

10 MARCH 2021, WEDNESDAY



DENR

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR tells LGUs: Pass local ordinances to oblige barangays segregate wastes

[INQUIRER.net](https://www.inquirer.net) / 12:04 PM March 09, 2021



DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda. (File photo by HENZBERG AUSTRIA / Senate Public Information and Relations Bureau)

MANILA, Philippines – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has urged local government units (LGUs) to pass ordinances that would direct barangays (villages) in implementing waste segregation.

DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda, of the Solid Waste Management and LGUs Concerns, said in a statement on Tuesday that cities and municipalities in the country have ordinances on waste segregation that should be implemented at the very source — barangay level — for “effective collection and disposal of solid waste.”

“Propose to your local council to create an ordinance that will act on those who do not practice segregation in their barangays,” Antiporda said.

The DENR official also echoed the call for efficient and effective handling of solid waste.

“It is already stated in RA [Republic Act] 9003 [Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000], but let us strengthen it with the help of your council,” he added.

He also recommended having inter-barangay “environmental marshals” in every barangay within a city/municipality to monitor solid waste management practices in neighboring barangays.

Meanwhile, according to the data of the Provincial Government – Environment and Natural Resources Office of Cavite, 58.78 percent of the waste generated in the province is biodegradable, while 28.19 percent are residual wastes.

Antiporda encouraged Cavite LGU to allocate funds for the collection of biodegradable and residual wastes.

Antiporda also said that the DENR is committed to provide technical and financial assistance to the LGUs concerning their solid waste management programs for the implementation of solid waste management nationwide. **Liezelle Soriano Roy**, *INQUIRER.net* trainee

Source: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1404715/denr-tells-lgus-pass-local-ordinances-to-oblige-barangays-segregate-wastes>



DENR Pushes At-Source Waste Segregation through Local Ordinances

BY VILLAGE CONNECT ON MARCH 9, 2021 NEWS

DENR Pushes At-Source Waste Segregation through Local Ordinances



The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has urged local government units (LGUs) to pass ordinances that will direct barangays to implement waste segregation at source.

DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and LGUs Concerns Benny D. Antiporda said cities and municipalities nationwide should focus on waste segregation at source for the effective collection and disposal of solid waste.

Antiporda echoed his call for efficient and effective handling of solid waste during a dialogue with Cavite's provincial, city, and municipal environment officers, organized by environmental health group EcoWaste Coalition on March 3.



"Propose to your local council to create an ordinance that will act on those who do not practice segregation in their barangays," Antiporda said.

"It is already stated in RA (Republic Act) 9003 (Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000), but let us strengthen it with the help of your council," he added.

Antiporda, who is also the alternate chair of the National Solid Waste Management Commission, recommended the creation of inter-barangay enforcement group or designation of "environmental marshals" in every barangay within a city/municipality to monitor solid waste management practices in neighboring barangays.

He also encouraged the Cavite LGU representatives to discuss with their respective local chief executives to allocate funds to address problems on the collection of biodegradable and residual waste.



"Kindly tell your mayors to allocate funds for biodegradable and residual wastes," Antiporda said. Data from the Provincial Government – Environment and Natural Resources Office of Cavite shows that 58.78 percent of the waste generated in the province are biodegradable, while 28.19 percent are residual wastes.

During the meeting, Antiporda also commended the Environment and Natural Resources Offices of Trece Martires City and municipality of General Mariano Alvarez (GMA) for implementing environmental and ecological projects and programs that effectively address city and municipal generated wastes.

He likewise reiterated the commitment of the DENR to provide technical and financial assistance to the LGUs on their solid waste management programs to ensure the effective implementation of solid waste management in the country.



Ordinances urged for waste segregation

posted March 09, 2021 at 10:40 pm

by [Rio N. Araja](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources is urging local government units to pass ordinances directing barangays to implement waste segregation at the source.

Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and LGUs Concerns Benny Antiporda said cities and municipalities nationwide must focus on waste segregation at the source for the effective collection and disposal of solid waste.

He reiterated his call for an efficient and effective handling of solid waste in a recent dialogue with Cavite's provincial, city and municipal environment officers organized by the environmental health group EcoWaste Coalition on March 3.

"Propose to your local council to create an ordinance that will act on those who do not practice segregation in their barangays," he said.

"It is already stated in Republic Act 9003 (Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000), but let us strengthen it with the help of your council."

Antiporda is also the alternate chairperson of the National Solid Waste Management Commission that recommended the creation of inter-barangay enforcement group or designation of environmental marshals in every barangay within a city and municipality to monitor solid waste management practices in neighboring barangays.

"Kindly tell your mayors to allocate funds for biodegradable and residual wastes," he said.

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DENR sa mga LGUs: ‘Magpasa ng ordinansa para obligahin ang mga brgy na magpatupad ng waste segregation’

By **Bombo Bam Orpilla** - March 9, 2021 | 7:49 PM

Hinimok ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang mga lokal na pamahalaan na magpasa ng mga ordinansa na mag-aatas sa mga barangay na magpatupad ng waste segregation o wastong paghihiwalay ng basura.

Sa isang pahayag, sinabi ni DENR Usec. Benny Antiporda na dapat ipatupad sa barangay level ng mga lungsod at bayan sa bansa ang ordinansa sa waste segregation para aniya sa epektibong pagkolekta at pagtatapon ng solid waste.

“Propose to your local council to create an ordinance that will act on those who do not practice segregation in their barangays,” saad ng opisyal.

Muli ring inihayag ng DENR official ang panawagan para sa mas pinainam at epektibong pangangasiwa sa basura.

“It is already stated in RA [Republic Act] 9003 [Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000], but let us strengthen it with the help of your council,” dagdag nito.

Inirekomenda rin ni Antiporda ang pagkakaroon ng “environmental marshals” sa bawat barangay na siyang magmo-monitor ng solid waste management practices sa mga katabing barangay.



Antiporda urges all bgy's to practice waste segregation

Tuesday, March 9, 2021 Cory Martinez8

ALL barangays in the country must be those responsible in implementing waste segregation at source for the effective collection and disposal of solid waste.

This was stressed by Benny Antiporda, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and LGUs Concerns, as he urged the cities and municipalities nationwide to pass ordinances mandating the barangays to be in-charge in waste segregation at source.

Antiporda reiterated his call for efficient and effective handling of solid waste during a dialogue with Cavite's provincial, city, and municipal environment officers, organized by environmental health group EcoWaste Coalition on March 3.

"Propose to your local council to create an ordinance that will act on those who do not practice segregation in their barangays," Antiporda said.

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Source: <https://journal.com.ph/news/metro/antiporda-urges-all-bgy's-to-practice-waste-segregation/>



DENR HINIKAYAT ANG MGA LGU NA MAGPASA NG ORDINANSA PARA SA WASTE SEGREGATION



March 10, 2021 @ 12:10 AM 6 hours ago

IMINUNGKAHI ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa local government units (LGUs) na magpasa ng isang ordinansa na nag-aatas sa mga barangay na ipatupad ang waste segregation.

Ayon kay DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and LGUs Concerns Benny D. Antiporda, dapat na tutukan ng mga lungsod at munisipalidad sa buong bansa ang waste segregation mula sa pinanggalingan nito o waste segregation at source para maging epektibo ang pagkolekta at pagtapon sa mga basura.

Muling nanawagan si Antiporda na maging epektibo ang pangangasiwa sa solid waste sa ginanap na dialogue sa Cavite provincial, city, at municipal environment officers na inorganisa ng grupong EcoWaste Coalition noong Marso 3.

“Propose to your local council to create an ordinance that will act on those who do not practice segregation in their barangays,” sabi ni Antiporda.

“It is already stated in RA (Republic Act) 9003 (Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000), but let us strengthen it with the help of your council,” dagdag pa nito.

Inirekomenda rin ni Antiporda na siya ring alternate chair ng National Solid Waste Management Commission, na bumuo ng inter-barangay enforcement group o magtalaga ng “environmental marshals” sa bawat barangay ng lungsod at munisipalidad upang mag-monitor sa solid waste management practices ng katabing barangay.

Hinikayat din nito ang Cavite LGU representatives na talakayin sa kanilang local chief executives na maglaan ng pondo upang mabigyan ng solusyon ang problema sa paghakot ng biodegradable at residual waste.

“Kindly tell your mayors to allocate funds for biodegradable and residual wastes,” saad pa ni Antiporda.

Batay sa data ng Provincial Government – Environment and Natural Resources Office ng Cavite, 58.78% ng mga nakukuhang basura sa probinsya ay biodegradable habang ang 28.19% naman ay residual wastes.



Pinuri naman ni Antiporda ang Environment and Natural Resources Offices ng Trece Martires City at munisipalidad ng General Mariano Alvarez (GMA) dahil sa pag-implenta ng mga ito ng environmental at ecological projects at programs upang matugunan ang city at municipality generated wastes.

Inulit din nito sa mga lokal na pamahalaan ang kahandaan ng DENR na magbigay ng technical at financial assistance sa LGUs para sa kanilang solid waste management programs upang matiyak ang epektibong implementasyon ng solid waste management sa bansa.



BBC: Divers discover face masks littering Anilao coral reef

By [Janvic Mateo](#)(Philstar.com) - March 10, 2021 - 12:00am



“Take a look at the rubbish that was brought back by the divers. You can see here, blue face masks, lots of them. There’s a face shield here, plastic bottles, tarpaulin. And the question is now, what happens to this rubbish?” BBC Philippine correspondent Howard Johnson said in the report.

Miguel de Guzman, file

MANILA, Philippines — Divers have discovered face masks and other personal protective equipment (PPE) entangling the reefs at the popular dive spot of Anilao in Batangas, a new report by the British Broadcasting Network (BBC) revealed.

“Take a look at the rubbish that was brought back by the divers. You can see here, blue face masks, lots of them. There’s a face shield here, plastic bottles, tarpaulin. And the question is now, what happens to this rubbish?” BBC Philippine correspondent Howard Johnson said in the report.

Johnson, along with professional divers from the Anilao Scuba Dive Center, found disposable surgical masks and plastic waste littering the dive spot.

“Back then, it was not this bad. We see small pieces of plastic. But right now, wherever you look, it is there,” driver Shala Caliao said in English and Filipino.

A paper published in the journal *Case Studies in Chemical and Environmental Engineering* last September estimated the country uses 49 million face masks and generates 353.03 tons of medical waste daily.

An Asian Development Bank (ADB) report said Manila alone produces an additional 280 tons of medical waste per day, while the UN website said around 75 percent of used masks and pandemic-related waste will end up in landfills or in seas.

UN Environment Program (UNEP) executive director Inger Andersen warned of uncontrolled pollution if the large increase in medical waste is not managed soundly.

“Masks, PPE, gloves and other disposal items are an essential part of the COVID-19 response. But this plastic waste threatens to negate strides made in the fight against disposable plastics, marine litter and microplastics – especially in countries with weak waste management infrastructure,” Andersen said.



For the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), culprits must be identified so appropriate action can be taken.

“They could be charged with the violation of the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act or the Anti-Littering Law,” Undersecretary Jonas Leones said.

“We are coordinating with local governments especially concerning strengthening the information and education campaign on proper disposal of face masks,” Undersecretary Benny Antiporda added. – **Rhodina Villanueva**



Warning on improper PPE disposal could trigger global pollution

March 9, 2021 14 min read

A diver spots a discarded face mask littered on the ocean floor.

Sourced from the web by Tracy Cabrera

MANILA — In recent reports, divers in the Philippines have described finding coral reefs littered with single-use face masks, also known as personal protective equipment (PPE), prompting them to issue a warning to government authorities about the dangers posed by the pandemic waste that has been dumped into the sea without care or fear of the repercussions that this could bring about.

More and more countries have recommended wearing masks and other protective equipment with the goal of curbing the spread of the disease but it a press conference study of the Joint Prevention and Control Mechanism of the State Council of China was found that approximately 468.9 tons of medical waste are generated every day in association with Covid-19.

On the other hand, it was found in Indonesia (Jakarta) that the medical waste scale had reached 12,740 tons approximately 60 days after people were first infected by a coronavirus in the area. Infectious waste is characterized as any material that is suspected to contain pathogens (bacteria, viruses, parasites, or fungi) insufficient concentration or quantity to cause disease in susceptible hosts.

Experts also noted that the materials also comprise waste contaminated with blood, bodily fluids, tissues, organs and sharp objects from treatment and, therefore, also includes diagnosis, swabs, and medical devices and is therefore harmful to public health. In particular, infectious waste generated by the Covid-19 outbreak has posed a major environmental and health concern in many countries and in particular, the inadequate solid waste management may increase the spread of coronavirus, especially in developing countries.

Currently, millions of contaminated face masks, gloves, and materials for diagnosing, detecting, and treating SARS-CoV-2 and other human pathogens are undergoing the irreversible process of becoming infectious waste. This, in turn, will cause environmental and health problems if they are stored, transported, and handled improperly. Moreover, due to the increased healthcare waste owing to the pandemic, the threat that unsafe disposal of medical waste will spill over into environmental pollution is palpable and immediate.

A recent study found that human coronaviruses can remain active on inanimate hard surfaces (such as metal, glass or plastic) for up to nine days. Although some Asian countries still do not follow proper management strategies and insufficient solid waste containers are one of the major problems that lead to the contamination of infectious waste in solid waste containers in the general community, the threat will be greater in developing countries that do not have sufficient resources for solid waste management.



In particular, most developing countries, such as Cambodia, Philippines, Thailand, India, Malaysia, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Vietnam and Palestine are widely perceived to be dumping solid waste in poorly managed and open landfills. This is another example where improper management of contaminated PPEs and healthcare waste may increase the spread of viral disease in the environment.

Consequently, one of the many problems that will inevitably occur is contagious waste, which, if not managed properly, may be the root cause of severe diseases and environmental problems. Hence, the purpose of this work is to estimate face mask use and medical waste during the Covid-19 pandemic, thereby calling on the waste management and scientific communities to express their concerns and take the requisite actions for the formulation of appropriate solid waste management policies and strategies to governments at all levels.

Estimated daily face mask use and medical waste in Asia with confirmed COVID-19 cases.

Country	^a Population	^a Total COVID-19 cases	^b Urban population (%)	Face masks acceptance rate (%)	Number of face mask need of each general population each day	Total daily face mask use (pieces)	Medical waste (tons/day)
India	1,381,085,714	1,643,416	35	80	1	381,179,657	6,491.49
Iran	84,077,062	301,530	75	80	1	50,648,022	1,191.04
Pakistan	221,213,683	278,305	35	80	1	61,762,860	1,099.30
Saudi Arabia	34,855,542	274,219	84	80	1	23,367,155	1,083.17
Bangladesh	164,820,045	234,889	75	80	1	99,155,739	927.81
Turkey	84,410,984	229,891	39	80	1	26,066,112	908.07
Iraq	40,288,721	121,263	96	80	1	30,973,969	478.99
Qatar	2,807,805	110,460	60	80	1	1,341,008	436.32
Indonesia	273,753,080	106,336	73	80	1	159,214,791	420.03
Philippine	109,694,822	89,374	56	80	1	48,967,769	353.03
Kazakhstan	18,794,372	89,078	58	80	1	8,675,482	351.86
China	1,439,323,776	84,292	86	80	1	989,103,299	332.95
Oman	5,115,955	79,159	47	80	1	1,927,692	312.68
Israel	91,97,590	70,379	100	80	1	7,358,072	278.00
Kuwait	4,275,450	66,529	86	80	1	2,941,510	262.79
United Arab Emirates	9,899,794	60,223	100	80	1	7,919,835	237.88
Singapore	5,854,053	51,809	93	80	1	4,364,782	204.65
Bahrain	1,705,531	40,755	25	80	1	343,835	160.98
Armenia	2,963,706	38,196	89	80	1	2,114,901	150.87
Afghanistan	38,992,638	36,542	63	80	1	19,589,901	

Source: <https://maharlika.tv/2021/03/09/warning-on-improper-ppe-disposal-could-trigger-global-pollution/?fbclid=IwAR2h-fkdgIUUDW1f34HZxCPWiu53Nt1ZdvOfzQrXz2Td7xGhhReEQ0UAXUI>



Coronavirus: Divers find Philippine reef covered with single-use face masks

Coronavirus: Divers find Philippine reef covered with single-use face masksClose

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is washing up on coral reefs close to the Philippine capital, Manila. According to an estimate by the Asian Development Bank, during the peak of the Covid-19 outbreak, the city could have been generating up to 280 tonnes of extra medical waste per day.

Environmental groups are warning that the plastic inside face masks is breaking down and being consumed by marine wildlife. They're urging the Philippine government to improve its handling of medical waste, to prevent further pollution of the seas.

The BBC's Howard Johnson joined divers from Anilao Scuba Dive Centre, a group affiliated to the United Nations Environment Programme's Green Fins, which promotes sustainable marine tourism in South-East Asia.

Video produced by Howard Johnson and Virma Simonette. Additional camera work: Mark Badiola and Jojo D. Lontok.



Cleanup of polluted waters of Manila Bay under way

Published March 10, 2021, 12:30 AM

by [Manila Bulletin](#)



After Secretary Roy Cimatu of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources cleaned up Boracay after five months in 2018, President Duterte told him to clean up Manila Bay next. The secretary looked at the problem posed by Manila Bay, so many times bigger than Boracay, and told the President it would take over 10 years to accomplish the task of cleaning up the bay.

The pollution in the bay is the result of decades of neglect, starting with the millions of homes built along the streams and rivers that joined the Pasig as it flowed to Manila Bay. These millions of households poured their household wastes and their human sewage directly into the streams and into the Pasig river. Today, the waters of Manila Bay are deemed unfit for human contact.

In 2008, the Supreme Court, acting on a petition filed by the Concerned Citizens of Manila Bay, ordered the DENR and other government agencies to clean up the bay in ten years.

There are two concessioners supplying water to Metro Manila – Maynilad, serving the West Zone of the Greater Manila Area — portions of Manila, portions of Quezon City, portions of Makati, and Caloocan, Pasay, Paranaque, Las Piñas, Muntinlupa, Valenzuela, Navotas, and Malabon. Manila Water serves the East Zone – Mandaluyong, Makati, Pasig, Pateros San Juan, Taguig, Marikina, parts of Manila and Quezon City, several towns of Rizal.

Last month, Manila Water announced that it had started the construction of its 2nd sewage treatment plant at a cost of P4.2 billion. The plant is expected to be completed in 2024. Full sewer and sanitation coverage is expected by 2037.

Maynilad also announced last month that three new treatment plants, built at a cost of P7.15 billion, are due for completion this year. Maynilad now has a total of 22 wastewater facilities. Full sewerage and sanitation coverage should be 100 percent by 2037.

The year 2037 is still a long way off in the future – 16 years. But after all these decades of suffering the pollution of the bay, we can wait a few more years to see a finally clean Manila Bay, worthy of being listed among the world's most beautiful waters in the world today.



Almost 200 kilos of trash collected in Mt. Apo park clean-up drive

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Mar 09 2021 05:11 AM



DENR Soccksargen

A total of 199 kilos of trash were collected at the Mt. Apo Natural Park, weeks after it faced closure due to garbage, vandalism, and violations committed by some trekkers in the area.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Region XII, through the office of Mt. Apo Natural Park (MANP) Cotabato, as well as 132 volunteers from partner local government units (LGUs), agencies, groups and other stakeholders, conducted a simultaneous clean-up drive last week at the country's highest mountain.

DENR-MANP said in a statement Monday that the 199 kilos were non-biodegradable waste collected from Mandangan-Kidapawan and Bongolanon-Magpet Trails, as well as in Lake Venado campsite and Mt. Apo' summit.

Of the total, 72 kilos were breakable bottles of liquors and beverages and others were mixed plastic food packaging.

DENR 12 regional director Felix Alicer reminded trekkers and climbers to follow the rules and help them protect and conserve Mt. Apo and its natural resources.

“Mt. Apo is one of the last frontiers of the country. Aside from being the highest peak, it is also one of the Philippines’ significant biodiversity areas. It is the home of various endangered species and one of which is the Philippine Eagle,” he said.

He said they are pushing for stricter measures in order to address the issues concerning the Mount Apo.

DENR said volunteers also covered traces of vandalism at Mt. Apo, and they were able to plant at least two seedlings of trees along their assigned trails.

Last month, DENR in Davao region said that temporary closure of the country's highest mountain is possible, following violations committed by some trekkers and mountaineers.

DENR officials earlier found out during their trail and camp assessment last Feb. 11-14 that littering and vandalism were also present along Kapatagan trail, campsite, and in its environment.

But in an emergency en banc meeting on Feb. 23, the deferment of the proposal to close Mt. Apo was chosen, after 25 of the members, both in Region 11 and 12, voted in favor of the motion to delay the closure, while eight others were against it.

Despite the plan being deferred, DENR said they are firm in pursuing its strategic plans to improve the condition of Mt. Apo. - **report from Hernel Tocmo**

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/03/09/21/almost-200-kilos-of-trash-collected-in-mt-apo-park-clean-up-drive>



Monitor lizard sellers fall

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

By [TDT](#) [@tribunephil](#)



GUAGUA, PAMPANGA — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Guagua Municipal Police Station (MPS) arrested four people in Barangay San Rafael for selling a monitor lizard.

Two of the suspects were identified as Raymond Sto. Domingo, a 27-year-old resident of Barangay Tokwing in Porac and Marlon Dacani, a 37-year-old resident of Barangay Babo Sakan in Porac.

The other two suspects were minors aged 15 and 17, both residents of Barangay San Pedro in Sasmuan.

According to Guagua MPS chief Police Lt. Col. Julius Javier, their operatives conducted an entrapment operation after receiving a tip that someone was selling a bayawak, or scientifically known as *Varanus marmoratus*.

Undercover agents bought a live bayawak worth P1,000 from Sto. Domingo and the entrapment ensued as authorities apprehended the suspects after they were in possession of the marked money.

Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer Laudemir Salac said that the DENR has already filed charges against the suspects for violation of Republic Act 9147 or the wildlife law. The two minors, on the other hand, were taken to the Municipal Social Work Development Office.

“Collecting, hunting, or possessing and trading of wildlife is punishable by a maximum imprisonment of one year and a fine of up to one million pesos, depending on the species, under the law,” Salac said.

He added that the monitor lizard that was rescued will undergo rehabilitation inside a wildlife center, before being released.

Source: https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2021/03/10/monitor-lizard-sellers-fall/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=monitor-lizard-sellers-fall



2 bird hunters nabbed for killing migratory birds

By: [Tonette Orejas](#) - [@ttorejasINQ](#)

[Inquirer Central Luzon](#) / 12:41 PM March 09, 2021

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO -- Two bird hunters have been arrested in Apalit town on Sunday, March 7, bringing to 10 the number of wildlife poachers caught in Pampanga since December last year.

The illegal hunting and killing of four wandering whistling ducks (locally known as batiki or *Dendrocygna arcuata*) in Sitio Tagulod in Barangay Sampaloc landed Fidel Aguilar, 59, and Ferdinand Tongol, 46, in jail, according to Master Sgt. Eduardo Gonzales, Apalit police investigator.

The suspects, both residents of the nearby town of San Simon, also in Pampanga, were arrested after tips provided by netizens, according to Laudemir Salac, head of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in the province.

Under the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2001, the suspects would face jail time of a maximum of one year and a fine of P100,000.

In December, the Candaba police and DENR agents arrested six men for shooting and killing two Great Egrets.

Last Saturday, the police and DENR personnel apprehended four suspects for selling a large bayawak (*Varanus marmoratus*) in Guagua town.

LZB



Study rates Puerto Galera carrying capacity

By [MA. STELLA F. ARNALDO](#)

MARCH 9, 2021



Sabang Beach, Puerto Galera

Image credits: [Aldar Darmaev | Dreamstime.com](#)

THE municipality of Puerto Galera is looking forward to the completion by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) of an environmental study that will determine the popular tourism destination's carrying capacity.

Puerto Galera Mayor Rocky D. Ilagan told the *BusinessMirror* that prior to the pandemic, tourist arrivals in the municipality were "about 4,000 to 5,000 [tourists] per day," adding that the DENR will finish its study by September.

Separately, in a news conference on Tuesday announcing the formal launch of "Amazing Puerto Galera," Ilagan said the DENR study will complement the municipality's strict entry protocols. Tourists, he said, will have to pass QR scanning "so we will know exactly how many tourists come in. The DENR financed a carrying capacity [study] of Puerto Galera, the beaches, and the resorts ... eventually we will have a clear understanding how many tourists can be accommodated by Puerto Galera."

He added, "With the QR coding we will see how many tourists are in those particular areas. So if we reach 50 percent of capacity, we will stop the tourists from going to those tourism destinations. We can inform them via text not to proceed."

Starting March 10, tourists will be allowed to enter Puerto Galera even without RT-PCR or antigen tests. Mindoro Oriental has opened its borders, and thus will now be fully accessible by regular ferry service from Batangas. When Puerto Galera slightly reopened to tourism in August, Ilagan said tourists were able to visit the municipality via special shuttle from Manila to Batangas, and then fetched by boat from Batangas arranged by the resorts. ([See, "No more Covid tests for visitors at Puerto Galera," in the BusinessMirror, March 9, 2021.](#))

Sustainable tourism in Palawan

Meanwhile, Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo Puyat said DOT will launch by the third quarter this year the Sustainable Tourism Development Project (STDP), which will run until 2026, aimed at hastening the tourism recovery of El Nido and Coron, in Palawan.

The STDP is an initiative under DOT's Transforming Communities Towards Resilient, Inclusive, and Sustainable Tourism (TouRIST) program. It is a collaboration with the provincial government of Palawan, the municipalities of Coron and El Nido and the Asian Development Bank.

For El Nido, STDP projects will focus on improving the town's drainage; managing solid waste by developing a landfill; managing tourism sites based on ecosystems; and developing enterprises and skills.

For Coron, projects include the development of a clean and dependable water supply, construction of a sewerage system, drainage improvement, and urban beautification.



“The STDP will help build the capacity of local stakeholders to protect and conserve [El Nido and] Coron’s natural beauty and biodiversity and ensure that tourism benefits the local communities,” said Puyat in a news statement.

As of February 15, 2021, a total of 20 accommodation establishments in Coron have been accredited by the DOT.

Oriental Mindoro and Palawan are under the Mimaropa (formerly Southwestern Tagalog) region. Other provinces include Mindoro Occidental, Marinduque, and Romblon.

Image credits: [Aldar Darmaev | Dreamstime.com](#)

Lingunan Creek sa Valenzuela City, itinanghal na most improved estero sa Metro Manila ng DENR sa katatapos na Gawad Taga-Ilog

By [RadyoMaN Manila](#)

-Mar. 9, 2021 at 10:51am



Ginawaran ng pagkilala bilang most improved estero ang Lingunan Creek sa lungsod ng Valenzuela sa isinagawang awarding ceremony ng Gawad Taga-Ilog: “Search for Most Improved Estero sa Metro Manila.”

Ito’y matapos makakuha ng 86.53 points ang Lingunan Creek mula sa 14 na waterways na inilahok ng Metro Manila Local Government Units (LGUs).

Itinanghal naman na first placer ang Park Creek sa Marikina City at 2nd placer naman ang Bangkulasi River sa Navotas City.

Nakuha rin ng Lingunan ang People’s Choice Awards matapos makakuha ng maraming “likes” at “hearts” sa social media.

Ang estero clean up drive ay sinimulan noong 2019 hanggang 2020 bilang bahagi ng kampanya para linisin ang Manila Bay.

Source: <https://i2.wp.com/rmn.ph/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/CREEK-VALENZUELA.jpg?resize=696%2C392&ssl=1>



Pasig River dredging about to begin

March 9, 2021, by Eldin Ganic

San Miguel Corp. (SMC) is gearing up to dredge the Pasig River, a heavily-silted and polluted water body – still considered an economically important river in Metro Manila.

Under their official plan, SMC will annually remove 600,000 tons of silt and solid waste from Pasig River over the next five years, as it awaits the arrival of two units of dredging equipment.

“Through the years, Pasig River has become narrower and shallower because of accumulated silt and waste. By cleaning and widening it, we will be able to increase its capacity to keep water flowing within its banks especially during heavy rains,” SMC President, **Ramon S. Ang**, said in a press release yesterday.

The 25.2-kilometer river connects Manila Bay and Laguna de Bay. It once served as an important passenger and commercial route in and out of Manila, the country’s capital city.

Over the years, the degradation of the Pasig River, including its siltation, reduced its capacity to absorb and channel water during heavy and excessive rains, causing flooding in low-lying areas.

SMC, together with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and other concerned government units, is targeting to extract 50,000 tons of waste per month from the river.



DPS Estero Rangers padayon sa clean-up aktibidades

March 9, 2021 11 min read

Nasa pang-13th day na ngayong Martes, March 9, ang patuloy na paglilinis ng masisipag na DPS Estero Rangers sa kanilang clean-up activity sa Estero de Sunog Apog. Ito ay sa Kawit Street, na sakop ng Barangay 135 Zone 12 sa District I, Manila. Umabot sa 88 na sako ang kanilang napuno ng estero waste kahapon. Tiyak na madadagdagan pa ang mga basurang makukuha nila sa araw na ito. Kasama rito ang mga piraso ng kahoy, sanga ng puno, at iba pang nakakabara sa mga estero nagaya ng plastic. (KIARA LAUREN IBANEZ/AI/MTVN)

Source: https://maharlika.tv/2021/03/09/dps-estero-rangers-padayon-sa-clean-up-aktibidades/?fbclid=IwAR2A53c0Dqyi8zhoZT8kZZ_Lq4sQETCqgb1OKPvveT4q5GFn31wobTx88LQ



DTI turns-over P2.4-M bamboo equipment to Mambuaya

Philippine Information Agency
09 Mar 2021, 14:38 GMT+10



CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY, March 8--A total of 35 farmer-members of Mambuaya Integrated Social Forestry Farmers Association (MAISFFA), Inc. will benefit from the PHP2.4M worth of bamboo equipment turned over by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) on March 5.

With the establishment of bamboo processing hub in the barangay, it aims to increase their income and improve their livelihood in their area in Mambuaya, Cagayan de Oro City.

Spearheaded by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)-Misamis Oriental Provincial Director Almer Masillones and barangay officials of Mambuaya, the association received P2.4 million worth of equipment comprising bamboo splitting machine, high speed strip planning machine, glue coating machine, and hot press machine.

The project, under the Shared Service Facility (SSF) of Integrated Natural Resources and Environmental Management - Livelihood Enhancement Support (INREMP-LES) 2 is a DTI-led special project with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Another ceremonial turnover of the same project was held in the afternoon of the same day during the Joint National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC) and Regional Task Force (RTF)-ELCAC X Meeting with President Rodrigo Roa Duterte in University of Science and Technology of Southern Philippines (USTP).

The certificate of turnover was officially handed by DTI Assistant Secretary Nino Contreras and Northern Mindanao Officer-in-Charge Regional Director Ermedio Abang to Cagayan de Oro City Mayor Oscar Moreno.

The turnover of the bamboo processing hub was in line with the government-initiated programs under the poverty reduction, livelihood and employment cluster and with DTI's mandate to provide continuous assistance to priority areas and beneficiaries by bringing its services and programs closer to the indigenous people. (DTI10)

Source: <https://www.malaysiasun.com/news/268049439/dti-turns-over-p24-m-bamboo-equipment-to-mambuaya>



Sale of portion of Arroceros Park opposed

By Wendell Vigilia

-March 10, 2021

MANILA Rep. Manuel Luis Lopez yesterday opposed the proposed inclusion of a portion of the Arroceros Park in the city as among the properties that would be developed, leased, used or sold to pay for the pensions and benefits of war veterans and military retirees, saying all properties under the care of the city government “should remain with and be safeguarded by the city, for the benefit of its residents.”

Lopez made the comment as a technical working group (TWG) of the House committee on veterans’ affairs and welfare tackled a substitute bill that would authorize the sale of the former site of the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO) on Arroceros Street in Ermita, Manila.

“Should this TWG, veterans affairs committee, any other committee of Congress and for that matter any other instrumentality of government, take a different position, I signify my continuing objection because this goes against the best interest of the City of Manila and my beloved Manilenyos,” he said.

The TWG is consolidating House Bill Nos. 702, 1921 and 5841 (An Act Mandating the Use of Proceeds from the Development, Lease, Use, or Sale of Certain Properties for Veterans Affairs and Welfare, and for Other Purposes). The bills are authored by Reps. Ruffy Biazon of Muntinlupa, Jose Antonio Sy-Alvarado of Bulacan, and Manuel Cabochan III of Magdalo party-list, respectively.

Lopez, chair of the House committee on Metro Manila Development, said the property is not owned by the PVAO and is reserved exclusively to be used as a park pursuant to Presidential Proclamation 435.

“Even PVAO impliedly admits that this is the case as it even asks DENR (Department of Environment and Natural Resources) Sec. (Roy) Cimatu for the titling of the property and the issuance of a presidential proclamation,” Lopez argued. “Absent the issuance of such a presidential proclamation, the use for the property remains and this must be ensured by the City of Manila and the Manila Parks Bureau.”

Under Section 88 of Commonwealth Act 141, the basis for Presidential Proclamation 435, “the tract or tracts of land reserved under the provision of Section 83 shall be non-alienable and shall not be subject of occupation, entry, sale, lease, or other disposition until again declared alienable under the provisions of this Act or by proclamation of the President.”



Mga pulis-Cebu namundok para magtirik ng puno

By Abante Tonite — Last updated Mar 9, 2021

VISMIN



Umakyat ng bundok sa Barangay Cambinocot ang mga pulis sa Cebu City nitong Martes ng umaga upang magtanim ng may 1,000 punong namumunga o mga fruit-bearing tree.

Sa isang ulat, sinabi ni Cebu City Police Office Director Police Col. Josefino Ligan, na nagsagawa sila ng tree planting activity, sa tulong ni Barangay Captain Reynaldo Lauro upang magbigay-kontribusyon sa pagpapabuti ng hinaharap na henerasyon.

Napapanahon ang kanilang isinagawa sa International Women's Month at kampanya ng gobyerno na makapagtanim ng 22 milyong puno ngayong taon. (IS)



This February 7, 2021 photo shows Masungi Georeserve in Baras, Rizal. The georeserve, known for its 60-million-year-old limestone formations, was restored after 20 years of protection.

Philstar.com/EC Toledo IV

Conservation initiative helps nature heal itself for Sierra Madre reforestation

[Gaea Katreena Cabico](#) (Philstar.com) - March 9, 2021 - 1:36pm

Part 2 of a feature on reforestation efforts in the Sierra Madre.

Read Part 1, on an upland farmers' association working to green a former kaingin area, [here](#).

RIZAL, Philippines — When he is not guiding visitors through the nature sanctuary, park ranger Ernie Belmonte nurtures trees planted in a patch of land in Rizal, a province east of Metro Manila.

First, Belmonte gets rid of stubborn weeds surrounding delicate saplings. He then digs a shallow ring around the plant — carefully, to spare its roots — and loosens the hard soil to make it easier for water to seep through.

For the final step, he stacks the weeds on top of the soil to keep moisture in and to shield the plant from extreme heat.

“What we’re doing is a small step in a larger initiative to restore the denuded land,” the 36-year-old park ranger says.

Planting trees is easy. Keeping the seedlings alive for them to grow is the challenge for Ernie Belmonte and other forest rangers at the Masungi Georeserve Foundation.

In 2017, the national government enlisted the organization’s help to restore and rewild some 2,700 hectares of heavily degraded lands in Baras town.

The project, called Masungi Geopark, has led to the planting of 60,000 native trees and has primed some 1,700 hectares for reforestation so far.

“The number of trees is not the main objective. It’s really bringing back an entire ecosystem of wildlife, water sources and biodiversity,” Billie Dumaliang, trustee and advocacy officer of Masungi, says.

Bringing back forests

Bringing back forests is a familiar task for the people behind the foundation. It manages the Masungi Georeserve, an award-winning conservation area known for its lush tropical scenery and sprawling karst landscape.



The famous limestone formations in Masungi Georeserve are seen in this February 7, 2021 photo. [For a first-time visitor, it is hard to believe that what is now the Masungi Georeserve was once an abused strip of land. It now boasts of dense greenery and is home to more than 400 species of flora and fauna.](http://Philstar.com/EC>Toledo</p></div>
<div data-bbox=)

The conservation project began in 1996 as a partnership between the Department of Natural Resources and Blue Star Construction and Development Corp. Since then, the firm has initiated major restoration efforts in a 430-hectare area degraded by real estate speculation, quarrying and illegal logging.

Masungi Georeserve opened its doors to the public in 2016 as a “low-volume” ecotourism site. Fees paid by visitors are used to finance its conservation initiatives.

A year after opening the georeserve to the public, the organization entered into an agreement with the government to restore the land around the Masungi limestone formations, the original site of the project.

Some 100 park rangers, mostly from the nearby upland communities, help conserve wildlife species and the 60-million-year-old limestone formations, and protect the sanctuary from threats.

Letting nature heal



A sign indicating the Masungi Geopark Project is a restricted area is seen in this February 6, 2021 photo. [Masungi uses the forest rejuvenation method known as assisted natural regeneration \(ANR\), which relies on the natural ability of species to grow in an area.](http://Philstar.com/EC>Toledo</p></div>
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The approach is centered on the idea that nature can come back to life when it is undisturbed, which means removing or reducing barriers to natural succession such as grazing and slash-and-burn is essential to the planting and nurturing of native trees.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization, ANR is a low-cost restoration method as expenses associated with seedling production, site preparation and planting are greatly reduced.



But while it works for Masungi, the strategy may not work for other open areas in the country or those that are heavily denuded, Priscila Dolom, director of the Forest Development Center at the University of the Philippines - Los Baños said.

She added that “it will take time” before a forest is restored using ANR — more time than typical reforestation because it uses tree species such as narra and yakal instead of faster growing species.

“It took us 20 years to restore the original site into a thriving forest. Hopefully, with accelerated growth by native tree planting and interventions against encroachment, we could see a restored forest in 10 years or so,” Dumaliang said.

The Forest Management Bureau said there is no one approach to reforestation, especially in the Philippines. Hence, prescribing ANR as the default reforestation strategy is “not sound.”

The Forest Foundation Philippines agreed, saying “the pursuit of this generalization has led to the planting of inappropriate species, deployment of inappropriate methods, and engagement of inappropriate groups.”

Saving Sierra Madre, watersheds



Mountains in Rizal are seen in this February 7, 2021 photo.
[There were renewed calls to protect the Sierra Madre, the longest mountain range in the country which spans from the northern province of Cagayan down to Quezon in southern Luzon, following back-to-back typhoons late last year.](http://Philstar.com/EC>Toledo</p></div><div data-bbox=)

Protecting the Sierra Madre is critical because it is the site of nearly half of the surviving old-growth forest in the Philippines. The mountain range also historically serves as a buffer against storms that develop in the Pacific Ocean, protecting millions of Filipinos living in the main island of Luzon.

Despite many laws and regulations aimed at preserving the remaining forests, the Sierra Madre remains under heavy threat of illegal logging, mining activities and development projects

The inability of watersheds to absorb and hold rainfall contributed to the severe flooding that submerged communities in Marikina City and Rizal following the onslaught of Typhoon Ulysses (Vamco) late last year.

Masungi, located on the foothills of the Sierra Madre, is part of the 26,000-hectare Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape and is located near the Kaliwa Watershed Forest Reserve, the site of a controversial dam project.

The new forest is seen to help prevent landslides and flooding events by restoring the natural ability of watersheds to regulate water for upland communities and lowland cities.



“We need to realize that nature’s health and people’s health are strongly intertwined. The current pandemic as well as the floodings from Typhoon Ulysses and Rolly [Goni], are stark reminders of what will continue to happen if we don’t make radical changes to the way we have been treating our forests and watersheds,” Dumaliang said.

Battles to defend the reserve



Stumps and piles of felled trees are seen inside the reforestation site on February 6, 2021.
[Philstar.com/EC Toledo](http://Philstar.com/EC>Toledo)

In 1993, the DENR issued an administrative order declaring Masungi a strict nature reserve and wildlife sanctuary and making it off limits to exploitative activities that might adversely affect the ecological balance in the area.

The inundation of communities brought by Tropical Storm Ondoy (Ketsana) in 2009 prompted a declaration upgrading the status of the Marikina watershed to a protected area.

Despite these, the Masungi foundation still struggles to defend its project.

Dumaliang said 1,500 hectares of the site have since been covered by Mineral Production Sharing Agreements, which give contractors the right to mine within the area.

In March 2020, a quarry company fenced off some 500 hectares of the reforestation site to block the access of Masungi personnel. In October of the same year, they faced the same threat; this time from a meat distributor that also owns a renewable energy company.

Rublou Inc. claimed the area it fenced off is part of the ancestral domain of the indigenous Dumagat-Remontados, not of the Masungi Geopark. Dumaliang said they met with the community’s council of elders, who denied involvement in the actions.

"After a while, several alleged members appear to have backtracked on this statement, apparently without the knowledge and consent of the elders and the rest of the [community]," she says.

After learning that an estimated 500 hectares of the project site was included in the group’s application for ancestral domain title, Masungi said it would respect their rights in parts of the geopark covered by their ongoing application.

If declared as an ancestral domain, all development projects within the land will need the free and prior informed consent of the IP group before these can proceed.

Charcoal-making is also one of the illegal activities inside the watershed.

“It saddens us that young trees are cut down and turn into charcoal. It takes 20 years for a tree to grow but people only cut it down in an instant,” Belmonte said, as he pointed to charcoal pits, piles of logs and stumps that were left of the trees in an area that is only in the early stage of forest succession.



To protect the nature sanctuary, Dumaliang asked the government to cancel mining and quarrying permits inside the project site and provide them a “dedicated and courageous” counterpart from the environment department.

“In the context of the climate crisis, where Filipinos are some of the most vulnerable people, it is not just unsound, but highly immoral and maybe even criminal to sacrifice nature’s conservation in favor of short-term and destructive interests,” she said.

Expanding initiatives



This February 6, 2021 photo shows the reforestation site at the Masungi Geopark Project.
[The organization aims to make its reforestation initiatives “as big as possible.”](http://Philstar.com/EC>Toledo</p></div><div data-bbox=)

“It’s important to continuously expand the conservation area. We should do more because these are contiguous areas and they try to support a wide variety of species, plants, animals, an entire ecosystem,” Dumaliang said.

For Belmonte, his experience with Typhoon Reming (Durian) in 2006 that wreaked havoc in his hometown in the Bicol region made him realize the critical role that trees play during disasters.

Knowing this and the importance of the area he is protecting within and beyond Rizal motivates him to take care of trees and the lands where they belong.

“We’re protecting the land not only for beautification purposes but for the sake of the next generation,” he said.

The story is part of the Climate Tracker's Southeast Asia Forest Recovery Collaborative Journalism project, produced with support from the Rainforest Journalism Fund in partnership with the Pulitzer Center.



SM by the BAY and SM MOA Remain Committed to a Cleaner Manila Bay

BY [VILLAGE CONNECT](#) ON MARCH 9, 2021 [LIFESTYLE](#)

SM by the BAY and SM MOA Remain Committed to a Cleaner Manila Bay



SM By the BAY and SM Mall of Asia, together with SM Prime Holdings' Commercial Properties Group (CPG), have been continuously conducting regular clean-up operations at SM By the Bay as part of their commitment to promoting cleaner shores along Manila Bay.

The regular cleanup drive, conducted similar to SM's annual International Coastal Cleanup Day, aims to encourage various stakeholders across the community to collaborate in helping protect the ecosystem within their own vicinities, while underscoring the importance of eco-volunteerism in the protection of the environment and natural resources.

Volunteers for the initiative are comprised of representatives from different SM groups, as well as mall operations, employees, security and maintenance personnel. Since January 2021 alone, SM has already mounted a total of 10 clean-up drives, and collected a total of 1,304 sacks of silt, 642 bags of assorted garbage, and 21 bags of recyclable waste materials.

The group plans to conduct more clean-ups in the coming months.



"As a responsible member of the community, SM has always been aware of the importance of keeping our waterways clean, which is why we continue to conduct regular cleanup drives. We also invite other stakeholders from various sectors to come together to help protect the environment and natural resources within their vicinities," Said Senior AVP for Operations of SM Mall of Asia Perkin So.



The initiative supports the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 14: "Life Below Water," which encourages the conservation and sustainable use of the world's oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development.

SM Cares' other initiatives for the Environment include the Trash to Cash recycling market every first Friday and Saturday of the month, across all SM Malls; the Plastic Waste Collection program,

in partnership with Plastic Credit Exchange; Electronic Waste Collection program; Water recycling across all of its malls; the use of solar energy; the annual Green Film Festival; and the AweSMSeas campaign on marine plastic pollution, in partnership with USAID and PRRCFI, to name a few.

SM Cares is the Corporate Social Responsibility arm of SM Supermalls, with programs to support communities and promote social inclusion and care for the environment. Its CSR advocacies include Programs for the Environment, Persons with Disabilities, Women & Breastfeeding Mothers, Children & Youth, Senior Citizens, and the creation of bike-friendly SM Malls across the country.

To know more about SM Cares, you may visit <https://www.facebook.com/OfficialSMCares/>.

Source: <http://villageconnect.com.ph/sm-by-the-bay-and-sm-moa-remain-committed-to-a-cleaner-manila-bay/3617#>



Green, Social and Sustainable Bonds initiative (1)

These bonds are specialized capital market debt instruments used to raise funding for projects consistent with the ESG principles under the Paris Treaty for Climate Change

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

By [Bing Matoto](#)



Very recently, I had the honor to moderate the Q&A session in the maiden webinar launching of the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) technical assistance initiative to promote Green, Social and Sustainable Bonds (GSSB) in the Philippines.

This was held in cooperation with the Capital Market Development Council (CMDC), a jointly-led private sector and government committee composed of leading capital market players, such as the Department of Finance (DoF), Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), Philippine Stock Exchange, Philippine Dealing and Exchange Corporation (PDEX), Insurance Commission, Bankers Association of the Philippines and the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (FINEX), which is tasked with overseeing the development of our equity and bond markets.

No less than Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez has taken up the challenge to bring us up to par with our more developed neighboring countries by correcting perceived market obstacles, as articulated in our Capital Market Development Program Blueprint for 2019-2025.

And what are these obstacles? The high cost of issuing a bond compared to the more conventional and cheaper bilateral financing arrangements with banks due to taxes, legal, registration and listing fees coupled with voluminous public offering rules are significant disincentives.

These have resulted in comparatively limited listed securities, which in turn result in a shallow bench of investors, particularly foreign, who require depth of choices and high volume of transactions to ensure a market-driven secondary market pricing and exit liquidity.

You can count on one hand the number of corporate bond issuers who venture out, and they are typically limited to the big boys in search of new long-term funding options.

They wisely take advantage of the prevailing negative real interest rates and limited investment options for investors to lock in funding.

Worse, upon issuance, there is hardly any secondary trading. Investors tend to buy and hold until maturity for lack of reasonable options. Although listed in Philippine Dealing and Exchange Corp.

(PDEX), the bid prices (the price at which dealers are prepared to buy a security being offered), if any, for the secondary trading of corporate bonds hardly reflect current market interest rates.



So, for bond investors who wish to exit before maturity, they become trapped. In a nutshell, it's no secret our bond market, particularly for private sector corporate bond instruments, is not deep. So, how do we overcome this lack of depth? More choices. The ADB initiative to promote GSSB in the Philippines is one such choice.

What are Green, Social and Sustainability Bonds? These bonds are specialized capital market debt instruments used to raise funding for projects consistent with the ESG (Environmental, Social and Corporate Governance) principles under the Paris Treaty for Climate Change that promotes societal and sustainable impact investing.

The Philippines, deemed to be second only to Japan in the world, in terms of vulnerability to climate events (Source: Global Climate Risk Index 2020, Germanwatch) is the logical poster child among the member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to herald the push for these thematic sustainable bonds.

But apart from these developmental considerations, which are of course by themselves important to our economy, given the dearth of instruments in our capital market, any investment banker worth his salt should advise a potential issuer to structure the features of the instrument to cater to what investors are looking for.

During the launch, Security and Exchange Commission (SEC) Commissioner Ephyro Amalong noted there is a huge demand for sustainable investments in the global arena, which he currently estimates to be about \$103 trillion in assets under management (AUM) spread over 3,756 investment firms, of which 497 are in the Asia-Pacific region. And this has been growing at a fast clip.

Two years ago, estimated AUM was only about \$82 trillion held by 2,300 firms, of which 217 are in the region.

That's a 63 percent growth in AUM and 100 percent in the number of new firms. On the other hand, issuers, globally, have joined the ride to take advantage of this demand surge.

In 2020, a record breaking \$600 billion in GSSB doubled the 2019 issues. Definitely a no-brainer for Philippine sovereign and corporates to issue GSSB!

Until next week... One big fight!

For comments, email bing_matoto@yahoo.com



Stranded dolphin rescued, released back to sea in Mandaue City

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Mar 09 2021 05:43 PM



Courtesy of JP Maunes

CEBU CITY - Authorities on Tuesday rescued a Fraser's dolphin found stranded at the shores of Mandaue City, Cebu.

The dolphin was discovered by fishermen struggling in the shallow waters of Barangay Umapad past 7 a.m. It appeared disoriented and weak, they said.

When it was deemed releasable, members of Bantay Dagat took the animal to the waters off Punta Engaño and released it back to the sea.



Courtesy of JP Maunes

The dolphin was observed to have regained its strength after circling around the boat 3 times before swimming away.

Lawyer Edu Ibanez, the city government's spokesperson, said the animal suffered a scratch on its nape.

"It has a scrape on its nape but nonetheless looked healthy when we released it back to the water," he told ABS-CBN News. -

Report from Annie Perez

Source: https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/03/09/21/stranded-dolphin-rescued-released-back-to-sea-in-mandaue-city?fbclid=IwAR1mkyWT17wFuGGI_xjd_13L0088TTxB9Z_utGb3ndj8ovFq734JzxZTk



- Headline
- Editorial
- Column
- Opinion
- Feature Article



CDN Digital

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LOOK: A dolphin, which measured around 4-5 feet long, was rescued by locals from a shallow portion of the Mactan Channel just off the Pajara Park under the Marcelo Fernan Bridge on Tuesday morning, March 9, 2021.

A team from the Bantay Dagat in Mandaue City together with an officer from the Provincial Veterinary Office, Dr. Louie Maestrado, helped release the dolphin a kilometer away from Punta Engaño, Mactan Island. | photos by Aileen Padrones via JP Ecarma Maunes with reports from Mary Rose Sagarino #CDNDigital



👍❤️😮 857

24 Comments 106 Shares



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF PEF

Fly high, dream on Adopted by Aboitiz Power Corp., the aptly named Philippine eagle Pangarap recently celebrated its 22nd hatch day amid the Covid-19 challenges being faced by the nation. To mark another year of hope for Pangarap, AboitizPower and the Philippine Eagle Foundation hosted Ateneo de Davao University grade school students and teachers via zoom to watch and learn more about the exotic bird through games and activities with Malaya, PEF's mascot. "To us, Pangarap is a national treasure and a symbol of hope for our country's unique wildlife, and I want to give a big thank you to the PEF for taking such good care of her over the years," said AboitizPower president and CEO Emmanuel V. Rubio.

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The female as District (QCPD) deadly shootout v Enforcement Age have been in jail. National Burea Director Ferdinand Lavi asset, identified as Jonai drug buy-bust operation i

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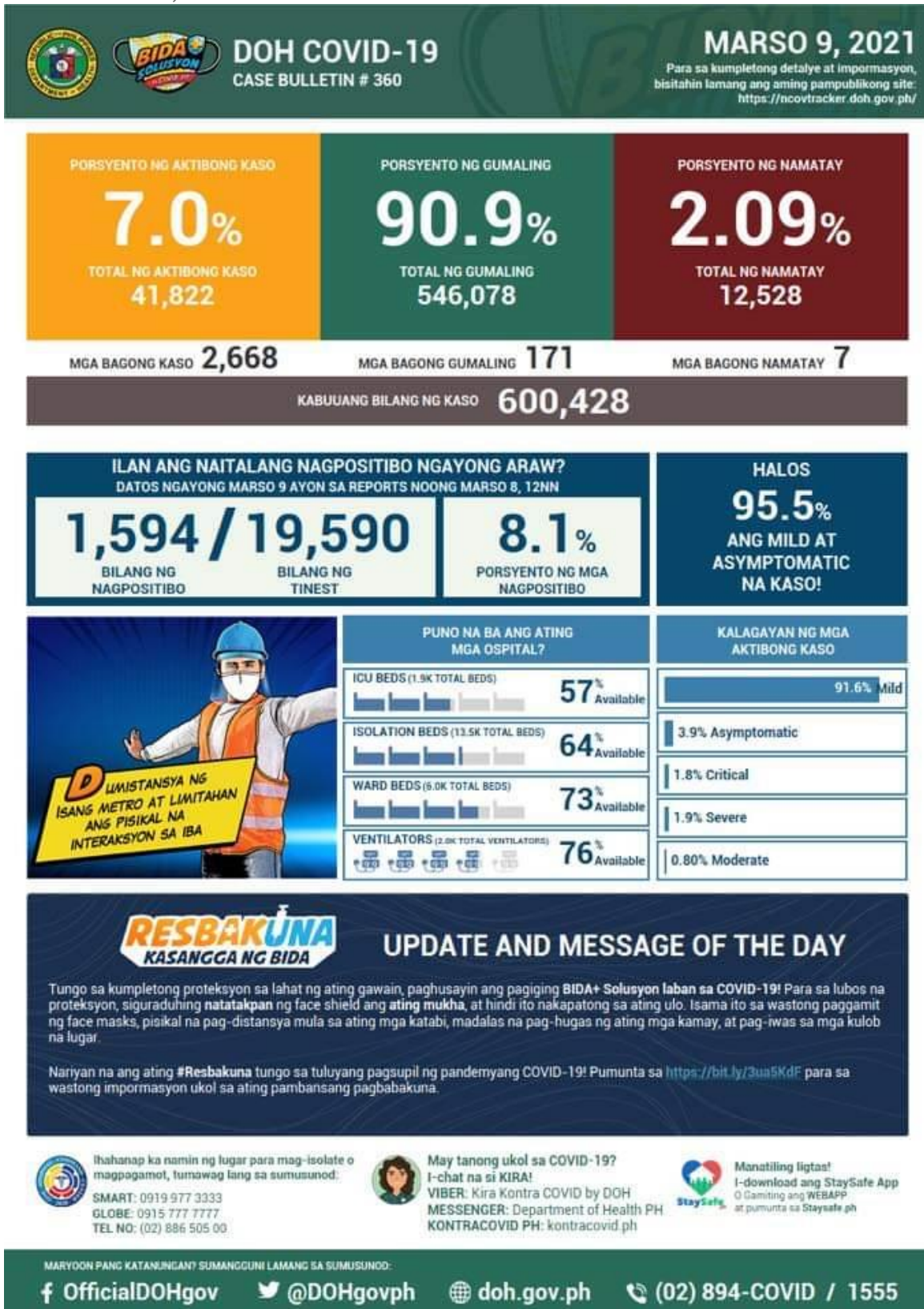
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Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/03/09/2083055/conservation-initiative-helps-nature-heal-itself-sierra-madre-reforestation>



BREAKING: Bilang ng COVID-19 cases sa Pilipinas, pumalo na sa 600,000

By Angellic Jordan March 09, 2021 - 04:05 PM



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

Sa huling datos ng Department of Health (DOH) bandang araw ng Martes (March 9), pumalo na sa 600,438 ang confirmed cases ng nakakahawang sakit sa bansa.



Sa nasabing bilang, 41,822 o 7.0 porsyento ang aktibong kaso.

Sinabi ng kagawaran na 2,668 ang bagong napaulat na kaso ng COVID-19 sa bansa.

91.6 porsyento sa active COVID-19 cases ang mild; 3.9 porsyento ang asymptomatic; 0.80 porsyento ang moderate; 1.9 porsyento ang severe habang 1.8 porsyento ang nasa kritikal na kondisyon.

Nasa pito naman ang napaulat na nasawi.

Dahil dito, umakyat na sa 12,528 o 2.09 porsyento ang COVID-19 related deaths sa bansa.

Ayon pa sa DOH, 171 naman ang gumaling pa sa COVID-19.

Dahil dito, umakyat na sa 546,078 o 90.9 porsyento ang total recoveries ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas.



Alert level 2 itinaas sa Taal Volcano

By [Angie dela Cruz](#)(Pilipino Star Ngayon) - March 10, 2021 - 12:00am



Ayon sa Phivolcs, sa nakalipas na magdamag, nakapag-record ang ahensya ng 28 volcanic tremor episodes at apat na low-frequency volcanic earthquakes.

MANILA, Philippines — Itinaas na ng Phivolcs sa alert level 2 ang bulkang Taal bunsod umano ng pagtindi at madalas na pag-aalboroto nitong mga nakaraang linggo.

Ayon sa Phivolcs, sa nakalipas na magdamag, nakapag-record ang ahensya ng 28 volcanic tremor episodes at apat na low-frequency volcanic earthquakes.

Ang nasabing mga pagyanig ay may lalim lamang na 1.5 kilometro, kaya ramdam sa Volcano Island.

Maging ang seismic energy ay higit na tumaas kumpara sa mga naitala nitong mga nakalipas na buwan.

Tumaas din ang volcanic tremor events sa 866 mula nang mag-alboroto ang bulkan noong Pebrero 13.

Kaya naman, mahigpit na ipinagbabawal ang paglapit sa bulkan, lalo na sa lugar na nasa permanent danger zone.

Sa ilalim ng Alert Level 2, may probable magmatic activity sa bulkan na maaaring magdulot ng pagsabog o hindi pagsabog.

Gayunman, hindi pa inirerekomenda ang paglikas sa mga bayan ng Batangas na nasa paligid ng Taal.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2021/03/10/2083233/alert-level-2-itinaas-sa-taal-volcano/amp/>



Land clearing and deforestation, fertilizer use, livestock and waste all contribute to the emissions from the system to feed Earth's 7.7 billion people.

Food drives a third of global emissions - report

Published March 10, 2021 12:50am

By KELLY MACNAMARA Agence France Presse

PARIS, France - A third of all the world's man-made greenhouse gas emissions are linked to food, according to new global research that tracked produce from field to fork to landfill.

Land clearing and deforestation, fertilizer use, livestock and waste all contribute to the emissions from the system to feed Earth's 7.7 billion people.

While numerous reports have looked to quantify the climate footprint of food, the authors of the latest research led by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre said theirs is the first to encapsulate all countries and sectors -- from production, packaging and distribution to disposal of food waste.

"Food systems are in need of transformation," the researchers told AFP, adding that they hoped the database would help identify where actions to reduce emissions would be most effective.

The report, published in the journal Nature Food on Monday, draws on a new global database that provides estimates of food system greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 to 2015.

During that period it notes a "decoupling of population growth and food-related emissions", with emissions growing slower than the population.

But it found wide variations across the world, with some countries and regions seeing large increases in emissions driven by both domestic demand and exports.

"Our results corroborate previous findings of a significant share of food system emissions," the researchers said.

The estimated range of 25 to 42 percent was higher than the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) figure of 21 to 37 percent, partly due to a more expansive view of the global food system.



The new calculations, for example, take into account things like cooking as part of consumption, as well as waste disposal.

Overall the report found that food-system emissions represented 34 percent of total greenhouse gas output in 2015.

More energy intensive

About half of these emissions were carbon dioxide, chiefly from land use -- mainly carbon losses from deforestation and degradation of organic soils -- as well as energy from steps like packaging, transportation and processing.

A further third of emissions were from methane -- which is 28 times more potent than CO₂ as a greenhouse gas over a 100-year period -- released by livestock like cows, sheep and goats, as well as from rice production and in the disposal of biowaste.

The remainder was largely nitrous oxide from fertilisers, although the report said that fluorinated gases often found in refrigeration played a small but growing part.

The six top food system emitters in 2015 were China (13.5 percent of the global total), Indonesia with (8.8 percent), the United States (8.2 percent), Brazil (7.4 percent), the European Union (6.7 percent) and India (6.3 percent).

The global food system is becoming more energy intensive, with almost a third of its emissions directly from energy consumption, researchers said.

While emissions from distribution are on the rise, the report said the distance food travels is "less important than packaging", with transportation accounting for 4.8 percent of total 2015 food system emissions compared to 5.4 percent for packaging.

The authors called for policies to improve efficiency, reduce emissions in the supply chain, and enable people to access healthier diets.

In November a study in the journal Science forecast future food system emissions, if left unaddressed, would by themselves push Earth above the 1.5 degrees Celsius warming threshold -- seen as the guardrail for avoiding devastating climate impacts -- by 2050.

The UN recently said that 17 percent of the food available to consumers worldwide in 2019 -- almost one billion tonnes -- was thrown away by households, retailers, institutions and the hospitality industry, far more than previously suspected.

These issues will likely come under scrutiny later this year at the first-ever UN World Food Systems Summit. -- **Agence France-Presse**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/scitech/science/779020/food-drives-a-third-of-global-emissions-report/story/>

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