religious use by indigenous cultural communities and indigenous people.



"Puwede naman talaga (human activities), kasi dapat in harmony yung nandiyang tao, in harmony with nature. Nasa konteksto ng protection. Therefore, any activities being allowed for special use should not compromise the integrity of that protection process," he explained.

(Human activities are allowed there, because it is supposedly in harmony with nature. This is in context of protection)

Interior Secretary Jonathan Malaya earlier said his department has been tasked to investigate the allegations.

The anti-illegal logging task force had included the Upper Marikina Watershed among its "priority" areas to protect in Luzon.

The Masungi Georeserve Foundation in recent weeks sounded the alarm on "large-scale consolidation of forest land clearings" in the Rizal watershed, adding that there have also been "an increase in illegal encroachments and resort development."

Billie Dumaliang, an advocacy officer at the nature reserve, told ABS-CBN News that burning forest areas could be used for "slash and burn farming" but it could also be for clearings to "take possession of forest land and build unlawful structures."

Some 10 hectares of land are supposedly affected by the illegal fires and clearings there.

The foundation manages and maintains parts of the watershed for their reforestation project.

CHALLENGES

Despite the development, Tamera said the watershed is "peculiar" because it was announced as a protected area "late."

The Marikina Watershed Reservation was declared a protected area and was renamed the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape under Presidential Proclamation No. 296 issued in 2011.

Department Administrative Order 1993-22 from the agency also declared the area as a "Strict Nature Reserve and Wildlife Sanctuary."

Some entities and commercial establishments were already issued permits earlier, prior to it being a protected area, which made things complicated, he said.

"Ang challenge natin is, there are activities prior to the proclamation of the area as a protected area.. may mga na-isuhan ng permits before," he said.

"Mayroong mga patong-patong na proclamation and uses from the previous administration prior to the proclamation of the landscape... yun ang mga kine-cleanse natin para mai-align natin doon sa what is allowed, kailangang dalawa na lang yung instrument."

RESORT OWNER DENIES ALLEGATIONS

A private resort owner who received one of the show-cause orders denied the allegations thrown at them.

The resort was reportedly expanding in the watershed at the height of the pandemic, and has supposedly created illegal structures in the watershed.

"Ako po ay isang 4Ps member. Kami po ay mahirap na pamilya, at hindi po kami yung inexpect ng iba na malaking kapitalista na nakapagpagawa ng resort. Munting paliguan lang po yan," Arnel Olitoquit told ABS-CBN News in a phone interview.



(I am a 4Ps member. We are just a poor family and we are not big capitalists. This is just a small resort.)

The local government of Baras ordered the establishment closed in late May due to the absence of a business permit.

The resort owner said his business has also yet to receive clearance from the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB), which regulates the activities in the watershed.

He claimed he had already filed for the said clearance.

The Marikina Watershed, with a total land area of 26,128 hectares, gives "ecosystem services" to the localities of Antipolo City, Baras, General Nakar, Rodriguez, San Mateo, and Tanay, according to the DENR website.

It is also connected with the Kaliwa Watershed Forest Reserve, described by Masungi conservationists as its "twin watershed."

The DENR, however, pointed out that the watersheds' combined forest covers have been shrinking due to illegal activities in the protected landscapes.

DENR estimates forest degradation in the two watersheds at 408 hectares annually.

But according to the Center for Conservation Innovations, this figure is higher, based on the data they collected from 2003 to 2010.

According to the non-government organization, based on their cover change detection analysis of the twin watershed's forest land cover as of 2010, nearly 434 hectares of "good quality forests" are lost annually from their combined 17,221 pristine forest covers.



Over P6M worth of illegal hardwood lumber seized in Surigao del Norte

Published June 9, 2021, 11:48 AM

by [Richa Noriega](#)

Authorities intercepted over P6 million worth of illegal hardwood lumber in an anti-illegal logging operation in Surigao City, Surigao del Norte on Monday, June 7.



Over six million worth of illegal hardwood lumbers were intercepted by a joint team of authorities in Surigao City, Surigao del Norte on Monday, June 7. (Photo courtesy of the PCG)

In a joint operation of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), Philippine Ports Authority (PPA), Philippine National Police Maritime Group (PNP-MG), and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) have apprehended three ten-wheeler wing van trucks and arrested two suspects for the illegal transport of the forest products at Lipata port, Brgy. Lipata, Surigao City, Surigao del Norte.

The arrested individuals on board the first truck were identified as Renz Cabayao and Rogelio Doble.

Authorities are still looking for the remaining drivers and crew of the two trucks identified as Alex Floko and Dionito Aldas, who immediately left and abandoned the vehicles when the arrest was made on the first vehicle transpired.

The trucks were parked inside the Lipata port with hardwood lumbers intended to board MV Maria Felisa bound for San Ricardo, Southern Leyte on Monday.



Over six million worth of illegal hardwood lumbers were intercepted by a joint team of authorities in Surigao City, Surigao del Norte on Monday, June 7. (Photo courtesy of the PCG)



During the ocular inspection of the trucks, the driver was not able to present documents of cargoes onboard and verbally declared that on board cargoes were only “sacks of unhusked rice.”

After the inspection, it was revealed that the cargoes on board the vehicle are hardwood lumber, locally known as “magkuno,” which was intentionally concealed with sacks of unhusked rice.

The PCG said the driver was immediately apprehended due to an illegal transport of forest products in violation to Presidential Decree No. 705 otherwise known as “Forestry Reform Code of the Philippines.”

Meanwhile, the DENR said the intercepted hardwood lumbers have an estimated market value of more or less six million pesos. As of Tuesday, May 8, the three trucks are currently under the custody of the DENR for further investigation.



DENR video captures rare visit of killer whales in Antique

Published June 9, 2021, 9:12 PM
by [Dennis Principe](#)



A pod of killer whales was seen gallivanting off the coast of Libertad in Antique that created a rush of excitement among divers who witnessed the rare sighting.

A post by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Western Visayas stated that there were at least six orcas spotted in the area where a calf was also seen swimming next to its mother. The rare sighting happened May 31 and was posted by the DENR's regional agency on June 8.

"This is the first time we encountered orcas in our lifetime," posted Mylene Arboleda, manager of Dive Gurus Boracay.

Orcas are the largest member of the Delphinidae family or the dolphins. It's the same family where the long-finned pilot whales and short-finned pilot whales belong.

Orcas are known for their distinct black and white patterns and intelligence, thus, regarded as the smartest animal on the planet. They are the top or apex predators in the ocean.



RARE SIGHTING. A screenshot of one of the Orcas spotted by tourists and environment officers on May 31 in Libertad, Antique. (DENR-CENRO Boracay/MANILA BULLETIN)

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/06/09/denr-video-captures-rare-visit-of-killer-whales-in-antique/>



COVID-19 has not stopped people from hunting Philippine Eagles

By [JAYSON C. IBANEZ](#) - JUNE 9, 2021 6:05 PM

DAVAO CITY (MindaNews / 09 June) – COVID-19 has not stopped people from hunting Philippine Eagles (*Pithecophaga jefferyi*), a bird listed as “critically endangered” by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, three of them admitted for treatment at the Philippine Eagle Center (PEC) in Davao City in the first quarter of 2021.

It was a series of eagle rescues, with each bird representing a different age group. One is a sexually immature bird (three to four years old) rescued in January. One is a very delicate juvenile (two-month-old chick) that was admitted in February. And the third is a sexually mature, adult bird (over five years old) in March. Here are their tales.

Shooting survivor

The local government of Maitum reported a captive eagle to the Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on January 9. The bird was rescued by locals at Mt. Busa after they saw the weak bird entangled among forest vines. The bird was named *Salagbanog* (or “eagle’s nest”), after the waterfalls at the capture site.

CENRO Kiamba, the DENR’s closest field station, responded. In no time the male eagle was restrained and safely transported. At the border of Sarangani Province and Davao del Sur, CENRO staff Edgar Calderon handed the bird over to the PEF rescue team, who then brought it to the PEC for examination and rehabilitation.

The adolescent bird was a shooting survivor. X-ray showed a 16 mm round object lodged between the skin and the muscles on its right shoulder. The object was a toy marble, which is used as a projectile in hunting rifles locally called “Jolen” or “Marble” guns. The PEF removed the marble through surgery.

Salagbanog is the second eagle shot with a marble gun during the pandemic. The first bird was eagle “Balikatan,” another immature eagle rescued in Surigao del Norte in August last year. Miraculously, the bird had no wound and was merely stunned. It fell off from its perch after getting hit by the marble.

A marble gun is an improvised firearm that shoots marbles through gas pressure from denatured alcohol combustion. Although illegal, it has become a very popular hunting rifle across the country.

X-ray also showed an air gun pellet trapped at the base of the bird’s neck. No entry wound was visible for the marble and the pellet, which suggests that the shootings happened a few months back.

Shooting remains a big threat to our national bird. For example, of the 89 eagles admitted for care and rehabilitation at two PEF rescue facilities since the 1970’s, 23 (26 %) were birds that had gunshot wounds. Of these birds, seven died within a few months after admission.

The pandemic did not stop the hunting. It might have even fueled it. X-rays of three eagles rescued during COVID-19, including eagle *Salagbanog*, showed air gun pellets inside their bodies.

Many Filipinos admire the Philippine eagle as a majestic national symbol. But sadly, some Filipinos still treat them as mere game in a wildlife hunt.



Philippine Eagle Salagbanog's x-ray shows the marble circled in red. MindaNews photo courtesy of Philippine Eagle Foundation

Saving a baby eagle

On February 24, a local farmer climbed an eagle nest tree in Bukidnon and removed a two-month-old chick from the nest. Two days later, a community leader contacted PEF.

Responding instantly to the call, PEF, CENRO Valencia, and LGU San Fernando personnel rushed to the bird's rescue. They arrived close to midnight of February 26 at a remote village in San Fernando town where the chick was kept. The chick was named Agsamon, after the mountain where the nest is found.

PEF Vet Consultant Sheen Gadong examined chick Agsamon and injected fluids and food supplements. With the tender age and fragile state of the bird, first aid saved its life. After stabilizing the bird, we negotiated the chick's release.



Rescuers check the heart rate and other vital signs of Philippine Eagle Agsamon upon arrival at a remote community in San Fernando, Bukidnon. MindaNews photo courtesy of Philippine Eagle Foundation

The farmer believed he would be rewarded once he gives the bird to the government. His relatives also argued that if the bird is really that valuable, it should not be hard for the government to pay. This is the seventh case of a chick stolen from its nest since the program began on Mindanao four decades ago. In all of these cases, the captors expected a cash reward.

We explained patiently that protection does not mean giving rewards for eagle captures, but it meant keeping the bird free and unharmed in the wild. We also gave examples of community-based conservation to demonstrate how locals can participate in and benefit from conservation.

It took the captor and his supporters some time to accept the sense of the country's law and program for the Philippine Eagle. Clearly, the remoteness of the area means its residents are way outside the influence of mainstream perspectives and values.

Our experience was a classic case of a mismatch of standards. While we see eagles and other unique wildlife as worth preserving, some remote villagers might think differently.

With poor access to formal education and limited understanding of wildlife laws, the captor and perhaps his village members too hold a purely utilitarian value for the eagles and other wildlife. While many urban residents revere or treasure the eagles, the same animal to upland dwellers could be just food or a novelty item that can be traded for cash.

Adequate conservation education and awareness campaigns can bridge this value gap. When combined with community-based engagements that bring a better life to poor families, utilitarian attitudes can be transformed to genuine care and concern for the species.

After over two hours of negotiation, we agreed to explore a partnership and protect the eagle couple at Mt Agsamon. With chick Agsamon gone from the nest, the eagle couple will re-nest this year. As long as the forest is intact and the eagle pair is not harmed, it will re-nest in the same area for years, just like how generations of eagle pairs in the past have nested in the same place over and over again. Eagle breeding places are ancient nesting sites. As centers of reproduction, protecting these sites secures the species.

The team left with chick "Agsamon" before dawn. The next weekend, we were back and held a pact with the community through a traditional ritual. We also launched a livelihood project for the women as a pilot conservation incentive. Through fair community engagements, we hope that future eaglets from Agsamon's parents will be spared from the same ordeal their sibling has experienced.



Philippine Eagle Agsamon turns five months old in May 2021. MindaNews photo courtesy of Philippine Eagle Foundation

A good eagle is a trapped eagle

Another male eagle was accidentally caught in a native trap in the forests between Lingig and Boston towns in Surigao del Sur last March. The poor bird was due to be butchered and cooked when Richard Mahomoc, a passerby, saved it by buying it for Php 5,000.00 (US \$ 100.00). This is the first adult bird rescued during the pandemic period.

Mahomoc caged the bird for four days and fed it with pork and fish. He named the eagle Rajah Cabongsuan, after the community near the trap site. Finally, he contacted Gilbert Dragas of CENRO Bislig City, who then alerted the PEF. On March 23, the PEF retrieved the eagle in Bislig City and brought it to the PEC for rehabilitation.

Eagle *Rajah Cabongsuan* is the fourth eagle captured in a native trap during the pandemic period. Based on PEC admission records, he is the twelfth eagle accidentally caught by local traps intended for other wildlife (deer, wild pig, palm civet, monkey, etc.).



Philippine Eagles walk on the ground to hunt monitor lizards, snakes, rats, and a few more mammals. This behavior of exploring the forest floor for prey makes them vulnerable to improvised noose traps.

Three birds were also intentionally trapped by farmers whose domestic animals the eagles have killed. In one of these cases, the eagle hunted and ate a dog. To get back at the bird, the pet owner used the dog's remains as bait and trapped and caught the bird. He attempted to sell it but the barangay leaders knew it was protected and confiscated the bird. The PEF rehabilitated and released this eagle back to the forest in 2010.

During the pandemic, two eagles were also purposely trapped by farmers after the eagles killed and ate their piglets. Overall, trapping accounted for 15 admission cases (17 %) at the PEC since the 1970's. For poor farmers whose livestock were lost to the eagles, the only good eagle is a trapped eagle.

Don't harm me

These stories of eagle rescues prove that some people can still harm the remaining wild population of our national symbol in the wild. If we look further at the PEF's 89 cases of eagle admission cases at the PEC, a total of 53 birds or 60 % were due to human persecution (shooting, trapping, clubbing, chick removal from the nest, and selling).

The pandemic, and its economic impacts in the uplands seemed to have made the eagles even more vulnerable to human harm. Since the COVID-19 quarantines and lockdowns that began in March 2020, a total of 10 Philippine eagles were rescued on Mindanao Island alone. This is five times the pre-COVID average annual rescue rate. It is also the highest rescue rate ever in the program's history.

June 4-10 of each year is being celebrated as the national "Philippine Eagle Week." This nationwide campaign is now on its 23rd year. If a Philippine eagle can talk and deliver a message to the public, perhaps its simple plea would be "Please stop harming me and my family."

(Jayson C. Ibañez is the Director of Research and Conservation at the Philippine Eagle Foundation. He is also a Senior Lecturer at the University of the Philippines in Mindanao.)



MGB says automatic renewal looms for exploration periods

June 8, 2021 | 8:38 pm



THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is expected to release an administrative order that will allow for automatic renewals of the period set for mining exploration, according to an official of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB).

Danilo D. Deleña, MGB Mining Tenements Management Division OIC-chief, said during the first day of an MGB stakeholder forum Tuesday that the guidelines for the automatic renewal of the exploration period in potential mining areas are laid out in the Administrative Order.

Mr. Deleña said the order, “Guidelines for the Automatic Renewal of the Exploration Period and the Timely Declaration of Mining Project Feasibility (DMPF) under the Exploration Permit (EP), Mineral Production Sharing Agreement (MPSA), Financial and Technical Assistance Agreement (FTAA), and similar mining tenements” is nearing publication.

“I checked with the DENR, and it said that the administrative order is in the process of publication in a newspaper of general circulation and likewise for publication in the UP Office of the National Administrative Register,” Mr. Deleña said.

“We are hoping that in the next couple of days, the administrative order will be released,” he added.

According to Mr. Deleña, the administrative order seeks to ensure the continuity of exploration activities by all permit holders, contractors, and other parties to mining tenement concessions.

He added that the order also aims to ensure the timely filing of the DMPF and that all permits are moving mining tenements.

“The administrative order shall cover all EPs, MPSAs, FTAAAs, and similar mining tenements under exploration stage,” Mr. Deleña said.

Previously, Section 22 of DENR Administrative Order 2010-21 or the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 7942 or the Philippine Mining Act of 1995 provides for two-year effectivity of exploration permits from the date of issuance.



The restriction on renewals is that they be “renewable for like periods but not to exceed a total term of four years for non-metallic mineral exploration or six years for metallic mineral exploration.”

Meanwhile, Mr. Deleña said the decision to allow automatic renewal has been studied extensively in the wake of consultations that yielded complaints about the difficulty of the renewal process.

He also assured that the government has the power to take action if the mineral exploration is taking longer than needed.

“They should be financially and technically capable to conduct exploration activities. In cases that a problem occurs, there is no other way but to take action and can be one of the possible grounds for cancellation,” Mr. Deleña said.

In April 14, President Rodrigo R. Duterte issued Executive Order No. 130 that lifted the ban on new mineral agreements and allowed the review of current mining deals for potential renegotiation.

After the law’s signing, MGB disclosed that revenue amounting to P21 billion can be generated by the 100 mining projects in the pipeline, which can be used to help support the economic recovery. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**

Source: <https://www.bworldonline.com/mgb-says-automatic-renewal-looms-for-exploration-periods/?fbclid=IwAR2vscusMSuIFDudk3ree0reYAv63SyaPbWbehZABcU6D9CNaNyjVo0Mso>



MGB, DENR binalaan sa open pit mining

By Abante News Online — Last updated Jun 9, 2021

NEWS



Babala ni Surigao del Norte Rep. Robert Ace Barbers sa Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) at Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na huwag gawing 'gatasan o pagkaperahan' ang tuluyan nang pag-alis ng ban sa open-pit mining.

Ang pag-alis ng ban sa open-pit mining ay nakapaloob sa proposed Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) kaugnay sa inisyu kamakailan na Executive Order 130 ng President Rodrigo Duterte, na nag-aalis sa ipinatupad na moratorium sa lahat ng bagong mining projects.

Banta ni Barbers sa mga ospisyal ng MGB at DENR na huwag itong gawing oportunidad para 'gatasan o pagkaperahan' kapalit ng pagkakakompromiso ng kapaligiran at taumbayan.

"We will be watching closely. Any and all attempts to turn this into a money-making venture by any agency official will be exposed and prosecuted", giit pa ni Barbers. (Eralyn Prado)

NWRB, DoST collaborating on water resource monitoring projects

June 8, 2021 | 8:25 pm



PHILSTAR

THE National Water Resources Board (NWRB) is working with the Department of Science and Technology (DoST) on programs to improve the monitoring of the country's water resources.

Sevillo D. David, Jr., NWRB executive director, said in a recent DoST virtual program that the NWRB is working with the department's Philippine Council for Industry, Energy, and Emerging Technology Research and Development (PCIEERD) on the Climate Resilient Initiative program, which generates data for use in planning for critical infrastructure, taking into account the effects of climate change.

The program includes is a monitoring system using that allows the NWRB access to real-time data on water levels in aid of reservoir management.

Mr. David said sensors are installed at weather stations in Ambuklao Dam, Apuna Dam, Pitikan Dam, Bobok Dam, Toyongan Dam, Badayan Dam, San Roque Dam, and Filex Dam.

"We are continuing the development and updating our equipment and system in order to have more efficient ways of data collection which could result in better services to the public," Mr. David said.

Mr. David said the NWRB and PCIEERD are teaming up on another project that aims to come up with a management plan for groundwater or aquifer resources.

"It can help to ensure the long-term sustainability of our groundwater resources through systematic and science-based management strategies for more effective and efficient management of our groundwater resources in the country," Mr. David said.

Mr. David said the collaboration between the DoST and NWRB, along with private groups and academic organizations, has produced groundwater management plans for Zamboanga City and its surrounding areas, which included the construction of four monitoring wells and sensor stations.

"We are also targeting to install monitoring wells and stations with automatic sensors in various parts of the country — Iloilo, Manila, Cagayan de Oro City, and Angeles City — to measure the level and quality of water underneath and eventually the data collected will be shared and posted on the website of the NWRB," Mr. David said.

"The DoST and NWRB can also work on exploring the new and affordable water-saving technologies to address our water demand in the near future," he added. — **Revin Mikhael D.**

Source: <https://www.bworldonline.com/nwrb-dost-collaborating-on-water-resource-monitoring-projects/?fbclid=IwAR2K2IEtnkNK572UtccXDKNIw70wda-wBKZ5zhN2T-JbWgdJeSWKMRztfU4>



DoF, BSP set climate change policies

By [Mayvelin U. Caraballo](#) June 10, 2021

The Department of Finance (DoF) and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) have pledged to implement policies that will reduce the country's vulnerability to climate change.

They made the commitment during a roundtable with the COP26 local climate defenders and media hosted virtually by the British embassy in Manila on Wednesday.

While the Philippines is among the countries with the lowest carbon emissions, accounting for only 0.3 percent of global carbon emissions, Finance Assistant Secretary Paola Sherina Alvarez said in her speech that the country is highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, particularly typhoons.

"In the long run, the Philippines is expected to incur P177 billion or roughly \$3.6 billion per year in losses to public and private assets due to typhoons and earthquakes. In the next 50 years, the country has a 40 percent chance of experiencing a loss exceeding P989 billion and a 20-percent chance of experiencing a loss exceeding P1,525 billion," she noted.

As a result, the DoF has made climate change a high priority by putting together a policy package that supports this objective.

The Philippines has committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 75 percent by 2030; establishing a sustainable finance ecosystem to synergize public and private sector investments; building the capacity of local governments to formulate and implement sustainable development projects; and supporting the urgent passage of a measure regulating single-use plastics.

Alvarez said the Finance department will kick off the country's transition by looking at how sustainable finance may be used to boost the generating capacity of Mindanao's Agus-Pulangi hydropower facility.

Simultaneously, the government will purchase all coal-fired power facilities in the region in order to repurpose them as renewable energy capacity grows.

"This proposal aims to shift most of Mindanao's energy requirements to hydropower, which will eventually spur more investments from companies seeking to expand their operations in areas powered by clean energy," Alvarez explained.

For its part, BSP Governor Benjamin Diokno said the central bank and its supervised financial institutions play a critical role in mobilizing funds to finance green and sustainable projects, while also protecting financial stability from shocks caused by climate and other environmental related factors.

"In line with this, the BSP issued the Sustainable Finance Framework in April 2020, which expects banks to embed sustainability principles in their corporate and risk management systems, business strategies and operations," he pointed out in a recorded message.

Diokno went on to say that the BSP has improved governance standards on treasury activities and streamlined processes to enable for more bond issuances by BSP-supervised financial institutions and to help the capital markets grow faster.



"In fact, a total of more than \$1 billion and P85.4 billion worth of green, social and sustainable bonds were already issued by banks since 2017," he stressed.

Diokno further mentioned that one of the Bangko Sentral's strategic priorities is to implement sustainable central banking programs. Vulnerability assessments of the impact of climate change on BSP offices and branches are being conducted by bank-wide technical working groups.



UK to boost ties with PH on climate, biodiversity conservation

By Joyce Ann L. Rocamora June 9, 2021, 5:48 pm



UK Ambassador to Manila Daniel Pruce (File photo)

MANILA – The United Kingdom will continue working with the Philippines to tackle climate change and promote biodiversity conservation, British Ambassador to Manila Daniel Pruce said Wednesday.

Pruce made the statement during a virtual roundtable discussion ahead of the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) which will be hosted by the UK in Glasgow from November 1 to 12.

"The UK is committed to tackling climate change and contributing to the achievements of countries (on this area). In the Philippines we convened the first Climate Change and Environment dialogue, a key pillar on the enhanced partnership between us two countries," he said.

Pruce said this mechanism serves as an "important framework" to open up new areas of cooperation between the two nations.

The diplomat said the two countries in the past also had a lot of projects to conserve mangrove forests, protect tamaraws in Mindoro as well as joint programs between Filipino and British researchers focused on climate talks and sustainability.

"So these go on, these are few illustrations of the types of work we're doing here to support the country in achieving the high-level ambitions we've set ourselves in COP26," he said.

The COP26 summit in November will bring parties together to accelerate action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

"Under the UK's Presidency of COP26, in partnership with Italy, we have set out four goals for our Presidency aimed to accelerate this real-world progress towards achieving the Paris Agreement aims: mitigation, adaptation, finance, and collaboration," Pruce said. **(PNA)**



Legarda: Coral reef preservation would sustain Filipinos basic needs

Published June 9, 2021, 1:21 PM

by [Hannah Torregoza](#)

House Deputy Speaker Loren Legarda on Wednesday, June 9 urged government to promote the preservation and conservation of the country's coral reefs, which she said can highly sustain the basic needs of Filipinos and provide livelihood, as well.

"Beyond aesthetics, the degradation of coral reefs directly affects our daily lives, specifically our health, food supply and livelihood. Thus, we have to continuously educate our people about its vital role in the continuity of life in the sea," Legarda said in a statement. "They protect coastlines from wave and storm erosion and function as nurseries and habitats for thousands and marine species. It is estimated that one square kilometer of healthy coral reef can support as much as 35 metric tons of live fish," she stressed.

Legarda, a staunch environment advocate, said the Philippines takes pride in having the second largest coral reef environment in Southeast Asia, which is home to a diverse number of species.

But destructive fishing practices and improper waste disposal contribute to the massive reef degradation that affects the abundance and health of the marine life.

"Our country, an archipelago located within the coral triangle, is blessed with a very rich biodiversity characterized by extensive coral reefs, sea grass beds and dense mangroves," she said.

Legarda said the degradation of the coral reefs has also been detrimental to the country's environment, affected tourism and trade and food supply.

"Unfortunately, our overdependence on our seas and on our natural environment, has greatly contributed to the worsening state of the country's marine ecosystems, which has not only led to the extinction of marine species, but has also been detrimental to the state of the environment, has greatly contributed to the worsening state of the country's marine ecosystems," she lamented.

The former senator also highlighted the need for the government to mainstream its environment protection and conservation agenda especially amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Legarda cited news reports that showed plastic wastes found in the belly of a fish bought in a market in Puerto Princesa City in Palawan.

The country's waste management problem was even magnified due to Filipinos' need for take-out orders and online deliveries during the imposition of the quarantines.

The mandatory use of disposable face masks and other personal protective equipment (PPEs) to minimize contamination and further spread of the COVID-19 has also aggravated the country's waste problem.

"We need our seas for us to live, for us to sustain our basic needs and for us to improve the nation's growth and development. Coral rehabilitation would actually be the best poverty-alleviation measure which will supply food for all Filipinos and promote more livelihoods and income," she pointed out.



“The environment is threatened by the pressures of modern society and by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. As we depend on our marine environment and its resources, let these crises challenge all of us to be actively involved in the conservation and preservation of our coral reefs,” Legarda stressed.



Addressing the state of the nation's watersheds: Protect at all costs

09:00 AM June 09, 2021

The heat is definitely on these days, and it is unbearable. This extreme heat is but one of the many drastic effects of climate change. As hot as it is everywhere, the need for water—for drinking, for baths, and more—in these “extra hot” days has quadrupled—maybe even more. This leads to the big question: how are the watersheds doing these days?

The scorching heat also has a direct effect on watersheds. After all, these areas absorb rainfall and drain it into tributaries that lead to rivers, which then flow into the dams that supply the drinking water requirements of millions of consumers. If these areas get parched, so would we.



In recent years, there has been a dramatic shift in rainfall patterns, with annual droughts and typhoons becoming more severe and unpredictable. The continued deforestation across the country, particularly in vital watersheds, only makes matters worse. Every day, the Philippines is losing 52,000 trees, and this increasing loss of forest cover in the watersheds reduces the soil's water-retention capacity. Consequently, when strong rains arrive following a prolonged dry spell, the soil easily erodes into the tributaries, compromising the quality of the raw water in our dams.

This is the last thing people want and need—unhealthy watersheds. With this situation, what are the measures being done to protect the watersheds and keep them healthy?



The current state of the watersheds

The Angat and Ipo Watersheds, while said to be in “good condition”, are not doing all that good. The level of denudation is such that the soil from these watersheds easily erodes into the Ipo River during heavy rains. The result: increased turbidity in the raw water of Ipo Dam, as witnessed in November last year from the heavy rains brought by Typhoon Ulysses. The unprecedented spike in raw water turbidity caused by runoffs from the Angat and Ipo watersheds affected the water production of the La Mesa Treatment Plants, leading to emergency service interruptions in parts of Metro Manila.



For the 7,236-hectare Ipo Watershed, reforestation is being done. In the case of Maynilad, for example, it has already planted [nearly 800,000 trees in the said watershed](#) since 2007 through the conduct of regular tree-planting activities involving volunteers from various sectors. Such activities helped lead to a remarkable increase in areas marked as “closed forest” in 2019 (Source: CERTEZA) versus 2011 (Ipo Watershed Management Framework Plan [WMFP]). With the help of the private sector, such as the noted help of one payment gateway app that actively sponsored replanting, hundreds of thousands of new trees will be planted in the watershed, a promising development for the residents of Metro Manila.

Despite the concerted efforts of Maynilad and even other private companies, the reforestation efforts in the Ipo Watershed are thwarted by several challenges. For one, the survival rate of seedlings planted every year can be negatively affected by natural factors such as high tide, landslides, less or delayed rain, and excessive heat. But more concerning is the effect of man’s destructive activities on the trees’ survival rate, particularly illegal logging and *kaingin* (farmer’s slash-and-burn system), which has been [going on for nearly four decades in areas such as the Sierra Madre](#). Commercial activities like charcoal making, which locals do for a living, also contribute to the low survival rate of seedlings.

Given the proper controls, all these can be halted. But it’s not that easy, given the vastness of the land area that needs to be guarded and monitored. For their part, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System tapped Bantay Gubat to patrol the area and stop such activities, but these illegal and damaging activities are still rampant.

The denudation of the forest areas surrounding the Ipo Watershed is the main problem that needs to be addressed. Reforestation efforts are appreciated, but will only serve as money down the drain unless the root of the problem is given the right attention.



Protecting watersheds is an urgent call

With these activities taking place, plus the extreme effects of climate change, there is a need to increase the measures to protect the watersheds. Since the effects are direct on the water supply, time is of the essence.

One way to address the challenge is to deputize Bantay Gubat (forest watchers) hired to protect the Ipo Watersheds against illegal activities. Most forest watchers are *Dumagat* living in sitios that dot the surrounding forest. Deputizing them gives them the power to arrest illegal loggers on sight, a power which they do not have at present, which limits them from protecting the area.



Another solution would be for the respective Local Government Units to enact ordinances that prevent tourist entry into the watersheds and areas where reforestation activities take place. At present, these areas are not off-limits, leaving them vulnerable.

Following this, the next valuable solution would be to beef up the project interventions currently in place, one of which is the implementation of the Ipo Watershed Protection System. Intensifying forest protection and enforcement of applicable environmental laws and regulations can start by arresting perpetrators responsible for the continuous degradation of the various ecosystems within the watershed.

Protecting watersheds comes with benefits for everyone, starting with the ecosystem, flowing to the economy of the country, and ending with the people who need water. The benefits of watersheds are undervalued, so it is high time everyone do their part to protect them—before it's too late. Otherwise, the effects could be catastrophic—something that can and should be avoided in this pandemic.



PH Gov't. Endorsed in the Ocean Day Plastic Pollution Declaration

WWF- PH welcomes the Philippine Government endorsement of the Ocean Day Plastic Pollution Declaration

by [Village Connect](#) a day ago



World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Philippines welcomes the Philippine government's endorsement of the **Ocean Day Plastic Pollution Declaration**, now being backed by 76 countries, which calls for negotiations to commence on a new legally binding agreement to combat plastic pollution.

In reaction to the declaration, Katherine Custodio, Executive Director for WWF-Philippines, said:

"Plastic pollution knows no boundaries and is a matter of national and global concern with destructive effects on our ecosystems and livelihoods. In the Philippines, plastic holds the third-largest share in the overall generated waste per year at 2.1 million tons, with 35% leaking into the open environment."

"A new global treaty to stop plastic pollution will truly help developing countries such as the Philippines deal with the crisis. With the support of 76 governments and counting, including our country, more and more states are recognizing the real and urgent need to start negotiations on a global solution. We are thankful for the consistent and decisive action taken by the Philippine government and hope that this momentum continues to grow. We hope that the Philippines continues to show decisive leadership in pursuing a global solution to the plastics crisis."

On the local front, House Bill 9147, a legislation eyeing the ban for single-use plastics, was approved on second reading last week. In the Senate, Senate Bill 1331, which aims to implement extended producer responsibility (EPR) for all packaging products, has been filed. EPR mandates manufacturers to be held accountable for their plastic products and packaging's end-of-life impacts, as well as to encourage holistic eco-design in the business sector. A National Plan of Action on Marine Litter is also being developed by the Philippine government to address marine debris, including plastics waste leaking to the seas.

The Ocean Day Plastic Pollution Declaration was presented last June 1 at the UN High-Level Debate on the Ocean. Eirik Lindebjerg, Global Plastics Policy Leader, WWF International, said: *"Plastic pollution is increasing at an accelerating pace and has become a major global concern. It is estimated that an alarming 11 million tons of plastic waste leak into the world's oceans every year, and these numbers are projected to increase four-fold by 2050, with devastating effects on people and the planet."*



"A new global treaty to stop plastic pollution is urgently needed to drive accountability, set binding plastic pollution reduction targets and harmonize regulatory approaches globally. The governments endorsing this declaration recognize the global nature of the problem and the required solution. This is the first time such a large group of governments have spoken so clearly of the urgent need for countries to start negotiating a new treaty on plastic pollution. The momentum is there to make this treaty a reality."

The declaration comes in the lead-up to the first-ever Global Ministerial Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution, to be hosted by Ecuador, Ghana, Germany and Vietnam on 1-2 September this year. In the declaration, governments commit to working towards the establishment of an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee at the UN Environment Assembly, scheduled for February 2022, with a mandate to prepare a new global legally binding agreement to tackle plastic pollution.

The declaration is open for post-event endorsements by UN Member States. The global WWF network calls on all governments to endorse this declaration and contribute to the development of an ambitious and effective new treaty.

THE OCEAN DAY PLASTIC POLLUTION DECLARATION

The Ocean Day Plastic Pollution Declaration was presented by Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) at the high-level thematic debate hosted by the President of the UN General Assembly. AOSIS is hosting the declaration which has so far been endorsed by 74 governments.

The high-level thematic debate on the ocean and Sustainable Development Goal 14: Life Below Water was convened by the President of the UN General Assembly at United Nations Headquarters in New York on Tuesday 1 June 2021 in collaboration with the governments of Portugal and Kenya – co-hosts of the 2nd United Nations Ocean Conference, as well as H.E. Mr. Peter Thomson, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Ocean.

More than 50 companies, 2 million people and a growing number of governments have so far called for a new UN treaty on plastic pollution.

Join the *"Ayoko ng Plastic"* Facebook community to know more about how you can help in reducing plastic pollution in the Philippines.



Gretchen Fullido appeals for protection, preservation of the ocean

By: [Alex Brosas](#) [INQUIRER.net](#) / 09:04 PM June 09, 2021

Entertainment anchor Gretchen Fullido is asking the public to help protect and preserve the ocean as it is on the brink of destruction, in line with celebrations for World Ocean Day yesterday, June 8.

“The ocean covers over 70% of the planet. It is our life source, supporting humanity’s sustenance and that of every other organism on earth,” she stated via Instagram also yesterday, as she showed herself in one of her dive outings. “The ocean produces at least 50% of the planet’s oxygen, it is home to most of earth’s biodiversity, and is the main source of protein for more than a billion people around the world.”

But with destruction, the ocean needs all the support for it to survive as “90% of big fish populations depleted” and “50% of coral reefs destroyed.”

“We are taking more from the ocean than can be replenished,” Fullido pointed out.

To really protect and preserve the ocean and everything dependent on it, Fullido believes “we must create a new balance, rooted in true understanding of the ocean and how humanity relates to it.”

“We must build a connection to the ocean that is inclusive, innovative, and informed by lessons from the past,” she noted. “World Oceans Day reminds every one of the major role the oceans have in everyday life. They are the lungs of our [planet] and a major source of food and medicine and a critical part of the biosphere.”

Fullido explained that the public should be informed “of the impact of human actions on the ocean,” and the whole world must be united in creating actions for the sustainable management of oceans. **JB**

Source: <https://lifestyle.inquirer.net/384068/gretchen-fullido-appeals-for-protection-preservation-of-the-ocean/>



From waste to tanks: the future of sustainable water management

By [POP! Creators](#)

June 09th, 2021

As climate change is becoming a serious problem that needs our attention, sustainability is a way to go for people to be able to do their part in saving the environment. This portable water station that looks like a barrel, 'raintap,' catches rain and turns it into fresh tap water.

[Raintap](#), a Dutch mobile water station, provides people with a portable hand-washing sink and fresh water in public spaces. It allows for the reuse of rainwater by directing water from the sink to the garden rather than dumping it into the sewer. It is made up of recycled plastic featuring taps, a foot pump, and a sink, that harvest rainwater by being connected to any standard rain pipe.



Via Studio Floris Schoonderbeek

It aims to increase awareness of the need of absorbing and keeping rainfall, as well as the necessity for climate change solutions.

Studio Floris Schoonderbeek, a Dutch studio in the Netherlands and the spearhead of raintap, produces practical solutions in response to today's new needs. The studio aims for 'an independent and sustainable existence.'



Via Studio Floris Schoonderbeek

And because rain is an essential part in providing us fresh water, the studio added that "rainwater is a useful resource when it is handled properly."

"We believe consumer plastics can be transformed beyond single-use into functional, planet-friendly products that are [built] to last," the studio said.

Because of the Netherlands' water-rich areas, such as the Rhine-Meuse delta and their coastlines, their national water plan highlights Dutch flood risk management and freshwater supply policies as well as the best way to integrate sustainable water management.



Since the Philippines is very prone to experiencing typhoons and severe flooding, having an innovation like this can offer farmers and poor communities access to fresh water for their daily needs.

[Water.org](https://www.water.org), a non-profit organization that works to provide clean and safe water to people all over the world, said that approximately five million Filipinos do not have access to safe water.

Other than constructing dams that may spill, like it did when Typhoon Ulysses struck us in November 2020, raintap can be an effective alternative for providing Filipinos with fresh tap water while saving the clouds. This is also a good investment especially now that the pandemic is urging everyone to practice good hygiene.

Raintap is made to explain the value of rainfall and how we might begin to appreciate it. One barrel retails in the Netherlands for 379 euros that is about 21, 947.51 pesos.

Capturing the rain and harnessing its limitless potential? Now how's that for innovation?

POP! Creators/Ariane Vien Afan



CDO's waste generation reduces to 48%

By Ercel Maandig June 9, 2021, 7:28 pm



CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY – The City Local Environment and Natural Resources Office (Clenro) on Wednesday said waste generation in the communities here has been reduced to 48 percent.

Engr. Armen Cuenca, Clenro chief, said that based on the three-year monitoring in the city, household waste generated daily was reduced from 0.76 kilo to 0.36 kilo by the end of 2020.

"Latest Philippine Statistics Authority data shows that the city has a total of 776,641 population, this means that our city has now a total of 279,591 kilos waste generation from its 590,247 kilos generated from the past three years," he said.

He said the wastes were disposed of daily at the city's new 45-hectare sanitary landfill located at the upland village of Pagalungan that opened on April 15, 2017.

Last year, Cuenca said their campaign on banning single-use plastics has resulted in fewer clogs in creeks and canals in the city.

Meanwhile, the former 17-hectare open dumpsite is now converted into an Eco Park. Its Phase 1 is almost completed and about to open next month. The park has bike and jogging lanes, rotunda, and amphitheater.

Cuenca said his office collaborates with some non-government organizations for other Solid Waste Management projects, like the Zero Waste Plastic program in part



Recycling, not tax, solution to plastic woes

By [Malaya Business Insight](#) - June 10, 2021

The Philippine Plastics Industry Association (PPIA) is opposing a plan that will impose an excise tax of P20 per kilo of plastic bags removed from the factory or customs territory.

In a statement, PPIA president Danny Ngo said instead of pushing this plan as contained in House Bill No. 9171, government should come up with ways to harness P55 billion potential revenue from plastics recycling in the country.

Ngo said for more than four decades, the plastic industry has been recycling waste plastics, it could not fully realize its goals due to gaps in the value chain.

PPIA cited a March 2021 World Bank Asia Pacific study which said only 28 percent of the key plastics were recycled back into resins in 2019.

If totally utilized, the total material value could amount to \$1.1 billion or about P55 billion, 11 times greater than the estimated tax collection revenue from this proposed measure of P4.867 billion, which could not be realized when the affected producers' business becomes unfeasible when this law is passed.

PPIA said the proposal will severely affect not just plastics manufacturers but all industry users of plastic bags as primary and secondary packaging, like processed or frozen foods, hygiene, and health care, medical and pharmaceutical products, and all agricultural and agro-industrial commodities, including products for export.

"The entire domestic retail and micro-businesses on the use plastic carrier bags and all consumers will shoulder the higher costs. This does not spare even the smallest outlets like sari-sari stores that are about over 1.3 million that are mostly located in the impoverished areas. The measure would severely affect the informal sector like the vendors," Ngo said.

Plastic, he said, remains the safest, stronger, and most hygienic material for transporting goods.

According to the PPIA, the Associated Labor Unions-Trade Union Congress of the Philippines supports their position saying the bill will kill the industry and cut jobs especially at a time when the number of jobless Filipinos has soared to 4.14 million.

PPIA said the Federation of Philippine Industries described the measure as "discriminatory" saying as "any carrier bags could also be potential waste items." – **Irma Isip**

Source: https://malaya.com.ph/index.php/news_business/recycling-not-tax-solution-to-plastic-woes/



Nature heals

[THOUGHTS TO GUIDE US BY](#) - [Elvie Punzalan-Estavillo](#) (The Philippine Star) - June 10, 2021 - 12:00am

Read ye, read ye! Ever wondered why we feel so relaxed, peaceful, happy when we go out of town? According to scientific studies, occasional contemplation of natural sceneries does good to man's health, vigor and well-being. Being with nature allows our brain's command center, the prefrontal cortex, to rest and recover, just like an overused muscle.

Centuries ago, Cyrus the Great built gardens in the busy capital of Persia for people's relaxation. In America, Ralph Waldo Emerson built the case to create the world's first natural parks, claiming "nature has healing powers for both mind and body." In England, medical researchers from University of Exeter concluded: people living near verdant parks and lush trees have less distress, less diseases, fewer deaths. Green spaces have restorative effects on mind and body.

Some Japanese researchers quantified nature's effect on the brain by proving volunteers, who strolled in the forests, had 16 percent decrease in their stress hormone cortisol, vis-a-vis those who walked around the city malls.

Our minds and bodies relax better in natural surroundings. For when God created man, He created nature for mind and body sustenance.

Peace, good health, safety and abundance to us all!



House panel resolves to issue cease and desist order on Kaliwa Dam construction

Published June 9, 2021, 2:20 PM by [Ben Rosario](#)

A House of Representatives legislative committee on Wednesday, June 9, ordered the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System and the China-based contractor of the New Centennial Water Source Kaliwa Dam to cease and desist from “initiating or performing” any construction activity on the P12.2 billion project and its components.

In a congressional hearing, the House Committee on Indigenous Cultural Communities and Indigenous Peoples unanimously agreed to issue a cease and desist resolution as proposed by Deputy Minority Leader and Bayan Muna Rep. Carlos Zarate.

“There being no objection to the motion, the resolution is carried,” declared Kalinga Rep. Allen Jesse C. Mangaoang as the House panel noted that the MWSS failed to secure “free, prior and informed consent (FPIC)” from various Dumagat communities to be adversely affected by the project.

IP communities in Tanay, Rizal and Infanta, Quezon are expected to be displaced when the dam, the main component of the project, submerges many barangays in the said localities. The Kaliwa Dam project will be the new source of potable water for Metro Manila and adjacent localities in Bulacan, Rizal, Cavite and Laguna.

In a resolution filed by Bayan Muna Rep. Eufemia Cullamat, the CICCIP was tasked to investigate the plight of Dumagat and other IPs to be affected by the project

In House Resolution No. 309, Rizal Rep. Juan Fidel Felipe Nograles called for a probe into allegations of irregularities in the award of the P12.2 billion contract to the China Energy Engineering Corporation Limited (CEECL).

Before the approval of Zarate’s motion, lawyer Josefina Agustin, representative of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples’, revealed that the during a meeting for the validation of the Memorandum of Agreement between the IP’s and MWSS, the two parties failed to reach an agreement.

Agustin said the main point of disagreement was the inability of the MWSS to present a clear profit sharing scheme to the affected IPs.

Under the law, securing an FPIC from IP folk is a requisite prior to the initiation of any project that could have an impact on their lives and their livelihood.

“It is now confirmed that there is no consummated FPIC yet. Hindi pwedeng magpatuloy ang isang proyekto kung wala pang FPIC (A project cannot be implemented if there is no FPIC yet),” said Zarate.

However, the Bayan Muna lawmaker noted that there have been numerous reports confirming that contractor China-based CEECL had started working on various components of the project since 2019.

“In accordance with the Indigenous Peoples Act, if the FPIC is not yet completed, it follows that no project or programs shall be processed,” Agustin confirmed.



Agustin said the NCIP has received a complaint of violation of the law and if warranted, will issue a cease and desist order against the MWSS and CEECL.

Project manager Jojo Berado of MWSS neither confirmed nor denied the reports of on-going construction although he stressed that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources has issued a “notice to proceed” for the contractor to do the detailed design of the project.

However, Conrado Vargas, executive director fo the Prelature of INfanta Community Organization of the Philippines, testified that they were barred from entering the supposed construction site when he and IP members visited the area last year.

However, Vargas recalled that they saw vans carrying Chinese men who were allowed entry by the site’s security personnel.

On the other hand, Bayan Muna Rep. Eufemia Cullamat received a confirmation from the MWSS on the reported arrival of tunnel boring machines that the Chinese contractors will use for the project.

Berado confirmed that the heavy equipment will be used in excavation operations ‘next year’ when the “necessary permits” are fully secured.

“There will be no physical activity on the site unless clearances and permits are secured,” he assured the House panel.



Protect oceans, UN tells nations

[By Xinhua](#) June 10, 2021

UNITED NATIONS: UN Secretary General António Guterres on Tuesday (Wednesday in Manila) called for efforts to protect the oceans.

The recently issued Second World Ocean Assessment confirmed that many of the benefits that the global ocean provides to humankind are being undermined by human actions, he said in a message for World Oceans Day, which falls on June 8.

"Our seas are choking with plastic waste, which can be found from the remotest atolls to the deepest ocean trenches. Overfishing is causing an annual loss of almost \$90 billion in net benefits, which also heightens the vulnerability of women, who are vital to the survival of small-scale fishing businesses," he said.



Aerial photo taken on June 2, 2021 shows the Great Barrier Reef in Queensland, Australia. The Great Barrier Reef, the world's largest coral reef in Australia's state of Queensland, is described as the "planet's most beautiful marine environment" and is the main conservation target of the Citizens of the Great Barrier Reef, a charity cooperative organization that runs a series of preserving programs. XINHUA PHOTO

Carbon emissions are driving ocean warming and acidification, destroying biodiversity and causing sea level rise that threatens heavily inhabited coastlines, he noted.

The theme of this year's observance, "The Ocean: Life and Livelihoods," underscores the importance of oceans for the cultural life and economic survival of communities around the world. More than 3 billion people rely on the ocean for their livelihoods, the vast majority in developing countries, said Guterres.

"As we strive to recover from Covid-19, let's end our war on nature. This will be critical to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, keeping within reach the 1.5-degree target of the Paris Agreement, and ensuring the health of our oceans for today's and future generations," he said.

The ocean is the body of salt water, which covers approximately 71 percent of the surface of the Earth. It is also "any of the large bodies of water into which the great ocean is divided." A common definition lists five oceans, in descending order by area, the Pacific, Atlantic, Indian, Antarctic and Arctic.

The world ocean contains 97 percent of Earth's water, and oceanographers have stated that less than 20 percent of the oceans have been mapped. As the world's ocean is the principal component of Earth's hydrosphere, it is integral to life, forms part of the carbon cycle, and influences climate and weather patterns.

The ocean is the habitat of 230,000 known species, but because much of it is unexplored, the number of species in the ocean is much larger, possibly over 2 million.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/06/10/news/world/protect-oceans-un-tells-nations/1802632>



Concerns raised vs Japan's dumping of nuclear wastes in the Pacific

Published 14 hours ago on June 9, 2021 04:33 PM

By [IDI](#) @tribunephil



A file photo of the Tokyo Electric Power Company's (TEPCO) Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant. (AFP)

The Japanese government recently approved plans of releasing more than a million tons of nuclear wastewater from Fukushima into the sea. According to news reports, the government opted to release water used to cool nuclear fuel in two years.

It will be recalled the Fukushima Power Plant was severely damaged by 9.0 magnitude earthquake where some 20,000 people died ten years ago.

Although the Japanese government assured everyone that the radioactive wastewater will not bring any harm to the people or environment of the Pacific, Japanese fishermen, environmental advocates and neighboring countries of Japan, declared their opposition to what has been described as irresponsible action.

Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia have always been protective of the ocean that surrounds them because their survival depends on it. Countries in the Pacific have at least three million square miles of ocean where peoples of different countries have relied on these seas for their existence.

In this regard, Palau is against Japan's decision to dump the nuclear wastewater from Fukushima into the sea. On May 20th, a Palau scholar named Jackson Henry wrote an article condemning Japan.

The article said that should the Japanese Government contaminate their ocean and their vital source of food, marine-based exports will come to an end because the actual or supposed radioactive impact on marine resources, the Pacific Island nations' economy would be seriously affected. Poverty will once again be felt as countries slowly recover from the beating they took due to the Covid19 pandemic.

Radioactive waste should it be dumped into the ocean will remain in the Pacific for unknown number of years. Wastewater from the Fukushima nuclear plant may contaminate marine resources around the Pacific Islands. If indeed the wastewater is safe, why can't the Japanese government dispose them within their country's confines?

Palau went at loggerheads with the United States during the Compact Of Free Association (COFA) negotiations not to allow nuclear ships or nuclear weapons within its territory after they enacted a nuclear-free Constitution to free its country from nuclear products. Palau has made its presence felt in international forums from the United Nations, to prevent Japan from discarding Fukushima wastewater in the Pacific Ocean.



The article said that both Palau and Marshall Islands suffered nuclear fallouts from the nuclear tests in 1956 in Bikini Atoll. It will be recalled the nuclear bomb was over a thousand times stronger than the ones crashed into Hiroshima and Nagasaki. These island nations have seen the horrors of World War II when the United States and Japan while having witness their loss of livelihoods and safety because of the nuclear fallout, they can no longer afford to allow Japan's design to dump radioactive wastewater in the Pacific Ocean. These countries' leaders will continue to assert their people's rights to safer environment. And Japan must seriously consider Palau's right as mentioned in their nuclear-free Constitution.

Kazue Suzuki, a Climate/Energy Campaigner at Greenpeace Japan said their government has failed the people of Fukushima because "the government has taken the wholly unjustified decision to deliberately contaminate the Pacific Ocean with radioactive wastes." The campaigner described Japan's action to dump water into the Pacific Ocean as the cheapest option rather than minimizing radiation hazards.

China's response was quick and clear. "Ocean is not Japan's trash can; and #Pacific Ocean is not Japan's sewer. It should not expect the world to pay the bill for its treatment of wastewater. #Japanese official said the water is "ok to drink," why doesn't him a sip first? They should not pretend to be ignorant," said Lijian Zhao, a spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China , in his Tweet.

As early as December 9, 2019, South Korea "reacted angrily" to the proposal and even summoned the Japanese ambassador to Seoul to the Foreign Ministry in August to express concerns. According to international wires, South Korea summoned Japan's ambassador last April 9 to protest the plan to release contaminated water into the ocean. Even North Korea, according to a report shared South Korea's concerns. Quite recently, North Korea criticized Japan's "unpardonable criminal decision" to release treated nuclear waste from Fukushima into the Pacific Ocean.

In Manila, civil society leaders in the Philippines expressed concern over Japan's decision to release treated radioactive water from the Fukushima nuclear plant into the Pacific Ocean. Atty. Corazon Valdez Fabros of the Nuclear-Free Philippines Coalition said the Japanese government's decision is no longer new because it has been a long subject of debate even among Japanese nationals. She added even experts in India warned the Japanese government of the impending implications as soon as the announcement was made in early April.

She added they are not giving up as civil society leaders and experts in the region and other parts of the world are opposed to the plan.

She expressed optimism Japan would consider other options as there is an on-going signature campaign which has generated 70,000 signatories from 49 countries but apparently, "Japan has not listened to it."

Dr. Carlo A. Arcilla, Philippine Nuclear Research Institute director, said he understands the concern for nuclear waste disposal because wastes remains active for 10,000 years exceeding governments and culture.

"The world's nuclear community is of the consensus is to go geologic disposal since you cannot stop nuclear operations, there is a need to construct engineered barriers so it does not spread," he said. Dr. Arcilla who served Dean of the University of the Philippines' Department of Mining, Metallurgical, and Materials Engineering, added nuclear wastes should be placed deep in the earth so as not to affect human life and societies.

Meanwhile, aid she and her group are aware of the Japanese citizens' call on their government not to dispose its nuclear wastes into the ocean.



“In 2013, the Japanese government were considering five options but they chose to dispose their wastes into the sea because they probably thought it is the least expensive option,” said Ms. Veronica Cabe, a leader of the Nuclear-Free Bataan Movement. She added there was a research in Germany which revealed nuclear wastes diluted into the Pacific Ocean may contaminate the whole body of water in less than two months and the world’s seas in a decade.

Meanwhile, Ms. Lourdes Arsenio, coordinator of the Archdiocese of Manila’s Ecology Ministry said she is worried because people behind the nuclear waste disposal into the Pacific Ocean has not considered the precautionary principle which needs to put a premium on the people’s safety.



Nuke waste perils marine diversity, livelihood

A local non-government organization has joined the voices around the world in denouncing Japan's proposal to discharge more than one million tons of contaminated water from the ruined Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power station into the ocean off its east coast. The Progressive People for Peace (PPP) said the move would disrupt the livelihoods of fisherfolks while at the same time cause ecological imbalance as this will surely be killing hordes of marine life, PPP head Myleen Morales said they are strongly opposing Japan's plan to dump nuclear wastewater from the Fukushima nuclear plant which was damaged during the March 2011 earthquake which struck the country. "The Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Disaster is bigger than that of the Chernobyl, having been classified as Level 7 compared to Chernobyl's Level 5. At the time of the incident, more than 154,000 people were evacuated from communities near the plant due to the continuous rise of off-site levels of ambient ionizing radiation due to airborne radioactive contamination coming from the damaged reactors," Morales said. "And now, from having contaminated the air around the plant and nearby communities, they will be contaminating the waters as well," she lamented.



Turkey's mucilage spreads to Black Sea

By Xinhua June 9, 2021



ISTANBUL: Mucilage, also known as "sea snot," has been seen spreading to the Black Sea coast of Turkey, Turkish local media reported on Monday (Tuesday in Manila).

A thick jello-like layer of slime was seen in an area at Yalikoy Harbor in the Fatsa district of the northern province of Ordu, the Hurriyet daily said. Acting upon the notification of the fishermen, the municipality teams cleaned the pollution on the sea surface, it added.

According to press reports, the sea snot, which has started from the country's biggest city Istanbul, spread to several other provinces along the coast of the Marmara Sea and the northern Aegean Sea as well.

The substance, which seriously threatens the environment and underwater life, now covered a large part of the Marmara Sea, forcing the government to take urgent action that will be launched on Tuesday in Istanbul.

Turkey's Environment and Urban Planning Ministry sent a circular to the governorships and municipalities of seven provinces on the coast of the Marmara Sea regarding the launch of "Turkey's largest sea cleaning campaign," the state-run TRT broadcaster noted.

Scientists say that this phenomenon is not new, but it has become massive due to pollution, such as raw sewage running-offs from Istanbul and coastal cities to the sea.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/06/09/news/world/turkeys-mucilage-spreads-to-black-sea/1802468>

10 JUNE 2021, THURSDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



BREAKING: COVID-19 cases sa Pilipinas, pumalo na sa 1.28-M; 5,462 ang nadagdag

By Angellic Jordan June 09, 2021 - 04:04 PM

  **DOH COVID-19**
CASE BULLETIN # 452

HUNYO 9, 2021
Para sa kumpletong detalye at impormasyon, bisitahin lamang ang aming pampublikong site:
<https://facetracker.doh.gov.ph/>



MGA BAGONG KASO **5,462**

MGA BAGONG GUMALING **7,854**


MGA BAGONG NAMATAY **126**

KABUANG BILANG NG KASO **1,286,217**



HALOS 95.6% ANG MILD AT ASYMPTOMATIC NA KASO!





 **UPDATE AND MESSAGE OF THE DAY**

Sama-sama nating tiyakin ang kaligtasan ng buong bansa. Sunding mabuting ang ating **Minimum Public Health Standards** sa lahat ng lugar at sitwasyon, dahil ang kaligtasan ng isa ay kaligtasan ng lahat. Sa oras na makaramdam ng anumang sintomas ng COVID-19, iwasan nating magpakampante, at agad na makipag-ugnayan sa **BHERTS** o **One COVID Referral Center** para sa karampatang gahay. Maaabot ang One COVID Referral Center sa 1555, (02)886-505-00, 0915-777-7777, o sa 0919-977-3333

Tangkilikin din ang serbisyong hatid ng ating **Telemedicine Service Providers** para sa ligtas at madaling konsultasyon sa iba pang pangangailangang medikal. Puntahan ang <http://bit.ly/FreeTelemed> para malaman kung paano maabot ang kaniyang serbisyo.


 Itahanap ka namin ng lugar para mag-isolate o magagamot, tumawag lang sa sumusunod:
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I-chat na sa KIRAI!
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Mahigit 5,000 ang panibagong napaulat na kaso ng Coronavirus Disease o COVID-19 sa Pilipinas.

Sa huling datos ng Department of Health (DOH) bandang araw ng Miyerkules (June 9), pumalo na sa 1,286,217 ang confirmed cases ng nakakahawang sakit sa bansa.

Sa nasabi kasing bilang, 54,000 o 4.2 porsyento ang aktibong kaso.

Sinabi ng kagawaran na 5,462 ang bagong napaulat na kaso ng COVID-19 sa bansa.

92.6 porsyento sa active COVID-19 cases ang mild; 3.0 porsyento ang asymptomatic; 1.22 porsyento ang moderate; 1.8 porsyento ang severe habang 1.4 porsyento ang nasa kritikal na kondisyon.

Nasa 126 naman ang napaulat na nasawi.

Dahil dito, umakyat na sa 22,190 o 1.73 porsyento ang COVID-19 related deaths sa bansa.

Ayon pa sa DOH, 7,854 naman ang gumaling pa sa COVID-19.

Dahil dito, umakyat na sa 1,210,027 o 94.1 porsyento ang total recoveries ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas.



Philippines sees 5,462 new coronavirus infections

(Philstar.com) - June 9, 2021 - 4:00pm



Individuals maintain social distancing and strictly observe health protocols as they queue for their second dose of Pfizer BioNtech COVID-19 vaccine at the Manila Prince Hotel in Manila on June 8, 2021.

The STAR/Miguel de Guzman

MANILA, Philippines — Local health authorities on Wednesday reported 5,462 more COVID-19 infections, bringing the national caseload to 1,286,217.

- Active cases: 54,000 or 4.2% of the total
- Recoveries: 7,854, pushing total to 1,210,027
- Deaths: 126, bringing total to 22,190

What's new today?

- The Department of Health does not [consider](#) Davao City as a coronavirus epicenter but authorities are monitoring the situation there as infections continue to rise.
- The Department of Trade and Industry is [proposing](#) the reopening of indoor establishments such as gyms and museums at a low operating capacity.
- US Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer is [urging](#) President Joe Biden to set aside at least five million doses of COVID-19 vaccines for the Philippines – a key ally and former colony – as part of the US commitment to donate excess vaccines to other countries.
- The US has also [lowered](#) its travel advisory level to the Philippines from Level 4, "do not travel," to Level 3, "reconsider travel."
- The Level 3 advisory is due to a "high level of COVID-19" in the country as well as "crime, terrorism, civil unrest, and kidnapping," in the Sulu Archipelago, Marawi City and other parts of Mindanao, according to the US Department of State website.
- The Philippine National Police has [filed](#) several charges before the Mandaluyong City Prosecutor's Office against two men behind the sale of vaccine and vaccination slots.

— Bella Perez-Rubio

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/06/09/2104198/philippines-sees-5462-new-coronavirus-infections/amp/>

OCTA: Mindanao, Western Visayas now areas of concern

June 9, 2021



A resident (R) carries a water container ahead of a lockdown in the neighbourhood in Manila on March 10, 2021, as the number of new daily cases has soared past 3,000 in recent days - most in the Metro Manila area. (Photo by Ted ALJIBE / AFP)

By Christine Fabro

The independent research group OCTA sees a downward trend of COVID-19 cases in the National Capital Region; however, an increase in the number of new cases were found in most areas in Western Visayas and Mindanao, particularly in Iloilo City and Davao City.

In some local government units (LGUs) in Mindanao, the hospital and intensive care unit (ICU) utilization rate is “very concerning”, according to OCTA during an interview in the Laging Handa public briefing on Wednesday (June 9).

Other areas with an increased number of COVID-19 cases include South Cotabato, General Santos, Cotabato City, and even in Western Visayas.

“It depends on the definition ng perspective of the person on what the epicenter is. From our perspective nga, we could say na it [Mindanao] is also one of the epicenters ngayon, along with Western Visayas,” David said.

However, he clarified that the epicenter of the virus remains in the National Capital Region (NCR) as it is still averaging almost 1,000 new cases per day.

Meanwhile, the Department of Health (DOH) Usec. Maria Rosario Vergeire discouraged using “epicenter” as the term to describe the rise of cases in an area.

“Epicenter, in relation to epidemics, are interpreted by some to refer to an area as the source of the infection. It is also meant to connote the area as a hotspot for the infection. We discourage the use of the term “epicenter” in describing the rise of cases in an area,” said Vergeire.

“These areas are not the origin of the COVID-19 virus. Moreover, using the term “epicenter” detracts from other surrounding areas which may be equally or more affected by COVID-19,” she added.

Projection for the COVID-19 surge outside Metro Manila

OCTA suggested an increase in the ICU capacity and number of healthcare workers in hospitals, generally in Mindanao.



“As the surge progresses, ang pupuntahan niyan ay ospital po for a minority of the people. [Kung] significant ang surge, mapupuno iyong mga hospitals. Kaya, kailangan [na] ang focus talaga ay increasing hospital capacity not just iyong beds and ventilators, pero pati na rin iyong ating hospital healthcare workers,” said research fellow Professor Ranjit Rye.

He added that efforts in testing, tracing, and isolation in the COVID hotspots in Western Visayas and Mindanao should be accelerated and expanded to improve the capacity to detect cases. Prof. Rye also noted a significant increase in the hospital capacity in Iloilo City where the hospital utilization rate is at 83% while the ICU utilization rate is at 97%.

“Nakikita na natin right now for Iloilo City the hospital capacity is close to being overwhelmed; Davao City is still good, it can manage,” he said.

Dr. David said that the surge in cases usually lasts for at least one to two months before it gets contained.

Containing the virus

To date, Prof. Rye said only less than 2% of the Philippines’ total population have been vaccinated against COVID-19, far from the target percentage of inoculated individuals to contain the virus.

“Napakakaunti pa to have an effect... We need something like 32% to 50% to see significant changes in the trends as far as the epidemic is concerned,” he said.

“Masaya ako na nag-ro-rollout na iyong ating vaccination program. Sana the government’s eagle eyes, focus on the ball, simulan dito sa NCR [Plus 8] at ubusin na talaga lahat ng kailangang mabakunahan dito. If [the] government will stick to the plan, we will have some good news by September or October, as far as containment is concerned,” he added.

The research fellow said the country will remain vulnerable to surges and outbreaks until it vaccinates 50% to 70% of its total population.

As of June 8, the total number of vaccine doses administered in the Philippines stands at 6,314,548.

Of which, 4,632,826 were recipients of the first dose, while the remaining 1,681,722 were fully vaccinated against the COVID-19. – *rir*



COVID-19 sa Pinas walang pagbabago hangga't 'di 50% ang vaccination rate

By [Danilo Garcia](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon) - June 10, 2021 - 12:00am



Sinabi ni Prof. Ranjit Rye ng OCTA Research Group na masyado pang maliit ang mga numero ng nababakunahan sa bansa.
AFP/Joel Saget

MANILA, Philippines — Wala pang makikitang malaking pagbabago sa estado ng Pilipinas hanggang hindi naaabot ang 30% hanggang 50% vaccination rate ng populasyon ng bansa.

Sinabi ni Prof. Ranjit Rye ng OCTA Research Group na masyado pang maliit ang mga numero ng nababakunahan sa bansa.

Nitong Hunyo 8, umabot pa lamang sa 4.6 milyon ang nabakunahan na katumbas ng 4% ng populasyon ng bansa. Nasa 1.6 milyon ng naturang numero ang nakatanggap na ng ikalawang dose.

Matatandaan na target ng pamahalaan na mabakunahan ang nasa 70 milyon ng populasyon. Inaasinta rin nila na mabakunahan ang nasa 58 milyon pagsapit ng Nobyembre.

Una nang inihayag ng Department of Health (DOH) na nais ng mga eksperto na mabakunahan ang 30% ng populasyon bago luwagan ang 'quarantine restrictions' ng bansa.

Habang nagaganap ang 'vaccination program', sinabi ni Rye na dapat pa ring sumunod ang publiko sa 'minimum health standards' dahil nananatili ang matinding banta ng virus lalo na at maraming lugar sa labas ng Metro Manila ang nakitaan ng pagtaas ng mga kaso at pagkakaroon na ng bansa ng iba't ibang variants ng COVID-19.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2021/06/10/2104366/covid-19-sa-pinawalang-pagbabago-hanggang-di-50-ang-vaccination-rate/amp/>



Senator urges Biden to commit 5 million vaccines to Philippines

By [Pia Lee-Brago](#)(Philstar.com) - June 9, 2021 - 12:00am



Schumer

MANILA, Philippines — US Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer is urging President Joe Biden to set aside at least five million doses of COVID-19 vaccines for the Philippines – a key ally – as part of the US commitment to donate excess vaccines to other countries.

“I urge you to commit at least five million doses of COVID-19 vaccines to the Republic of the Philippines as part of the United States’ commitment to send 80 million of such doses to foreign nations over the next several months,” Schumer, a Democrat from New York, said in a letter to Biden dated June 1.

The senator said the US has a long, intertwined history with the Philippines, with Filipino-Americans making immeasurable contributions to New York and to American society, particularly through their “selfless and professional efforts” as frontline health care workers at the time of COVID-19 pandemic.

He noted that the Philippines has suffered over 1.2 million COVID-19 cases including 21,000 deaths. The country in recent weeks has seen a worrisome uptick in cases, moving from a seven-day average of 4,900 cases on May 25 to over 6,500 on May 31.

To combat the rising COVID-19 cases in the Philippines, Schumer said the country needs assistance in securing more vaccines to protect its population.

Currently, only 3.7 percent or roughly four million Filipinos have received at least one dose of the vaccine, and only 1.1 percent or 1.2 million are fully vaccinated.

The senator mentioned the delay in the crucial shipment of 17.7 million AstraZeneca vaccine doses from Thailand’s Siam Bioscience, “putting the country’s vaccination efforts in dire straits.” The Biden administration announced on May 31 that the US would release 60 million doses of AstraZeneca vaccine to support the global vaccination program seen as key to ending the COVID-19 pandemic.

“The AstraZeneca vaccine is not authorized for use domestically, however, other nations such as the Philippines have approved its use. Sending these vaccines abroad would not diminish our ability to vaccinate our population at home as the United States has more than enough FDA-authorized vaccines on hand made by other manufacturers,” he added.



Schumer said he fully supports Biden's decision to assist other nations with the millions of doses of AstraZeneca vaccine stockpiled by the US government.

"As a key ally in this region, it is imperative that the United States support the Philippines by committing at least five million doses of vaccines to the nation," Schumer said.

Schumer said Filipino health care workers have long been on the frontlines of US hospitals and emergency rooms.

"Indeed, throughout the pandemic Filipino-American nurses and doctors put themselves in harm's way to save lives," Schumer said. "Nearly a third of the nurses who've died of coronavirus in the US are Filipino, even though Filipino nurses make up just four percent of the nursing population nationwide," he pointed out.

"The US can honor the service and sacrifice of these heroes by providing the urgently needed five million life-saving doses as quickly as possible." – **Helen Flores**



TOKYO OLYMPIC MAGIGING SUPER SPREADER KAYA NG COVID-19?



June 9, 2021 @ 1:35 PM 16 hours ago

NAHAHATI ngayon ang mga mamamayang Hapon sa nalalapit na pagdaraos ng Tokyo Games o Olympic sa darating na Hulyo-Agosto 2021.

May mga nananawagan na ikansela ito habang may tumatanggap namang ituloy.

Ang kinatatakutan?

Maaaring lumala ang rumaragasa ngayong coronavirus disease-19 o COVID-19 at magkadamay-damay ang lahat.

Maaari umanong magiging super spreader ng COVID-19 hindi lang sa Japan kundi maging sa ibang bansa, lalo na pagkatapos ang olimpiada.

Subalit naninindigan naman ang iba na hindi magaganap ang kinatatakutang super spreading dahil sa ipatutupad na mahigpit na mga patakaran at siksik na paghahanda laban sa pandemya.

Sa pinakahuling ulat, may 762,401 na kabuuang bilang ng na-COVID, 13,574 na patay at 42,183 na aktibong kaso sa Japan at nasa state of emergency.

KALAGAYANG COVID-19

Nasa state of emergency ang maraming prefecture o local government unit sa Japan at magtatapos ito sa Hunyo 20.

Kasama sa mga nasa state of emergency ang Tokyo na pangunahing pagdarausan ng olimpiada, kasama ang Hokkaido na pagdarausan ng marathon.

Sinasalakay ang Japan ng United Kingdom variant, Brazil variant, South Africa variant at meron ding Philippine variant.

Pero pinakakatakutan ang India variant dahil sa tantiya ng medial experts, ito ang mananalasa umano sa mga darating na araw sa Japan.

Sa mga huling ulat, hindi pa gaanong ramdam ang pagbaba ng mga kaso ng pandemya roon.

MGA ANTI AT PRO-OLYMPIC

Kabilang sa mga kumontra sa Tokyo Olymics si Tohoku University professor Hiroshi Oshitani na kilala sa pagbuo ng 3 C laban sa COVID-19 gaya ng pag-iwas sa Closed spaces, Crowds and Close contact na sitwasyon.



Aniya, imposibleng matamo ang 100 porsyentong kaligtasan sa pandemya sa olimpiada at mariin nitong sinabi na huwag gawing daan ito para mapasok ang mga lugar at bansang hindi gaanong tinatamaan ng pandemya.

Isa sa mga pangunahing ipinupunto ni Oshitani na kapos na kapos ang bakuna sa maraming bansa na may padalang atleta sa Japan at pagkatapos ng palaro, uwi ang mga ito na maaaring may dalang virus.

Mga kasapi naman ng labor union ang humihiling sa gobernador ng Hokkaido na ikansela ang marathon doon habang sinabi ni Japanese Olympic Committee board member Kaori Yamaguchi, judo bronze medalist noong 1988 Games, na napipilitan lang ang Japan na idaos ang palaro.

Sa kabilang banda, pukpukan naman ngayon ang testing at pagbabakuna ng pamahalaan laban sa COVID-19 para lang maging ligtas umano ang palaro.

Ipatutupad din umano ang patakarang walang papayagang galing sa ibang bansa na tagapanood kundi mga atleta lamang na babantayan nila ang mga galaw para hindi makalamyerd.

At walang atleta na lalahok na hindi bakunado.

10 JUNE 2021, THURSDAY



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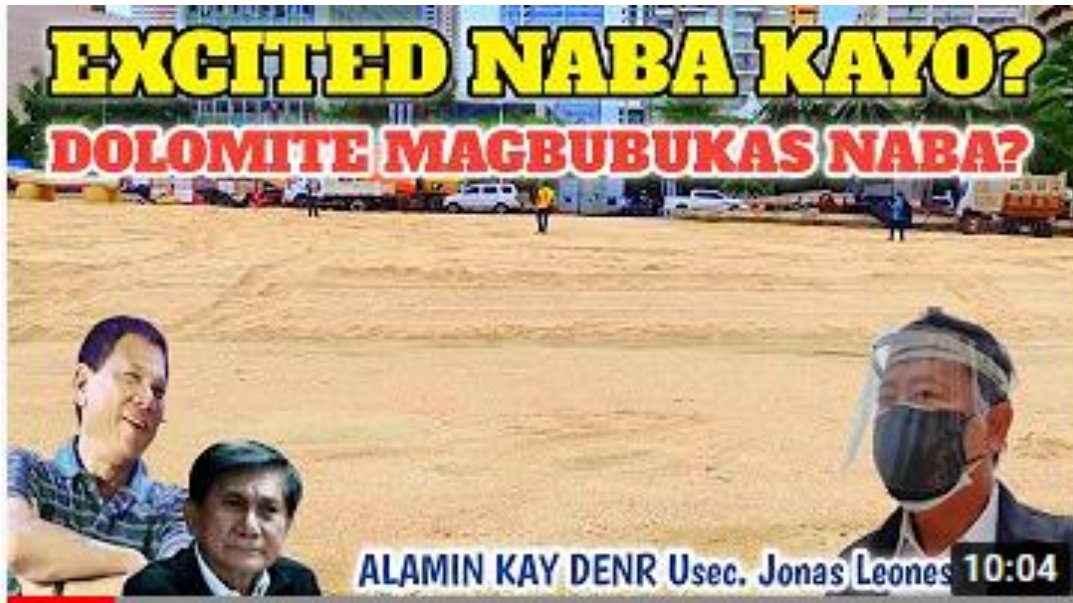
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
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