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DENR

NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



WATERSHED CONSERVATION CAMPAIGN INILUNSD NG DENR

July 11, 2021 Rannie Lao



INILUNSD ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang nationwide campaign upang palawakin ang watershed conservation and protection efforts katuwang ang grassroots communities.

Kasunod ito ng patuloy na paglaban sa banta ng climate change na kinahaharap ng watershed areas ng bansa.

Ayon kay DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu, ang kampanya na tinawag na Save Our Watershed (SOW) ay magsisilbing plataporma upang hikayatin ang partnership at pakikipagtulungan mula sa national hanggang sa grassroots level.

“We hope that the spirit of the ‘Save Our Watershed’ ripples through to all our DENR regional offices, foreign-assisted projects, and local government units with initiatives on watershed conservation,” saad ni Cimatu.

Idinagdag pa nito na layunin din ng kampanya na hikayatin na magkaroon ng local ordinances para mas lalong ma-promote ang conservation at protection ng watersheds.

“There are more than 130 critical watersheds in the country that desperately need immediate protection and rehabilitation to minimize erosion and improve water yield,” sabi ni Cimatu.

“For us to mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change-induced disasters, people’s support to government actions, therefore, is still the key,” pahayag pa ni Cimatu.

Para sa national level, hangad ng kampanya na makagawa ng draft executive order (EO) na magsisilbing blueprint para sa magkaugnay at magkaparehong pagkilos para maprotektahan, mapangalagaan at mapanatili ang serbisyong naibibigay ng watersheds sa bansa tulad ng water supply para sa irrigation, domestic use, power generation at biodiversity.

Ayon pa kay Cimatu, ang pinakaimportanteng elemento ng watersheds ay ang puno dahil hindi matatawag na watershed ang isang lugar kung walang mga puno.

Umaasa naman si DENR Assistant Secretary at concurrent Forest Management Bureau Director Marcial Amaro na matatapos nila ang draft EO bago matapos ang taon o sa fourth quarter para maisumite sa Office of the President.



Sinabi pa ni Amaro na ang mga stakeholder, kabilang ang national at local authorities, local government units, at coastal communities ay kokonsultahin para sa draft EO alinsunod sa polisiya ng DENR sa pagsunod sa “reef-to-ridge approach” para sa watershed conservation. **BENEDICT ABAYGAR, JR.**



Cimatu leads launch of watershed conservation campaign

posted July 10, 2021 at 09:00 pm

by [Maricel Cruz](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has launched a nationwide campaign to expand watershed conservation and protection efforts involving grassroots communities. DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu said Save Our Watershed (SOW) campaign will serve as a platform to encourage partnerships and collaborations from the national down to the grassroots level.

"We hope that the spirit of the 'Save Our Watershed' ripples through to all our DENR regional offices, foreign-assisted projects, and local government units with initiatives on watershed conservation," Cimatu said.

"There are more than 130 critical watersheds in the country that desperately need immediate protection and rehabilitation to minimize erosion and improve water yield. For us to mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change-induced disasters, people's support to government actions, therefore, is still the key," he added,

At the national level, the campaign seeks to craft a draft executive order that will serve as a blueprint for a harmonized and uniformed approach towards protecting, conserving, and sustaining the services provided by the country's watersheds, such as water supply for irrigation and domestic use, power generation and biodiversity.



Illegal wildlife trade sa bansa tututukan ng DENR

July 9, 2021 3 min read

Ni Janus Ochoda

MANILA — Bilang paghahanda sa nalalapit na 4th National Environmental Law Enforcement (NELE) Summit sa Hulyo 14 hanggang 16, 2021, nagsagawa ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ng pre-event noong Hulyo 7, Miyerkules upang matutukan ang masamang epekto ng illegal wildlife trade sa bansa.

Tinalakay sa nasabing event nina DENR undersecretaries Benny Antiporda, Edilberto D. Leonardo, at Benito de Leon, kasama si Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) Wildlife Resources Division Chief Atty. Theresa Tenazas ang iba't-ibang aspeto at lawak ng illegal wildlife trade.

Kabilang sa pinag-usapan ay ang mga hamon sa DENR wildlife enforcement officers, online illegal wildlife trade, at mga salient points upang maging mas mahigpit ang Republic Act (RA) 9147 or the Wildlife Resource Conservation and Protection Act of 2001 kasama na ang mga “context and threats, policy gaps, and its proposed revisions for amendment.”

Napagusapan din ang madalas na kinakalakal na species kasama na ang illegal wildlife trading hot spots at strategies for combating illegal wildlife trade.

Ipinaliwanag ng mga opisyal ng DENR ang kahalagahan ng nalalapit na NELE Summit at binanggit na isang workshop ang ginanap noong Marso 11-12 upang pag-aralan ang enforcement of green laws (forestry, flora and fauna), blue laws (water bodies such as estuaries, rivers, lakes, bays and oceans), brown laws (mining, land, and solid waste management), prosecution, and the roles of supporting agencies before the actual event.

“Hopefully, during this pre-event for the upcoming environmental law enforcement summit, we can make the Filipino people realize the magnitude of what we are lobbying and continuously advocating,” saad ni DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu.

Layunin ng NELE Summit na makapagpresenta ng mga nagawa ng environmental law enforcement tulad ng “laws and policies, implementing guidelines, programs, and tools, and come up with a new NELE Action Plan for 2021-2028.”

Magsisilbi rin itong lugar upang matiyak na patuloy ang koordinasyon at kooperasyon ng mga environmental law enforcement agencies at pagbibigay ng pagkilala sa partner agencies at institusyon maging sa bawat indibidwal.



“The sophistication of these illegal wildlife traders gives us the sense of urgency to clamor for the immediate legislation of the Senate bills concerning this matter,” saad ni Cimatú.

Sa kasalukuyan, ang illegal wildlife trade sa Pilipinas ay tinatayang aabot sa halagang P50 billion kada taon, kabilang na dito ang market value ng wildlife at ng resources nito, ecological role at value, pinsala sa habitat na nagawa sa paghuli at pagkawala ng potential ecotourism revenues.

Sa nakalipas na sampung taon, ang DENR ay nakakumpiska ng P248-million halaga ng wildlife specimens.

Sinabi pa ni Cimatú na ang bilang na ito ay nakaaalarma at “could invite more criminal minds and unscrupulous individuals, especially during this time of crisis—if they are left with merely a slap in the wrists.”

Noong Mayo 26 nang pumasa na sa House Committee on Appropriations ang substitute House Bill na pinamagatang “An Act Providing for the Conservation and Protection of Wildlife Resources and their Habitats, and Appropriating Funds Therefore, Repealing for this Purpose Republic Act No. 9147” or the “Wildlife Resources Conservation And Protection Act,” na inisponsoran ni Occidental Mindoro Rep. Josephine Ramirez-Sato at labing-limang iba pang representante.

Kasalukuyan namang tinatalakay sa public hearing ng Senate Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Climate Change kasama ang Committee on Finance at Committee on Sustainable Development Goals, Innovation, and Futures Thinking ang Senate Bills 2078 at 2079 na iniakda nina Senators Cynthia Villar at Juan Miguel Zubiri, ayon sa pagkakasunod. (AI/MTVN)



- Headline
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 **Masungi Georeserve**
13h · 🌐

NEWLY-FORMED ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AND PROTECTION SERVICE VISITS MASUNGI, 80IB

Today, Undersecretary for Enforcement De Leon, Director Sorilla, RED Tamera, and others, visited reforestation sites where illegal activities and encroachments were reported in the recent months.

The planned environmental enforcement academy of Secretary Cimatu was also discussed, where rangers and environmental officers could be trained for field work and self-defense.

The group also visited the 80IB under Commander Fernandez. They continue to be a key partner in environmental protection.

Following these visits and discussions, we hope that there will be stronger enforcement in these areas and that the people involved will be held accountable for their crimes. If it can be done it Boracay, it can be done in Masungi and the Upper Marikina Watershed!

[#SaveOurWatershed](#) [#ReforestNow](#)

DENR CALABARZON
80th Infantry "Steadfast" Battalion



  397

7 Comments 28 Shares



DENR sets irrigation system for forest program

[IAN OCAMPO FLORA](#)

July 10, 2021

THE EIGHT-kilometer long Calaoacan Irrigation Pipeline System in Barangay Burgos, Carranglan, Nueva Ecija is now operational, after it was inaugurated on Thursday by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Central Luzon and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) under the Forestland Management Program (FMP).

According to Paquito Moreno, Jr., executive director of DENR in Central Luzon, the P9.4 million irrigation system was funded by JICA as an agroforestry support facility (ASF) for the 10-year Forest Land Management Project (FMP) in the more than 44,000-hectare Pantabangan-Carranglan Watershed that will ensure the survival of forest plantations during dry months. It will also strengthen the resiliency of local communities in the area in the face of global warming and climate change.

The irrigation system, composed of seven water tanks connected by eight kilometers of pipes, is expected to provide water to over 850 hectares of forest plantations and agroforestry farms and will benefit 900 families of upland farmers.

DENR- Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer (Penro) Joselito Blanco , turned over the said water system to the care of the people of Sitio Calaoacan in Burgos village. Meanwhile, Mayor Mary Abad of Carranglan said that they are committed to sustain the irrigation system and ensure that it will benefit more generations to come.

The Calaoacan Irrigation Pipeline System is the fourth major agroforestry support facility in Carranglan town funded by JICA in two years after the three concrete and hanging bridges in Pantabangan and Carranglan town.



Minalungao National Park: Nueva Ecija's best-kept secret

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA JULY 11, 2021



The unique huge forest-covered karst forms wall-like protection to the crystal clear Sumacbao River at the foothills of the Sierra Madre Mountain Range in General Tinio, Nueva Ecija.

The 2,018-hectare Minalungao National Park, a place of unique beauty that mesmerize visitors with its unique landscape, sits in the province of Nueva Ecija.

Declared as a protected area through Republic Act 51000 on June 17, 1967, it is accessible by land in Luzon, and is ideal for a quick getaway from the stressful city life.

Minalungao's name was derived from a conjunction of the words mina and lungao, or mine of gold in caves. While there may not be mines of gold in the cave in Minalungao, it remains as Nueva Ecija's best-kept secret.

An initial component of the National Integrated Protected Areas System Act, Minalungao is mostly grassland of around 1,396 hectares, while some 403 hectares are forested areas.

Around 116 kilometers north of Metro Manila, the municipality of General Tinio, particularly Barangays Pias and Rio Chico, has territorial jurisdiction over Minalungao, and partly shared by Makabaclay in Gapan City, Nueva Ecija.

River of life

The Minalungao National Park is dissected by the Sumacbao River in almost equal halves.

The Sumacbao River flowing between the towering rocks of Minalungao National Park has an approximate width of 10 feet.

Smaller water bodies, such as the Samon, Wakwak, Mantahilan, Ngabngab and Balintongan creeks feed the river with fresh water.

Sumacbao River is the main source of water in the area and is used for bathing and washing, and other domestic use. It also provides water for small farms of sustenance farmers.

The river is also used for transportation through small bancas and bamboo or wooden raft.

More importantly, the river provides an abundant supply of freshwater fish like biya, eel and shrimp.

Popular tourist spot

Donaver M. Guevarra, chief of the Public Affairs Office of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Central Luzon, said the Minalungao National Park is a well-known tourist spot in Nueva Ecija and Central Luzon.



“Some visitors came from as far as Region I and from Metro Manila,” Guevarra told the BusinessMirror in an interview via Zoom on July 7.

The unique features of the Minalungao National Park—the river and its natural rock formation—make it an awesome place to visit.

“Just like in Palawan, the river and its abundance, the natural rock formations make it very popular,” he said.

Tourism attractions

The Sumacbao River boasts of crystal-clear, blue-green water, making it suitable for various activities like rafting, river cruise, bathing and swimming, especially during the dry season.

The enchanting limestone rock formations on both sides of the river serves as a wall of up to 16 meters high.

The national park also offers wildlife adventures, such as bird watching and monkey viewing, while on a serene river cruise on a bamboo raft.

One could enjoy nature’s singing-flying creations, while being amazed by some Philippine macaque helping themselves with nature’s abundance of a buffet of vegetation on top of the rocky hills.

Another attraction is the Minalungao Cave tour, a 5-minute trek to the opening of the cave to explore the unique ecosystem.

Meanwhile, the sparsely dense forest cover is ideal for picnic, the excitement brought by the hanging bridge and relaxation with nature, while enjoying the soft sound of flowing water and chirping of birds that thrive in the park.

The towering man-made cross has become a pilgrimage site, with the challenge of hurdling 1,000 steps to reach the cross.

The national park houses the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) office, an information center and a guest house, and other amenities like a shower area, souvenir shops and hotels.

Closed due to Covid

Jimmy Aberin, Community Environment and Natural Resource Officer of Cabanatuan and concurrent Protected Area Superintendent of the Minalungao National Park, told the BusinessMirror that the Minalungao National Park remains closed to the public due to Covid.

Although the PAMB of the national park has already appealed to the Inter-agency Task Force on Covid-19 to allow gradual opening of the park to the public, local officials are not risking the resurgence of the pandemic with the reopening of the parks and other tourism areas.

He said at the same Zoom meeting that hundreds of families, whose livelihoods depend largely on ecotourism, are affected by the travel restriction due to the pandemic.

Biological diversity

According to the protected area suitability assessment in 1994, human activities, such as kaingin (slash-and-burn farming) and charcoal making, unabated and illegal logging within and the adjacent area of the national park pose serious threat to the biological diversity in the area.

With the native and fruit-bearing trees in the park, numerous species of birds have been recorded in the area. There are bats, rats, snakes and various species of lizards, from small ones to the larger monitor lizard, or bayawak.

The brahminy kite, grass owl, Philippine hanging parakeet, rufous hornbill, Eurasian tree sparrow, large-billed crow, barred rail, red jungle fowl, zebra dove, crested myna, brown shrike, white-collared kingfisher, pechora pipit, brown cuckoo dove are just some of the commonly seen birds in the area.

There were also report of sightings of Philippine deer, wild pig, and civet cat in the area.

Lawin Program

Through the Lawin Forest and Biodiversity Protection System, the DENR is able to effectively monitor suspicious activities and quickly respond to prevent environmental degradation.

Raissa Lico, chief of the Protected Area and Biodiversity Conservation Office of DENR-Central Luzon, said as a protected area Minalungao National Park has a very unique ecosystem.

In Central Luzon, there are a total of 24 protected areas, the areas that are set aside for conservation to protect the rich biodiversity that thrives therein.

“Other protected areas are mostly forest while Minalungao is the only one that features a river, the Sumacbao River,” Lico said.

To protect the Minalungao National Park, the DENR implements the Lawin Program. Through the Lawin monitoring system that makes use of a mobile application, Lico said forest protectors immediately learn if there’s an illegal activity so we immediately report to authorities.

Reforestation

Aberin said the DENR continues to reforest the protected area and encourages people to stop their destructive activities like slash-and-burn farming and charcoal mining, which used to be rampant in the area.

He said the residents in the area were tapped by the DENR as National Greening Program partners.

“Right now, about 500 hectares have been reforested in Minalungao,” he said.

According to Aberin, only about 20 percent of the Minalungao National Park are covered with forest, asserting the need to intensify reforestation to protect and conserve the river and the surrounding environs.

Sustenance farming

The Minalungao National Park is also inhabited by humans, making farming as a way of life in the area. With only sustenance farming allowed, ecotourism was introduced and started to gain traction. Livelihood sources, such as tour guiding; renting out kiosks, swimming equipment, such as kayak and life vests; boating; putting up a sari-sari store and a souvenir shop were made available to the residents.

Some of the people are extracting nontimber forest products like bamboo, and are engaging in trading, processing and manufacturing.

Some of the household members work as drivers, construction workers, tourism staff and local government employees on a contractual basis.

Public Awareness campaign

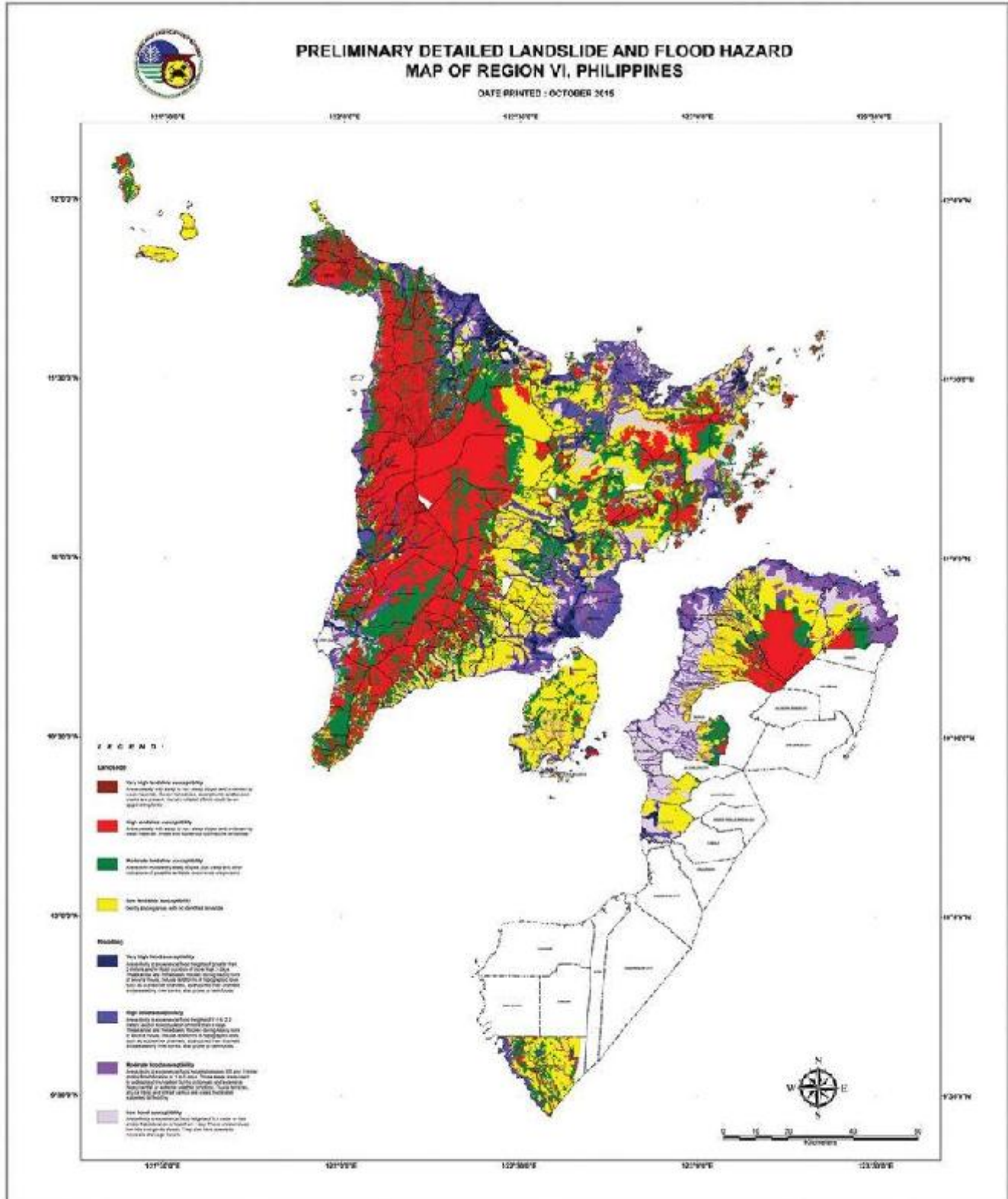
According to Guevarra, the DENR-Central Luzon led by DENR Regional Executive Director Paquito T. Moreno Jr. continuously conducts public-awareness campaigns in various parts of the region.

“We go to schools and even down to the communities to highlight the importance of protecting and conserving our protected areas and our rich biodiversity, and why it is important not to harm our wildlife,” he said partly in Filipino.



Utilize geohazard maps, LGUs told

By [Ime Sornito](#) - Saturday, July 10, 2021



ILOILO City – Local government units (LGUs) should utilize geohazard maps for a more efficient disaster preparedness response planning, according to the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), an attached agency of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

A geohazard map is a specialized map that indicates the hazard susceptibility of areas, particularly to flooding or landslides. It also indicates the percentage of people to be affected should calamity strike those high-risk areas.



“This map gives LGUs the information and helps them plan *kon sin-o ang* priority for evacuation,” said Mae Magarzo, chief geologist of MGB in Region 6.

Geohazard maps also help LGUs identify passable roads or alternate routes when distributing aid to affected communities.

Magarzo revealed that all 177 towns and 16 cities in Western Visayas were given geohazard maps.

However, she noted, several LGUs have not made use of their maps.

“*Ginpamangkot ko diin na ‘to ang ginhatag namon nga mapa... then they turned silent,*” Magarzo said.

The geohazard maps distributed by the MGB-6 to the LGUs are for the Municipal or City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office’s (MDRRMO or CDRRMO) use.

Prior to the distribution, MDRRMO or CDRRMO personnel must undergo a seminar on how to use the geohazard maps. Intensive IEC campaigns were also conducted by the MGB.

Geohazard maps are color-coded, indicating safe zones and flood- or landslide-prone areas.

The geohazard map is useful not only to locate disaster-prone areas but also to identify relocation sites and provide inputs in the preparation and updating of the local government’s Comprehensive Land Use Plans (CLUPs).

“The geohazard map is our as tool or reference *kon diin dapat ibutang ang* residential areas or *mga* commercial areas,” Magarzo said.

MAP UPDATING

Meanwhile, Magarzo pointed out that one of their setbacks now is the updating of the geohazard maps.

The ongoing coronavirus pandemic is derailing their risk assessment of barangays.

“We are continuously updating our geohazard map. We planned to finish the updating sang Iloilo province supposed to be last year, however, considering nga may pandemic kita so instead nga 11 municipalities naghimu na lang five,” said Magarzo.

Risk assessment is also being conducted in the provinces of Aklan, Guimaras, Antique, and Negros Occidental./PN



WHAT'S ON OUR RADAR

THERE ARE UNIQUE REEF HABITATS SURVIVING IN MANILA BAY, SCIENTISTS SAY

There is more life in Manila Bay than we might think.



STORY BY
[Team GRID](#)

Photos courtesy of the Aquatic Zoology Research Lab, UP Los Baños

There is a picture of Manila Bay in our minds—black water, floating garbage, the stench of human waste mixed with salty air—that makes it difficult for us to understand how it could ever sustain life. But according to reef ecologist Dr. Victor Ticzon of the University of the Philippines Los Baños, one of the scientists that helped formulate the Manila Bay Sustainable Development [Master Plan](#), the bay is actually more alive than we think.

“We have this misconception na madumi [ang Manila Bay], but actually sa may Mariveles, Corregidor, and Carballo Island, there are thriving underwater communities,” he says.

Found in the western side of Luzon, Manila Bay is more than the body of water we see on sunset strolls along Roxas Boulevard; its coastline actually spans 190 km long, and runs through the provinces of Cavite, Metro Manila, Bulacan, Pampanga, and Bataan.

In March 2020, Victor and his team conducted a [survey](#) on the different ecological habitats in Manila Bay and found living coral reef ecosystems in Cavite, Bataan, and Corregidor Island. They also learned that the coral ecosystems in Corregidor and Carballo Island are thriving greatly, so much that it’s even surpassed the national and regional averages for hard coral cover in the Indo-Pacific.

“The Indo-Pacific average for hard coral cover is estimated [at 22 percent](#), while the national average is slightly higher [at 22.8 percent](#). Corregidor and Carballo Islands are estimated to have hard coral cover that is higher than both national and regional averages, so... it also warrants our attention,” he says.



A member of the giant clam family (Family Cardiidae, Sub-Family Tridacninae) found in the shallow reef flat of Carballo Island.

The current can also be strong in these parts of the bay, so the coral types that grow here are hardier than most. These include [massive](#) and [encrusting corals](#) that are both resistant to the pounding of waves.

According to Victor, each hard bottom habitat surveyed was physically and biologically unique, featuring distinct assemblages of corals and other benthic organisms that contribute to biodiversity enhancement.

“[Conservatively], coral reefs in Manila Bay comprise less than two percent of the entire Manila Bay area,” he says. Because Manila Bay is a natural estuary—a place where large volumes of freshwater meets seawater—areas where corals can grow are limited to the mouth of the bay. “Corals have limited area to colonize and grow compared to mangroves, mud flats... so it adds value to the reefs in the bay. Konti nalang sila kaya mas mahalagang protektahan din natin sila.”



Mangroves help filter out nutrients and sediments that can negatively impact corals, making them a key ecosystem in Manila Bay.

Two of the biggest threats facing corals are sedimentation and nutrient influx, which result from improper watershed management. Sand and silt suffocate and abrade corals, while nutrients encourage the growth of algae that compete with corals for space.

Reports about the existence of coral reefs in Manila Bay have been around for some time now, albeit the research is still a bit thin. In 2019, a [report](#) by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources’ Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (DENR-ERDB) also showed that coral gardens were blossoming in areas off the coast of Cavite and Bataan.

“Overall we were only able to sample an area less than 1000 sq.m., so it’s really just a glimpse of the big picture,” he adds.





BACOLOD COUNCIL TO PROBE 'RIVER POLLUTION'

By Mae Singuay -Saturday, July 10, 2021

BACOLOD City – The river near the sanitary landfill in Barangay Felisa here may be contaminated.

A water quality testing is being planned, according to Councilor Carlos Lopez, chairman of the Sangguniang Panlungsod's (SP) committee on environment and ecology.

The help of the Environment and Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has been sought.

Residents of nearby Barangay Blumentritt, Murcia, Negros Occidental and Barangay Dulao, Bago City, Negros Occidental recently complained about the foul smell from the sanitary landfill.

The dumpsite may have contaminated the river, they added.

The SP earlier passed a resolution urging the Solid Waste Management Board to close the sanitary landfill's Cell No. 1 and make a rehabilitation plan for it.

According to Lopez, Cell No. 1 already reached its maximum capacity, making it an "open dumpsite."

Due to alleged lack of maintenance, Cell No. 2 was constructed – just right next to it – last year./PN

CDN Digital ✓
12h · 🌐

Endangered nga pawikan napalgang patay

LOOK: A green sea turtle estimated to be 100 years old was found dead floating within the shoreline in Barangay Poblacion in the town of Argao in southern Cebu on Saturday morning, July 10.

Police Major Jeremy Sheila Gurtiza, chief of the Argao Police Station said they turned over the turtle which has a length of 100cm and a width of 60cm, to the biodiversity staff of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

According to the staff, the possible cause of death was due to parasites that permanently stick in the body of the turtle.

Green sea turtles are considered an endangered species and is protected by world wildlife laws. | Photos courtesy of Argao police Station via Mae Fhel Gom-os #CDNDigital



309

9 Comments 8 Shares



Empress Poultry Farm sa Bataan, inireklamo sa langaw

On Jul 9, 2021



BIGWAS!

Dr. Nelson S. Badilla

CP# 0998-565-0271

Viber # 0945-701-6911

NAPAKARAMI talagang problema ang ating bansa na karamihan sa mga ito ay hindi inaakson ng mga opisyal ng pamahalaan.

Isa sa mga suliranin ng ating bansa ay ang labis na nakapeperwisyo sa mga residente ng Sitio Kamaliw, Barangay Binukawan na matatagpuan sa Bagac, Bataan ang tungkol sa mga langaw.

Ipinabatid sa atin na 'kagyat' nilang problema ang napakaraming langaw.

Dati, hindi nila problema ang mga langaw dahil hindi naman nilalangaw ang kanilang barangay.

Nagsimulang kahiligang mag-ikot at tumambay araw-araw ng mga langaw sa Barangay Binukawan nang magkaroon ng EMPRESS Poultry Farm sa nasabing lugar.

Pokaragat na 'yan!

Sa pagkakataong ito, hindi na ipinarating ng mga residente ang kanilang suliranin tungkol sa pesteng langaw dahil wala silang mapapala sa pamahalaang barangay ng Binukawan.

Hindi naman daw umaakson ang barangay hinggil sa kanilang reklamo.

Hindi raw lumagda ang kapitan sa dokumento laban sa EMPRESS Poultry Farm, dahilan upang hindi umakson ang pamahalaang bayan ng Bagac na pinamumunuan ni Mayor Ramil del Rosario.

Sino ba ang kapitan ninyo't hindi kumikilos?

Huwag na ninyong ihalal ang taong 'yan sa Disyembre 2022!

Sabi ng mga residente, napakarami na ang nagkakasakit sa kanila.

Ang nag-iisang sapa sa kanilang lugar ay 'nalason' na ng mga langaw dahil dito raw itinatapos ang kung anu-anong parte ng mga kinatay na manok.

Pokaragat na 'yan!

Ang may-ari raw ng dambuhalang EMPRESS Poultry Farm na ito ay mayroong apelyidong "Banzon".

Mayroon umanong mga kuwento sa Bagac na kaibigan ni Mayor Del Rosario ang nasabing Banzon.



Sinaraduhan na ang EMPRESS Poultry Farm noong 2018 alinsunod sa pasya ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) dahil sa napatunayan nitong sandamakmak na paglabag sa mga batas patungkol sa Clean Water Act, National Zonal Code, National Sanitation Code, kakulangan ng mga permiso sa iba't ibang sangay ng pamahalaan, at iba pang alituntuning magbibigay ng proteksyon sa kalusugan ng mga residente ng apektadong lugar.

Pagkaraan ng ilang buwan, bukas na uli ang EMPRESS Poultry Farm.

Pokaragat na 'yan!

Anong nangyari Mayor Ramil del Rosario?



PCG walang namomonitor na oil spill sa South Harbor

By [Ludy Bermudo](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon) - July 10, 2021 - 12:00am



Nabatid na dakong alas-2:10 ng madaling araw nitong Huwebes nang maganap ang banggaan ng MV Palawan Pearl at BKM 104, na wala namang nasaktan sa insidente.

STAR/File

Sa banggaan ng dalawang vessel

MANILA, Philippines — Wala pang namomonitor na pagtagas o oil spill kasunod nang banggaan ng isang cargo vessel at isang foreign utility vessel sa karagatan na South Harbor Anchorage area sa Maynila, ayon sa Philippine Coast Guard (PCG).

Sinabi ito kahapon ni PCG spokesperson Commodore Armand Balilo.

Kahit may kargang 3,000 litro ng diesel ang MV Palawan Pearl ay hindi dapat na ipangamba sakaling magkaroon umano ng oil spill.

“Kung mapapansin po ninyo ang laman nito ay 3,000 litro ng diesel pero ito ay hindi tayo dapat mangamba, ito ay ordinary diesel at kung sakaling tumagas ito, nagdidissipate ito under the heat of the sun... sa lakas ng alon, nawawala din po ito...” paliwanag ni Balilo.

Nabatid na dakong alas-2:10 ng madaling araw nitong Huwebes nang maganap ang banggaan ng MV Palawan Pearl at BKM 104, na wala namang nasaktan sa insidente.

Kahit wala pang namonitor na oil spill sa erya, agad nang ikinasa ng PCG Marine Environmental Protection Command ang four segments ng oil spill boom.



Why accounting natural capital is important to economies

BYBUSINESSMIRROR JULY 11, 2021



The participants at the ACB webinar, led by Executive Director Theresa Mundita Lim.

What would be the value of a nation's economy if the contributions of nature are properly measured?

A holistic appreciation and accounting of the values of ecosystems and their services are integral in effectively managing wealth and resources for the sustainable growth of economies to benefit the people, a recent webinar organized by the Asean Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) told participants, its news release said.

The ACB held the third part of the webinar series on the economics of biodiversity, focusing on natural capital accounting and existing standards that include indicators on the economic values of the flow of ecosystem services and goods.

The webinar series is being supported by the European Union, German Development Bank, and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit through the Biodiversity Conservation and Management of Protected Areas in Asean Project, Small Grants Programme, and the Institutional Strengthening of Biodiversity Sector in the Asean II Project, respectively.

"Natural capital accounting is a necessary step toward the creation of inclusive wealth accounts," ACB Executive Director Theresa Mundita Lim said in her opening remarks.

"It enables us to understand and appreciate the place of nature's services in our economies, including the services that are usually overlooked, most especially life support assets that include water supply, fish stocks, carbon sequestration and other ecosystem services," she added.

Also gracing the webinar were Dr. Nor Imtihan Binti Haji Abdul Razak, permanent secretary for planning, land use and environment of Brunei Darussalam's Ministry of Development and chairman of the Asean Senior Officials on the Environment, and Dr. David Tantow, counsellor for development cooperation of the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Jakarta.

Nor said that the government of Brunei Darussalam is paying close attention to widening the coverage of its mangroves and peat swamp forests as it develops its national biodiversity strategies and plans.

"Maintaining this biodiversity...increases new economic opportunities ranging from timber, pharmaceuticals, as well as ecotourism," she said, noting that every decision made for development requires consideration for nature and biological resources.



The webinar gave participants a brief overview of the UN System of Environmental-Economic Accounting—Ecosystem Accounting (SEEA-EA).

SEEA-EA constitutes an integrated and comprehensive statistical framework for organizing data about habitats and landscapes, measuring the ecosystem services, tracking changes in ecosystem assets, and linking this information to economic and other human activity. This was adopted by the UN Statistical Commission in March 2021.

Several countries are compiling data and piloting SEEA-EA, according to the 2020 global assessment for environmental economic accounting.

Alessandra Alfieri, chief of the Environmental-Economic Accounts Section of the United Nations' Department of Economic and Social Affairs, noted the six Asean member-states already engaged in SEEA-EA, such as Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam.

In the Philippines, among the current initiatives are updating of environmental accounts and statistics, as well as compiling of environment and natural resources accounts in pilot regions.

These data help the country measure sustainability in tourism, ocean economy, greenhouse-gas emissions, climate change, disaster expenditure and material flow, supporting environment indicators under the Sustainable Development Agenda for 2030, said Assistant National Statistician Vivian Ilarina of the Philippine Statistics Authority.

Dr. Gem B. Castillo, president of the Resource and Environmental Economics Foundation of the Philippines and national consultant of the Wealth Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services, noted that there was a significant achievement in bringing together data and identifying data gaps and deficiencies in the information system of the Philippines.

Like in the Philippines, SEEA-EA efforts in Indonesia started in 1990 and is still being implemented.

It started with a compilation of an integrated system of environmental-economic accounting, "Sistem Terintegrasi Neraca dan Ekonomi Lingkungan" (Sisnerling), followed by sectoral applications, the latest of which is on sustainable tourism.

In her presentation, Etjih Tasriah, senior statistician of Badan Pusat Statistik of Indonesia, shared that Sisnerling sought to describe the impacts of economic development on the availability of natural resources and the roles of natural resources in economic activities.

The government has been conducting in-depth studies on SEEA-EA in 17 provinces of Indonesia every year since 2016.

Experts from the Philippines and Indonesia cited the need for strong commitment from officials and concerted efforts from several sectors to manage and monitor the natural accounting processes and make sure these are integrated in decision-making.

With the post-2020 global biodiversity framework expected to be finalised at the 15th Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity this year, the adoption and implementation of natural capital accounting systems are even more crucial.



Ecotourism destination in Puerto Galera halfway done

Published July 4, 2021, 9:36 PM

by [Manila Bulletin](#)

Locals and tourists can soon expect another ecotourism destination in Puerto Galera with the ongoing construction of the Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Center (MBCC).

The project is aiming to make the area one of the country's premier environmental conservation venues and educational- cultural sites.

"It is the first of its kind in Mindoro and will be the physical embodiment of sustainability, benefitting present and future generations," Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation Inc. (MBCFI) Executive Director Grace Diamante said.

The MBCC is a legacy project of the MBCFI and will be a focal point for nature preservation efforts and ecological research in the Philippines since MBCFI's establishment in 2008. The MBCC's location is strategic as Mindoro is a globally recognized biodiversity conservation area due to its abundance in endemic species and diversity of habitats, which are also threatened by human activities like poaching and deforestation.

As of June, the construction of the 600-square-meter facility on a 16-hectare property overlooking the bay at Brgy. Dulangan was nearly halfway done.



NEW ECOTOURISM SITE. An artist impression of the Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Center (MBCC) that is being planned in Puerto Galera that aims to make the area one of the country's premier environmental conservation venues and educational- cultural sites. (MBCC/MANILA BULLETIN)

The Department of Science and Technology-MIMAROPA recently approved the provision of solar panels to help power up the MBCC's research laboratory. Naming opportunities are also open to help fund other components of the MBCC for posterity.

Aside from being MBCFI's future headquarters, the MBCC will feature a natural history museum; a forest restoration area for native tree species; a Mangyan heritage hall for Indigenous People (IP) groups to showcase their culture and products; a research laboratory to assist in the discovery of new species; a Nature Discovery Trail; eco-lodges with glamping areas at the view deck; and even a temporary holding facility for rescued endangered animals.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/07/04/ecotourism-destination-in-puerto-galera-halfway-done/>



Urban forestry vs. global warming

[BREAKTHROUGH](#) - [Elfren S. Cruz](#) (The Philippine Star) - July 11, 2021 - 12:00am

Extreme temperatures heat and cold kill five million people a year. While in the past, more people died of cold than heat, the balance is changing. This means that heat-related deaths are on the rise. These findings are the result of a 20-year study published in the Lancet Planetary Health Journal.

The study states that if action to mitigate climate change is not taken, more deaths will occur because of extreme temperatures, especially heat.

Climate researcher Jonathan Overpeck of the University of Michigan wrote recently: “Perhaps the most important thing for everyone to realize is that extreme heat waves are becoming more frequent and hotter because of human-caused global warming... The devastating extremes associated with climate change are only going to get worse and worse until we halt the causes of global warming.”

A severe heat wave in 2003 that happened in France killed about 70,000 people. However, very few people are aware of the grave danger that heat waves can cause.

Among scientists and health personnel, heat waves are known as the “silent killer.” Storms and floods cause property damage and immediate deaths through drowning or landslides. Heat waves do not cause people to suddenly die in the street. Instead almost all heat wave deaths happen at home and may even not be discovered at once.

We may have witnessed on media death and destruction caused by severe flooding or storm surges; but heat waves do not have the same dramatic visuals.

Efforts to address global warming are usually long term. Thus targets may be set for final conclusion way into the future like 2050. One problem about this is that those setting the targets and the deadlines are mostly in their 60s and 70s who will most probably not be around by 2050. Those who will be most affected will be those who are still alive in the 2050s. Unfortunately, these young people do not have the clout or influence to demand shorter timelines and more drastic targets.

I am sure that if I write again about methods and steps to reduce emissions many readers will stop reading this column. The governments should be accountable for these long-term programs.

The ordinary citizens who have the idealism and the desire to do something should be given projects – like community pantries – to do in their local communities.

Urban trees only for rich

In almost all cities in the world, including the Philippines, air pollution is getting worse. More and more of the urban areas are being covered by concrete and tarmac. Subdivisions are being transformed from agricultural lands, further adding to the pollution and global warming.

Trees are a possible answer to the twin problems of pollution and heat. But in the urban center of developing countries, like the Philippines, trees are increasingly limited to the rich. There are hardly any public parks with extensive tree coverage. Major tree areas are now increasingly found in the enclaves for the rich and in golf courses. Perhaps the reason the rich do not miss trees is because in the narrow world they live, there are still trees. In the crowded neighborhoods where most Filipinos live, trees are disappearing. Trees can cool things down and provide shade.



Miyawaki forests

A group of botanists have found a partial solution to this lack of urban vegetation. They propose to plant miniature forests ecologically engineered for rapid growth. Miyawaki Akira, a plant ecologist at the Yokohama National University in Japan, has developed a process of ecological succession by which bare land develops naturally into mature forests. Gardeners, who can be community volunteers, will need to nurture and water these plants. After that, the miniature forest will grow on its own. Dr. Miyawaki has supervised more than 1,500 of these miniature forests in Japan and other parts of the world. Other cities and countries are following. In Mumbai, India more than 200,000 trees have been planted throughout the city. In India, the largest of the Miyawaki forest is less than four hectares.

The Miyawaki method will never work for large-scale reforestation because it is too labor intensive. But it can work in small neighborhoods.

Institutions like schools who have botanists can, for example, tie up with specific neighborhoods to provide technical advice. The government or foundations can provide incentives for these miniature forests. This is a project that can be done at the community level and we can look forward to the day when trees are not only for the rich.

Letter from Rene Saguisag

In my last column, I wrote about “Winning Philippine Elections.” Rene Saguisag wrote me a reply worth reprinting.

For the few who may not know, Rene was the presidential spokesperson for Cory Aquino during her campaign against Marcos and during the first couple of years of her presidency. He has retired from the Senate but remains a human rights icon. Here is his letter:

“In 1987, my Senate candidacy showed that one with modest means could win as senator. I ran reluctantly. Tony Gonzalez, the boss of my wife, donated P1M as seed money. We returned it intact after the polls. We had no need for it. AMPONIN Rene was a winner, the brainchild of Raul Contreras and Nonoy Gallardo. I didn’t have to spend a singkong duling of my own. But 1987 was just after 1986 and its spirit was waning but still there. 1988 marked the return of money politics.

“In 1998 I, not cut out for politics, opted not to run, despite the risk of winning.”

* * *

Writefest2021, our annual 6-session workshop returns on July 12-23. Young Writers’ Hangout on July 24 with award-winning author Weng Cahiles, 2-3 p.m.

Contact writethingsph@gmail.com. 0945.2273216

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GMA News

10h · 🌐

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DOLPHIN, NAPADPAD SA ILOG SA SANTA RITA, SAMAR!

Nasorpresa ang ilang residente ng Santa Rita, Samar nang mapadpad ang isang dolphin sa isang ilog. Una itong napansin ng ilang kabataan na naliligo sa ilog.

Paliwanag ng Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), baka may hinabol na isda ang dolphin at hindi nito napansin na napunta na siya sa ilog dahil high-tide noon at medyo malalim ang tubig.

Naibalik na sa dagat ang dolphin sa tulong ng BFAR kasama ang ilang tauhan ng barangay at ng LGU.

PANOORIN ang buong ulat: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D2qY0B0-gmg>

Courtesy: Carlo Bernal Capacite



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Giant pandas no longer endangered, say Chinese officials

Published July 10, 2021 10:31pm



A panda is seen at Beijing Zoo on Nov. 10, 2017. AFP

Giant pandas are no longer endangered after “active efforts on biodiversity protection and ecological restoration,” according to Chinese officials.

According to a report by Chinese state-run media [Xinhuanet](#), ministry of ecology and environment official Cui Shuhong said in a press conference that the status of wild giant pandas in China had been downgraded from “endangered” to “vulnerable.”

The official said that the wild giant pandas were now in better environments and 1,800 lived in the wilderness.

In 2016, the International Union for Conservation of Nature took giant pandas off the endangered list and classified them as vulnerable, but Chinese officials did not mirror the decision initially.

The official added that the population of other rare and endangered species such as Siberian tigers, Amur leopards, Asian elephants and crested ibis were recovering as well, thanks to the country’s “ecological conservation and restoration projects.” – **Kaela Malig/RC, GMA News**

Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/scitech/science/794891/giant-pandas-no-longer-endangered-say-chinese-officials/story/?just_in



Expedite acts vs Covid, climate, G20 told

July 11, 2021



UNITED Nations Secretary General António Guterres. AFP Photo

UNITED NATIONS: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Friday asked the Group of 20 (G20) largest economies to address Covid-19 vaccine gap, provide debt relief to developing economies and finance climate action.

Guterres spoke virtually to the third meeting of G20 finance ministers and central bank governors, which was being held in Venice, Italy. Friday's meeting was held behind closed doors, said Stephane Dujarric, Guterres' chief spokesman.

The secretary-general reiterated his call for a global vaccination plan to at least double the production of vaccines and to ensure equitable distribution, using Covax as the platform, said Dujarric.

Guterres said many developing countries are teetering on the verge of debt default. He called on the G20 to expand the Debt Service Suspension Initiative and Common Framework for Debt Treatment to include vulnerable middle-income countries and small island developing states.

On climate change, Guterres said he was deeply concerned over the lack of progress on public climate financing and once again called on the G20 to mobilize \$100 billion annually for developing countries as agreed to in 2009.

Guterres told the ministers that to restore trust in multilateralism, there is a need to deliver on vaccines, economic recovery and climate finance, said the spokesman.



Quakes, gas emissions still observed at Taal Volcano as 'magmatic unrest' persists

Published July 10, 2021, 9:34 AM by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)



(MARK BALMORES / MANILA BULLETIN / FILE PHOTO)

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) continues to detect earthquakes associated with the magmatic degassing of Taal Volcano in the past 24 hours.

In its volcano bulletin on Saturday, July 10, Phivolcs observed eight volcanic earthquakes, including two low-frequency earthquakes, five tremor events having durations of one to two minutes, and a low-level background that tremor has persisted since July 7.

“High levels of volcanic sulfur dioxide or SO₂ gas emissions and steam-rich plumes that rose 1,200 meters before drifting generally west was generated from the Taal main crater,” it added.

As of July 9, the average SO₂ emission of Taal Volcano was measured at 4,149 tonnes per day.

Phivolcs said that Taal Volcano remains under Alert Level 3 due to continuous “magmatic unrest.”

“At Alert Level 3, magma extruding from the main crater could drive explosive eruption,” Phivolcs said.

The public is prohibited from entering the entire Taal Volcano Island, which is a permanent danger zone.

Phivolcs also advised those in the high-risk barangays of Agoncillo and Laurel in Batangas to evacuate due to hazards of pyroclastic density currents and volcanic tsunami in case strong eruptions occur.

“All activities on Taal Lake should not be allowed at this time,” it added.

Communities around the Taal lakeshores were also advised to remain vigilant and take precautionary measures against possible airborne ash and vog.

Phivolcs asked residents around Taal Lake to “calmly” prepare for possible evacuation should Taal Volcano’s unrest intensifies.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/07/10/quakes-gas-emissions-still-observed-at-taal-volcano-as-magmatic-unrest-persists/>



500K katao ililikas 'pag sumabog ang Taal

By [Joy Cantos](#)(Pilipino Star Ngayon) - July 11, 2021 - 12:00am



Sinabi ni National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council (NDRRMC) Executive Director Ricardo Jalad na “base sa risk assessment, kung sakali na magkaroon ng violent eruption, sa risk map na ginawa ng PHIVOLCS, ang estimate na ililikas mula sa municipalities and cities of Batangas, including part of Tagaytay at Lemery, ay half a million, we are preparing.”

AFP/Ted Aljibe

MANILA, Philippines — Aabot sa 500,000 katao ang posibleng ilikas sakaling mangyari ang pinangangambahang malakas na pagsabog ng Taal volcano sa Batangas.

Sinabi ni National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council (NDRRMC) Executive Director Ricardo Jalad na “base sa risk assessment, kung sakali na magkaroon ng violent eruption, sa risk map na ginawa ng PHIVOLCS, ang estimate na ililikas mula sa municipalities and cities of Batangas, including part of Tagaytay at Lemery, ay half a million, we are preparing.”

Bukod dito, naghahanda na rin sila sa posibleng epekto ng paglabas ng nakalalasang gas, volcanic tsunami at pagbagsak ng debris mula sa bunganga ng bulkan.

Sa nakalipas na 24- oras ay nakapagtala ng 8 volcanic quakes sa Taal habang nagbuga rin ang main crater ng sulfur dioxide gas at steam-rich plumes na may taas na 1,200 metro. Umaabot naman sa 4,149 tonelada ang ibinubugang asupre kada araw

Patuloy na nasa alert level 3 ang Taal na sa kalagayang ito, ang magma na nanunuot sa Main Crater ay maaaring magdulot ng malakas na pagsabog.

Sa kasalukuyan, ang rekomendasyon ng Phivolcs ay ilikas ang mga residente sa limang barangay sa mga bayan ng Laurel at Agoncillo at maging sa iba pang mga lugar na malapit sa Taal Island. Ang Taal volcano Island ay idineklarang Permanent Danger Zone. — **Angie dela Cruz**

11 JULY 2021, SUNDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Vendors, delivery drivers and others who work at the night market in Divisoria, Manila wait for their turn to be inoculated with the COVID-19 vaccine on July 5, 2021 as the local government starts their night vaccination program which will cater to individuals who cannot go to inoculation sites during daytime.

The STAR/Miguel de Guzman

5,675 new coronavirus infections push Philippines caseload to 1.46M

(Philstar.com) - July 10, 2021 - 4:00pm

MANILA, Philippines — Local health authorities on Saturday reported 5,675 more COVID-19 infections, bringing the national caseload to 1,467,119.

- **Active cases:** 49,968 or 3.4% of the total
- **Recoveries:** 7,552, pushing total to 1,391,335
- **Deaths:** 96, bringing total to 25,816

More vaccines arrive

- The Philippines last night **received** 132,200 more doses of the Russian-made Sputnik V COVID-19 vaccine.
- They form part of the total 16.2 million vaccines **expected** to arrive this month, over 3 million of which are single-shot jabs developed by Johnson&Johnson, according to vaccine czar Carlito Galvez Jr.
- So far, some 3 million Filipinos have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19, **only 4% of the government's targeted 70 million for herd immunity**, Dr. Ted Herbosa, an adviser to the National Task Force Against COVID-19 told state-run media Thursday.



PH Covid-19 survivors climb to 1.3M

By Joyce Ann L. Rocamora [July 10, 2021, 7:00 pm](#)



MANILA – The Department of Health (DOH) on Saturday reported 7,552 more recoveries, pushing the number of coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) survivors to 1,391,335, or 94.8 percent of the overall cases since the pandemic began.

In its case bulletin, the DOH logged 5,675 new infections that raised active cases to 49,968.

The death toll also climbed to 25,816 with the addition of 96 new fatalities.

According to DOH, the country has so far logged a total of 1,467,119 cases since the outbreak started in March 2020, of which 3.4 percent are active cases while 1.76 percent are fatalities.

The agency, meanwhile, reported that 89 percent of the active cases have mild symptoms, 5.4 percent are asymptomatic, 1.5 percent are critical, 2.4 percent are severe, while 1.68 percent are moderate.

Out of the 50,704 individuals tested from July 8, about 11 percent or 5,577 turned out positive for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19.

Nationwide, at least 55 percent of the total 3,500 intensive care unit (ICU) beds are occupied, along with 46 percent of the 19,500 isolation beds and 42 percent of the 12,300 ward beds dedicated for Covid-19 patients.

In Metro Manila, in use are around 40 percent of 1,100 ICU beds, 37 percent of 4,700 isolation beds, and 32 percent of 3,500 beds. **(PNA)**



Philippines relaxes COVID-19 curbs to allow children outdoors

July 10, 2021 12:15 AM by [DZRH News Online](#)



FILE PHOTO: A passenger wearing a face mask and face shield for protection against the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) walks towards a counter in the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Paranaque, Metro Manila, Philippines, January 14, 2021. REUTERS/Eloisa Lopez/File Photo

MANILA (Reuters) – The Philippines on Friday loosened coronavirus restrictions to allow children out of their homes so they can return to parks, playgrounds, and hiking trails in the capital region and some other provinces after a slowdown in infections.

Children aged five and above, who were previously confined indoors, will also be permitted to go to outdoor tourist sites and dining establishments, and play non-contact sports outside, Presidential spokesperson Harry Roque said.

The pandemic has battered the Philippine economy, triggering millions of jobs losses, prompting policy makers to call for the easing of lockdown measures to help boost domestic spending.

“Children must be supervised by adults and observe minimum public health standards, such as wearing of face masks and social distancing,” Roque said in a statement.

COVID–19 infection rates have fallen from a peak in March and April as more people become vaccinated, but officials have said some restrictions must be retained in and outside the capital region given the threat posed by new variants.

Schools in the country remain shut, social gatherings are still restricted and public transport services are operating below capacity.

As of July 8, confirmed COVID–19 cases in the Philippines reached 1.46 million, while the number of fatalities totalled more than 25,700.

But cases have dropped to roughly 30,000 a week since May, roughly half of the nearly 60,000 in some weeks in March and April, health ministry data showed.

Unlike other Southeast Asian neighbours, the Philippine has not yet detected community transmission of the highly transmissible Delta variant.

About 8.6% of its 110 million people have so far received at least one vaccine dose, government data showed, and 2.9 percent have been fully immunised.



Authorities have given the greenlight for children aged 12 and above to be vaccinated, but not until other priority groups have been inoculated.

(Reporting by Karen Lema; Editing by Ed Davies)



132K doses of Sputnik V jabs arrive in PH

By Lade Jean Kabagani July 10, 2021, 8:04 am



VAX ARRIVED. National Task Force (NTF) Against Covid-19 chief implementer and vaccine czar, Secretary Carlito Galvez Jr. (left), is on hand to welcome the arrival of 132,000 doses of government-procured Sputnik V anti-Covid-19 vaccines in Pasay City on Friday (July 9, 2021). The latest delivery brought the country's total doses of Sputnik V jabs to 312,200. (PNA photo by Joey O. Razon)

MANILA – The Philippines received 132,200 doses of the Russian-made Sputnik V vaccine on Friday night.

The Sputnik V jab, developed by the Gamaleya National Research Center of Epidemiology and Microbiology, consists of 82,200 doses of Component I and 50,000 doses of Component II.

Qatar Airways flight QR 928, from Moscow via Qatar, landed at the Bay 114 ramp of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 in Pasay City at about 10:30 p.m.

The vaccines were immediately transported to the PharmaServ Express cold-chain storage facility in San Roque, Marikina City.

The fresh shipment of the Russian jab is part of the 170,000 doses that were supposed to arrive on Wednesday. The delivery was, however, rescheduled due to logistical issues.

The latest delivery brought the country's total doses of Sputnik V jabs to 312,200.

The remaining 37,800 doses of Sputnik V Component I are scheduled to arrive on Saturday.

Secretary Carlito Galvez Jr., chief implementer of the National Task Force (NTF) Against Covid-19, said 40 percent to 50 percent of the newly arrived supply of Sputnik V vaccines would go to the areas under the National Capital Region (NCR) Plus 8, composed of Metro Manila, Cavite, Laguna, Pampanga, Batangas, Rizal, Bulacan, Metro Davao, and Metro Cebu.

The rest of the vaccines, he added, would be distributed to other cities with readily available cold-chain facilities, particularly in regions 1 (Ilocos), 2 (Cagayan Valley), 3 (Central Luzon), and 4-A (Calabarzon).

"Some LGUs (local government units) have already prepared will be given these (jabs)," Galvez said. "And also some of them will go to the Visayas and Mindanao."

He said the 50,000 doses of Sputnik V Component II would be allocated to those who have received their first doses.



The government is also eyeing to get a supply of single-dose Sputnik V light jabs from the Russian drugmaker, which will be delivered once the country's Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approves its use in the Philippines, Galvez said.

"As of this moment, the FDA is requesting for more information and data (about it)" he added.



The fresh shipment of Sputnik V anti-Covid-19 vaccine that arrived on Friday *(PNA photo by Joey O. Razon)*

Meanwhile, Galvez said there would be no restriction in the use of government-procured jabs.

"It will be given to priority sector(s) under categories A1 to A5," he said.

While those vaccines from the COVAX Facility, led by the World Health Organization (WHO), will be given to the most vulnerable sector, such as health care workers, senior citizens, and persons with co-morbidities.

Galvez said the Philippines has a total of 20,739,770 doses in the stockpile, including the latest delivery.

More than 4 million doses of Covid-19 vaccines will be delivered next week – 2.5 million doses of Sinovac, 1.7 million doses of AstraZeneca, and more or less 500,000 doses of Pfizer, he said. *(PNA)*



Ivermectin ‘di mabisa vs COVID-19 - DOH

By [Ludy Bermudo](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon) - July 10, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Muling iginiit kahapon ng Department of Health (DOH) na hindi matuturing na mabisa ang paggamit ng Ivermectin bilang panlaban sa COVID-19.

Ang pahayag ng DOH ay kasunod ng pinakahuling pag-aaral na lumabas sa US-based journal na nagsabing “not a viable option” para gamutin ang isang pasyenteng nagka-COVID.

Ang Clinical Infectious Diseases, na siyang official publication ng Infectious Diseases Society ng America, ay naglabas ng conclusion noong nakalipas na Hunyo 28.

Batay sa pagkukumpara sa standard of care o SOC, o placebo, ang IVM o Ivermectin ay hindi nakapag-pababa ng tinatawag na all-cause mortality, length of stay, o ang viral clearance sa randomized controlled trials sa mga COVID-19 patients na karamihan ay mild lamang ang kaso.

Wala rin bisa ang IVM sa mga adverse events, o severe adverse events batay pa sa pag-aaral.

Sinabi naman ni Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire na kung makikita na ang isang gamot ay magiging epektibo para sa COVID-19, hinding-hindi naman pipigilan ang paggamit nito sa populasyon.

Aniya pa, hanggang sa ngayon, hindi pa rin nakikita base sa siyensya at sa ebidensya na ang Ivermectin ay makakapagbigay ng tulong para sa mga pasyenteng tinamaan ng COVID-19 sa bansa.



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**as of 27 June 2021 (1st and 2nd doses administered)*

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