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**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**



## Cimatu: Pandemic not a hindrance in fulfilling DENR's mandate

JUN 11, 2021, 11:46 AM

**Santiago Celario**

Writer

**As the Department of Environment and Natural Resources celebrated its 34th anniversary, Secretary Roy Cimatu said his agency has made great strides in fulfilling its mission of protecting the country's national resources despite the Covid-19 pandemic.**

DESPITE the Covid-19 pandemic, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) under the leadership of President Rodrigo Duterte has made great strides in fulfilling its mission of protecting the country's national resources.

That was Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu's assessment of the achievements of his agency as DENR celebrated its 34th anniversary last June 10.

In a speech read via Zoom, Cimatu boasted that the Covid-19 pandemic did not prevent DENR's personnel and officials to continue to work to protect our environment and nature.

Cimatu said the Philippines' air quality is now up to the standard at pm10 and pm 2.5, while the 43 priority rivers monitored by the agency in 2020, are close to 75 percent of the water quality standard for biological oxygen demand.

The secretary also cited the recent victory of the Environmental Management Bureau in closing down 100 percent of illegal dumpsites in the country.

The DENR through the Environmental Management Bureau has accomplished the establishment of a coalition of solid waste management providers, the first in the history of the DENR to bring together all sanitary landfill operators, for a good solid waste management country.

Meanwhile, the DENR chief thanked the employees and officials who worked hard to address the country's solid waste problem, especially national garbage collector Usec Benny Antiporda.

Cimatu added that Boracay is much better now than several years ago after its rehabilitation to restore the ecological integrity and natural beauty of the island. (SC)

Source: <https://opinyon.net/national/cimatu-pandemic-not-a-hindrance-in-fulfilling-denr-s-mandate>



# Cebu City to honor Cimatú with Order of Rajah Humabon

By [Caecent No-ot Magsumbol](#)(The Freeman) - June 12, 2021 - 12:00am



Cimatú's recognition may be a bit late already, but somehow, the city government is able to give him the best it can offer.

CEBU, Philippines — The Cebu City government will confer Environment Secretary Roy Cimatú with the Order of Rajah Humabon in tonight's celebration of 123rd Philippine Independence Day at the Citadines this city.

Cimatú's recognition may be a bit late already, but somehow, the city government is able to give him the best it can offer.

Acting Mayor Michael Rama had wanted for such an award to be given to Cimatú during the city's celebration of its 84th Charter Day Award but for unknown reasons it was missed out.

Rama, however, found another appropriate time to honor Cimatú's efforts, and that is today's Independence Day.

Cimatú was sent by no less than President Rodrigo Roa Duterte to Cebu and mainly to Cebu City last year to oversee the situation of Covid-19 after being tagged as the epicenter of the epidemic.

There were no clear directions and management, the barangays and the city government were not also in tune with each other, and hospitals, public and private were crying for help.

The calm but brilliant Cimatú was able to put in order the chaotic situation here along with the able support of the IATF Visayas chief implementer, another retired general Melquiades Feliciano.

Feliciano along with his wife, Mia, will also have a reenactment of its being an adopted Cebuanos tonight.

Feliciano along with Big Foot's Michael Gleissner and the other individuals and entities that made very valuable contributions in the fight against Covid-19 in Cebu City are also expected to be recognized tonight.

## Free legal aid

Meanwhile, free legal consultation and notarial services will be offered, especially to the indigents, in today's 123rd Independence Day commemoration at Plaza Sugbo from 8 a.m. to 12 noon.



“We cater to everybody, and dili mi mamili. Those who will come tomorrow to seek for legal advice will all be assisted by lawyers tomorrow,” said Atty. Michael Francis Hubahib, Integrated Bar of the Philippines-Cebu City Chapter vice-president and committee chair on legal aid services.

Hubahib also advised those who wish to avail of the free services to come early and bring with them government-issued identification cards for presentation.

“We encourage everybody, especially those who cannot afford to pay for legal services, to take advantage of this program kay libre gud ni sila,” said Hubahib, noting their services are only limited to simple notaries, like affidavits and special power of attorneys.

“We will not notarize deeds of sale, deeds of donation, or other documents for business purposes,” he added.

The activity is also in partnership with the Cebu City Legal Office and the Cebu Lady Lawyers Association.

“We assisted Mandaue City, Lapu-Lapu City, and we have yet to assist Cebu City. So, we coordinated with the Cebu City Legal Office and the City Government to bring this to fruition because this will be symbolic given that we are celebrating the Independence Day,” he added.

With the legal aid, Hubahib said, “we are bringing the law closer to the people by providing these free legal services.”

Aside from the legal aid at Plaza Sugbo, Hubahib said the IBP will also hold another legal aide in Barangay Tingog Gym on Olango Island from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. today.

This will be held in collaboration with JCI Womandaue and Mactan Island Lawyers League.

“Our goal before the end of our two-year term by 2023 is maserbisyuhan namo ang tanang municipality ug tanang siyudad diri sa Cebu island,” added Hubahib.

The IBP also has current initiatives like the jail decongestion and on-going webinars or seminars to orient Cebuanons, including barangay officials, on existing laws.

### **Independence Day rites**

At 5 p.m. yesterday, the Armed Forces of the Philippines will lead the flag lowering and burning rites at Plaza Sugbo.

The military will also join the Philippine National Police and the Boy Scout of the Philippines during the rites at Plaza Sugbo today.

“We don’t go into more flamboyant celebrations, most simplified just to commemorate the most important event in the history,” said Trifon Sode, Community Affairs Officer II and Commemorations and Performing Arts Section head of the Cultural and Historical Affairs Commission.

Rama will also officiate in today’s celebration which will run on livestream.

Immediately after the program, the Libreng Konsulta and Notaryo will follow, added Sode.

— **Deogracia William Bemida, Silliman University intern, GMR (FREEMAN)**

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/the-freeman/cebu-news/2021/06/12/2104966/cebu-city-honor-cimatu-order-rajah-humabon/amp/>

## Cimatu set to receive award from Cebu City Government



SunStar File

June 12, 2021

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Roy Cimatu, Visayas overseer of the government's coronavirus response, is set to receive the Rajah Humabon Award from the Cebu City Government on Independence Day, Saturday, June 12, 2021.

The retired military general is recognized for his contributions in controlling the surge of cases in the city at the height of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Cimatu said Cebu City has proven that cooperation between the public and private sectors would bear positive results as the city, despite its population, continues to observe low double-digit cases.

"I wish Cebu the best of everything, especially now that our Covid (cases) are in a downtime. I'm very happy about that. I've been monitoring Cebu City because it has already become a model against the pandemic. I am very happy the people in Cebu City responded very accurately and very clearly on the protocols," he said in his speech in Cebu City on Friday, June 11.

In June last year, Cimatu said he came to Cebu by the direction of President Rodrigo Duterte to lead the fight against Covid-19 in Cebu City, which at that time had the highest number of cases in the whole country, even surpassing Metro Manila.

Cimatu said he was glad to hear that many city residents were already inoculated with the Covid-19 vaccine.

Cimatu on Friday graced the signing of the memorandum of agreement between the Minglanilla Municipal Government and the

Philippine Reclamation Authority for the P20-billion project—the 100-hectare reclamation for the Minglanilla Techno-Business Park by Ming-Mori Development Corp. Inc, an affiliate of Cebu Landmasters Inc. **(JOB)**

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1897483/Cebu/Local-News/Cimatu-set-to-receive-award-from-Cebu-City-Government>



# SMC starts Pasig River rehab, doubles budget to P2B

By ... -June 11, 2021



*SMC formally launched its P2-billion Pasig River rehabilitation initiative, which will extract 50,000 metric tons of silt and solid waste per month from the historic river, or 600,000 metric tons per year, using advanced and specialized equipment.*

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

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

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

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

To further underscore the problem of pollution in the Pasig River, Ang cited a study published by [OurWorldinData.org](https://www.ourworldindata.org) last May, that Pasig River has emerged as the top plastics polluter of oceans in the world.

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

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

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



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

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

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

“This is a monumental task, but it is not impossible if we all work together. Our experience in dredging the Tullahan for a year has allowed us to determine the most effective approach and best equipment to be used. In Tullahan, we were able to extract over 260,000 metric tons of silt and solid waste so far and the dredging has reduced the heavy flooding in the cities of Navotas, Malabon, and Valenzuela,” he said

A bathymetric survey or depth survey used to determine the topography and characteristics underwater of the Pasig River showed that some parts of the river have become shallower and measure only one



## SMC doubles budget for Pasig River rehab

[Catherine Talavera](#) (The Philippine Star) - June 12, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Diversified conglomerate San Miguel Corp. (SMC) is doubling its budget for the clean up and rehabilitation of the Pasig River to P2 billion.

In a statement, SMC said it officially launched the five-year project in partnership with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), other national government agencies and Metro Manila mayors.

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

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

Ang cited a study published by OurWorldinData.org – a collaboration between the University of Oxford and UK-based non-profit, Global Change Data Lab – last May which showed that the Pasig River has emerged as the top plastics polluter of oceans in the world.

Joining the Pasig River in the top 10 list of rivers in the world that have the highest share of plastics emitted are six other rivers in the Philippines: the Tullahan River, Meycauyan River, Pampanga River, Libmanan River, Rio Grande de Mindanao and Agno River.

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

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

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

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

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

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/business/2021/06/12/2104789/smc-doubles-budget-pasig-river-rehab>





## Palasyo pinakalkal sindikato sa DENR

By Abante News Online — Last updated Jun 11, 2021

NEWS



Pinaiimbestigahan na ng Malacañang sa Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA) at sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang sindikato diumano sa loob ng nasabing kagawaran na nanggigipit sa mga magsasaka para isuko ang kanilang mga karapatan sa lupang sakop ng community-based forest management agreement sa malalaking agribusiness company.

Inireklamo kamakailan ng Federation of Free Farmers (FFF) ang mga opisyal umano ng DENR sa Bukidnon na gumalaw para ipasok sa joint venture agreement ang 164.6-ektaryang lupa na sakop ng CBFMA ng Merangeran Free Farmers Association Inc. at mapunta sa Del Monte Philippines Inc. ng mga Campos na inatrasan na ng kompanya.

Nabatid na sumulat umano si Secretary Leoncio Evasco Jr. ng Office of the President kay FFF chair Leonardo Montemayor noong May 27, 2021 tungkol sa reklamo.

Si Evasco ang Presidential Adviser on Streamlining of Government Processes.

"We are recommending the investigation of the complaint to the Anti-Red Tape Authority and the Department of Natural Resources," sabi sa liham ni Evasco kay Montemayor. (Eileen Mencias)

Source: <https://www.abante.com.ph/palasyo-pinakalkal-sindikato-sa-denr/>



## PILIPINAS AT KOREA MAGTUTULUNGAN PARA SA PAMPANGA RIVER BASIN



June 11, 2021 @ 1:10 PM 17 hours ago

**BINABATI ng inyong Agarang Serbisyo Lady ang National Water Resources Board at ang Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) sa matagumpay na pagsasagawa ng “Kick-off Meeting for the Establishment of an Integrated Water Resources Management Information System for the Pampanga River Basin” na ginanap virtually nitong May 25, 2021.**

Maliban sa NWRB at KOICA, dumalo rin sa nasabing pulong ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources na siyang principal agency ng NWRB kasama ang Mines and Geosciences Bureau, River Basin Control Office at Foreign Assisted and Special Projects Service, ang Department of Agriculture, National Irrigation Administration, National Power Corporation, Cooperative Development Authority, Local Water Utilities Administration, Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration, National Economic and Development Authority, iba pang ahensya at water stakeholders.

Sa kanyang mensahe, pinasalamatan ni NWRB executive director Seville David, Jr., ang KOICA, Office of the President, NEDA at ang Department of Finance para sa pagbibigay ng “go signal” upang umarangkada na ang Phase II ng programang pinagtutulungan ng NWRB kasama ang maraming ahensya at ng KOICA sa Pampanga River Basin (PRB).

Ipinaalala ni ED David na malaki ang naging benepisyo ng bansa sa Phase I ng proyekto noong 2013 hanggang 2015 dahil nagkaroon ng “effective decision support tool for water resources” sa bahagi ng PRB na nasa Pampanga at Bulacan lamang. Ang ikalawang bahagi ay mas malawak dahil sasakupin ang kabuuan ng PRB na tumatawid sa mga lalawigan ng Nueva Ecija, Tarlac, Aurora, Bataan, Pangasinan, Zambales at Nueva Vizcaya lalo na pagdating sa water allocation and distribution, irrigation and flood analysis.

Binigyang-diin naman ni DENR undersecretary for attached agencies Rodolfo Garcia ang kahalagahan ng pagpapaalam ng proyekto sa mga komunidad na sakop ng PRB para maintindihan nila na ginagawa ito ng pamahalaan sa tulong ng KOICA para na rin sa ikagaganda ng kanilang buhay at para sa kabutihan ng kalikasan.

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/pilipinas-at-korea-magtutulungan-para-sa-pampanga-river-basin/>



## Dept of Water must be a priority

June 12, 2021

WITHIN the past week, it has come to our attention that the bill that would create a Department of Water for the Philippines is in grave danger of dying in the Senate. President Rodrigo Duterte must prevent this from happening by immediately certifying the measure as urgent.

In a press briefing last Monday, Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA) Acting Administrator Jeci Lapus disclosed that he had received assurances from House Speaker Lord Allan Velasco that passage of the measure in the House of Representatives "was not a problem," as most congressmen understand the merits of the proposal. Late last year, the House appropriations committee approved the funding provisions in the House version of the bill, a major step towards passage.

The Senate, however, once again appears to be a roadblock to progress. Progress on the Senate version of the water department bill has been stalled, apparently due to the erroneous belief of some senators that it would create "another layer of bureaucracy." One senator who appears to have some difficulty grasping the concept is public services committee chairman Mary Grace Poe, who reportedly asked for and received a position paper on the proposed department from LWUA back in 2019 and then, made the same request earlier this year.

Water is arguably the most critical natural resource on Earth, and the Philippines is an exception to most countries in that its management of water resources is not done from a ministerial or Cabinet-level office. The Department of Water would correct this and raise the profile of water policy to the level it deserves.

Far from "adding another layer of bureaucracy," the proposed Department of Water would eliminate a great deal of redundancy and overlap. Water resource policy, development and regulation is badly fragmented in its current form, being handled by no less than 30 separate agencies. All of these would be absorbed by the new water department; some would remain as line agencies while others might be dissolved and distributed among other offices.

Funding for the new Cabinet-level department would likely have no impact on the national budget and could perhaps even save money. As proposed, the Department of Water would absorb the existing budgets of the agencies under its umbrella and would only require new expenditures to fill in gaps in the administrative structure if it is unable to source suitable systems and personnel from its component offices.

The biggest advantage of having a water department would be that it will finally make it possible to have an integrated and coordinated national water resource policy, something which is critically important but completely impossible at present under the patchwork of responsible agencies. For example, a recently announced partnership between the Department of Science and Technology and the National Water Resources Board (NWRB) will result in the deployment of an advanced monitoring system for reservoirs and groundwater in different parts of the country. This will help the NWRB in allocating water resources to various purposes such as irrigation or potable water for households and businesses. But under the current framework for water management, there is no guarantee that the data gathered would flow efficiently to other agencies or that they would use it effectively even if it did, as each operates within a silo of its own responsibilities.

Over the past five years, the Duterte administration has focused on infrastructure development to benefit the country and has been largely successful in that effort. However, improved infrastructure is not simply manifested in tangible objects such as roads, bridges, airports, railroads or utility systems; these are, in fact, only one-half of the equation, the more efficient distribution of resources. Management of the resources is no less important, and unless that is done efficiently, the potential value of the related infrastructure will be wasted.



Among the resources that are within human ability to manage, water is the most critical of all. In the Philippines, it is not being managed as efficiently as it needs to be, and it will never be so long as the current uncoordinated framework exists. Solving that problem by declaring the Department of Water bill an urgent measure and ensuring its passage could be one of President Duterte's most important legacies if only he would act on it.



## Pasig River pinakamarumi – Ocean Cleanup

By Abante Tonite — Last updated Jun 10, 2021

NEWS



Ikinalungkot ng Malacañang ang ulat na kabilang ang Pasig River at 18 ilog pa sa Pilipinas sa mga top plastic polluter sa buong mundo.

Kasunod ito ng pag-aaral na inilabas ng Ocean Cleanup na nakabase sa Rotterdam kung saan pinangalanan ang Pasig River na number one na pinagmumulan ng plastic na naanod papunta sa dagat.

Sinabi ni Presidential Spokesman Harry Roque na mayroon na dating Pasig River Commission pero wala ring nangyari kaya nilusaw ito ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte.

“Nakakalungkot po `yan, that is not something na we should be proud of,” ani Roque.

Nabatid na kasama rin umano sa top 15 plastic waste carrier sa buong mundo ang mga ilog sa Tullahan, Meycauayan, Pampanga, Libmanan, Rio Grande de Mindanao, Agno, Agusan, Parañaque, Iloilo, Imus, Zapote, Cagayan de Oro, Davao, Malaking Tubig, Tambo in Pasay, Jalaur, Cagayan at Hamulauon. (Aileen Taliping/Prince Golez)

Source: <https://tonite.abante.com.ph/pasig-river-pinakamarumi-ocean-cleanup/>



# Climate body airs alarm over plastic pollution

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

MANILA, Philippines — A recent study that found Philippine rivers as the top contributors of plastic pollution in oceans highlighted the issue of mismanaged plastic wastes in the country, according to the Climate Change Commission (CCC).

In a statement, the climate body reiterated its call for urgent efforts to solve the plastic crisis.

It said House Bill 9147 or the Single-Use Plastics Products Regulation Act, which was recently approved on second reading, serves as a potential measure that will effectively address the country's high rate of plastic waste leakage.

"This ushers the start for producers to shift their dependence on throwaway packaging models to more sustainable reuse and refill systems," it said.

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

The study, conducted by Netherlands-based Ocean Cleanup and published in the journal Science Advances, estimated that the Philippines dumps more than 356,371 metric tons of plastic wastes annually through its rivers and waterways.

Out of the 1,656 rivers in the world that contribute 80 percent of ocean plastic pollution, 466 are located in the Philippines.

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



Placards reading "Climate Justice" and "Human change, not climate change" are pictured during a protest on World Environment Day on June 5, 2021 in Barcelona.

AFP/Pau Barrena

## Tackle climate change and biodiversity loss together — UN panel

[Patrick Galey](#) (Agence France-Presse) - June 11, 2021 - 10:23am

PARIS, France — The world must tackle the dual crises of climate change and biodiversity loss together, two UN expert groups meeting together said Thursday, warning against measures to combat global warming that harm nature.

In the first ever collaboration between the United Nations' intergovernmental panels on climate and nature loss, the scientists said that while the twin threats were mutually reinforcing, they had historically been treated as if they were independent of each other.

A peer-reviewed workshop report, based on virtual discussions between experts from the IPBES biodiversity and IPCC climate panels, warned that a number of planned interventions against global heating would adversely impact nature.

These include planting bioenergy crops over large land areas, which are detrimental to ecosystems.

They also cautioned against planting trees to suck up carbon pollution in ecosystems that have not historically been forested, which often damages biodiversity and food production.

The panel called for an end to the loss and degradation of carbon- and species-rich ecosystems on land and oceans.

Subsidies supporting activities harmful to nature—such as deforestation, over-fertilization and over-fishing—must halt, the experts concluded.

At the same time, they underlined the need for changes in individual consumption habits.

Restoring ecosystems was among the cheapest and quickest climate interventions available, and could also offer much-needed additional habitat for plants and animals, the researchers said.

Improved management of cropland and grazing systems alone could save three-six billion tons of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions a year.

"Climate change and biodiversity loss combine to threaten society—often magnifying and accelerating each other," said Hoesung Lee, chair of the IPCC.



Lee said that Thursday's report was an "important step" in the collaboration between scientific fields focusing on climate and those focused on biodiversity.

### 'Long overdue'

Alexandre Antonelli, director of science at Britain's Royal Botanic Gardens, said the IPCC and IPBES collaboration was "long overdue."

"Although climate change and biodiversity loss pose unseen threats to our future, the good news is that we can tackle both through the right measures—those that are based on solid science," said Antonelli, who was not involved in the report.

Several IPCC and IPBES members took the opportunity to stress the need for a total transformation in the way humans interact with nature.

Ana Maria Hernández Salgar, chair of IPBES, said that nothing short of a "complimentary" approach to both crises would avert the worst.

"Transformative change in all parts of society and our economy is needed to stabilize our climate, stop biodiversity loss and chart a path to the sustainable future we want," she said.

Environmental groups welcomed Thursday's collaboration, as well as the joint assessment's conclusion that nature alone cannot be relied upon to offset humanity's vast carbon emissions.

"The report unequivocally concludes that land- and ocean-based actions that capture carbon must be in addition to, and not in lieu of, ambitious reductions of emissions from fossil fuels," said Doreen Stabinsky, professor of global environmental politics at the College of the Atlantic.





# Bacteria serves tasty solution to global plastic crisis

by [University of Edinburgh](#)



Credit: CC0 Public Domain

Researchers have discovered that the common bacteria *E. coli* can be deployed as a sustainable way to convert post-consumer plastic into vanillin, a new study reveals.

Vanillin is the primary component of extracted vanilla beans and is responsible for the characteristic taste and smell of vanilla.

The transformation could boost the [circular economy](#), which aims to eliminate [waste](#), keep products and materials in use and have positive impacts for [synthetic biology](#), experts say.

The world's [plastic](#) crisis has seen an urgent need to develop new methods to recycle polyethylene terephthalate (PET) - the strong, lightweight plastic derived from non-renewable materials such as oil and gas and widely used for packaging foods and convenience-sized juices and water.

Approximately 50 million tons of PET waste is produced annually, causing serious economic and environmental impacts. PET recycling is possible, but existing processes create products that continue to contribute to [plastic pollution](#) worldwide.

To tackle this problem, scientists from the University of Edinburgh used lab engineered *E. coli* to transform terephthalic acid—a molecule derived from PET—into the high value compound vanillin, via a series of chemical reactions.

The team also demonstrated how the technique works by converting a used plastic bottle into vanillin by adding the *E. coli* to the degraded plastic waste.

Researchers say that the vanillin produced would be fit for human consumption but further experimental tests are required.

Vanillin is widely used in the food and cosmetics industries, as well as the formulation of herbicides, antifoaming agents and cleaning products. Global demand for vanillin was in excess of 37,000 tons in 2018.

Joanna Sadler, first author and BBSRC Discovery Fellow from the School of Biological Sciences, University of Edinburgh, said: "This is the first example of using a biological system to upcycle plastic waste into a valuable industrial chemical and this has very exciting implications for the circular economy."



"The results from our research have major implications for the field of plastic sustainability and demonstrate the power of synthetic biology to address real-world challenges."

Dr. Stephen Wallace, Principle Investigator of the study and a UKRI Future Leaders Fellow from the University of Edinburgh, said: "Our work challenges the perception of plastic being a problematic waste and instead demonstrates its use as a new carbon resource from which high value products can be obtained."

Dr. Ellis Crawford, Publishing Editor at the Royal Society of Chemistry, said that "this is a really interesting use of microbial science at the molecular level to improve sustainability and work towards a circular economy. Using microbes to turn waste plastics, which are harmful to the environment, into an important commodity and platform molecule with broad applications in cosmetics and food is a beautiful demonstration of green chemistry."



## MALINAW NA WALANG MALINAW NA SAKOP ANG PINAS SA KARAGATAN



June 11, 2021 @ 1:12 PM 17 hours ago

KUNG sisipatin natin ang panukalang batas ni Senate President Tito Sotto ukol sa sakop ng Pilipinas sa mga karagatang nakapaligid sa ating bansa, mayroong kalabuan kung saan talaga ang hangganan ng mga ito.

Kung mayroon mang malinaw, walang iba kundi ang pandaigdigang sukatan ng teritoryong pangkaragatan na 12 nautical miles o 22.2224 kilometro mula sa tabing dagat.

Pero mula rito, hanggang saan ba talaga ang hangganan ng territorial sea ng Pilipinas?

Lumalabas kasing tanging ang 12 nautical miles lamang ang awtomatikong teritoryo ng Pinas dahil napaliligiran tayo ng karagatan.

At magmula sa labas ng territorial sea na ito, kailangan nang i-claim ng anomang bansa, tulad ng mahal kong Pinas, ang nasa labas nito, maging ang contiguous zone na kadikit sa territorial sea at ang 200-mile exclusive economic zone na pinag-aawayan ng Pinas at China.

### IBA PANG USAPIN

Lalo pang magulo ang usapin kung iisipin na may mga islang sakop natin, tulad ng Bayan ng Kalayaan o Pag-asa Island na may layong 280 nautical miles o 518.58 kilometro mula sa Puerto Princesa, Palawan at 932 kilometro mula sa Metro Manila.

Paano rin sukatin ang pagmamay-ari o karapatan natin sa 13 milyong ektaryang Philippine o Benham rise sa silangan ng Isabela at Quirino area na may layong 250 kilometro mula sa dalampasigan ng Dinapigue, Isabela ang pinamababaw na parte nito?

At saan ba talaga tayo magsimulang sukatin ang 200 mile exclusive economic zone sa West Philippine Sea at Philippine o Benham Rise?

### HANGGANAN LILINAW

Inaasahan nating lilinaw ang lahat ng sakop natin sa usapang territorial sea at iba pang bahagi ng mga karagatang nakapalibot sa atin sa pamamagitan marahil ng panukala ni Sotto.

Ito'y sa harap ng sinasabi ng iba na wala pang malinaw na opisyal na mapa na pinalalabas mismo ng pamahalaan ukol sa usapin.

Ang ginamit nga umanong mga mapa sa kaso sa Permanent Arbitration Court ay hindi opisyal o inisyu ng pamahalaang Pilipinas kundi gawa ng mga Amerikano at Pinoy na hindi tauhan ng pamahalaan mula halimbawa sa National Mapping and Resource Information Authority at may sertipikasyon nito.



Kaya kahit naipanalò ng grupo ni ex-Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert del Rosario at ex-Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio sa korte nang walang kalaban, malaki ang pagdududa kung hanggang saan talaga ang mga dapat nating ipaglaban na mga karagatan bilang teritoryo at sakop ng sovereign right kung tawagin.

### **TINABLA NG ICC**

Makaraang “maipanalò” ang boksing nang walang kalaban sa PCA ang 200-mile exclusive economic zone nina Carpio at Del Rosario noong 2016, kinasuhan naman si China President Xi Jin Ping at ang China ng “crime against humanity” dahil sa panlilimas umano ng mga ito ng laman ng West Philippine Sea hanggang sa wala nang mapakinabangan ang mga Pinoy at idinagdag na rin nila ang “pambangga” ng Chinese vessel sa bangkang pangisdang Pinoy at iniwan sa karagatan ang nasa 22 tripulante nito sa posibleng kamatayan.

Matandaang nasagip ang ating mga mangingisda ng mga mangingisdang Vietnamese at salamat sa kanila.

Isinampa ang kaso sa International Criminal Court nina Del Rosario at ex-Ombudsman Conchita Carpio-Morales noong Marso 2019.

Pero, minalas sina Del Rosario at Carpio-Morales nang ibinasura ng ICC ang kaso.

Batayan ng ICC?

Hindi naganap ang pangyayari sa teritoryo ng Pilipinas kundi sa exclusive economic zone lamang ng Pilipinas at hindi miyembro ng ICC ang China kaya hindi nito pupwedeng piliting sumali sa kaso ito.

Hindi rin umano sakop ng ICC ang mga mamamayan na isinasangkot sa banggaan dahil mga Chinese ito na hindi rin kasali sa ICC.

Ang tanong ngayon, maaari bang makabuti ang panukala ni Sen. Sotto na posibleng maging batas ukol sa anomang claim ng Pinas laban sa iba gaya ng nakapaloob sa kasong isinampa sa ICC?

### **DAPAT ISULONG NA BATAS**

Kung makatutulong nang husto sa Pilipinas sa maayos at mapayapang pakikipagrelasyon nito sa ibang bansa ang panukalang batas ni Sen. Sotto, aba, dapat itong isulong.

Dahil sa totoo lang, kung magiging malinaw ang hangganan ng ating mga teritoryo at karapatan sa mga karagatan, at sang-ayon ito sa itinatadhana ng mga batas gaya ng United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea at iba pang batas-pangkaragatan, hindi lang tayo matibay na maninindigan sa anomang suliranin kundi makuha natin ang kooperasyon ng ibang mga bansa, maging ang ating mga katunggali, sa pagresolba nang maayos at mapayapa sa lahat ng sigalot.

12 JUNE 2021, SATURDAY



**DENR**

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# **COVID-19 NEWS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**



# Kaso ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas, humataw na sa halos 1.3 milyon

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



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

The STAR/Miguel de Guzman

MANILA, Philippines — Nakapagtala ang Department of Health ng 5,462 bagong infection ng coronavirus disease (COVID-19), Miyerkules, kung kaya't nasa 1,286,217 na sumatutal ang nahahawaan nito sa bansa.

Batay sa mga bagong nakalap na datos ng Kagawaran ng Kalusugan, narito ang bagong mga pasok na datos para araw na ito:

- **Lahat ng kaso:** 1,286,217
- **Nagpapagaling pa:** 54,000, o 4.2% ng total infections
- **Kagagaling lang:** 7,854, dahilan para maging 1,210,027 na lahat ng gumagaling
- **Kamamatay lang:** 126, na siyang nag-aakyat sa total local death toll sa 22,190

Anong bago ngayong araw?

- [Itinanggi ng DOH na epicenter na ng COVID-19 infection ang Lungsod ng Davao](#), matapos maitala ang pinakamatataas na bilang ng hawaan nitong mga nakaraang araw. Kamakailan lang kasi nang sabihin ng OCTA Research group na [naungusan na ng Davao ang Quezon City pagdating sa bilang ng arawang hawaan](#).
- Kaugnay ng biglaang pagsipa ng mga kaso sa Davao, South Cotabato, general Santos City at Cotabato City, nananawagan ngayon si OCTA Research fellow Guido David sa gobyerno na magpadala ng dagdag ng manggagawang pangkalusugan at kagamitan sa Mindanao lalo na't "baka tumagal ng isang buwan" ang increase.
- Ibinaba rin ng Estados Unidos ang [travel advisory](#) na inanunsyo nito sa Pilipinas mula sa Level 4 (pinakamataas na antas) patungong Level 3, bagay na ipinataw noong Abril dahil sa taas ng kaso ng COVID-19 sa bansa.
- Aabot sa 3.2 milyon pang doses ng COVID-19 vaccine ang darating sa Huwebes, ayon kay vaccine czar Carlito Galvez Jr. Kabilang diyan ang 2.2 milyong Pfizer jabs mula sa COVAX facility at karagdagang 1 milyong bakuna mula sa kumpanyang Sinovac.



- [Sinampahan na rin ng reklamo](#) sa Mandaluyong City Prosecutor's Office ang dalawang lalaking nasa likod diumano ng pagbebenta ng COVID-19 vaccine at vaccination solits, ayon sa pahayag ng Philippine National Police kanina.
- Pansamantalang suspendido ang pagtuturok ng first dose ng COVID-19 vaccine sa Lungsod ng Marikina ngayong araw dahil sa limitadong suplay ng gamot. Gayunpaman, meron silang mangilan-ngilang inasikaso para makapagturok ng ikalawang dose.
- Umabot na sa 173.33 milyon ang tinatamaan ng COVID-19 sa buong daigdig, ayon sa huling datos ng [World Health Organization](#). Sa bilang na 'yan, patay na ang mahigit 3.73 milyong katao.

— James Relativo at may mga ulat mula kay Xave Gregorio



# PH logs over 3K new Covid-19 recoveries

By Raymond Carl Dela Cruz **June 11, 2021, 5:49 pm**



(Infographic courtesy of DOH)

**MANILA** – The Department of Health (DOH) on Friday reported 3,190 new recoveries from the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19).

In its latest Covid-19 bulletin, the agency said this brought the country's recovery tally to 1,216,497 or 93.6 percent of the total 1,300,349 infections since the pandemic started last year.

Another 6,686 new cases were also reported, raising the country's active cases to 61,345 or 4.7 percent of all infections.

Of these active cases, it said most were exhibiting mild symptoms at 91.6 percent, followed by the asymptomatic at 4.3 percent, those with severe symptoms at 1.7 percent, those in critical condition at 1.2 percent, and those with moderate symptoms at 1.15 percent.

Based on data gathered on Wednesday, a total of 49,371 tests for Covid-19 were administered with a positivity rate of 13.3 percent.

Some 196 additional deaths were also reported, with the country's total casualties due to Covid-19 at 22,507 or 1.73 percent of all infections.

Meanwhile, many health care facilities in the National Capital Region (NCR) remain available, with the region's 1,200 beds at intensive care units (ICU) at 50 percent occupancy, 4,800 isolation beds at 36 percent occupancy, 3,600 ward beds at 33 percent occupancy, and 32 percent of 1,000 ventilators are in use.

In the whole country, there are 3,500 ICU beds at 58 percent occupancy, 19,200 isolation beds at 48 percent occupancy, 12,200 ward beds at 47 percent occupancy, and 2,700 ventilators at 35 percent utilization. **(PNA)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1143447>





# Regular GCQ in NCR Plus likely by mid-June, says Roque

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Jun 11, 2021 8:30:30 AM



**Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, June 11)** — The community quarantine restrictions over Metro Manila and four nearby provinces may be eased by mid-June, according to an official from the country's pandemic response task force.

Inter-Agency Task Force spokesperson Harry Roque said that from the current general community quarantine with restrictions, the classification could de-escalate to the regular GCQ based on improving COVID-19 numbers.

"It might not be to MGCQ, but it could be to ordinary GCQ because ang GCQ po natin ngayon ay mayroon pang mga restrictions [the GCQ now has restrictions]," he said in a briefing on Thursday.

Roque, who is also presidential spokesperson, pointed out that the hospital care utilization rate in Metro Manila, Rizal, Bulacan, Cavite, and Laguna remains low, stressing that this is an important factor in determining quarantine classifications.

The independent OCTA Research group said the COVID-19 cases in Metro Manila are on a downward trend.

On Friday, it said the daily average number of new cases in the capital region decreased by 17% to 926 on June 4 to 10.

The IATF is expected to issue a recommendation before June 16 to President Rodrigo Duterte, who will have the final say.

Source: <https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2021/6/11/June-community-quarantine-NCR-Plus.html>



“During the surge, 50 percent of cases came from NCR. Now, it’s just 16 percent,” he said. “We don’t have objections (to easing restrictions) at this time because we’re

Michael Varcas, file

## Keep border controls, NCR bubble – OCTA

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

MANILA, Philippines — Amid discussions of easing restrictions in the National Capital Region Plus, the OCTA Research Group stressed the importance of maintaining border controls to prevent a resurgence of COVID-19 cases coming from high-risk areas outside the NCR.

Speaking with “The Chiefs” on Signal TV’s One News/TV5, OCTA fellow Guido David said easing of restrictions is a fair discussion at this point, considering the improved situation in Metro Manila.

“During the surge, 50 percent of cases came from NCR. Now, it’s just 16 percent,” he said. “We don’t have objections (to easing restrictions) at this time because we’re seeing a decrease in trend and NCR is at moderate risk. There will always be risks when we ease restrictions, but we have to take those risks at some point.”

However, David gave this reminder to government: “We should still keep an eye out on our border controls. We should discuss what would be the acceptable border policies, especially for regions that are under high risk classification.”

“We have to take care of our borders because we do not want to have a costly surge again,” he added, noting that there is already “light at the end of the tunnel,” considering the impending arrival of more vaccines.

In its latest report, OCTA identified eight areas of concern, all located outside the NCR Plus bubble – Bacolod, Cagayan de Oro, Iloilo City, Dumaguete, Butuan, Tuguegarao, Cotabato City and Tacloban.

Davao City, which David previously tagged as a possible epicenter along with Western Visayas and NCR, is not included in the list after the number of new cases went down in the past week.

While its average daily attack rate is considered as high risk at 10.14 infections per 100,000 population, the city’s hospital bed and intensive care unit utilization rates remain below the critical threshold.

### ?‘Swab-on-arrival’ pushed

?Yesterday, more senators pushed for the implementation of a “swab-upon-arrival” policy at the country’s airports to afford returning Filipinos, especially overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), reasonable quarantine protocols.



Under existing guidelines issued by the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF), returning overseas Filipinos (ROF) need to undergo a minimum of 10 days in isolation at a quarantine facility then spend four more days of quarantine at home.

“Our hardworking OFWs and ROFs are often only given a short period of time by their employers to come home to visit their families. We do not want that period to be spent on quarantine alone,” Sen. Aquilino Pimentel III said.

“This requirement is excessive,” he added, as he called on the IATF to instead consider “swab-upon-arrival” as a basis for inbound Filipinos’ quarantine requirement.

Pimentel said authorities should give value to the scientific results of RT-PCR tests, the so-called gold standard in testing for COVID-19.

He said returning Filipinos can be tested upon arrival to see if they are infected and if results are negative, then they should be immediately released to finish the 14-day quarantine in their homes.

Earlier, Senate President Vicente Sotto III, Majority Leader Juan Miguel Zubiri and Senators Sonny Angara, Bong Revilla and Joel Villanueva strongly backed the same policy, which was originally a directive for implementation by Cebu Gov. Gwen Garcia.

Sen. Francis Tolentino expressed support for Garcia’s move, although a deviation from the national directive, and said the IATF should ease the burden of arriving passengers at the Mactan International Airport. – **Paolo Romero**



**#OneDENR**

**Covid-19  
Situation and Response**



Data on COVID-19 include reported cases of DENR employees (Permanent, Contract of Service/Job Order, Support Staff (Triumph/Security)) as collected by the Contact Tracing Team of DENR.

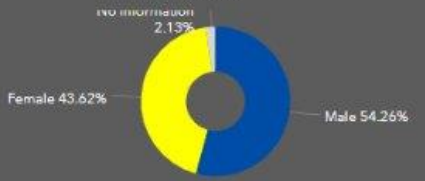


% COVID-19 Confirmed Cases in DENR-CO



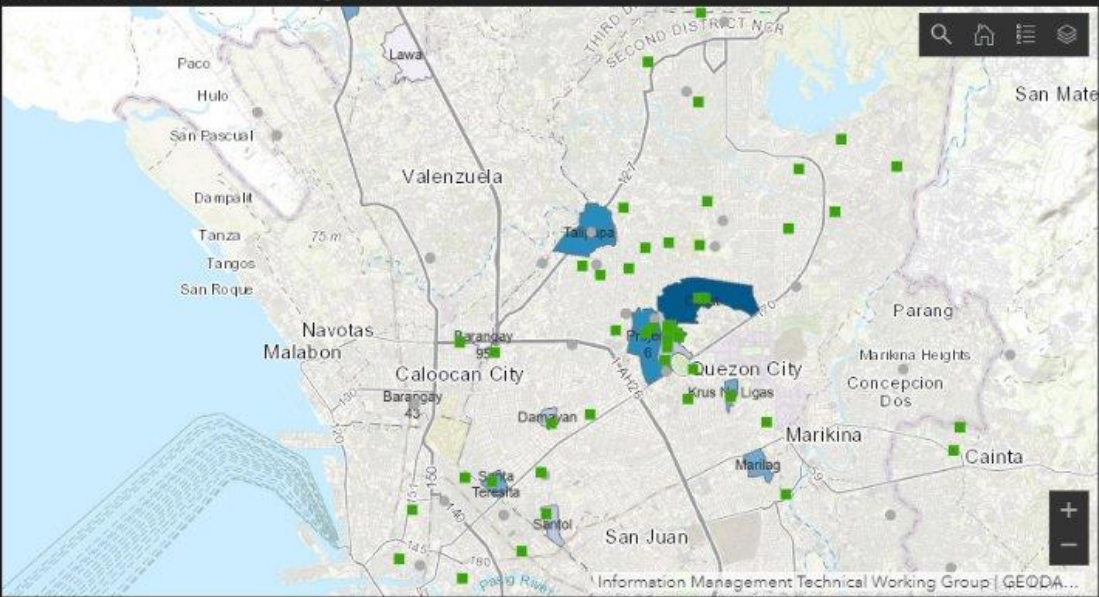
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Sex



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Residence of affected personnel



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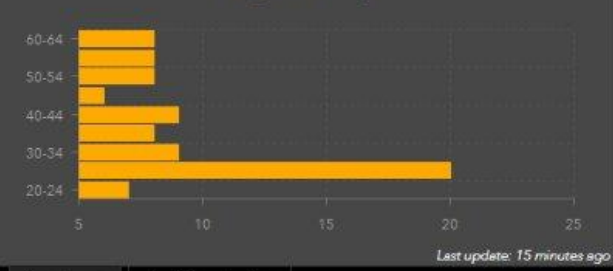
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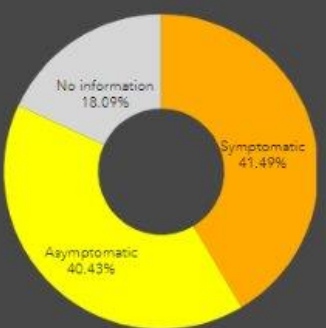
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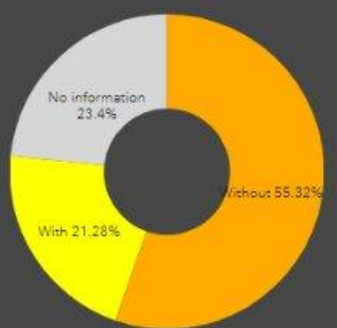
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Health Status



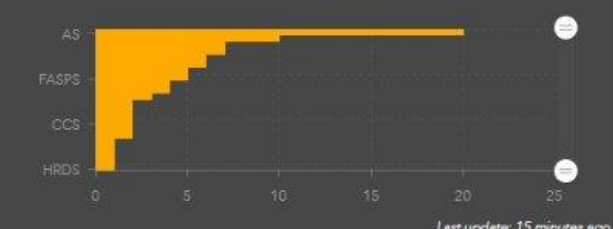
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Confirmed per Office Office by Case Status

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