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DENR

NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



4 illegal drainage pipes found in Manila Bay

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 04:33 AM January 12, 2021

MANILA, Philippines — Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu has ordered an inspection of Manila Bay after four illegal drainage pipes have been discovered discharging untreated wastewater directly into the bay.

Cimatu ordered officials at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to trace the establishments to which the culverts were connected and penalize them.

A drainage pipe was first discovered at Station 640 along Manila Baywalk.

Analysis of water samples showed the fecal coliform count in the area was at 50 million most probable number per 100 milliliters. The acceptable level is 100 MPN per 100 ml. Three more illegal pipes were found later.

—*Jhesset O. Enano*



DENR discovers four culverts draining untreated water directly into Manila Bay

Marje Pelayo • January 12, 2021



MANILA, Philippines — A culvert or drainage pipe was discovered hidden behind boulders at station 640 along Manila Bay's baywalk area on Roxas Boulevard was found to be discharging untreated wastewater directly into the bay.

Based on water analysis, fecal coliform count in the area was significantly high at 50 million most probable number per 100 milliliters.

After further inspection, three more alleged culverts along the baywalk were discovered.

Pipes were found beside the Remedios drainage outfall across Aristocrat restaurant, Station 240 beside the Padre Faura outfall, and near the Estero San Antonio de Abad outfall.

"Ang lakas ng tubig. Bumubulwak (Water pressure was really strong)," said Environment Undersecretary Jonas Leones.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu has ordered the immediate plugging of the illegal outfalls, the establishment of engineering interventions, and the strict enforcement of environmental laws in the bay.

"Noong tine-trace na namin yung existing pipes ng DPWH, ng MMDA at saka ng local government units, itong na-discover namin na illegal pipe wala doon sa records nila," Leones noted.

(When we were tracing the origin of the existing pipes of the DPWH, the MMDA, and the local government units, none of these illegal pipes were in their records.)

"So the Secretary (Cimatu) has decided na i-seal na namin yung mga illegal pipes and mga culverts. And then let's see kung saan lalabas yung mga tubig na yan na suppose to be doon lumalabas sa illegal pipes na na-identify na namin," he added.

(So the Secretary has decided to seal those illegal pipes and culverts and then let's see where the water would go out aside from the illegal pipes that we have identified.)

Leones said that before they traced the illegal pipes, the coliform level in Manila Bay has already improved from billions of micrograms per normal cubic meters to only thousands.

It just needs to be improved to 100mpn for it to be safe for swimming. **-MNP (with reports from Rey Pelayo)**

Source: <https://www.untvweb.com/news/denr-discovers-four-culverts-draining-untreated-water-directly-into-manila-bay/>



Mga ilegal na tubong dinadaan ng wastewater papuntang Manila Bay, ipinasasara

April Raffles, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jan 12 2021 09:42 PM



Ipinasasara ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources ang apat na ilegal na daanan ng wastewater papuntang Manila Bay. *Larawan mula sa DENR*

MAYNILA - Apat na culvert ang nadiskubre ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na naglalabas ng wastewater papuntang Manila Bay.

Pawang ilegal ang mga tubo na nakakonekta sa mga culvert at wala sa listahan ng Department of Public Works and Highways, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, at ng lokal na pamahalaan.

Ayon kay Environment Undersecretary Jonas Leones, una silang nagtaka dahil hindi bumubuti, bagkus ay lumalala ang water quality sa Manila Bay kaya dito na sila nag-imbetiga at nadiskubre nga ang mga culvert na dinadaan ng mga wastewater.

Hinala ng DENR, mga lumang tubo pa ito na nailagay bago pa ang reclamation sa Manila Bay at bago pa maipatayo ang malalaking hotels at establisimyento sa lugar pero napapakinabangan pa rin hanggang ngayon.

Pinasasarahan na ito ng DENR para tuluyan nang magamit ang mga sewage treatment plants at malinisan ang tubig sa Manila Bay.

Ayon pa kay Leones, hindi pa matukoy kung aling mga establisimyento ang gumagamit sa mga tubo na ito kaya patuloy nilang babantayan kung alin ang mga maaapektuhan at hindi makakapaglabas ng wastewater dahil sa mga isinarang culvert.

Dagdag pa niya, maaaring magmulta at makasuhan ang mga establisimiyentong mapapatunayang gumamit sa mga illegal pipes o sinadyang dumihan ang Manila Bay.

Source: https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/01/12/21/mga-ilegal-na-tubong-dinadaan-ng-wastewater-papuntang-manila-bay-ipinasasara?fbclid=IwAR0H1O8-hLBB5y23qkyN0886M7P41e0iXKkMUKMKdeSE4dwpHI0J4_X_2kk



ESTABLISIMYENTONG MAY ILLEGAL WASTEWATER DISCHARGE SA MANILA BAY IPASASARA NI CIMATU



January 13, 2021 @ 12:20 AM 7 hours ago

IPINAG-UTOS ni Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu na magkaroon ng engineering interventions kasabay ng mahigpit na pagpapatupad ng environmental laws upang matigil ang iligal na pagtatapon ng wastewater sa kahabaan ng Roxas Boulevard sa gitna ng isinasagawang rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay.

“In order to solve the pollution in the waters of Manila Bay, we at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) should trace all the illegal pipes that directly drain polluted wastewater to the bay,” sabi ni Cimatu.

Ang pahayag na ito ay sinabi ng DENR chief matapos madiskubre ang daluyan ng tubig o drainage pipe na nakatago sa boulders ng Station 640 sa kahabaan ng Manila Baywalk sa Roxas Boulevard na direktang nagtatapon ng untreated wastewater sa baybayin.

Base sa water analysis, ang fecal coliform count sa naturang lugar ay mataas at umaabot sa 50 million most probable number per 100 milliliters (MPN/100ml).

Matapos ang isinagawang inspeksyon, tatlo pang culvert ang nadiskubre sa baywalk.

Natuklasan ang pipes sa tabi ng Remedios drainage outfall sa tapat ng Aristocrat Restaurant, sa Station 240 sa tabi Padre Faura outfall at isa pa malapit sa Estero San Antonio de Abad outfall.

Sa Remedios outfall, ang coliform level ay umabot sa 32 million MPN/100ml. Mayroon namang 33 intake drainage ang nakita mula sa US Embassy hanggang Manila Yacht Club.

Ang tubig na nagmumula sa mga drainage ay dumadaloy sa line drainage canal sa baywalk patungo sa Remedios outfall hanggang sa Manila Bay.

“We will continue to examine more closely these culverts, illegal connections, and outfalls. Otherwise, these will continue to spew out pollutants that can impede our progress in the rehabilitation of Manila Bay,” saad ni Cimatu.

Dagdag pa nito, patuloy na nagsasagawa ng imbestigasyon ang DENR upang matukoy kung alin sa mga establisimyento ang nakakonekta sa illegal pipes.



“We will study the legal actions we can pursue against these establishments to ensure that they are made accountable for their violation of environmental laws,” anang Cimatú.

“We want to make all violators realize that laws shouldn’t be taken lightly if we want to see a behavior change in the next generations,” dagdag pa nito.

Kasabay nito, ipinag-utos din ni Cimatú ang agarang pagsara o plugging ng illegal outfalls upang matigil ang pagdaloy ng untreated water na patuloy na nagpapadumi sa baybayin.

Layon din nito na kumonekta ang mga establisimyento sa mga opisyal na sewer lines.

Ibinilin pa nito sa Manila Bay Task Force na magsagawa ng desiltation at rehabilitasyon ng line drainage canal upang maisaayos ang daloy ng tubig patungo sa Padre Faura at Remedios outfalls.



DENR leads tree-planting to promote Masungi Geopark reforestation

Published January 12, 2021, 3:17 PM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has led the planting of at least 1,000 native tree seedlings at the Masungi Geopark reforestation site in Baras, Rizal, as part of the intensified protection program for Masungi and Upper Marikina Watershed.

The seedlings, composed of 200 guyabano, 150 cacao, 150 coffee, 200 banaba, 200 bitaog, and 100 balobo, were planted last weekend by almost 400 representatives from the DENR, Armed Forces of the Philippines, Philippine National Police, Bureau of Fire Protection, Bureau of Corrections, local stakeholders, and environment advocates.



DENR Undersecretary for Special Concerns Edilberto Leonardo leads planting of 1,000 native tree seedlings at the Masungi Geopark reforestation site. ([Masungi Georeserve](#) / MANILA BULLETIN)

In a statement, DENR Undersecretary for Special Concerns Edilberto Leonardo reiterated the importance of protecting the watershed.

“Kailangang protektahan natin ang mga lugar na ganito. Ito ay watershed–watersource. Kapag naubos ang puno sa itaas, wala nang makakareregulate ng tubig para dumaloy sa baba. (We need to protect places like this. It is a watershed–watersource. When the tree above is depleted, no one can regulate the water and will freely flow downstream),” Leonardo said.

DENR-CALABARZON Regional Executive Director Nonito Tamayo said the tree planting activity is part of the government’s National Greening Program (NGP) to restore our lost forest.

“Sana ay maging regular na parte ng buhay natin ang pagtanim ng puno hindi lang sa mga watersheds kung hindi sa mga likod bahay natin at bakanteng spaces sa ating mga lugar. Hindi lamang ito para sa atin kung hindi para sa mga susunod pang henerasyon. (Hopefully planting trees will become a regular part of our lives not only in the watersheds but also in our backyards and vacant spaces in our communities. It is not only for us but for future generations),” Tamayo added.

DENR-Region CALABARZON, together with the DENR Office for Special Concerns, Environmental Protection and Enforcement Task Force, Rizal Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office, and Philippine National Police had vowed to enforce intensified forest protection activities, such as continuous conduct of the Lawin Forest and Biodiversity Protection System, a web-based mobile application to patrol the area.

It also committed to enhance the NGP sites with continuous planting of indigenous tree species.



DENR-CALABARZON also aims to convert graduated NGP sites into a strict protection zone.

Likewise, the DENR regional office is looking at collaborative capacity-building activities with the indigenous peoples, and intensification of information, education, and communication campaign against various harmful activities, such as charcoal making and illegal tree cutting.



DENR to intensify forest protection in upper Marikina river basin

Published January 11, 2021, 2:35 PM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Region 4-A has expressed strong opposition to the illegal activities in Masungi Georeserve located within the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape (UMBRPL) in Rizal province.

In a statement, DENR-Calabarzon, together with the DENR Office for Special Concerns, Environmental Protection and Enforcement Task Force, Rizal Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office, and Philippine National Police vowed to enforce intensified forest protection activities, such as continuous conduct of the Lawin Forest and Biodiversity Protection System, a web-based mobile application to patrol the area.

It also committed to enhance the National Greening Program (NGP) sites with continuous planting of indigenous tree species.

DENR-Calabarzon also aims to convert graduated NGP sites into a strict protection zone.

Likewise, the DENR regional office is looking at collaborative capacity-building activities with the indigenous peoples, and intensification of information, education, and communication campaign against various harmful activities, such as charcoal making and illegal tree cutting.

The DENR and its partners have committed to closely coordinate with the Masungi Georeserve Foundation regarding any additional protection and conservation initiatives in the area.

It urged the public to report illegal activities in the area.

Masungi Georeserve has repeatedly reported the presence of private guards patrolling and attempting to occupy the area last year.

Protected areas like the Upper Marikina Watershed and Masungi Wildlife Sanctuary are environmentally critical areas and are main sources of biodiversity, maintaining the ecosystem and providing natural processes of the land.

Disturbances to such conservation areas threaten flora and fauna and water resources, which could affect the food and water supply in the country.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/01/11/denr-to-intensify-forest-protection-in-upper-marikina-river-basin/?fbclid=IwAR1IzbivOx-7ffynBdhtNgu48gplXcTprBBDgsYbOgw198Nu9DA5mgg8R8>



Masungi Georeserve

17h · 🌐

SAVING MASUNGI TOGETHER: "I hope na pagkatapos nito ay wala nang environmental crimes, land speculators, land grabbers, at iba pang makasarili o vested interest sa ating mga protected areas," says DENR Undersecretary Edilberto Leonardo. 🙌

DENR Regional Director Tamayo: "We will continue partnering with Masungi to take care of these trees and the area. As we know, ito [Upper Marikina Watershed stakeholders] ay isa sa mga naapektuhan ng pagbaha." 💧

Masungi Advocacy Officer Billie: "Protecting the area together will benefit different communities [around and downstream] . If we protect it and enforce environmental laws properly, the forest will regenerate by itself." 🙌

Join the movement to [#SaveMasungiTogether](#) and [#RestoreTogether](#): bit.ly/savemasungi 🌱



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EMB orders firm to rehabilitate landfill in Bataan

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

[Inquirer Central Luzon](#) / 05:36 PM January 12, 2021

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO — The Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources has ordered the Econest Waste Management Corp. to immediately rehabilitate its landfill and recover its area in Hermosa town in Bataan.

The 17-page resolution dated Jan. 4 and obtained by the INQUIRER on Jan. 12, has not revoked the Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC), which Mayor Antonio Joseph “Jopet” Inton demanded in a March 2, 2020 letter to the EMB-Central Luzon here.

Inton served the cease-and-desist order on Feb. 20 last year following the absence of a valid discharge permit and hazardous waste generator registration certificate.

In the resolution, EMB Director William Cuñado fined Econest at least P150,000 for violating the conditions in its Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC).

Cuñado also ordered the removal of hazardous waste for proper treatment and disposal, and proper handling and disposal of the electrical and electronics wiring rubber insulators found stockpiled in the site.

He said the decision to cancel the ECC was “not mandatory but discretionary.”

According to Cuñado, Econest was “able to substantiate its compliance with all the conditions set forth under their ECC.”

“To emphasize, the sudden closure of the Hermosa [sanitary landfill] is a violation of the ECC because, prior to the closure of the sanitary landfill, there ought to be an approved Abandonment plan of a Closure plan for the eventual rehabilitation of the landfill,” Cuñado said.

Cuñado identified Econest President Beulah Coeli Fiel to take full responsibility for compliance with the ECC conditions.

He did not say when Econest could resume operations, although the company has reportedly backed out as the facility’s investor and operator.

Edited by LZB



EMB fines Hermosa landfill firm for violating ECC

posted January 12, 2021 at 10:40 pm

by [Manila Standard](#)

The Environmental Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (EMB-DENR) has ordered Econest Waste Management Corporation (Econest WMC), the operator of the Hermosa Sanitary Landfill Facility in Bataan, to pay a penalty for violating its ECC (Environmental Compliance Certificate) and to cause the immediate rehabilitation of the area.



UNSANITARY LANDFILL. In these pictures supplied by the Environmental Management Bureau, a canal at Residual Cell 1 at the Hermosa Sanitary Landfill Facility in Bataan is filled with stormwater, leachate and solid waste, while a local government inspection team notices the inadequate soil cover over the same site.

In a 17-page EMB Resolution issued by OIC Director, Engr. William Cunado, Econest is ordered to pay the penalty amounting to P150,000 as assessed and computed by the EMB for violation of its ECC conditions.

Engr. Cunado also mentioned that EMB is requiring Econest to cause the immediate rehabilitation of the landfill and removal of hazardous wastes for proper treatment and disposal, and the proper handling and disposal of the electrical and electronics wiring rubber insulators found stockpiled in the project site.

On February 20 last year, Hermosa Mayor Jopet Inton personally served the cease-and-desist order from the local government ordering the temporary stoppage of operation of the Hermosa Sanitary Landfill Facility (Hermosa SLF) operated by Econest WMC.

Before its closure, Hermosa LGU and the EMB-DENR issued separate notices of violations to Econest WMC citing its operation "without a valid Discharge Permit and Hazardous Waste Generator Registration Certificate, some of its treatment units on their leachate treatment facilities have no protective lining which may cause groundwater contamination due to leachate seepage."

The EMB's Resolution dated January 04, 2021 stated: "Furthermore, considering the violations are on the ECC conditions and in line with the accountability clearly indicated in the Sworn Statement of the Owner/Authorized Representative executed by Atty. Beulah Coe C. Fiel, President of Econest, dated October 24, 2017, which states, 'I, Beulah Coe C Fiel, proponent of the Sanitary Landfill Facility located in Brgy. Mambog, Hermosa, Bataan, takes full responsibility in complying with all conditions contained in this Environmental Compliance Commitment (Environmental Compliance Certificate or ECC).'"

The ECC issued by the EMB to Econest WMC was also suspended "without prejudice to the conduct of rehabilitation as previously stated."



Sanitary landfill pinagmulta ng DENR

By [Angie dela Cruz](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon) - January 13, 2021 - 12:00am



Ang LGU Inspection Team nang puntahan ang Hermosa Sanitary Landfill Facility sa Bataan matapos makitaan ng mga paglabag.
STAR/ File

MANILA, Philippines — Pinagmumulta ng Environmental Management Bureau ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (EMB-DENR) ang Econest Waste Management Corporation (Econest WMC), operator ng Hermosa Sanitary Landfill Facility sa Bataan dahil sa paglabag sa Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC).

Sa 17-pahinang EMB Resolution na ipinalabas ni EMB OIC-Director, Engr. William Cunado, bukod sa P150,000 penalty ipinag-utos din nito sa Econest na agad isailalim sa rehabilitasyon ang landfill at alisin ang mga nakalalasong basura para sa kaukulang treatment at disposal ng mga electrical at electronics wiring rubber insulators na natagpuang nakatambak sa naturang project site.

Una nang binisita ni Hermosa Mayor Jopet Inton ang lugar at isinilbi ang cease and desist order mula sa Hermosa LGU na nag-uutos na pansamantalang itigil ang operasyon ng Hermosa Sanitary Landfill Facility (SLF).

Bago ang pagpapasara sa landfill, nagpalabas ng hiwalay na notice ang Hermosa LGU at EMB-DENR sa Econest WMC dahil ang operasyon nito ay walang valid Discharge Permit at Hazardous Waste Generator Registration Certificate at ang ilan nilang treatment units para sa kanilang leachate treatment facilities ay walang protective lining dahilan para ma-contaminate ang groundwater contamination dahil sa leachate seepage."

Ang ECC na naibigay ng EMB sa Econest WMC ay sinuspinde rin ng ahensiya dahil sa mga paglabag sa environmental laws ng pamahalaan.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2021/01/13/2070056/sanitary-landfill-pinagmulta-ng-denr/amp/>



Scorpion, tarantula buking sa NAIA

By Abante News Online — Last updated Jan 12, 2021

METRO



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Naharang ng Bureau of Customs (BOC)-Port of NAIA ang package na naglalaman ng 20 tarantula spider at 8 scorpion na iligal na pinuslit sa Central Mail Exchange Center sa Pasay City noong Enero 6.

RELATED POSTS



Mga LGU nakipag-deal sa AstraZeneca vaccine

Jan 12, 2021 0

Galing umano ito sa Samut Parakain, Thailand at dineklara bilang mga teaching equipment na walang import permit.

Dinala na ang mga ito sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources Wildlife Traffic Monitoring Unit para sa pangangalaga. (PNA)



... Velasco and Cpl. Abdul Asula.

... But for him, it would

PHOTOGRAPH BY ANTHONY CHING FOR THE DAILY TRIBUNE @tribunephil_ton

TWENTY scorpions including this one was intercepted by the Bureau of Customs at the Central Mail Exchange at the NAIA Complex in Pasay City.



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Sea turtle nest with egg clutch found anew at Aboitiz's Cleanergy Park in Davao City

By [Jonathan L. Mayuga](#)

January 13, 2021



Aside from protecting marine turtle nests, the Cleanergy Park team is also about rescuing and rehabilitating injured marine turtles. Photo shows Fermin Edillon of Davao Light (left) assisting a veterinary team while attending to an injured Hawksbill turtle that figured in a fishing accident.

Another nest of the endangered marine turtles was discovered at the Aboitiz Cleanergy Park in Davao City, officials said, capping the company's environmental sustainability program.

The nest discovered on December 20 last year was the third nest discovered inside the park.

The first and second *pawikan* nests containing soon-to-be-hatched eggs were discovered last November 26 and December 3, respectively.

The eggs in the third nest are expected to hatch on the second or third week of February 2021.

Locally called *pawikan*, almost all marine turtle species are in endangered owing to habitat loss and illegal wildlife trade.

Pawikans are hunted for their meat, shells, and other derivatives, while their eggs are harvested for domestic consumption. As a conservation measure, the DENR is promoting the establishment of marine turtle hatcheries, while working to build networks of marine turtle sanctuaries where they can reproduce and thrive.

In a news statement, Aboitiz Cleanergy Park managers said the discovery of the third nest reaffirms the park's status as a sustainable environmental haven conducive to a variety of wildlife.

An 8-hectare ecological preserve located in Punta Dumalag, Davao City, and the Aboitiz Cleanergy Park is operated by AboitizPower utility and subsidiary Davao Light & Power Company and the Aboitiz Foundation.

Known as an urban-based biodiversity conservation site, it is home to the critically endangered hawksbill turtle, almost 100 endemic and migratory bird species, and marine species.

Since its launch in 2014, the Aboitiz Cleanergy Park has released 4,811 hatchlings from 40 discovered nests within the area, and at present five rescued *pawikans* are in the park's repository. These include three hawksbill turtles, one green sea turtle and an olive ridley turtle.

"This is very commendable considering that hawksbill turtles are considered as critically endangered among the five marine turtle species in the Philippines. We commend the Aboitiz Foundation and the Davao Light and Power Company for their unending efforts in protecting the nesting sites of marine turtles as well as their conservation initiatives in order to increase the *pawikan* population in the area," Bagani A. Evasco, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Region 11 executive director said in the same statement.



“Indeed, our forged partnership with the Aboitiz Foundation has come to fruition in protecting and conserving marine turtles in the middle of the city,” Evasco added.

The nest’s discovery was unforeseen as pawikan nests are not expected to be discovered this year. Nesting or laying of eggs happen every other year.

The park’s environmentally-sound and protected status, coupled with decreased activity in the area brought about by the city’s community quarantine, may have attracted nesting pawikans to lay eggs in the area, Evasco said.

“Pawikans are already endangered and initiating conservation efforts that will make them stay for the future generations is one of the things we value the most as we contribute to keep the balance of nature for a more sustainable environment. Davao Light, in partnership with Aboitiz Foundation, DENR, and the local government unit of Davao City will continue our conservation efforts to build a better world for the pawikans,” said Rodger S. Velasco, Davao Light president and chief operating officer said for his part.

During the ongoing community quarantine brought about by the current pandemic, Davao Light and the Aboitiz Foundation continued their rehabilitation of the park’s facilities that were destroyed by waves from last year’s “habagat.”

New repositories were also built to provide rescued pawikans with a better place to recuperate from their injuries while waiting for the best time for their release back to the sea.

Davao Light, the Aboitiz Foundation, DENR and the Davao City LGU previously entered into an agreement for pawikan conservation efforts and identified the Aboitiz Cleanergy Park as Pawikan Rescue Center, in support of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 14 (Life Below Water). This aims to address the dangers of poaching and the impacts of other human activities on the pawikan species.

Any rescued pawikans are turned over by DENR to the park for proper care and assessment prior to releasing them back to the wild.

Image credits: [Cleanergy](#)



Duterte orders halt to mining ops in Tumbagaan island

By Filane Mikee Cervantes January 12, 2021, 12:12 pm



President Rodrigo Duterte. (Presidential photo)

MANILA – President Rodrigo Duterte has ordered a stop to all mining operations in Tumbagaan Island in Languyan, Tawi-Tawi, and directed the massive rehabilitation of the area.

In a virtual presser on Tuesday, Cabinet Secretary Karlo Alexei Nograles said Duterte issued the directive during Monday night's full Cabinet meeting following reports that the island has been devastated as a result of mining operations.

“The island has, at this point, been mined out. And while rehabilitation efforts are underway, the President is issuing a directive to stop any and all mining in Tumbagaan Island and to step up the rehabilitation of the area by planting more trees and other efforts of rehabilitation,” Nograles said.

Nograles said more actions will be considered after more light is shed regarding the state of the island and the conduct of the mining operations in the area.

He also stressed the President's commitment to preserving the environment, which is evident in his directives to ensure that mining companies comply with the laws, rules, and regulations that govern their operations.

“Since the beginning of his administration, the President has repeatedly stressed the importance of protecting our environment and strictly implementing environmental laws,” he said. (PNA)



Duterte suspends mining operations

Published 7 hours ago on January 13, 2021 12:20 AM

By [MJ Blancaflor](#) @tribunephi [MJB](#)



President Rodrigo Duterte has suspended all mining operations on an island in Tawi-Tawi which has been “completely devastated” due to quarrying activities, a senior Palace official announced Tuesday.

Duterte is “very much concerned” about the state of Tumbagan island and directed government agencies during the full Cabinet meeting on Monday night to boost the rehabilitation efforts in the area, said Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles.

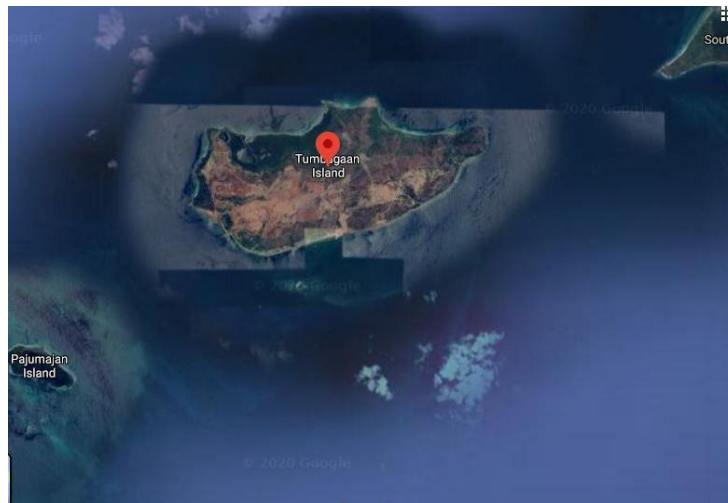
“The island at this point has been mined out. And while rehabilitation efforts are underway, the President is issuing a directive to stop any and all mining operations in Tumbagan island and to step up the rehabilitation of the area by planting more trees and other efforts,” Nograles told reporters in an online briefing.

“More actions will be considered as more light is shed regarding the state of the island and the conduct of mining operations in the area,” he added.

The Palace official noted that President Duterte prioritizes environmental protection and preservation, citing the chief executive’s order to rehabilitate Boracay island in 2018.

Tawi-Tawi is the southernmost island province in the Philippines located in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, sharing sea borders with the Malaysian state of Sabah and the Indonesian North Kalimantan province.

mje



Screengrab from Google Maps shows Tumbagaan Island in Languyan, Tawi-Tawi.
Google Maps

Duterte orders suspension of mining ops on Tawi-Tawi island

(Philstar.com) - January 12, 2021 - 2:17pm

MANILA, Philippines — President Rodrigo Duterte has ordered a halt to mining activities on an island in southern Philippines, a Cabinet official said Tuesday.

Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles said that Duterte is “very much concerned” over reports that Tumbagaan Island in Languyan, Tawi-Tawi has been “completely devastated” due to mining operations.

“The island has, at this point, been mined out,” Nograles said.

The mining problem of Tumbagaan Island, known for its nickel ore resources, was among the topics discussed by the president and Cabinet officials during a meeting Monday.

“While rehabilitation efforts are underway, the president is issuing a directive to stop any and all mining in Tumbagaan Island and to step up the rehabilitation of the area by planting more trees,” Nograles said.

“More actions will be considered as more light is shed regarding the state of the island and the conduct of mining operations in the area,” he added. — **Gaea Katreena Cabico**



President halts Tawi-Tawi mining over ‘devastation’

posted January 12, 2021 at 11:40 pm

by [Vito Barcelo](#)

President Rodrigo Duterte has ordered a halt to the mining operations in Tumbagaan Island in Tawi-Tawi after expressing concern over the devastation caused on the environment, a Malacanang official said Tuesday.

Cabinet Secretary Karlo Alexei Nograles said Duterte issued the order during Monday night’s full Cabinet meeting following reports that the island had been devastated as a result of mining operations.

He said government agencies had also been ordered to step up forestation and other rehabilitation programs of the island, citing the importance of protecting the environment.

“The island has, at this point, been mined out. And while rehabilitation efforts are underway, the President is issuing a directive to stop any and all mining in Tumbagaan Island and to step up the rehabilitation of the area by planting more trees and other efforts of rehabilitation,” Nograles said.

“While rehabilitation efforts are underway, more actions will be considered as more light is shed on the state of the island and the conduct of mining operations in the area.

“His commitment to preserve the environment was evident when he ordered the closure and rehabilitation of Boracay and in his directives that mining companies comply with laws, rules and regulations that govern their operations.

“Since the beginning of his administration, the President has repeatedly stressed the importance of protecting our environment and strictly implementing environmental laws.”



Duterte pinasara mga minahan sa Tawi-tawi

By Abante Tonite — Last updated Jan 12, 2021

NEWS



Ipinatigil ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang lahat ng mining activity sa Tumbagan Island sa Languyan, Tawi-Tawi.

Sinabi ni Secretary to the Cabinet Karlo Nograles na nababahala ang Presidente sa nakarating na ulat sa kanya na matinding napinsala at nasalaula ang Tumbagan Island dahil sa pagmimina.

Iniyutos rin ng pangulo ang pagtatanim ng mas maraming puno para manumbalik ang dating ayos ng isla.

Inaasahan aniya ang mga ilalargang aksiyon ng gobyerno para malinawan at matukoy kung sino ang mga dapat na panagutin sa pagkasalaula ng isla sa Tawi-Tawi. (Aileen Taliping)



PAGMIMINA SA ISLA NG TUMBAGAAN SA TAWI-TAWI PINATIGIL NG PANGULO

written by Jennelyn Valencia- Burgos January 13, 2021



Ipinag-utos ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang suspensyon ng mining operation sa Tumbagaan island sa Languyan, Tawi-Tawi.

Ayon kay Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles, ito'y para bigyang daan ang rehabilitasyon ng naturang lugar dahil sa umano'y malala nitong sitwasyon dahil sa pagmimina.

Sisimulan umano ang rehabilitasyon sa pamamagitan ng pagtatanim ng maraming puno sa isla.



Review of quarry permits mulled after massive flooding in Negros Occidental

Published January 12, 2021, 12:21 PM

by [Glazyl Masculino](#)

BACOLOD CITY – In an effort to find a solution to the massive flooding in Negros Occidental, Governor Eugenio Jose Lacson is eyeing to conduct a review of all quarry permits in the province.

Lacson made the statement, following two massive floods caused by torrential rains that hit the northern part of the province on January 1, and January 8.

The massive flooding forced thousands of residents in the cities of Talisay, Silay, Victorias, Sagay, Cadiz, and the town of E.B. Magalona, to evacuate from low-lying areas to the higher grounds. #NegrosNeedsHelp trended on Twitter over the weekend as netizens appealed for help for the flood-affected Negrenses.

Lacson said it was observed that there was the movement of water has been restricted because many areas are now made with concrete and impermeable materials.

Lacson said they can see progress in the province with the construction of more hotels, condominiums and public works such as roads.

However, with the construction boom in the province and Bacolod City, there has also been an increase in quarrying for sand and gravel, the governor added.

“There should be no conflict between economic growth and protection of the environment,” he said.

Lacson said the review will be in coordination with all concerned local government units to determine if this contributed to the flooding.

Lacson said there was also a need for serious maintenance work on waterways to mitigate flooding.

Meanwhile, Lacson has urged local government units (LGUs), particularly in the third district, to have their own dredger, especially those prone to heavy flooding during the rainy season, to address similar incident.

The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) has launched its Maintenance Dredging Program in Victorias City last week, as an immediate solution to declog waterways.

Lacson said that dredging must be a continuing operation to revive the natural waterways.

The said dredging project started at Carugiat River to Malihaw and Magnanod Rivers.

Lacson also appealed to Negrenses to follow proper waste disposal, otherwise, flooding will happen again.

For his part, Third District Rep. Jose Francisco Benitez said that with the occurrence of the incident, the people should be mindful of the environment so that it will not increase the risk of damage in properties and worse casualties.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/01/12/review-of-quarry-permits-mulled-after-massive-flooding-in-negros-occidental/>



Informal waste leaders emphasize importance of waste segregation

Published January 12, 2021, 11:42 AM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

Informal waste sector leaders from Caloocan, Malabon, and Manila underscored the need to actively enforce the legally required waste segregation to ensure the proper management of discards.

The Republic Act 9003, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, requires the separation of different waste materials at the point of origin in order to promote recycling and re-use of resources and reduce the volume of waste for collection and disposal.

“Putting different wastes such as food leftovers, empty bottles, old newspapers, broken electronics, used diapers, soiled face masks and others in one bag or bin will make reusing or recycling very difficult and even dangerous to waste workers,” Ronaldo Sarmiento of the Samahan ng mga Mangangalakal sa Capulong, Tondo, Manila said in a statement.

“Our work will be much easier and safer if households and businesses do not simply mix what they throw away,” he added.

Informal waste workers engage in waste recovery as a means of livelihood.

The concerned leaders of the informal waste sector also pointed out the need to effectively implement existing rules and regulations promoting the ecological management of waste at the community level.

“It’s very important for barangay officials to pay attention to the enforcement of waste management ordinances such as those banning the improper disposal of trash in streets, canals and creeks,” noted Eduardo Bernales of the Samahan ng mga Mangangalakal sa San Vicente Ferrer, Camarin, Caloocan City.

“Bawal nga ang magtapon ng basura sa sapa pero wala namang nagbabantay o nanghuhuli. (It is forbidden to throw garbage in the creek but no one is watching or catching those doing it),” he added.

Joanna Amican of the Nagkakaisang Lakas ng mga Mangangalakal sa Longos, Malabon City, also emphasized the importance of strengthening the implementation of waste regulations that should be applied equally and fairly to everyone.

“Determinadong pagbabantay at patas na pagpapataw ng kaparusahan ay talagang kailangan para mapairal ang mga mabubuting patakaran sa basura at kapaligiran. (Strict vigilance and fair imposition of punishment are really necessary to implement good waste and environmental policies),” she also said.

In observance of the Zero Waste Month this January, the informal waste sector leaders cited these practical ways to help improve their lot as well as solve the perennial garbage woes facing urban communities, especially in Metro Manila.

In recognition of the important service being performed by the informal waste sector in the community, Benedicto Nario of the Samahan ng mga Mangangalakal sa Bagong Silang, Caloocan City, urged authorities to provide their members with supplemental income to help them make both ends meet.

According to the country’s “National Framework Plan for the Informal Waste Sector in Solid Waste Management,” the informal waste sector covers “individuals, families, groups or small enterprises engaged in the recovery of waste materials either on a full-time or part-time basis with revenue generation as the motivation.”



Making up this sector are the itinerant waste buyers, paleros (garbage trucks crew), ‘jumpers’ (those who jump into collection trucks to recover recyclables), small junk shop dealers, waste pickers in dumpsites and communal waste collection points, informal waste collectors and waste reclaimers.

“The IWS is a strategic partner in our nation’s efforts to manage and win our war against garbage and climate change. As we mark the Zero Waste Month, we urge our government and people to help the IWS in improving their working and living conditions and to ensure they are not left behind,” said Jover Llarion, community organizer and campaigner of EcoWaste Coalition.



MR. D.I.Y. PH making impact on environment

Tuesday, January 12, 2021 People's Tonight



MR.D.I.Y x AFI – La Mesa Watershed group photo

THE largest home improvement retailer in Southeast Asia, MR. D.I.Y., planted its 100 seeds and turned over cash proceeds from The Good Bag, Reusable Bag campaign last January 8, 2021 to ABS CBN Foundation Inc. Bantay Kalikasan Mother Nurture campaign for the benefit of La Mesa Watershed.

The ceremonial turnover kick-started with a short program where MR. D.I.Y. Philippines Marketing Manager Mark Charles Salecina said, *“The Good Bag campaign aims to do good not only to our valued customers, but gather funds to adopt 100 trees for La Mesa Watershed by selling reusable eco bags at the 100 MR.D.I.Y. stores nationwide. MR. D.I.Y. Philippines wants to give back something good to the community by protecting the environment.”*

MR. D.I.Y. Philippines Chief Operating Officer (COO) Roselle Marisol Andaya expressed her gratitude and said, *“Today, before MR. D.I.Y. Philippines turns over the cash proceeds from the successful campaign to the foundation, as well as plant 100 more trees, which coincide with the most recent 100th store opening at SM Hypermarket Novaliches, I would like to sincerely thank our valued customers who supported this campaign, our hardworking team of MR.DIY for across all departments in the smooth execution of The Good Bag campaign, and more importantly, to ABS CBN Foundation Inc. for initiating sustainability programs for our environment and allowing us, retail establishments to somehow contribute to such a worthwhile endeavor.”*

The cash donation of P375,074 was received by Sarah Agcaoili, Officer-in-Charge and Operations Head and Mar Zeri Ramirez, Officer-in-Charge and Operations Manager of ABS CBN Foundation Inc. Bantay Kalikasan-Save the La Mesa Watershed.

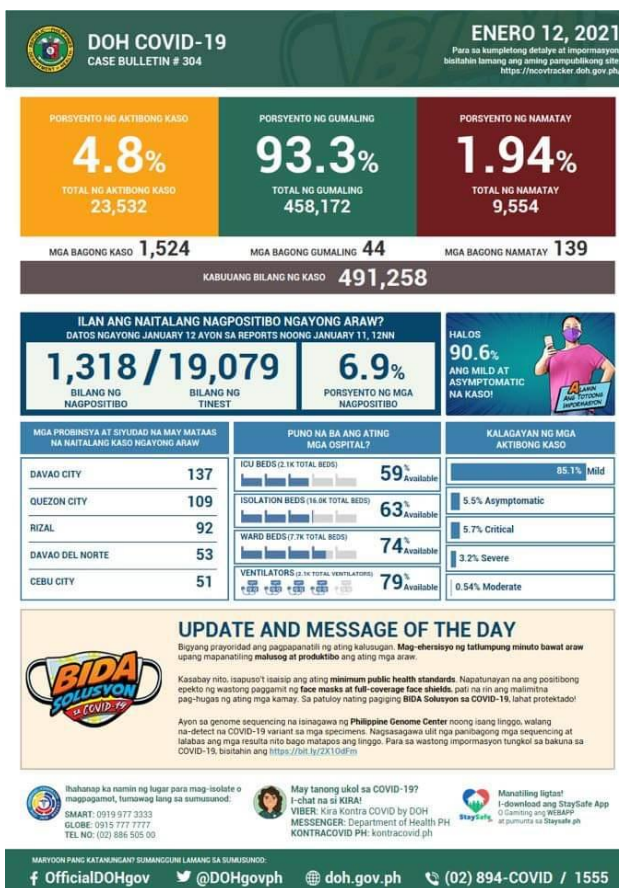
The day ended with planting seedlings which signifies our efforts to do good for the environment as these ensure we have enough trees, clean air and water now and for the next generations to come.

For more MR.D.I.Y corporate social responsibility (CSR) updates, visit MR. D.I.Y. official Facebook at @mrdiyPH and corporate website at www.mrdiy.com/ph.



BREAKING: Bilang ng nasawi sa Pilipinas dahil sa COVID-19, lagpas 9,500 na

By Angellic Jordan January 12, 2021 - 04:22 PM



Mahigit 1,500 ang panibagong kaso ng Coronavirus Disease o COVID-19 sa Pilipinas.

Sa huling datos ng Department of Health (DOH) bandang araw ng Martes (January 12), umabot na sa 491,258 ang confirmed cases ng nakakahawang sakit sa bansa.

Sa nasabing bilang, 23,532 o 4.8 porsyento ang aktibong kaso.

Sinabi ng kagawaran na 1,524 ang bagong napaulat na kaso ng COVID-19 sa bansa.

85.1 porsyento sa active COVID-19 cases ang mild; 5.5 porsyento ang asymptomatic; 0.54 porsyento ang moderate; 3.2 porsyento ang severe habang 5.7 porsyento ang nasa kritikal na kondisyon.

Nasa 139 naman ang napaulat na nasawi.

Dahil dito, umakyat na sa 9,554 o 1.94 porsyento ang COVID-19 related deaths sa bansa.

Ayon pa sa DOH, 44 naman ang gumaling pa sa COVID-19.

Dahil dito, umakyat na sa 458,172 o 93.3 porsyento ang total recoveries ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas.

Source: <https://radyo.inquirer.net/282735/breaking-bilang-ng-nasawi-sa-pilipinas-dahil-sa-covid-19-lagpas-9500-na>



Following the increase in mobility and social gatherings during the holidays, the OCTA Research Group sees the possibility of a surge in COVID-19 cases particularly in Metro Manila in the next few weeks.

Michael Varcas

Prepare for COVID-19 case surge, LGUs told

[Janvic Mateo](#) (The Philippine Star) - January 13, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Experts monitoring the pandemic are urging local government units (LGUs) to prepare health systems and personnel amid the possible surge of COVID-19 cases, especially in Metro Manila, following the holidays and other so-called super spreader events.

With testing centers resuming normal operations following the holidays, the OCTA Research Group said it has monitored an upward trend in the number of new daily cases recorded in Metro Manila in the past week.

From the average of 292 daily new cases recorded from Dec. 28 to Jan. 3, the group said COVID-19 infections jumped to 353 from Jan. 4 to 10. The average daily number of cases in the region was 426 from Dec. 21 to 27.

“Given the reality of an uptick in cases following the increase in mobility and social gatherings during the holiday as well as the impact of super spreader events such as the celebration of the Black Nazarene feast, there is a possibility of a significant surge in COVID-19 cases in Metro Manila in the next few weeks,” read the report released by OCTA yesterday.

“There is a clear upward trend now... and if this continues, the local governments will need to implement measures to reverse this direction before the pandemic gets out of hand,” it added.

The group said the reproduction figure, which indicates the number of persons a positive individual can infect, was at 1.17 in Metro Manila as of Jan. 10.

Before the onset of the holiday season, the reproductive number in Metro Manila remained below 1.0 since a downward trend was observed in September last year. It went up to 1.02 last Dec. 21 before dropping again in the following days as testing was reduced by more than 40 percent, said OCTA.

Quezon City still has the most number of average daily new cases at 76. However, it is 10th among 17 LGUs in Metro Manila if the number of cases per population is taken into account (2.12 percent per 100,000 residents).

Makati still has the highest average daily cases per 100,000 population at 4.05 percent, followed by Pasay and Pateros at 3.97 percent and 3.91 percent, respectively.



Among all LGUs in the region, OCTA expressed concern over the upward trend in Marikina, which increased by 127 percent from 11 to 25 average daily cases in the past week.

“Marikina also had the highest positivity rate among Metro Manila LGUs at 11 percent,” it added, referring to the number of individuals who tested positive out of the total tests conducted.

The Department of Health (DOH) admitted that the number of COVID-19 cases has increased.

Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire, however, said they need another week to determine whether the spike in cases was due to the holiday season.

Vergeire said the operations of testing laboratories were reduced during the holidays so the current outputs may not be reflective of the actual numbers.

She said laboratories were receiving minimal specimens because of the low health-seeking behavior of the people during the holiday.

DOH data showed that laboratory outputs decreased by 30 percent during the Christmas season.

Vergeire said the operations of laboratories normalized on Jan. 4.

Provinces of concern

Outside Metro Manila, OCTA identified several provinces of concern due to an increase in the average number of daily cases as well as a positivity rate of above 10 percent.

These include Davao Del Sur (including Davao City), Isabela, Quezon, Misamis Oriental, Pangasinan, Agusan del Sur and Negros Oriental.

OCTA also noted a positivity rate of more than 10 percent in Benguet, Leyte and Davao Del Norte, as well as increase in new cases in Pampanga, Cebu (including Cebu City) and Zamboanga del Sur.

“Davao del Norte had more than 70 percent hospital bed occupancy, while Rizal is near the critical level. For intensive care unit bed occupancy, Rizal, Quezon and Davao del Norte were above the 70 percent critical level,” the report said.

Health experts urged LGUs to further intensify their efforts at testing, tracing and isolation to reverse the increase in COVID-19 transmissions in their communities.

“The national government must ensure that effective and stricter border controls are in place to mitigate virus transmissions in airports and ports, as well as between provinces to prevent further transmissions, including the possible entry of the more infectious COVID-19 variant from the United Kingdom,” said OCTA. – **Sheila Crisostomo**



Mas mahigpit na quarantine sa Metro Manila nakaamba

By [Angie dela Cruz](#), [Malou Escudero](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon) - January 13, 2021 - 12:00am



Ayon kay Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque, titingnan ang tinatawag na “two-week attack rate” at ang critical care capacity ng mga ospital.
Presidential Photo/Yancy Lim

MANILA, Philippines— Nakaamba ang pagpapatupad ng mas istriktong quarantine sa Metro Manila kung magpapatuloy ang pagtaas ng kaso ng COVID-19.

Ayon kay Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque, titingnan ang tinatawag na “two-week attack rate” at ang critical care capacity ng mga ospital.

Sinabi ni Roque na hindi na maibabalik ang panahon para sa mga hindi sumunod sa social distancing noong Pasko, Bagong Taon at Traslacion.

“Well, unang-una iyong nangyari ay nangyari na hindi na natin maibabalik ang panahon. Iyong mga hindi po nag-observe ng social distancing noong panahon ng Pasko, Bagong Taon at Traslacion, naririyang na iyan,” ani Roque.

Wala na rin aniyang magagawa para sa mga hindi sumunod na tiyak na nakakaranas na ng mga sintomas.

Pero ang mabuting balita aniya ay may sapat na kakayanan ang mga ospital para gamutin ang mga tinamaan ng COVID-19.

Inulit din ni Roque ang payo ng Department of Health para sa mga pumunta sa Traslacion na mag-isolate na kung may nararamdamang sintomas ng virus at magpa-test pagkatapos ng anim na araw simula nang magpunta sa Quiapo.

Sa pahayag ng OCTA Research Group, nagkaroon na ng pagtaas sa COVID sa Metro Manila matapos ang mahigit 400 nadagdag na kaso.



Ayon kay Dr. Ranjit Rye ng Octa Research, kailangan nang kumilos at magpatupad ng kaukulang hakbang ang pamahalaan para maiwasan ang paglobong muli ng COVID cases sa MM.

Tumaas din ang reproduction number ng bansa batay sa record ng Department of Health na 1.13 na mas mataas kumpara sa 1.02 noong Disyembre 21 na indikasyon na kumakalat ang virus.

Bunga nito, nanawagan ang grupo sa pamahalaan at LGUs na magpatupad ng pinaigting na testing, tracing, at pag-isolate upang maiwasan ang pagkalat ng sakit at higpitan ang border control.

Hinala pa ng OCTA team na maaaring nasa Pilipinas na ang bagong COVID-19 variant mula sa UK.



Duterte bakuna ng China ang ipapaturok

By [Malou Escudero](#)(Pilipino Star Ngayon) - January 12, 2021 - 12:00am



pagdating sa bansa ng Sinovac. Inulit ni Roque ang sinabi ni Duterte na hindi siya makakapaghintay ng hanggang Hulyo para sa bakuna na inaasahang darating na sa Pilipinas sa susunod na buwan.

MANILA, Philippines — Dahil mauunang dumating sa bansa ang Sinovac vaccine mula sa China, ito ang ituturok kay Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte, ayon kay Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque.

Sinabi ni Roque na ang bakuna mula sa Russia at sa China ang pinagpipilian ng Pangulo.

“Si Presidente po malinaw, gusto nga niyang magpaturok kaagad. Gusto niya Tsino at saka Russian. Ang tinatanong niya, puwede bang pareho? Ang tingin ko, hindi. So kinakailangan mamili ang Presidente kung Tsino o Russian ang kaniyang ipatuturok. Pero dahil mauuna ang Tsino eh baka naman po ‘no na unahin niya ang Tsino,” sabi ni Roque.

Idinagdag ni Roque na maging si Indonesian President Joko Widodo ay magpapaturok ng bakuna mula sa China sa Enero 13. Sinabi pa ni Roque na hindi niya alam kung bakit mas naging mabilis ang inaasahang pagdating sa bansa ng Sinovac.

Inulit ni Roque ang sinabi ni Duterte na hindi siya makakapaghintay ng hanggang Hulyo para sa bakuna na inaasahang darating na sa Pilipinas sa susunod na buwan.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2021/01/12/2069867/duterte-bakuna-ng-china-ang-ipapaturok/amp/>



MAGHANDA NA SA PAGBABAKUNA



January 13, 2021 @ 12:40 AM 7 hours ago

KUNG sakali, baka magkaroon na tayo sa kalagitnaan ng Pebrero ng bakuna laban sa coronavirus disease 2019 o COVID-19.

Ang bakunang gawa ng Pfizer ang umano'y darating nang libre mula sa World Health Organization at pakikinabangan ng 20 milyong Filipino.

Matatandaang nagdesisyon ang Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases noon pang Hulyo 2020 na magbigay ng kontribusyon sa pondo ng Gavi COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access (COVAX) facility.

Inorganisa ng WHO ang COVAX facility at GAVI o Vaccine Alliance para sa paggawa ng bakuna at pagtitiyak na magkaroon lahat ng bansa ng pare-parehong karapatan na magkaroon ng bakuna laban sa pandemya.

Bagama't nakopo na ng mayayamang bansa ang 80 porsyento ng suplay ng bakuna, nakakuha ang WHO ng suplay para sa mga mahihirap na bansa at kabilang tayo sa mga makikinabang dito.

Nitong Nobyembre 2020, inaprubahan na rin mismo ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang pagbibigay ng advance payment sa mga kompanya ng bakuna para makasiguro tayo ng suplay ng bakuna.

Nangako rin ang China ng ilang milyong libreng bakuna na gawa nila bagama't babayaran na natin ang iba pa, gaya ng pagbabayad natin sa ibang mga kompanya na magbebenta ng bakuna.

Ang bakunang gawa ng China ay maaaring darating sa kalagitnaan ng taon.

LAHAT NG BAKUNA PASADO

Lumalabas na pasado sa pamantayan ng World Health Organization at Unites States Food and Drug Administration ang mga bakunang gawa sa Amerika gaya ng Pfizer at Moderna, AstraZenica ng United Kingdom, Sputnik V ng Russia at Sinopharm at Sinovac na gawa ng China.

Ayon sa USFDA at WHO, sapat nang makaabot sa napatunayang bisa na 50 porsyento ang isang bakuna para ilapat sa mga nangangailangan.

Ginawang halimbawa rito ang malawakang paggamit ng bakuna sa lagnat o flu vaccine na nakaliligtas sa milyon-milyon katao taon-taon sa grabeng lagnat, pagkakaospital at kamatayan kahit nasa 40-60% lang ang bisa nito.



Ngayon naman, parehong sinasabi na may efficacy (bisa sa panahon ng pagsubok o trial) ang Pfizer at Moderna sa nasa 90-95 porsyento; AstraZenica – 70-90%; Sputnik V – 90-95%; Sinovac – 60-91% at Sinopharm – 80% depende sa lugar na roon isinasagawa ang trial.

Sa pinagsama-samang Pfizer, AstraZenica at Moderna, sinasabing nasa 10 milyon na ang nabakunahan sa US, kasama ang nasa 4 milyong Pinoy na naninirahan doon.

Sa China naman, ang Sinovac at Sinopharm ang pangunahing gamit sa pagbabakuna nila ng nasa 50 milyon pagdating ng kalagitnaan ng Pebrero na araw ng Chinese New Year.

Sa mahigit 50 bansang nagsimula nang magbakuna, halo-halo sa mga bakunang ito ang kanilang ginagamit gaya ng Israel at Turkey na gumagamit ng gawang Amerika at China.

MAGPABAKUNA NA

Halos lahat ng mga bakuna ay gagamitin sa mga nagkakaedad ng 16 pataas.

Pinag-uusapan pa kung pupwede ang mga edad 16 pababa dahil hindi pa umano buo ang immune system ng mga ito para makatanggap ng lakas ng bakuna.

Gayunman, kahit edad 16 pataas ay hindi rin pupwedeng bakunahan kung may allergy ito sa gamot o pagkain.

Ang maganda sa halo-halong bakuna, pwedeng testingin sa iyo ang isa, dalawa, tatlo hanggang sa lima kung saan ka hiyang.

Hindi pupwedeng gawang Kano, UK, Ruso o Chino lang ang tatanggapin o bibilhin at gagamitin dahil nga sa tinatawag nating “hiyang.”

Kapag allergic ka sa isa, maaaring hindi sa iba at iyon ang ituturok sa iyo.

Kailangan ding walang iinom ng alak sa loob ng dalawang buwan sa mga gustong mabakunahan.

Kasi ang unang turok ay oobserbahan sa loob ng 3-4 linggo at maaaring masundan ito ng ikalawang turok para naman sa 3-4 linggo pa ring obserbasyon.

Alam naman nating hindi gaanong umeepekto ang anomang gamot kapag nahahalan ito ng alak.

NAGHAHANDA NA ANG PAMAHALAAN

Sa ngayon, nasa 25,000 na ang sinasanay sa pagbabakuna na ikakalat sa buong bansa at madaragdagan pa tiyak dahil maaaring abutin ng isang taon o higit pa ang pagbabakuna.

Inihahanda na rin ang mga sentro o lugar ng bakunahan.

Pati ang mga imbakan at pagbibiyahe ng mga bakuna ay inihahanda na rin.

May paghahanda ang pambansang pamahalaan, local government unit at mga pribadong kompanya.

Alalahaning maraming LGU, lalo na sa Metro Manila, ang naglabas na ng pondo para bumili ng bakuna na gagamitin para sa kanilang mga residente at pribadong kompanya para sa kanilang mga obrero.



Siyempre pa, may bibilhin din ang pambansang pamahalaan at layon nitong bakunahan kahit man lang 60 porsyento ng mga mamamayan, may bakuna man o wala ang mga LGU at pribadong kompanya.

MARAMIHAN O HERD IMMUNITY

Sa 60 porsyento, makakamit natin ang tinatawag na herd immunity o sapat na bilang ng tao para hindi magkaroon ng malawakang hawaan sa COVID-19.

Halimbawa, kapag nabakunahan ang nasa 400,000 pulis at sundalo, lahat ng taong mauugnayan nila na milyong-milyong mamamayan ay maaaring maligtas sa hawaan, grabeng kalagayan, pagkaospital, kamatayan at malakihang gastos.

Sa hanay naman ng mga obrero na nasa 55 milyon, kung nakararami sa mga ito ang mabakunahan, makikinabang din ang milyong-milyong iba pa na kanilang mauugnayan, kasama ang kanilang mga pamilya.

Ganito rin ang kaso para sa mga titser na nasa 1 milyon na humaharap sa 27 milyong mag-aaral at sa mga frontliner na buong sambayanan ang inuugnayan.

DENGVAXIA, SIRAAAN KALIMUTAN

Napakarami ang natakot sa bakuna dahil sa kamatayan ng mahigit 600 bata mula sa Dengvaxia.

Kaya naman labis na pag-iingat ang gagawin sa pagbabakuna sa COVID-19 at hindi ito itutulad sa Dengvaxia.

Ang Dengvaxia ay ginamit sa pamumulitika na basta na lang pinagtuturok sa mga bata para lang makakopo ng milyong-milyong boto mula sa kanilang mga magulang at iba pang botante ang mga kandidatong Pampangulo, senador, kongresman, gobernador, mayor at iba pa ng grupo ni dating Pangulong Benigno Aquino III laban kay noo'y Mayor Digong noong halalang 2016.

Ngayon, bawal ang bakuna sa edad-16 pababa at bawal din sa mga may allergy sa gamot at pagkain at saka lang ituturok ang bakuna kung hiyang ito makaraan ang testing na karaniwang ginagawa.

Sa ngayon nagsisiraan din ang mga kompanya ng bakuna pero ang puno't dulo nito ay ang layon nilang makopo ang bentahan ng bakuna.

Kapag nagtagumpay ang isang kompanya na siraan ang iba, nakatitiyak na ito ng tiyak na merkado ng bakuna at kitang limpak-limpak na salapi sa pagbebenta ng bakuna.

Ang masama pa, pinupulitika rin ang mga bakuna gaya ng paninira ng mga kritiko sa bakuna na maaaring bilhin ng pamahalaan at tiyak na lalabas din sa huli na may pinapaboran din pala silang uri ng bakuna para pagkakitaan din nila.

Ang takot sa Dengvaxia at awayan at siraan ay dapat na kalimutan.

Ang dapat na isipin ay malabanan natin ang pandemya na kung hindi tayo magpabakuna ay mananatili ang mga lockdown at iba pang paghihigpit na pipigil sa mga kalayaan nating mabuhay, magtrabaho, magsaya, maglaro, mag-aral, magbiyahe at iba pa.



In Metro Manila, the temperature may drop to 18 degrees Celsius, PAGASA weather specialist Benison Estareja said.

STAR/File

PAGASA: Cold days ahead

[Helen Flores](#) (The Philippine Star) - January 13, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Filipinos can expect colder weather this month until February due to the northeast monsoon, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said yesterday.

In Metro Manila, the temperature may drop to 18 degrees Celsius, PAGASA weather specialist Benison Estareja said.

The temperature in Baguio City may further dip to 9 degrees Celsius this month. The coldest recorded so far in the city this northeast monsoon season was 10.4 degrees Celsius.

The northeast monsoon, cold air from Siberia, peaks between January and February.

The coldest days in Metro Manila were recorded on Feb. 4, 1987 and on Dec. 30, 1988, when the temperature plunged to 15.1 degrees Celsius, data from PAGASA showed.

The coldest weather in Baguio on record was 6.3 degrees Celsius on Jan. 18, 1961.



Taal Volcano island residents try to move on a year after eruption

Published January 12, 2021 9:57am

Updated January 12, 2021 10:09am

A year after Taal Volcano erupted, residents are still trying to move on with their lives although the memory of the event has left scars in their lives.

Raquel Juli was celebrating her birthday and her brother was having his wedding when Taal Volcano started erupting on Jan. 12, 2020, according to a report by Darlene Cay on GMA News' Unang Balita on Tuesday.

"Natatakot dahil hindi ko po alam kung ano ang uunahin kasi marami rin pong bata na aasikasuhin atsaka mga gamit na dadalhin ko," she said, recalling those moments.

"Nakakalungkot po gawa po ay ngayon lang po nakaranas ng ganoong pangyayari. Hindi ko po akalain na birthday ko mangyayari 'yon at kasal ng kapatid ko," Raquel added.

Her brother Manuel recalled the panic they felt that day.

"Birth certificate ng anak, as in 'yon lang. At damit lang ng baby," he said of the items they were able to bring with them from their residence on Taal Volcano Island.

"Nagbihis lang kaming mag-asawa. Pinauna ko na 'yung mag-ina ko, sumakay na sila ng bangka. Naiwan kaming mga lalaki sa isla. Noong bumagsak na ang putik, saka kami umalis," Manuel said.

One of the wedding guests died.

The alert level on Taal Volcano rose from Alert Level 1 to Alert Level 4 that day in just a few hours.

Taal Volcano Island became a no man's land after the eruption.

Six hundred families who used to live on the island thereafter resettled in the National Housing Authority housing project in Barangay Talaibon in Ibaan, Batangas.

Some residents, however, did not resettle there, choosing to stay in other Batangas towns near their livelihood.

"Ang karamihan sa kanila [ay] nandoon na sa permanent settlement nila sa National Housing Project sa Ibaan, Batangas. Others who decided to stay ay nasa kani-kanilang bayan... because of their livelihood. Ayaw nilang maiba pa ang livelihood nila," said Lito Castro of the Batangas Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office.



Lea Juli still longs for the house their family left behind on the island.

"Malungkot. 'Yung bahay namin kung bakit mag-iisang taon na sigurong ginawa. Sayang," she said.

Talisay

A year ago, the main road of the municipality of Talisay, which sits across Taal Volcano Island, was covered in mud and volcanic ash and had fissures.

On Tuesday, the road was clear with no trace of fissures, mud or ash.

Taal Volcano remains under Alert Level 1, with steaming and volcanic earthquakes recorded from time to time.

Residents marked the one year anniversary of the volcanic eruption with a Mass in thanksgiving for the lives that were spared, as well as to pray for those who died, have lost jobs, and are having a hard time cope since the eruption.

The Mass was held at Talisay Baywalk through the San Guillermo Church.

—KG, GMA News

Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/regions/771379/taal-volcano-island-residents-try-to-move-on-a-year-after-eruption/story/?utm_source=GMAnews&utm_medium=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR3kTTp1GGVzDyP0d4aQ4o3mtVoaFdzaHKm5bNT2Usan5wL9IsVQtyfJzfY



Climate change is making baby sharks smaller, undernourished and exhausted

By Amy Woodyatt, CNN

Published Jan 13, 2021 2:20:52 AM



Photo courtesy: Shutterstock

(CNN) -- Baby sharks are being born smaller, undernourished and exhausted as climate change warms the world's oceans, researchers say.

Researchers examined the effects of warming temperatures on the growth, development and physiology of the Great Barrier Reef's epaulette sharks, testing embryos and hatchlings in waters up to 31 degrees Celsius (87.8 degrees Fahrenheit).

The research team found that in warmer waters, shark embryos grew faster and used their yolk sac -- their only source of food in this developmental stage -- quicker.

The creatures hatched earlier, were born smaller, and needed to feed straight away, but lacked energy, researchers from Australia's ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies at James Cook University and the University of Massachusetts said Tuesday.

There are more than 500 types of shark living around the world, and the majority give birth to live young. Some shark species, like epaulette sharks, lay eggs, which are left unprotected and must be able to survive on their own for up to four months.

"The epaulette shark is known for its resilience to change, even to ocean acidification," Jodie Rummer, co-author and associate professor at the ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies, said in a statement. "So, if this species can't cope with warming waters then how will other, less tolerant species fare?"

The Great Barrier Reef is the world's largest coral reef, covering nearly 133,000 square miles and is home to more than 1,500 species of fish, 411 species of hard corals and dozens of other species.

The past decade has been the warmest on record for global ocean temperatures. By the end of the century, the Great Barrier Reef is likely to experience average summer temperatures close to or exceeding 31 degrees Celsius, researchers warn.

Rummer said that rising ocean temperatures could threaten future sharks, including egg-laying and live-bearing species, because as temperatures rise, the creatures will be born or hatch into environments that they can barely tolerate.

"The study presents a worrying future given that sharks are already threatened," lead author Carolyn Wheeler said in a statement.

"Sharks are important predators that keep ocean ecosystems healthy. Without predators, whole ecosystems can collapse, which is why we need to keep studying and protecting these creatures," Wheeler, a PhD candidate at the ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies, added.



"Our future ecosystems depend (on) us taking urgent action to limit climate change," Rummer said.

The study was published in the Scientific Reports journal.

Oceans serve as a good indicator of the real impact of climate change -- covering almost three quarters of Earth's surface, they absorb the vast majority of the world's heat.

Although we often can't see it, ocean warming has a profound impact on the entire world. A warmer ocean causes sea level to rise, bringing problems like dangerous coastal flooding. It leads to the loss of sea ice, heating the waters even further, and can affect the jet stream, allowing cold Arctic air to reach farther south, making winters more intense and threatening animals that depend on sea ice.

A warmer ocean also contributes to increases in rainfall and leads to stronger and longer-lasting storms like Hurricanes Florence and Harvey.

Marine heatwaves which have killed off swathes of Earth's coral reefs have likely doubled in frequency and are projected to become more common and intense, a landmark report from the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change found in 2019.

This story was first published on CNN.com, "[Climate change is making baby sharks smaller, undernourished and exhausted](https://cnnphilippines.com/world/2021/1/13/Climate-change-is-making-baby-sharks-smaller--undernourished-and-exhausted.html)"



This picture taken on October 30, 2020 shows macaque monkeys playing with a face mask, used as a preventive measure against the spread of the Covid-19 coronavirus, in Genting Sempah in Malaysia's Pahang state.

AFP/Mohd Rasfan

From macaques to crabs, wildlife faces threat from face masks

[Sam Reeves](#) (Agence France-Presse) - January 12, 2021 - 2:36pm

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — Masks that helped save lives during the coronavirus pandemic are proving a deadly hazard for wildlife, with birds and marine creatures ensnared in the staggering number of discarded facial coverings littering animal habitats.

Single-use surgical masks have been found scattered around pavements, waterways and beaches worldwide since countries began mandating their use in public places to slow the pandemic's spread.

Worn once, the thin protective materials can take hundreds of years to decompose.

"Face masks aren't going away any time soon—but when we throw them away, these items can harm the environment and the animals who share our planet," Ashley Fruno of animal rights group PETA told AFP.

Macaques have been spotted chewing the straps off old and tossed-aside masks in the hills outside Malaysia's capital Kuala Lumpur—a potential choking hazard for the diminutive monkeys.

And in an incident that captured headlines in Britain, a gull was rescued by the RSPCA in the city of Chelmsford after its legs became tangled in the straps of a disposable mask for up to a week.

The animal welfare charity was alerted after the bird was spotted, motionless but still alive, and they took it to a wildlife hospital for treatment before its release.

"It's clear the mask was there for some time and the elastic straps had tightened around his legs as his joints were swollen and sore," said RSPCA inspector Adam Jones.

Cut off mask straps

The biggest impact may be in the water, with green groups alarmed at the flood of used masks, latex gloves and other protective gear finding their way into already contaminated seas and rivers.



More than 1.5 billion masks made their way into the world's oceans last year, accounting for around 6,200 extra tons of marine plastic pollution, according to environmental group OceansAsia.

Already there are signs that masks are worsening threats to marine life.

Conservationists in Brazil found one inside the stomach of a penguin after its body washed up on a beach, while a dead pufferfish was discovered caught inside another off the coast of Miami.

French campaigners Operation Mer Propre found a dead crab ensnared in a mask in a saltwater lagoon near the Mediterranean in September.

Masks and gloves are "particularly problematic" for sea creatures, says George Leonard, chief scientist from US-based NGO Ocean Conservancy.

"When those plastics break down in the environment, they form smaller and smaller particles," he told AFP.

Those particles then enter the food chain and impact entire ecosystems, he added.

There has been a shift towards greater use of reusable cloth masks as the pandemic has worn on, but many are still opting for the lighter single-use varieties.

Campaigners have urged people to bin them properly and snip the straps to reduce the risk of animals becoming ensnared.

OceansAsia has also called on governments to increase fines for littering and encourage the use of washable masks.



From macaques to crabs, wildlife faces threat from face masks

posted January 12, 2021 at 12:00 pm

by [AFP and Sam Reeves](#)

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Source: <https://manilastandard.net/mobile/article/344206>



Gorillas at San Diego Zoo Safari Park diagnosed with COVID-19

By [Reuters](#) - January 12, 2021 - 11:29 AM



Gorillas sit after two of their troop tested positive for COVID-19 after falling ill, and a third gorilla appears also to be symptomatic, at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park in San Diego, California, U.S. January 10, 2021. Picture taken January 10, 2021. (Ken Bohn/San Diego Zoo Global/Handout via Reuters)

LOS ANGELES — As many as eight gorillas at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park are presumed to have contracted COVID-19 from a human handler after one of the animals tested positive, marking the first known transmission of the virus to apes, zoo officials said on Monday.

Three among the band of critically endangered western lowland gorillas at the sprawling wildlife park have shown symptoms of the respiratory virus, such as coughing, though none appears severely ill, and all are expected to fully recover, the zoo said in online statements.

Laboratory analysis of a fecal sample collected last Wednesday from one of two gorillas initially seen coughing detected the presence of the virus two days later, zoo spokesman Andrew James said.

The positive results were confirmed on Monday by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Veterinary Services Laboratories, the zoo said on its website.

While the test was definitive for only a single animal, all eight gorillas are presumed by zoo officials to have been exposed to and possibly infected with SAR-CoV-2, the scientific name of the virus that causes COVID-19.

“Gorilla troops live together in both our zoological natural habitat and the wild, and we have to assume, as we do with human families, that all members of the family group have been exposed,” the zoo said in a fact sheet.

James added that human-style collection of mucus or saliva samples from individual gorillas is considered too risky for the apes.

The gorillas are believed to have contracted the virus from an asymptomatic staff member, despite adherence to strict bio-security protocols consistent with U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines, the zoo said.



Rigorous infection-control measures were in place there well before the pandemic because apes - as close biological cousins to humans - are especially susceptible to human-carried pathogens while lacking natural immunity to them, James said.

Zoo officials said they do not know how the coronavirus will ultimately affect gorillas or what additional symptoms may occur.

“Aside from some congestion and coughing, the gorillas are doing well,” Lisa Peterson, executive director of the San Diego Zoo Safari Park, said in the statement. “The troop remains quarantined together and are eating and drinking. We are hopeful for a full recovery.”

The gorilla troop at the 1,800-acre San Diego Safari Park consists of five females and three males, including an elder “silverback” named Winston about 45 years old, James said. At least eight other gorillas exhibited at the nearby San Diego Zoo were not affected. Both facilities have been closed to the public due to the pandemic since early December.

The coronavirus has also been found in a number of other wild-animal species in captivity, including several lions and tigers at the Bronx Zoo in New York and four lions at the Barcelona Zoo in Spain.

But the gorillas in San Diego are the first known case of infections confirmed in apes, James said. Gorillas are members of the family of primates known as the great apes, or hominids, that also include chimpanzees, orangutans, bonobos and humans.

The virus has also shown up in a number of household dogs and cats. Last month, the USDA said it had confirmed the first known case of the coronavirus in an animal in the wild, a mink, following an outbreak among farmed minks that killed 15,000 of the animals. —Reporting by Steve Gorman in Los Angeles; Editing by Peter Cooney and Jacqueline Wong



Insects ‘die by a thousand cuts’ – experts

By Associated Press

January 13, 2021

CONNECTICUT: The world’s vital insect kingdom is undergoing “death by a thousand cuts,” the world’s top bug experts said.

Climate change, insecticides, herbicides, light pollution, invasive species and changes in agriculture and land use are causing Earth to lose probably 1 to 2 percent of its insects each year, said University of Connecticut entomologist David Wagner, lead author in the special package of 12 studies in Monday’s (Tuesday in Manila) Proceedings of the National Academies of Sciences written by 56 scientists from around the globe.

The problem, sometimes called the insect apocalypse, is like a jigsaw puzzle. And scientists say they still don’t have all the pieces, so they have trouble grasping its enormity and complexity and getting the world to notice and do something.

Wagner said scientists need to figure out if the rate of the insect loss is bigger than with other species. “There is some reason to worry more,” he added, “because they are the target of attack” with insecticides, herbicides and light pollution.

Co-author and University of Illinois entomologist May Berenbaum, a National Medal of Science winner, said, “Insect decline is kind of comparable to climate change 30 years ago because the methods to assess the extent, the rate [of loss] were difficult.”

Making matters worse is that in many cases, people hate bugs, even though they pollinate the world’s foods, are crucial to the food chain and get rid of waste, she said. Insects “are absolutely the fabric by which Mother Nature and the tree of life are built,” Wagner said.

Two well-known ones — honeybees and Monarch butterflies — best illustrate insect problems and declines, he said. Honeybees have been in dramatic decline because of disease, parasites, insecticides, herbicides and lack of food.

Climate change-driven drier weather in the US West means lesser milkweed for butterflies to eat, Wagner said. And changes in American agriculture remove weeds and flowers they need for nectar.

“We’re creating a giant biological desert except for soybeans and corn in a giant area of the Midwest,” he said.

Monday’s scientific papers don’t provide new data, yet show a big but incomplete picture of a problem starting to get attention. Scientists have identified 1 million insect species, while probably 4 million more are still to be discovered, Berenbaum said.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/01/13/news/world/insects-die-by-a-thousand-cuts-experts/827063/>

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