

14 JANUARY 2021, THURSDAY



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**

# DENR finds 4 illegal pipes in Manila Bay

January 13, 2021



The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) discovered four illegal pipes releasing wastewater into Manila Bay.

The Manila Bay has a sewage treatment plant that cleans dirty water from 3 drainage systems in Roxas Boulevard. However, the DENR noticed that the bay's water quality has not been improving despite its rehabilitation efforts.

The department then asked for the removal of the rocks gathered in the seawall of Baywalk at low tide and made an inspection 10 feet from the natural ground. The four pipes discovered are not found in the map of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and the map of the City of Manila local government.

Based on the water analysis conducted, the pipes contain 50 million most probable number (MPN) per milliliter of coliform bacteria. At least 10 establishments are being eyed for the discharge of contaminated water.

The DENR has already cemented 1 pipe and still trying to remove the large rocks covering the others. It aims to seal all 4 illegal pipes before the end of January together with the completion of the secondary canal at the Baywalk that will catch the overflow of water in Manila Bay during typhoons. – *Report from Cleizl Pardilla*





 ONE News  
19h · 🌐

DENR inspects Baywalk after discovering four illegal drainage pipes are discharging wastewater into the Manila Bay. (via News5/Shyla Francisco)



 206

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Nag-inspeksyon sa DENR sa Manila Bay matapos madiskubre ang apat na iligal na drainage pipes na naglalabas ng maduming tubig. Seselyuhan nila ang mga ito. | via Shyla Francisco



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 **UNTV News and Rescue**  11h · 

Kinumpirma ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources na ilegal ang apat na drainage pipes na nadiskubre sa pampang ng Manila Bay sa kahabaan ng Roxas Boulevard.



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January 12 at 6:33 PM · 🌐

Natuklasan ng DENR ang mga ilegal na imburnal na nagtatapon ng maruming tubig sa Manila Bay.



**ILIGAL NA  
IMBURNAL**

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Mga ilegal na imburnal na nagtatapon ng maruming tubig sa Manila Bay, ipinasara ng DENR

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UNTV News and Rescue

16h · 🌐



Tinakpan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources ang ilang ilegal na drainage na dinadaluyan ng maruming tubig papunta sa Manila Bay.



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Ilang ilegal na imburnal papunta sa Manila Bay, tinakpan ng DENR

Tinakpan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources ang ilang ilegal na drainage n...

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# DENR backs Duterte order vs Tawi-Tawi mining

Tumbagaan Island in Languyan, Tawi-Tawi is under the jurisdiction of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and not of the DENR

Published 5 hours ago on January 14, 2021 02:30 AM

By [Francis Wakefield](#)



An official of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Wednesday expressed his support for President Rodrigo Duterte's order to suspend all mining operations on an island in Tawi-Tawi.

The Chief Executive's order was prompted by verified reports that the island has been "completely devastated" due to the quarrying activities in the area.

The DENR fully supports the order of the President to suspend the mining operations in the said area for its rehabilitation.

"Tumbagaan Island in Languyan, Tawi-Tawi is under the jurisdiction of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) and not of the DENR," Undersecretary for Enforcement, Mining, and Muslim Affairs Jim O. Sampulna, however, clarified.

"However, the DENR fully supports the order of the President to suspend the mining operations in the said area for its rehabilitation," he added.

In an online briefing on Tuesday, Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles told reporters that 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.

"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 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.

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 BARMM, sharing sea borders with the Malaysian state of Sabah and the Indonesian North Kalimantan province.

Source: <https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2021/01/14/denr-backs-duterte-order-vs-tawi-tawi-mining/>





## Duterte stops mining on Tawi-Tawi island

By: Jerome Aning, Jhesset O. Enano - 4 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines — President Rodrigo Duterte has ordered all mining operations stopped on a small island in Tawi-Tawi whose environment has been “completely devastated,” Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles said on Tuesday.

In a press briefing, Nograles said the President gave the order for the suspension of mining on Tumbagaan Island off Languyan town during the Cabinet meeting on Monday.

“The President is very much concerned about reports that the island has been completely devastated as a result of mining operations in the area. 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.

He, however, did not identify the mining company responsible for the environmental devastation. A Google satellite map of Tumbagaan showed the island had lost most of its vegetation while much of its terrain was marred by what appeared to be mining trails.

Environmental groups on Tuesday welcomed President Duterte’s order and called for a new round of industrywide audit of all mining operations across the country.

### Gold mining projects

While details surrounding the operations in the southern province remain unclear, Alyansa Tigil Mina said it had monitored gold mining projects in the province as early as 2016. Tawi-Tawi is also known for its high-grade nickel ore.

“We demand that the stoppage order be immediately implemented, an audit of the mine operations be done and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Mines and Geosciences Bureau disclose all documents related to the mine contract and mine operations,” Jaybee Garganera, the group’s national coordinator, said in an interview.

He said concerns surrounding the mines in Tawi-Tawi had reached his group way back in 2015. The operations there, however, were allegedly not included during the industrywide audit in 2016 under then Environment Secretary Gina Lopez.

Kalikasan People’s Network for the Environment said the President’s directive should be fairly applied across the country.

“At least 68 percent of operating large-scale mines were found to have perpetrated various violations during the industrywide audit of former environment secretary Gina Lopez,” Leon Dulce, the group’s national coordinator, told the Inquirer.

“All these should be closed for good,” he added.

Source: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1382974/duterte-stops-mining-on-tawi-tawi-island/amp>



# Duterte orders mining freeze in Tumbagaan, Tawi-Tawi

January 12, 2021 | 7:39 pm



REUTERS

PRESIDENT Rodrigo R. Duterte has ordered the suspension of all mining on an island in Tawi-Tawi, within the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, a cabinet official said Tuesday.

The President issued the order following reports that Tumbagaan Island in Lunguyan, Tawi-Tawi has been “completely devastated as a result of mining operations,” Cabinet Secretary Karlo Alexei B. Nograles said at a televised briefing.

He said Mr. Duterte brought up the state of mining on the island, a source of nickel, during a Cabinet meeting on Monday night in Malacañang.

“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 Tumbagaan island,” he said.

Tumbagaan lies northeast of Tawi-Tawi island, where the provincial capital Bongao is located.

The authorities have been directed to “step up” the rehabilitation of the island, he added. “More action will be considered as more light is shed regarding the state of the island and the conduct of mining operations in the area.”

In 2017, Indonesia passed the Philippines as the largest global nickel producer after the government in Manila ordered a review of miners’ compliance with environmental rules.

Fitch Solutions said last year that the Philippines is set to regain its position as the largest producer within the next decade after Indonesia itself imposed controls on nickel exports.

Nickel is a key component in the manufacture of stainless steel, and China is the biggest market for the ore. — **Kyle Aristophere T. Atienza**

Source: [https://www.bworldonline.com/duterte-orders-mining-freeze-in-tumbagaan-tawi-tawi/?fbclid=IwAR2Dp\\_UAYQ2i3XfhgdcCRa2-AiN5NWFUTQcm6i7R\\_RIJsetF5Jb-GVCIX0M](https://www.bworldonline.com/duterte-orders-mining-freeze-in-tumbagaan-tawi-tawi/?fbclid=IwAR2Dp_UAYQ2i3XfhgdcCRa2-AiN5NWFUTQcm6i7R_RIJsetF5Jb-GVCIX0M)



## Duterte stops mining on ‘devastated’ Tawi-Tawi

By [Reuters](#) - January 13, 2021 - 12:11 PM



President Rodrigo Roa Duterte presides over the 50th Cabinet Meeting at the Malacañang Palace on January 11, 2021. (Presidential photo/Alberto Alcain)

MANILA — Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has ordered a halt to all mining on an island in a southern province that is home to some of the country’s nickel projects, a Cabinet official said on Tuesday.

Duterte was “very much concerned” about reports that the Tumbagan Island in Languyan, in Tawi-Tawi province, has been “completely devastated” by mining activities, Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles said in a media briefing.

“The island has, at this point, been mined out. And while rehabilitation efforts are under way, the president is issuing a directive to stop any and all mining,” he said.

Duterte also directed authorities to step up the island’s rehabilitation by planting more trees, Nograles said.

Mining operations in Tawi-Tawi are not closely monitored by the Philippines’ Mines and Geosciences Bureau because the province is within an autonomous region.

Duterte’s order does not cover the country’s nickel mining hub in Caraga region.

In 2019 SR Languyan Mining Corp, one of the miners operating in Tawi-Tawi, said the island’s ore deposits, which were considered high-grade material, were nearly depleted after years of continuous ore extraction.

The Philippines has become the biggest supplier of nickel ores to top metals consumer China since Indonesia banned the export of unprocessed minerals in January last year.

The Southeast Asian country’s mostly low-grade material is used in producing nickel pig iron, the main ingredient for stainless steel.

Since he assumed power in 2016, Duterte has repeatedly threatened to shut down the country’s mining industry, castigating miners for damaging the environment.

—Reporting by Enrico Dela Cruz Editing by David Goodman

Source: <https://interaksyon.philstar.com/politics-issues/2021/01/13/183487/duterte-stops-mining-on-devastated-tawi-tawi/>





News5  
19h · 🌐

Itinuturing na nickel hub ang Tumbagaan Island. Karaniwang ginagamit ang nickel sa paggawa ng barya, baterya, at iba pa.



👍❤️😄 2.7K

263 Comments 146 Shares



# Black sand mining in Leyte town to start despite opposition

By: [Joey Gabieta](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[Inquirer Visayas](#) / 12:02 PM January 13, 2021

TACLOBAN CITY -- Despite opposition from environmentalists, a mining firm in MacArthur town in Leyte will start extracting black sand which will be exported to China in January 2021.

Januar Ong, community relations officer of the MacArthur Iron Project Corp. (MIPC), said at least 99,000 metric tons of black sand would be extracted from its "pilot area," which consists of seven hectares of land in Barangay Maya, MacArthur.

"We just completed our trial run last Dec. 14 and we are now in a transition towards commercial operation. Hopefully by January next year, we will start our commercial operation," he said.

Ong said a metric ton of black sand or iron sand, which is used as a component in steel-making and alloys costs \$60 or P2,889.

The company, he said, has leased the 14 hectares property owned by Maya village chairman Pepito Guimalan for three years at P270,000 per hectare a year.

Ong said the company had secured all the necessary permits from concerned government agencies, including the Mineral Production Sharing Agreement (MPSA) from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, as early as 2007.

He said people don't have to fear since a creek located near the mining site had been dredged by the company to ensure that the water wouldn't overflow.

They also planted bamboo along the creek to prevent possible soil erosion and flooding.

Environmentalists, including the parish priest of MacArthur, however, opposed the mining operations.

Fr. Amadeo Alvero, in an open letter, appealed to MIPC to stop its black sand operation, which, he said, could lead to the destruction of the environment and severe flooding.

"In view of what happened to the tremendous and great flooding in Cagayan, Manila, Marikina, and many other places, I am pleading with bended knees to stop the black sand mining here in MacArthur, Leyte. This appeal I made on behalf of those who love and want to protect our environment," the priest said in a post on Facebook.

"And so I am humbly appealing to the deepest of their hearts to help us stop this black sand mining here in MacArthur, Leyte for the sake of those who have died and those who are still suffering because of the great flooding in Cagayan and many other places, and for the sake of those who will suffer and die in the future if we do not protect our environment," he added.

Alvero's letter was addressed not only to the MIPC, but also to local officials of MacArthur headed by Mayor Rudin Babante, Leyte Gov. Leopoldo Dominico Petilla, as well as the regional offices of the DENR.

Source: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1383154/black-sand-mining-in-leyte-town-to-start-despite-opposition>



## Wild birds rescued as poacher nabbed

posted January 13, 2021 at 11:25 pm

by [Jess Malabanan](#)

City of San Fernando—Environmental and police authorities rescued Tuesday 3 wild birds while in captivity at a residential compound of a suspected wildlife poacher following raid at Barangay Pasong Callos, San Rafael, Bulacan.

Arnold Santos, who claimed ownership of the wild birds including two Crested Serpent Eagles and a white Waterhen, was arrested, and placed under police custody, said Dennis Vergara, head of the City Environment and Natural Resources Office stationed in Baliuag City.

Vergara said the rescue of wild birds was a result of heightened campaign by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) against wildlife poachers in its bid to preserve and save the remaining biodiversity in Central Luzon.

He said a resident in the community called his office asking for assistance to rescue wild birds under captivity by an enterprising person. The birds will be sold apparently to enthusiasts from Metro Manila.

CENRO Vergara quickly coordinated with the local police in Baliuag City for the rescue operations. The raiding team found two raptors and a wild hen being kept inside Santos residential compound.

During investigation, Vergara said the suspect admitted he owned the wild birds but failed to show documents or permit from the DENR.

“Charges have been filed in court against the suspect the suspect for violating Republic Act (RA) No. 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2001.” said Vergara.

He said that mere possession or collection of wild birds of any species is unlawful and punishable under the law. Wild birds collectors must secure permit from DENR.

CENRO Vergara urged residents in the community to report to the nearest DENR office any illegal wildlife trade and online selling.

The rescued wild birds are now under the custody of the DENR-Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) in Quezon City to undergo care and treatment before it will be released back to an area where they belong.

The White-Breasted Waterhen has been released in the forested areas of Bulacan since it was in a pink of health.





# Endangered species, marijuana huli sa NAIA

Wednesday, January 13, 2021 Vic Reyes13

**LALO** pang pinaigting ng mga tauhan ng Bureau of Customs (BoC) ang pagbabantay sa mga bodega ng air cargo terminal sa NAIA.

Ito ay upang bantayan ang mga pagtatangkang magpasok sa bansa ng mga illicit na produkto at bagay na nangangailangan ng permit.

Sinabi ni BoC-NAIA District Collector Mimel S. Manahan-Talusan na may utos si BoC Chief Rey Guerrero na higit pa ngang paigtingin ang border protection campaign.

Kaugnay nito, noon ngang nakaraang linggo ay naka-intercept ang BoC-NAIA ng mga puslit na tarantula at scorpion.

Sa isang pakete ay nakita ng mga tauhan ni Collector Talusan ang 20 tarantula at walong scorpion.

Parehong makamandag at endangered species, ang mga gagamba at scorpion ay galing Thailand.

Ang pakete ay idineklarang naglalaman ng mga *“teaching equipment.”*

Kaagad na ibinigay ng BoC-NAIA ang mga kontrabando sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Noong Oktubre 2020 ay nakakumpiska ang BoC-NAIA ng mahigit isang daang tarantula galing Poland.

Ang mga gagamba ay nakalagay sa mga de gomang sapatos.

Ang BoC ay kaisa ng DENR laban sa tinatawag na wildlife smuggling.

Isang *“lucrative”* na negosyo ang pagpupuslit ng mga endangered species na halaman at animals.

\*\*\*

Dalawang lalake ang inaresto ng Bureau of Customs (BoC) habang kini-claim ang isang air parcel galing Estados Unidos.

Ang pakete ay naka-consign sa isang Dimitria Escalona ng Batangas.

Ang pakete ay naglalaman ng 500 gramo ng tuyong dahon ng marijuana at hindi *“musical instruments.”*

Dumating sa bansa ang parcel sa pamamagitan ng Fedex-Pasay city.

Ang air parcel ay padala ng isang Nina Manuel ng California, USA.

Ang mga hinuli ng BoC-NAIA, PDEA at NAIA Inter-Agency Drug Interdiction Task Group ay sina Van Joshua Magpantay at Johnyengle Hernandez.

Ang marijuana ay nagkakahalaga ng P600,000.

Noong isang linggo ay nakasakote rin ang BoC-NAIA ng 535 ecstasy tablets sa Central Mail Exchange Center sa Pasay City.

Nagkakahalaga ng P1 milyon, ang droga ay galing sa The Netherlands.

Congrats sa mga taga BoC-NAIA.



\*\*\*

Nagsimula nang magparamdam ang mga kakandidato sa darating na national at local elections.

Sa Oktubre na kasi ang paghahain ng mga Certificate of Candidacy (CoC) para sa May 9, 2022 polls.

Sa tingin natin ay kanya-kanya ng bulong ang mga nagbabalak tumakbo sa mga lider ng mga partido politikal.

Lalo na sa mga nagbabalak na kumandidato sa pagka-presidente, bise presidente at senador.

Sa dami ng gustong kumandidato, sigurado na naman ang "*batuhan ng putik*."

Kinakabahan na rin ang mga opisyal ng BoC. Mahirap kasi, baka may mga nagbabalak na namang manghingi ng campaign fund sa kanila.

Sana wala, kawawa naman ang mga kaibigan natin sa aduana.

Hindi naman nila pinupulot ang pera.

Kung may mangilan-ngilang gumagawa ng kalokohan, karamihan naman sa kanila ay pinaghihirapan ang pagkita ng pera.

(Para sa inyong komento at suhestiyon, tumawag o mag-text sa #0921-4765430/email: tingnan natin08@gmail.com. Ilagay lang ang buong pangalan at tirahan).



## 28 BUHAY AT MAKAMANDAG NA SCORPIONS, TARANTULAS NASABAT NG BOC-NAIA

10 hours ago [jake](#)



NAHARANG ng mga tauhan ng Bureau of Customs Port of NAIA (BOC-NAIA) ang isang package na naglalaman ng kabuuang 20 endangered tarantula spiders at 8 scorpions na illegally smuggled sa pamamagitan ng Central Mail Exchange Center (CMEC) noong Enero 6, 2021.

Ang dalawampung walong (28) plastic containers na kinalalagyan ng tarantulas at scorpions ay nakita nang buksan ang nasabing package.

Lumalabas sa records na ang bagahe ay nagmula sa Samut Parakain, Thailand na idineklara bilang "Teaching equipment", at imported na walang kaukulang import permits.

Ang tarantulas at scorpions ay agad na inilipat at itinurnover sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources Wildlife Traffic Monitoring Unit (DENR WTMU) para sa rehabilitasyon at pag-iingat.

Matatandaan noong nakaraang Oktubre 2020, ang BOC NAIA ay nakasabat din ng 119 tarantulas mula Poland na inilagay sa isang pares ng rubber shoes.

Kaugnay nito, nabatid na ang illegal importation, collection at trade ng endangered wildlife ay may pagkakakulong ng anim (6) na taon at multa ng Php200,000.00 sa ilalim ng Republic Act 9147 o ang Wildlife Resources Protection and Conservation Act.

Sa kabilang banda, sa ilalim naman ng Section 1401 ng CMTA, ang labag sa batas na importasyon ng goods na nakilatis ang halaga ng mahigit sa Php250,000.00 kasama ng duties and taxes, ay may kaukulang pagkakakulong ng hindi bababa ng mahigit 30-araw subalit hindi lalagpas ng 6 na buwan, o multa na hindi bababa ng Php25,000.00, subalit naman lalagpas ng mahigit sa Php75,000.00.

Ayon kay District Collector Carmelita M. Talusan, ang pagkakasabat ng nasabing mga makamandag na mga wildlife ay pagtupad sa direktiba ni BOC Commissioner Rey Leonardo B. Guerrero sa pinaigting border protection, patuloy na pagbabantay sa air cargo terminals at warehouses 24/7 na pag-check sa ilegal na mga kalakal na kung saan nangangailangan ng mga kaukulang permits.

Ang Bureau of Customs NAIA ay kaisa ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa paninindigan sa pangangalaga at protection ng wildlife at pigilan ang wildlife smuggling.

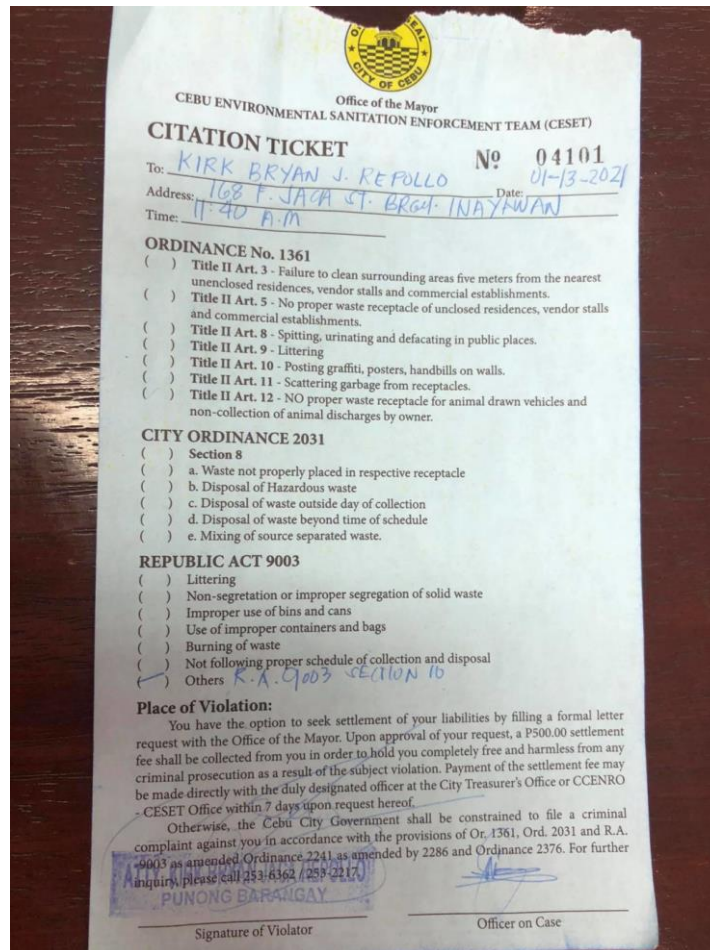
Source: [http://saksingayon.com/inside-aduana/28-buhay-at-makamandag-na-scorpions-tarantulas-nasabat-ng-boc-naia/?utm\\_source=ReviveOldPost&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_campaign=ReviveOldPost&fbclid=IwAR2jRQ3aDOj0\\_4hG3jZzixXZXS9eWYqFKLDc5Q5iar7F2r4EAaHffcVhNtg](http://saksingayon.com/inside-aduana/28-buhay-at-makamandag-na-scorpions-tarantulas-nasabat-ng-boc-naia/?utm_source=ReviveOldPost&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=ReviveOldPost&fbclid=IwAR2jRQ3aDOj0_4hG3jZzixXZXS9eWYqFKLDc5Q5iar7F2r4EAaHffcVhNtg)





# Inayawan gets cited for uncollected garbage after village chief sues Labella

By: Delta Dyrecka Letigio - CDN Digital Multi-Media Reporter | January 13, 2021 - 06:39 PM



After filing charges against Cebu City Mayor Edgardo Labella and Department of Public Services head, Lawyer John Jigo Dacua, for the uncollected garbage in their barangay, Inayawan Barangay Captain Kirk Bryan Repollo was issued citations for the same offense.

CEBU CITY, Philippines — Inayawan Barangay Captain Kirk Bryan Repollo was cited for violation of Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, days after he filed administrative charges against Cebu City Mayor Edgardo Labella and Department of Public Services head, Lawyer John Jigo Dacua, for the uncollected garbage in his barangay.

Repollo told CDN Digital that the barangay received the citation on Wednesday morning, January 13, 2021, but the citation officer from the City Environment Natural Resources Office (CENRO) did not explain why the barangay was cited.

CDN Digital tried to reach CENRO head, Engineer Editha Peros, but the department head could not be reached for comment.

The citation ticket shows that the barangay violated Section 10 of the law.

Section 10 of the RA 9003 states that the [Role of LGUs in Solid Waste Management](#), “Pursuant to the relevant provisions of R.A. No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code, the LGUs shall be primarily responsible for the implementation and enforcement of the provisions of this Act within their respective jurisdictions.”



“Segregation and collection of solid waste shall be conducted at the barangay level specifically for biodegradable, compostable and reusable wastes: *Provided*, That the collection of non-recyclable materials and special wastes shall be the responsibility of the municipality or city,” read part of the provision.

Repollo said that there is no clear violation stated by the citation ticket and said it may be a political maneuver because of the case he filed against the city officials.

The village chief suspects it may have been due to the uncollected garbage in the barangay, which they have a hard time collecting on time due to the lack of garbage trucks and the distance between the new disposal site at Barangay Binaliw.

Mayor Edgardo Labella already said in a previous statement that the city’s responsibility is to ensure that there is proper disposal of the garbage while the barangays have a responsibility to collect them.

Labella called the move of Repollo a cheap shot and urged him to read the provisions of the Solid Waste Management Act to be reminded of the responsibilities of the barangay.

As for the cited village chief, he said the citation was an even cheaper shot.

“Unsa nga portion sa Section 10 sa RA 9003 akong violation? Kay nakabutang sa Section 10 raba kay Barangay ug CITY ang mokolekta sa basura?”

“So if filing sa Ombudsman is a cheap shot, using the Mayor’s office thru CCENRO is what man? Super cheap shot?” said Repollo in a Facebook post.

Repollo urged the city government to explain the citation and what the penalties would be as the provisions of the law do not provide penalties for the given violation.

He urged the city government to face the charges fairly as well. /rcg

Source: [https://cebudailynews.inquirer.net/359092/inayawan-gets-cited-for-uncollected-garbage-after-village-chief-sues-labella?fbclid=IwAR2O9tV3DdstN1GDCax9gC3\\_T2f5nQNac98\\_dFeN3H13TZLG8IeZ6SpK-uVk](https://cebudailynews.inquirer.net/359092/inayawan-gets-cited-for-uncollected-garbage-after-village-chief-sues-labella?fbclid=IwAR2O9tV3DdstN1GDCax9gC3_T2f5nQNac98_dFeN3H13TZLG8IeZ6SpK-uVk)



# Yes to budget for people, not basura

By [Cherry Piquero Balleascas](#)(The Freeman) - January 14, 2021 - 12:00am

As fit for any useless rubbish, the present Charter Change plan among House representatives should immediately be thrown away and disposed of definitively, soonest this January, which has been marked as National Zero Waste Month.

Despite their disclaimer that their ChaCha plan will only involve economic matters that will ensure more investments badly needed by an unstable economy hit by COVID, do you honestly believe they will keep to their word and not be more shamelessly emboldened to revise the present constitution to extend their terms of office? Do you think the legislators will not proceed to seize the moment to ensure their longer stay in power?

Their line of defense for the ChaCha to aid a pandemic-hit economy does not also hold. What guarantees are there that foreign economic investments will benefit our people, our country and not just some vested interests and businesses?

Congress has not even investigated and confirmed which of our Philippine territories are still ours and not claimed unlawfully by any foreign country.

Revising the charter now, opening Philippine economy and resources officially and more widely to foreign control and ownership within the present dispensation where transparency and accountability are not practiced is tantamount to selling our patrimony cheaply to the highest bidder, and without our consent, without the consent of the Filipino people.

Charter changes require the approval and agreement of the Filipino people. Charter change is the prerogative, the right of every Filipino to participate in and decide together, as a nation, as a whole country. How dare these few legislators take away this right of the Filipino people and usurp the decision making and charter change among themselves!

**NO TO CHACHA!** Protect our national patrimony, our national territories for our own people!

Claim and protect every Filipino's right to participate and decide on any charter change! Ibasura ang ChaCha, now na!





Please make your protest heard by those who choose to hear only their own voices and interests! Join all others and unite to stop ChaCha now!

To show their good faith, if the pro-ChaCha legislators genuinely want to help our people during this pandemic, they can do so by suspending Congress now!

The legislators can now go on indefinite leave, without pay! They can instead donate their fat, undeserved salaries and pork barrel to our needy, hungry and poor Filipinos whose numbers are increasing!

In good faith, the legislators should also suspend all non-essential infrastructure and other projects and instead, divert the money for COVID-related support for our people.

Yes to VACCINES, no to CHACHA! Yes to poverty and hunger alleviation budget to be used for our people now! NO to useless, non-essential congressional projects and allocations now! Yes to pro-people budget, no to pro-politicians' budget!

And talking of pro-people budget, legislators and other local officials can rethink any Waste to Energy (WTE) or any garbage-truck collection/disposal budget and projects and instead, resort to more-labor intensive, income/livelihood generating waste management projects especially within this pandemic!

Take the case of Cebu City's P405 million budget for 2021 garbage collection. How many vaccines can be bought, how many poor can be saved from COVID and hunger/poverty if this huge budget were used instead for people rather than for basura?

Waste management does not mean garbage collection and disposal as traditionally and conventionally practiced.

Despite confirmed information that 50% or more of generated garbage are useful items for reusing/recycling and that people can refuse single-use plastics or reduce waste to avoid unhealthy, stinky, smoky mountains of garbage to form, why are so many millions of pesos wasted on basura? Why are these millions not used instead for people?

From this January, ibasura ang ChaCha and yes to budget for people, not basura!

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/the-freeman/opinion/2021/01/14/2070302/yes-budget-people-not-basura/amp/>



# SFA Locsin, New Papal Nuncio reaffirm shared advocacies in migration and climate change

By BSP Published on January 13, 2021

PASAY CITY Jan. 13 -- The Most Reverend Archbishop Charles John Brown, Apostolic Nuncio to the Philippines, paid a courtesy call on Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro L. Locsin, Jr. on 08 January 2021, following his Presentation of Credentials to the President at the Malacañang Palace on 14 December 2020.

Secretary Locsin recognized the instrumental role of Pope Francis in bringing the international community together in support of the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration and underscored President Duterte's call for climate justice during the 37th ASEAN Summit, adding his voice to Pope Francis' plea to save the planet as stewards of creation. Archbishop Brown, on the other hand, highlighted the important contributions of the Filipino community worldwide and the need for justice for migrants in every sector.



From left: Chief Coordinator of the Office of the Secretary Irene Susan B. Natividad, Assistant Secretary of the Office of European Affairs Jaime Victor B. Ledda, Secretary of Foreign Affairs Teodoro L. Locsin, Jr. and The Most Reverend Archbishop Charles John Brown III. (Photo by DFA-OPCD Philip Adrian Fernandez)

Both affirmed commitment to closely working together on shared advocacies in migration and climate change and in the commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the introduction of Christianity in the Philippines and the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and the Holy See. (DFA)



# No urgency in facing climate emergency?

By Rene E. Ofreneo

January 14, 2021



In a life-threatening emergency, urgent and resolute action is imperative. This is the reason why hospitals have ERs and intensive-care units for critically-ill patients.

The world today is facing an existential threat called global warming. Scientists of the UN Environmental Program keep reminding us that a surge in global temperature by over 2.0 degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial era will be catastrophic to humanity. It will unleash more violent storms, prolonged droughts, sea rise (that can swallow whole islands and coastal areas), and so on and so forth.

To prevent this apocalyptic scenario from happening, the UN Member States adopted in 2015 the Paris Agreement, an agreement requiring the signatory States to commit themselves to a twin program of GHG/carbon-reduction and climate adaptation/readiness. Climate change is a global problem, which cannot be stopped without the concerted efforts of all countries.

In line with this, a number of countries have been declaring “climate emergency” as a means to mobilize their populations behind a sweeping climate mitigation-adaptation program backed up by the maximum financial resources possible. In Asia, Japan and South Korea are showing the way: they are restructuring their economies to make them climate resilient and they are abandoning their dependence on coal and fossil fuel by investing heavily on clean energy.

In the case of the Philippines, the policy response is puzzling. The Philippines is in the world’s list of the top five most vulnerable countries to climate change. This is the reason why the Philippine delegation to the Paris Convention in 2015 fought hard not only for the adoption of a global compact to address global warming but also for the inclusion of clauses in the said agreement that recognize the moral and financial responsibility of developed countries. As the world’s leading carbon emitters, these countries have the obligation to help developing countries in covering the cost of the climate adjustment measures.

Now, what is puzzling?

The Philippines, which played a leading role in the 2015 Paris Convention, has become less visible in the follow-up activities that signatory countries must undertake in relation to the agreement. One of these activities is the submission every five years of updated and consolidated “Nationally Determined Contributions” (NDC).

The Philippines missed the 2020 deadline for the submission of its NDC. The Philippine Movement for Climate Justice (PMCJ) and its partner civil society and peoples organizations (CSOs/POs) lamented this failure of the Climate Change Commission (CCC) to make the NDC submission. They explained the importance of NDC as follows:

“NDCs articulate the clear and substantive commitments of governments to the global effort to combat the crisis of climate change....

“NDCs reflect commitments to empower people and communities to deal with its impacts, ensure adaptation and climate resilience efforts; make financial flows consistent with climate-resilient development and decarbonization, and stop global temperature rise at the safest level still possible—below 1.5 degrees Celsius. NDCs are also measures of commitments to pursue immediate and long term actions that are vital to addressing the manifold emergencies that are exacerbated by the climate crisis—such as the urgent and immediate recovery from the unprecedented Covid-19 global pandemic and its economic fall-out.”





The truth is that the CCC appears to be in a slow-motion mode in the drafting of the NDC. In July 2019, a PMCJ delegation, together with the team of the late Sen. Heherson Alvarez, went to the CCC head office to dialogue with the CCC Commissioners and to seek information on how the CCC is updating the country's NDC. No materials were given and none of the Commissioners met with the PMCJ-Alvarez group.

It is now clear why the CCC Commissioners failed to meet with the PMCJ-Alvarez group. No NDC draft was ready and available in 2019. The CCC started consultations on the proposed NDC only in late 2020. In fact, the CCC consultation with the country's environmental groups was arranged only on December 23, 2020.

The December CCC-CSO consultation process, a two-hour event, was also shallow. No draft NDC was circulated before and during the consultation. Inputs came mainly in the form of an overview powerpoint presentation on climate change and the Paris Agreement by the CCC, followed by summary presentations by select government line agencies such as the DENR and DOE on what they deem the country can contribute under the Agreement. In short, there was no time and opportunity for the participants to scrutinize if the proposed "contributions" being presented in outline form are meaningful, inclusive, substantive and truly contributory to the global battle against climate change.

The point is that the NDC should be a collaborative effort of all sectors because climate change is the concern of the whole society. The CCC itself has written that the NDC should secure the support of the people through a whole-of-government-whole-of-society approach. The CCC also listed four pro-people "non-negotiable elements" in the drafting of the NDC: sustainable industrial development, poverty eradication and provision of basic needs, securing social and climate justice, and energy security.

Why then the failure to communicate and do consultation on time? Why the failure to be fully transparent?

The NDC should be a product of an exhaustive process of popular consultation. After all, it involves the Filipino people who are facing an emergency situation on various fronts—climate, health and economic. The NDC should be a people's survival roadmap under climate change.



## Insentibo sa kompanyang may “green” projects, tinabla; ban sa single-use plastic ikakasa



January 13, 2021 @ 11:15 AM 20 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines – Kasabay ng pangunguna sa Climate Change Commission ni Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III isinusulong niya ang nationwide ban sa single-use plastic.

“Why don’t we have something solid to achieve in this last 18 months. Why don’t we pass legislation on single-use plastic?” ani Dominguez sa virtual meeting ng Management Association of the Philippines.

Sinabi rin ng CCC chief na ito ang magiging prayoridad ng komisyon sa kanyang pamumuno.

“We don’t have a lot of time left, so let’s limit our efforts to getting something important passed and this is doable.”

Matagal at marami nang mga panukalang isinusulong sa Kongreso ukol sa pagbabawal sa single-use plastic products tulad ng utensils, cups, at plastic bags pero hanggang ngayon ay nakabinbin pa rin ito sa Kongreso.

Sa kabila nito, naka-ban na ang mga nasabing produkto sa lahat ng opisina ng gobyerno simula pa noong Pebrero 2020. Maging ang ilang lokal na gobyerno ay nagkasa ng kanya-kanyang ordinansa ukol dito.

Sa kabila nito, inayawan naman ni Dominguez ang pagbibigay insentibo sa mga kompanyang nagsasagawa ng “green” projects.

“Why is everybody looking for incentives? If it’s a good thing, you do it yourself,” ani Dominguez. **RNT**

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/insentibo-sa-kompanyang-may-green-projects-tinabla-ban-sa-single-use-plastic-ikakasa/>



# Solon pushes for exemptions in land ownership by foreigners

By Filane Mikee Cervantes January 13, 2021, 7:57 pm



Marikina City Rep. Stella Quimbo

MANILA – A lawmaker at the House of Representatives on Wednesday said allowing exemptions to land ownership by foreigners is one way to attract foreign capital and help the economy recover from the adverse effects of the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic.

Marikina City Rep. Stella Quimbo said the Constitutional provision prohibiting land ownership by foreigners could be amended by adding the clause “unless otherwise provided by law”, which would allow Congress to qualify permissible land ownership.

"Bakit natin pipigilin ang pag-aari ng lupa ng isang dayuhan kung kaya naman nyang palaguin ang lupa at mag-empleyo ng maraming Pilipino? Pero kung papayagan natin ito, dapat lagyan ng safeguards (Why should we prohibit land ownership by a foreigner when he can increase the land and employ many Filipinos? But if we allow this, we should put up safeguards)," Quimbo said in a statement.

Quimbo said in other countries, such as Thailand, the general rule is that foreigners are not allowed to own land but there are exceptions where they are allowed to do so for residential purposes, or for commercial activities in tourist spots, or for business purposes within economic zones.

"Baka pwedeng tulad nito ang gawing modelo ng Pilipinas. (We can replicate this model in the Philippines) We can allow land ownership by foreigners only for specific purposes like manufacturing or tourism. We can disallow the purchase by foreigners of land for purposes of investment or speculation," she said.

Quimbo said the clause, “unless otherwise provided for by law”, is a necessary amendment to the economic provisions in Article XII of the Constitution.

"Congress needs the flexibility to debate and discuss and properly calibrate the restrictions and make them more competitive for foreign investments at least in the Asean and more responsive to an ever-changing economy," she added.

The House Committee on Constitutional Amendments resumed its hearing to tackle Resolution of Both Houses (RBH) No. 2 authored by Speaker Lord Allan Velasco, which seeks to amend restrictive provisions of the Constitution by adding the phrase “unless otherwise provided by law” to sections of Articles XII, XIV and XVI. (PNA)



# MR.D.I.Y. PHL making an impact on the environment

By [BMPlus](#)

January 13, 2021



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) Ms. 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 100<sup>th</sup> store opening at SM Hypermarket Novaliches, I would like to sincerely thank our valued customers who supported this campaign, our hardworking team of MR.DIYers 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 Three Hundred Seventy-Four Thousand Seventy Four pesos (Php375,074.00) was received by Ms. Sarah Agcaoli, Officer-in-Charge & Operations Head and Mr. Mar Zeri Ramirez, Officer-in-Charge & 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, please visit **MR. D.I.Y.** official Facebook at @mrdiyPH and corporate website at [www.mrdiy.com/ph](http://www.mrdiy.com/ph).

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/01/13/mr-d-i-y-phl-making-an-impact-on-the-environment/>





PUWEDE PANG 'CHARGER'

## Mga estudyante, nakaimbento ng tsinelas mula sa basurang plastic

Enero 13, 2021 7:01pm GMT+08:00

Dahil matagal nang problema ang basura na isa sa mga dahilan ng pagbaha, nakaimbento ang ilang estudyante ng teknolohiya para mag-recycle ng plastic para gawing tsinelas--with charger pa.

Sa programang "iJuander," itinampok nina Nayah Nicole Mendoza, Denise Carpio at Abigail Silva, mga estudyante ng Dr. Yanga's College at miyembro ng Philippine Robotics Team, ang kanilang Project Footwear through Environmentally-Enriching/Empowering Technology (FEET).

Maaring gamitin sa Project Feet ang mga plastic na Type 1, tulad sa mga bottled water, at Type 5, na ginagamit sa mga tupperwear dahil ito ang mga kadalasang ginagamit sa araw-araw pero tinatapon lang din pagkatapos.

Pagpipirasu-pirasuhin ng Project FEET ang plastic, saka ito tutunawin sa molde na hugis ng paa. Pagkalipas ang dalawang oras, hugis-tsinelas na ang plastic.

Mula sa namoldeng tsinelas, nilagyan nila ito ng piezo discs para makagawa ng elektrisidad kapag tinatapakan na puwedeng mag-imbak ng enerhiya bilang "powerbank" at maging cellphone charger din.

Dahil sa kanilang imbensiyon, nakuha nila ang gold medal sa World Robot Olympiad sa Canada, na sinalihan ng mahigit 700 mag-aaral na galing sa 40 bansa.

Bukod dito, bumuo rin ng aparato ang mga Electronics and Communications Engineering students ng De La Salle University na nangongolekta ng basura sa ibabaw ng dagat.

Pinangalanan nila itong Project Patches Withdrawn Kept Away from Nature (Pawikan), na dalawang bangka na may lambat sa gitna kung saan iipunin ang mga basura. Meron itong camera para mapaandar ang aparato sa pamamagitan ng laptop. -- **FRJ, GMA News**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/balitambayan/talakayan/771640/mga-estudyante-nakaimbento-ng-tsinelas-mula-sa-basurang-plastic/story/>



**News5** 19h · 🌐

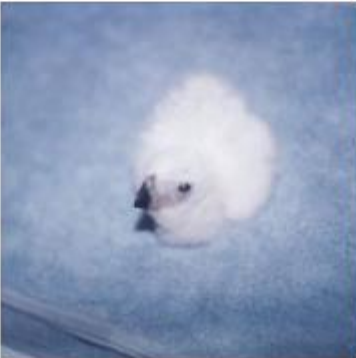
Ibinahagi ng Philippine Eagle Foundation ang mga larawan ng agilang si Pag-asa noong siya'y maliit pa habang kasama ang nanay niyang si Diola at tatay na si Junior. 🙋

Namatay si Pag-asa dahil sa impeksyong dulot ng Trichomoniasis at Aspergillosis.

RELATED POST: [bit.ly/2Xj2Q7v](https://bit.ly/2Xj2Q7v)

🏠 Philippine Eagle Foundation





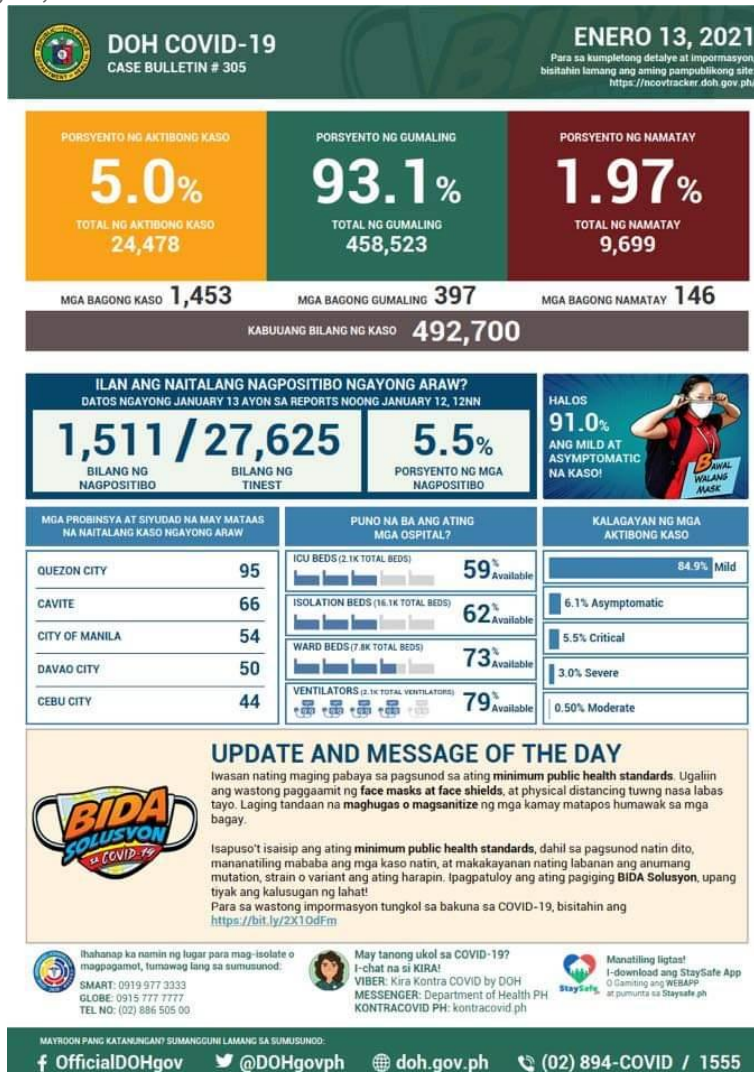

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# BREAKING: Kaso ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas, higit 492,000 na

By Angellic Jordan January 13, 2021 - 04:11 PM



Lagpas 1,000 ang panibagong kaso ng Coronavirus Disease o COVID-19 sa Pilipinas.

Sa huling datos ng Department of Health (DOH) bandang araw ng Miyerkules (January 13), umabot na sa 492,700 ang confirmed cases ng nakakahawang sakit sa bansa.

Sa nasabing bilang, 24,478 o 5.0 porsyento ang aktibong kaso.

Sinabi ng kagawaran na 1,453 ang bagong napaulat na kaso ng COVID-19 sa bansa.

84.9 porsyento sa active COVID-19 cases ang mild; 6.1 porsyento ang asymptomatic; 0.50 porsyento ang moderate; 3.0 porsyento ang severe habang 5.5 porsyento ang nasa kritikal na kondisyon.

Nasa 146 naman ang napaulat na nasawi.

Dahil dito, umakyat na sa 9,699 o 1.97 porsyento ang COVID-19 related deaths sa bansa.

Ayon pa sa DOH, 397 naman ang gumaling pa sa COVID-19.

Dahil dito, umakyat na sa 458,523 o 93.1 porsyento ang total recoveries ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas.

Source: <https://radyo.inquirer.net/282869/breaking-kaso-ng-covid-19-sa-pilipinas-higit-492000-na>





# DOH confirms UK Covid-19 variant now in PH

January 13, 2021, 8:37 pm

MANILA – The Department of Health (DOH) and the Philippine Genome Center (PGC) on Wednesday confirmed the detection of the B.1.1.7. SARS-CoV-2 variant (UK variant) in the country after samples from a Filipino who arrived from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Jan. 7 yielded positive genome sequencing results.

DOH, in a press release, said the patient is a male resident of Quezon City who left for Dubai on Dec. 27, 2020 for business trip and arrived in the Philippines last Jan. 7 via Emirates Flight No. EK 332.

The patient was swabbed and quarantined in a hotel upon arrival.

The positive test result was released the following day and the patient was referred to a quarantine facility in Quezon City while his samples were sent to PGC for whole genome sequencing.

The patient was also accompanied by his female partner during his trip, but she tested negative for SARS-CoV-2 upon arrival.

The female is currently under strict quarantine and monitoring.

Both returning Filipinos had no exposure to a confirmed case prior to their departure to Dubai nor had any travel activities outside Quezon City.

DOH said immediate contact tracing was done in close coordination with the QC government, and the initially identified contacts are asymptomatic and currently under strict home quarantine.

The DOH said it continues to work closely with the QC government to ensure timely and effective measures are in place to mitigate transmission.

DOH added that it has also secured the flight manifest of the flight in question and contact tracing of other passengers is now underway.

DOH advised those who were aboard Emirates Flight No. EK 332 to get in touch with their BHERTs.

Meanwhile, DOH said weekly genomic biosurveillance among incoming passengers, local cases, re-infected patients, and those with reported clustering of cases will be intensified.

The DOH has also coordinated with the Department of Interior and Local Government for the expansion of contact tracing to include third-generation close contacts for known B.1.1.7 cases.

All close contacts of confirmed B.1.1.7 cases shall also undergo strict 14-day facility-based quarantine.

Following the detection of the more transmissible UK variant here in the country, DOH said mode of transmission has not changed.

DOH said this means the minimum public health standards remain to be the effective measure against the spread of the disease.

The DOH reiterates its call to national government agencies, local government units, and the public for stricter observance of the minimum public health standards and stricter implementation of quarantine protocols to further mitigate the risk of acquiring the virus and slow down possible mutations. (PR)





# Duterte hopes UK Covid strain not ‘more dangerous’ than original

By Ruth Abbey Gita-Carlos [January 14, 2021, 12:06 am](#)



UK VARIANT. President Rodrigo Roa Duterte presides over a meeting with the Inter-Agency Task Force on the Emerging Infectious Diseases core members prior to his talk to the people at the Malago Clubhouse in Malacañang Park, Manila on Wednesday night (Jan. 13, 2021). Duterte is hoping that the new strain of Covid-19, also known as UK variant, would not be “more dangerous and more toxic” than the original variant. (Presidential photo by Richard Madelo)

MANILA – President Rodrigo Duterte on Wednesday pinned hope that the new strain of the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) first reported in the United Kingdom (UK) would not be “more dangerous and toxic” than the original variant.

This, after the Department of Health (DOH) confirmed the detection of the first case of B.1.1.7. SARS-CoV-2 variant, also known as the UK variant, in the Philippines.

Duterte also expressed hope that the “new monster” that was able to enter the country would not cause more harm to Filipinos.

“*Nag-mutate, may bagong monster na naman* (There was a mutation [of Covid-19] and it’s a new monster). And I prayed to God really na sana hindi ito (that it is not) more dangerous, more toxic than the original Covid,” he said.

Duterte’s statement came on the same day the DOH announced that the Philippine Genome Center confirmed the detection of the UK variant in the Philippines after samples from a Filipino who returned home from the United Arab Emirates on Jan. 7 yielded positive genome sequencing results.

The male patient with the new strain of Covid-19 is a resident of Quezon City who flew to Dubai on Dec. 27 for business purposes and arrived in the Philippines on Jan. 7 via Emirates Flight No. EK 332.

The patient was with his partner who tested negative for Covid-19 upon arrival.

Immediate contact tracing

The new Covid-19 variant reported in the European nation is more infectious than the original coronavirus strain.

However, there is no evidence yet that the new strain is deadlier than the original variant of Covid-19.

In a bid to prevent the further spread of the UK variant in the country, Duterte directed Health Secretary Francisco Duque III to trace the people who may have been exposed to the couple.

“*So importante ito kung sino ‘yung mga taong kinausap nila pagdating nila*. It’s very important kung sinu-sino ‘yung mga tao. *Kaya ilalabas itong tracing* (It’s important to identify the close contacts. It is very important to know the people with possible exposure to the couple. So, there will be contact tracing),” he said.

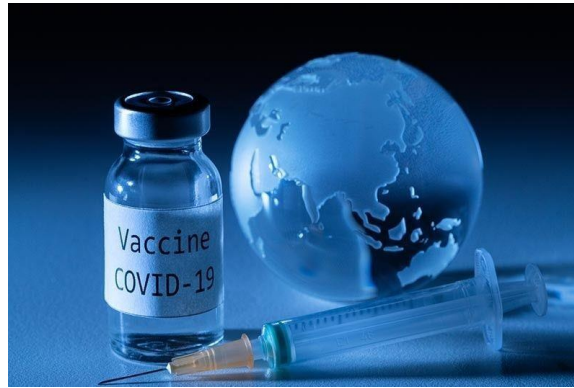


He added that close contacts would be tested immediately “for their own good.”

“*Ngayong gabi, pupuntahan nila* (Tonight, they will contact them to) make sure para (so) we can take steps to isolate, sequester, and maybe treat them na hindi na sana mapasa sa iba (so it would no longer be transmitted to other people),” he said.

On Wednesday, the Quezon City Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit said it has conducted contact tracing on the male patient’s close contacts upon his arrival.

Among those who have had exposure to the patient are health workers at the isolation facility where he was brought, and the barangay health emergency response team that brought him from the hotel to the quarantine facility. (PNA)



Philippine Information Agency (PIA) director-general Ramon Cualoping III said a series of town hall meetings with health workers' groups and local governments would be held this week to discuss the government's vaccination program.

AFP/Joel Saget

## Government sets nationwide info drive on vaccines

[Alexis Romero](#) (The Philippine Star) - January 14, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The government is embarking on a nationwide information drive on vaccination against COVID-19 to counter what it described as “fake news” about vaccines, an official said yesterday.

Philippine Information Agency (PIA) director-general Ramon Cualoping III said a series of town hall meetings with health workers' groups and local governments would be held this week to discuss the government's vaccination program.

He said the government's vaccine cluster has allowed communication teams to go to priority areas to explain how the administration intends to carry out the COVID-19 inoculation.

“Previously, we conducted CODE (coordinated operations to defeat epidemic) visits to explain, explain, explain to the people the mechanisms on how to avoid COVID-19. Now, we will also go around the Philippines again to state the plan of the national government with regard to the vaccines,” Cualoping said at a televised press briefing.

“We know that fake news is spreading... We will talk to our stakeholders, the local government executives, sectoral leaders...But I think the most important is our coordination with our health care workers,” he added.

Cualoping said the meetings with the Philippine Medical Association and the Philippine Nurses Association would be held on Thursday and Saturday.

The Presidential Communications Operations Office and state-run media outlets Radyo Pilipinas, PTV-4 and IBC-13 would also be involved in the information campaign, he added.

“We need to have the health care workers as partners because they are our frontliners who will talk to the people about vaccines,” Cualoping said.

Meanwhile, some officials said they would take COVID-19 vaccines from China only if instructed by the national government.



The officials, who spoke on condition they are not named, said they will look at the vaccines from other pharmaceutical companies for their families.

#### 'Vaccines safe'

People from poor communities should not worry if their local officials could not procure their own COVID-19 vaccines as the national government is ready to step in and provide them with safe immunization brands, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) said yesterday.

DILG spokesman Undesecretary Jonathan Malaya gave the assurance in response to concerns that poor local government units (LGUs) would not be able to purchase vaccines of their choice.

Malaya explained that the vaccines would be examined by a panel of medical experts and the Food and Drug Administration to ensure the vaccines are safe.

The Department of Health (DOH) also reiterated that COVID-19 vaccines to be chosen by the government would be safe and effective.

AtIn a briefing, DOH Undersecretary Maria Rasario Vergeire said if a vaccine is given emergency use authorization (EAU) by the FDA, it means that it underwent a regulatory process and has been approved for use in the country.

"This is how the government is choosing the vaccines that it will procure... All the clinical trials that manufacturers have conducted for their vaccines, we study them all thoroughly," Vergeire said.

#### Vaccine rollout

In another development, Sen. Bong Go said the national government is targeting to start the rollout of COVID-19 vaccines before the end of the first quarter of 2021.

"Right now our national government expects that, hopefully, before the end of the first quarter, we will be able to start injecting. We just make sure the vaccine is safe to buy," Go said.

Go, chair of the Senate committee on health, said he would see to it that the poor and vulnerable sectors will be prioritized for the vaccine.

However, he continued to urge the government to ramp up its information dissemination campaign to build vaccine confidence among Filipinos.

"The info campaign should be intensified, and every Filipino should understand what the benefits of this vaccine are because many of our kababayans still have fear and attitude. Teach, you go first because they are still afraid," he said, referring to vaccine czar Secretary Carlito Galvez Jr. – **Sheila Crisostomo, Emmanuel Tupas, Cecille Suerte Felipe**





## NAMAMATAY SA COVID-19 DUMARAMI AT BAGONG SALOT NA VARIANT



January 14, 2021 @ 12:43 AM 7 hours ago

TULOY-tuloy ang pagbaba ng ranggo ng Pilipinas sa mga bansang may pinakamaraming kaso ng coronavirus disease o COVID-19.

Nagsimulang pang-32 na lang ang bansa mula pang-30 simula kamakalawa makaraang pumasok sa pang-31 ang Portugal at pang-30 ang Israel.

Kaya lamang, sumasama naman ang nagaganap sa buhay ng mga biktima.

Nitong magkasunod na araw ng Martes at Miyerkules, may namatay na 138 at 146 na namatay.

Sa naunang dalawang linggo, palaging kulang-kulang sa 10 ang namamatay at nasingitan lang ito ng mahigit 40 at 50.

Kaya naman, naririyang ang panawagan sa lahat na hindi lang mag-ingat ang lahat sa hawaan sa sakit kundi, higit pa, magtulong-tulong laban dito at kamatayang hindi natin alam kung huhupa o lalala.

### COVID-19 VARIANT NARITO NA

Natapos na rin ang paghahayag ng Department of Health na wala pang nakararating na COVID-19 variant o bagong anyo nito sa ating mahal na bansa.

Ito'y dahil may kaso na ito at nasa isang ospital na hindi binanggut ng DOH.

Ito na ba ang kaso na binabanggut ni Kiko Rustia kamakalawa na meron na talagang Mutant na COVID-19 sa Pinas?

Isang mahalaga na dapat malaman sa bagong anyo o variant ng nasabing virus ang higit na mabilis nitong makahawa nang 70 porsyento kumpara sa orig na virus.

Ang mga variant mula sa United Kingdom at South Africa ang pinakamabilis na makahawang variant mula sa mahigit 1,000 bagong anyo ng COVID-19.

Maaaring UK variant umano ang tumama sa Pinoy na pumunta noong Disyembre 28, 2020 sa Dubai at umuwi ito nitong Enero 7 mula sa United Arab Emirates sakay ng Emirates Flight EK 332.



Wala pang patunay na nakamamatay ang variant pero sa karanasan ng UK at South Africa na may magkaibang variant, halos nagdodoble ang nagkakasakit at dumarami ang bilang ng mga namamatay sa kanila.

Paano natin harapin ang ganitong kalagayan na posibleng nakamamatay ang mga variant at maaaring makapagpalala sa pagdami ng mga namamatay ngayon?

## **DUMARAMING NAMAMATAY**

Dapat na tutukan ang nagaganap na pagdami ng mga namamatay.

Hindi tayo dapat basta magrelaks sa mga ulat na kasama sa mga iniulat na namamatay nitong nagdaang mga araw, eh, nito pang buwan ng Disyembre nadale.

Ngayon, kung napuruhan talaga ang isang tao ng virus ng COVID-19, maaaring sanhi ito ng kanyang kamatayan.

Mahirap man o mayaman 'yan at sa katunayan ilan na ang kakilala nating mahirap at milyonyong namatay.

## **IBA ANG MAYAMAN**

Ang mayaman, kung tinamaan ng COVID-19, madaling makapagremedyo ng lunas para maligtas.

Sa telepono lang, alam na kung saan ididiretso ito ng ambulansya para magamot.

At karaniwang magaganda ang mga pasilidad ng mga ospital na pinagdadalhan sa mga ito.

'Yun bang === mamatay na nga lang sila, nabubuhay pa sa pagkilos ng lahat ng uri ng doktor at nurse na kailangan nila.

Handa silang magpakawala ng milyon para lang mabuhay.

Malas na lang sila kung sila'y matuluyan?

Sana naman, kagustuhan lang ni Lord ang pagpanaw nila dahil wala na tayong magagawa rian.

## **MAHIHIRAP TUTUKAN**

Sa kabilang banda, ang mga mahihirap na namamatay sa COVID-19 ang higit na dapat pagtuunan ng pansin ng mga kinauukulan dahil ang mga mayayaman ay kayang itawid ang kanilang mga sarili sa problema.

Halimbawa, karaniwan sa mga mahihirap ang itinatakbo sa iba't ibang ospital sa pamamagitan ng traysikel bago i-admit sa huli ng pang-5, pang-6 o higit pang ospital.



Pagdating doon, naghihintay na sa kanya si kamatayan, lalo na kung walang maibigay na pang-emergency at panimulang gastusin na karaniwang nagkakahalaga ng P30,000 o higit pa.

At karaniwang pagkatapos ng 10 araw, pinalalabas na sila sa ospital dahil marami sa mga ospital ang nakasingil lang sa PhilHealth ng hanggang P100,000.

Kahit pa kritikal ang naging kalagayan ng mga ito at maaaring ikamatay nila ang maagang pagpapalabas sa kanila sa ospital.

Ang mahirap, kahit may sintomas na, hindi ito basta pupunta sa health center o ospital para magpatsekap dahil libre man ang diagnosis, mahal naman ang mga gamot na pinabibili sa mga parmasyang doon nangongomasyon ang mga doktor.

Isang remedyo rito ang mariing pag-abiso sa lahat ng mahihirap na mamamayan na magpatingin sa doktor kung may mga sintomas sila gaya ng kawalan ng panlasa at pang-amoy, lagnat, hirap na paghinga at iba pa.

Dito dapat umaksyon ang lahat ng LGU mula kina kapitan hanggang sa mga mayor sa mga mahihirap na biktima at dapat silang gumarantiya ng ayuda.

Sa totoo lang, mayroon mismong mga kapitbahay ng isang biktimang mahirap na handang magbigay ng ayuda sa abot ng kanilang makakaya gaya na lang ng pamasahang papunta sa tsekap sa doktor o ilang kilong bigas para sa maiiwang pamilya ng biktimang maaaring maospital.

Kung magsasama ang pagkukusa ng mga mamamayan na tumulong at obligasyon ng mga kinauukulan na kumalinga para sa mahihirap, makatitiyak tayo ng hindi pagsirit ng kamatayan.

### **MGA SUPERSREADER**

Sa mga araw na ito sinasabing magsimula tayong mag-ani ng ating itinanim nitong Kapaskuhan at Kapistahan ni Ilim na Nazareno.

Nitong Kapaskuhan, sa pamamagitan ng ating mga pagsisimbang gabi at pamimili ng kung ano-ano para sa pagsalubong ng Pasko at Bagong Taon, nagtanim tayo ng pagbabalewala sa social distancing, siksikan sa mga pampublikong sasakyan at sa bilihan at bentahan ng mga serbisyo at produkto.

Nito namang kapiyestahan ni Ilim na Nazareno, oo nga at may social distancing at may pagsusuot ng mga face mask sa loob ng simbahan ng Quiapo, sa labas naman, kitang-kita ang pagbalewala rin ng social distancing at halos kawalan ng silbi ng face mask sa pagsisiksikan ng mga deboto.

Hindi nakinig ang mga deboto, kasama ang mga vendor ng sari-saring produkto gaya ng mga t-shirt at panyo na may tatak na Ilim na Poong Nazareno, maliliit na rebultong Ilim na Nazareno at iba.



Naniniwala ang ilang eksperto sa kalusugan na naging Super Spreader o Super Tagakalat ng COVID-19 ang dalawang okasyon.

At makaraan ng 14 na araw kaugnay ng Kapaskuhan, maaari nang magsimula nating maranasan ang pagdami ng mga magkakasakit at maaaring mamatay rin.

At nagsimula na nga.

Durugtong na rin dito ang bunga ng kapistahan ng Itim na Nazareno.

Paano ngayong may COVID-19 variant pa na nakahahawa ng mas mabilis at maaaring nakamamatay rin?

### ***KUMILOS, 'WAG LANG MAG-WISH***

Sana naman, hindi maganap ang pinangangambahan ng mga health expert na pagdami ng mga magkakasakit at mamamatay, lalo na ngayong napasok na tayo ng COVID-19 variant.

Pero hindi lang pag-wish ang mga dapat gawin laban sa mga virus ng pandemya.

Sundin natin ang mga health protocol kung tawagin gaya ng tamang social distancing, pagsusuot ng face mask at face shield at pagtatapon ng mga ito, kasama ang iba pang personal protective equipment, sa mga tamang basurahan, laging palaging malinis, tumulong sa mga contact tracing at iba pa.

Sana all ang pagsunod sa mga health protocol, disipilina at batas laban sa pandemya para sa ating kaligtasan sa sakit at kamatayan.





# LPA brings floods, landslides in Dinagat, Surigao

By Alexander Lopez January 13, 2021, 7:23 pm



**NATURAL DISASTER.** The Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office of Dinagat Islands province reports at least 20 landslides and soil erosions along the national highways and local roads, particularly in the towns of Libjo, Tubajon, Basilisa, and San Jose on Wednesday (Jan. 12, 2020). The landslides were triggered by following the heavy rains were caused by the low-pressure area and the tail-end of a frontal system since Tuesday. (Photo courtesy of MIO-Tubajon Official FB Page)

**BUTUAN CITY –** Heavy rains caused by the low-pressure area (LPA) and the tail-end of a frontal system have caused floods and landslides in many areas in the Province of Dinagat Islands (PDI) and Surigao City since Tuesday, officials said Wednesday.

In a statement, the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office (PDRRMO) of Dinagat Islands said the weather systems “have significantly affected the province in terms of access to lifelines” as 20 major landslides along national and local roads occurred.

Soil erosions were also recorded in the mountainous areas in the province as well as flooding in low-lying areas, the PDRRMO added.

“Amidst these challenges under harsh weather conditions, we posted zero casualties. With this, Governor Kaka Bag-ao and the Provincial Government of Dinagat Islands acknowledges the efforts of all DRRMCs, national line response agencies, law enforcement, and public health and safety workers, volunteer responders, private entities, and most of all, our communities for adhering to the precautionary measures implemented for the safety of the general population,” it said.

Based on the Rapid Damage Assessments and Needs Analysis (RDANAs) simultaneously conducted by all LGUs, a total of 558 families or 1,386 individuals in the province were directly affected by the landslides and floods and are now temporarily sheltered in different evacuation centers in the province.

As of Wednesday afternoon, the Paragua Road that connects the towns of Libjo, Tubajon, and Basilisa is cleared and declared passable while clearing operations are still ongoing in the road sections in barangays Jacquez, Matingbe, and Don Ruben in San Jose town.

The PDRRMO also reported that 40 inbound passengers stranded due to the landslides were already fetched by their respective LGUs.

The stranded passengers were also provided with food by the provincial government, the report added.

“A fair weather condition is observed now in the province, however soils are still saturated and high-risk areas are still regulated for engagement. The Provincial DRRM Council still enjoins everyone to refrain from passing through critical road sections as some steep slopes are still moving. Prior to the demobilization of evacuees, all local DRRMCs are advised to initiate home area safety assessments,” the PDRRMO said.

In Surigao City, a total of 78 families or 315 individuals from Barangay Sabang in Surigao City were evacuated on Jan. 12 due to floods.

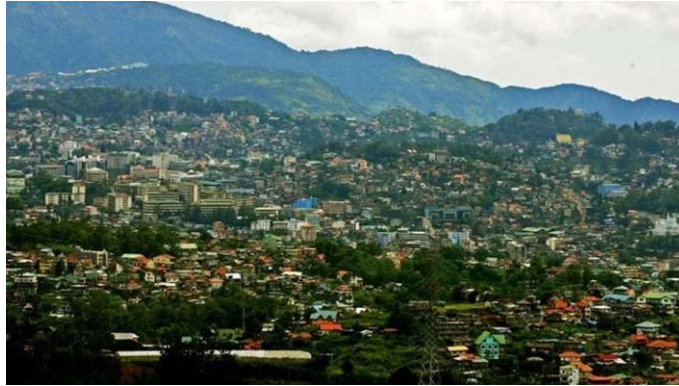


The affected families are sheltered temporarily at the Surigao City National High School, said Mayor Ernesto Matugas Jr., who visited the evacuation center Wednesday to assess the situation of the affected families.

Matugas said the local government has provided the food and other needs of the evacuees. (PNA)



## Mas malamig na panahon aasahan – PAGASA



January 13, 2021 @ 10:38 AM 21 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Aasahan na ang mas malamig na panahon ngayon buwan hanggang Pebrero dala ng amihan ayon sa Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA).

Bumagsak sa 18 degrees Celsius ang temperatura sa Metro Manila.

Maaari pang bumaba sa 9 degrees Celsius ang temperatura sa Baguio City ngayong buwan mula sa 10.4 degrees Celsius pinakamababang naitala sa lungsod.

Ito ay dahil sa malamig na hangin na mula sa Siberia na nagpapalamig sa bansa tuwing Enero at Pebrero.

Naitala ang pinakamalamig na temperatura sa Metro Manila noong Pebrero 4, 1987 at Disyembre 30, 1988 na bumagsak sa 15.1 degrees Celsius ayon sa datos ng PAGASA.

Sa Baguio naman ay nakapagtala ng 6.3 degrees Celsius noong Enero 18, 1961. **RNT/ELM**



# ASEAN body welcomes outcomes of One Planet Summit for Biodiversity

By ACB Published on January 13, 2021

LOS BANOS, Laguna, Jan. 13 -- The ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) has expressed openness to the outcomes of the One Planet Summit, hosted by the French government, United Nations, and World Bank, on 11 January 2021.

"We welcome fresh commitments from world leaders, which the ACB views with much optimism and enthusiasm. These pledges pivot initiatives to conserve and restore ecosystems in the ASEAN region and across the globe, especially now that we are ushering in the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration," ACB Executive Director Theresa Mundita Lim said.

At the summit, governments, such as the United Kingdom (UK) and France, announced earmarking funds for nature-based solutions. UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson said the UK will commit at least GBP 3 billion (USD 4 billion) to climate change solutions that protect and restore nature and biodiversity over five years. The summit also saw USD 10 billion earmarked for the Great Green Wall, a project to restore degraded lands in the Sahel along an 8,000-kilometre band from the Atlantic to the Red Sea, along with new financial commitments from Norway and Germany.

Some 50 nations expressed support for the plan to carve out 30 per cent of global lands and oceans for protection by 2030 (30x30 goals).

"The pledges of governments are of great importance for other regions and subregions. Such commitments could not come at a more opportune time ahead of the 15th meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Kunming, China, where the post-2020 global biodiversity framework is expected to be adopted," Dr. Lim said.

In 2020, the ACB co-organised webinars with Pew Charitable Trusts and the High Ambition Coalition for Nature with the National Geographic Society's Campaign for Nature to raise awareness among the ASEAN Member States on the importance of the 30x30 goals.

Based on the ASEAN's initial inputs to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, resource mobilisation, including setting up a finance mechanism explicitly for biodiversity, is a crucial tool to effectively implement the framework and achieve the 2050 vision.

Meanwhile, in terms of the One Health approach to address existing and emerging outbreaks of diseases, Lim shared the regional and country-level initiatives made in the ASEAN in line with incorporating biodiversity into public health responses and regional development processes during the One Planet summit pre-event webinar "Prevention of Pandemics and Protection of Biodiversity" organised by the World Wide Fund for Nature.

Lim highlighted initiatives in the ASEAN, such as Malaysia's wildlife disease surveillance programme, Indonesia's economic support and livelihood stimulus to ease environmental pressure on protected areas, and Viet Nam's One Health strategy pre-dating the COVID-19 pandemic.

The ACB is an intergovernmental body created by the ASEAN Member States to facilitate cooperation among the ASEAN Member States in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and natural resources in the region. (ACB)

Source: <https://pia.gov.ph/press-releases/releases/1063766>



## WWF: Deforestation costs 43M has of forest

By [Agence France-Presse](#)

January 14, 2021

**ASUNCION:** More than 43 million hectares — an area bigger than Germany — of forest have been lost in a little over a decade in just a handful of deforestation hotspots, conservation organization World Wildlife Fund (WWF) said on Wednesday.

Swathes of forest continue to be flattened each year — mainly due to industrial-scale agriculture — as biodiversity-rich areas are cleared to create space for livestock and crops.

Analysis by the WWF found that just 29 sites across South America, Africa and South East Asia were responsible for more than half of the global forest loss.



*Ambam, Cameroon: This file photo taken on October 25, 2007 shows a timber company in the Ambam region, close to the border with Gabon. More than 43 million hectares — an area bigger than Germany — of forest have been lost in a little over a decade in just a handful of deforestation hotspots, conservation organisation WWF said on January 13, 2021. Swathes of forest continue to be flattened each year — mainly due to industrial-scale agriculture — as biodiversity-rich areas are cleared to create space for livestock and crops. AFP FILE PHOTO*

The Brazilian Amazon and Cerrado, the Bolivian Amazon, Paraguay, Argentina, Madagascar, along with Sumatra and Borneo in Indonesia and Malaysia were among the worst affected, it said.

In Brazil's Cerrado region, home to 5 percent of the planet's animals and plants, land has been cleared rapidly for soy and cattle production, leading to a 32.8-percent loss of forest area between 2004 to 2017.

The United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change issued a groundbreaking report on land use in 2019, in which it outlined a string of looming trade-offs in using land.

In that same year, the UN's biodiversity panel said 75 percent of all land on earth had been "severely degraded" by human activity.

Forests are an enormous carbon sink, together with other vegetation and soil sucking up roughly a third of all the carbon pollution humans produce annually. Yet they continue to disappear rapidly, threatening irreparable losses to Earth's crucial biodiversity.

And, as wild species find their living space shrink further each year, the risk of a repeat of zoonotic diseases — such as the coronavirus pandemic — jumping to humans is ever higher.

"We must address over-consumption and put greater value on health and nature rather than the current overwhelming emphasis on economic growth and financial profits at all cost," said Fran Raymond Price, Forest Practice lead at WWF International.



“This is in humanity’s best interests: the risk of new diseases emerging is higher in tropical forest regions that are experiencing land-use change,” she added.

Price warned that if deforestation was not rapidly curbed, “we could miss out on our chance to help prevent the next pandemic.” There is also a huge threat to indigenous communities that have lived off what forests provide for centuries or longer.

Ana Mota da Silva, a member of the Mumbuca community in the Cerrado — where deforestation rose 13 percent in 2020 — said she feared for the future.

“Knowing that our rivers are drying up, that so many trees are dying...the certainty that my sons, cousins, my descendants will not see what I have seen,” she said. “We now face the Cerrado being devastating and us with it.”

Recent research has shown that, beyond a certain threshold, deforestation in the Amazon basin could tip the region into a new climate regime, turning tropical forests into savannah.



View of a damaged area of the Amazon rainforest after illegal mining took place near Puerto Maldonado, Tambopata province, Madre de Dios region, in southeastern Peru, on September 02, 2019. The Amahuaca indigenous people, who were enslaved and displaced by the rubber boom in the 19th century, are now besieged by gold miners and loggers, who already consumed thousands of rainforest hectares. Ernesto

## Forest loss ‘hotspots’ bigger than Germany —WWF

Published January 13, 2021 9:50pm

By PATRICK GALEY, Agence France-Presse

PARIS — More than 43 million hectares of forest—an area bigger than Germany—have been lost in a little over a decade in just a handful of deforestation hotspots, conservation organization WWF said Wednesday.

Swathes of forest continue to be flattened each year—mainly due to industrial-scale agriculture—as biodiversity-rich areas are cleared to create space for livestock and crops.

Analysis by WWF found that just 29 sites across South America, Africa and Southeast Asia were responsible for more than half of the global forest loss.

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### 'Humanity's best interest'

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"We now face the Cerrado being devastated and us with it."

Recent research has shown that, beyond a certain threshold, deforestation in the Amazon basin could tip the region into a new climate regime, turning tropical forests into savannah.

The WWF report urged citizens to do their bit by avoiding products linked to deforestation such as some meat, soy and palm oil products.

It also urged governments to work to secure the rights of indigenous peoples and conserve biodiversity-rich areas. — AFP





# Top scientists warn of 'ghastly future' for planet as leaders underestimate ecological threats

By Amy Woodyatt and [Ivana Kottasová](#), CNN  
Updated 1741 GMT (0141 HKT) January 13, 2021

**(CNN)**The world is on track for a "ghastly future," an international group of scientists has warned, with accelerating [climate change](#) and biodiversity loss threatening the survival of all of the planet's species unless world leaders face up to the challenge and act urgently.

As part of a bleak "prognosis," a team of 17 leading scientists on Wednesday cautioned that the future of the planet is "more dire and dangerous than is generally understood," and say they have conducted the assessment to clarify the seriousness of the situation the world faces.

Citing some 150 studies describing the world's environmental changes, the experts warn that world leaders need a "cold shower" wake-up call when it comes to the state of the planet, saying environmental conditions are "far more dangerous than currently believed" by civilians and scientists alike.

Daniel Blumstein, professor at the Institute of the Environment and Sustainability at the University of California, Los Angeles and one of the authors of the article, told CNN it was no exaggeration to talk about a potential risk to our civilization.

"Maybe people certainly recognize it, but they don't understand the urgency, or maybe they recognize it, but they don't want to take the individual sacrifice," he said.

The time delays between ecological deterioration and its socioeconomic impacts mean people do not grasp the seriousness and timeliness of the problem, the report's authors said.

"The mainstream is having difficulty grasping the magnitude of this loss, despite the steady erosion of the fabric of human civilization," lead author Professor Corey Bradshaw, of Flinders University in Australia, said in a statement. "In fact, the scale of the threats to the biosphere and all its lifeforms is so great that it is difficult to grasp for even well-informed experts."

## A grave and understated threat to life

Time and again, scientists, experts and environmentalists have warned that the earth has reached a crucial tipping point -- recent research from the World Wide Fund for Nature found [the world's wildlife populations have fallen by an average of 68%](#) in just over four decades, with human consumption behind the devastating decline.

We are in a [sixth mass extinction](#), and humans are in the driving seat, having already wiped out hundreds of species and pushed many more to the brink of extinction through wildlife trade, pollution, habitat loss and the use of toxic substances.

In 2010, leaders from 196 countries gathered in Japan and agreed on a list of biodiversity targets designed to save the Earth -- but in September, 10 years later, a UN panel concluded that [the world had collectively failed to fully achieve a single target](#).

UN experts have been clear: If we maintain our trajectory in the accelerating climate crisis, biodiversity will continue to deteriorate -- with devastating outcomes for the planet's animals, plants and people.

But the international experts warn that no leader or political system is prepared for the disasters associated with biodiversity loss, or capable of addressing the crisis.

"We've said for years 'we need to do this, that and the other thing,' we know what the problems are, we just choose not to make the changes," Blumstein said.

Eliminating fossil fuels, reining in corporate lobbying that influences policymaking and empowering women with access to education and reproductive control are among the steps necessary, he added.



"Stopping biodiversity loss is nowhere close to the top of any country's priorities, trailing far behind other concerns such as employment, healthcare, economic growth, or currency stability," Professor Paul Ehrlich of Stanford University, one of the study's authors, said.

"While it is positive news that President-elect Biden intends to reengage the US in (the) Paris Climate accord within his first 100 days of office, it is a minuscule gesture given the scale of the challenge," he added.

Ehrlich is the author of "The Population Bomb," a controversial 1968 text that warned of overpopulation, predicting millions of people would starve to death.

He has [since said](#) that while many details and timings of events were wrong, the book was correct overall, telling the Guardian in 2018: "Population growth, along with over-consumption per capita, is driving civilisation over the edge: billions of people are now hungry or micronutrient malnourished, and climate disruption is killing people."

### Change is crucial

The scientists warn that world leaders must act to avoid a grim future while planning for impending changes the planet is set to face -- but hope is not lost.

Blumstein said he hoped the coronavirus pandemic could serve as a warning. "Covid, with all of the disruption that it has caused, is actually practice for the future," he said. "This could actually help us move toward unifying and working together. Scientists, remarkably, have worked together. it's the lack of effective world governance or even cooperation in many ways, when we see things breaking down."

In the report, published in the journal [Frontiers in Conservation Science](#), the authors wrote: "Our goal is not to present a fatalist perspective, because there are many examples of successful interventions to prevent extinctions, restore ecosystems, and encourage more sustainable economic activity at both local and regional scales.

"Instead, we contend that only a realistic appreciation of the colossal challenges facing the international community might allow it to chart a less-ravaged future," the team added.

Still, they wrote, fundamental changes to global capitalism, education and equality are required to address the problem.



(Photo: Screen grab mula sa Reuters video)

## 2 pambihirang 'bansot' na giraffe, nakita sa Africa

Enero 13, 2021 8:05pm GMT+08:00

Namangha ang mga dalubhasa nang malaman na mayroon mga "bansot" na giraffe sa Namibia, Uganda.

Kilala ang mga giraffe sa kaniyang tangkad at mahabang leeg para maabot ang mga pagkaing dahon sa mga matatayog na puno at halaman.

Ayon sa ulat ng Reuters, kung ang karaniwang giraffe ay umaabot sa 15 hanggang 20 talampakan ang taas, ang giraffe na bansot sa Namibia ay tinatayang 8.5 talampakan lang ang taas, habang 9.3 talampakan naman ang taas ng giraffe sa Uganda.



"It looks like a very young, one year old giraffe. So, yes, we were definitely all very surprised to see it and we went about doing a little bit of research to figure out what was going on," ayon kay Julian Fennessy, co-founder ng Giraffe Conservation Foundation.

"Unfortunately we'd probably need to do some genetic work, if we want to understand more but we can definitely tell that it is a dwarf giraffe," dagdag niya.

Pangkaraniwan naman daw ang haba ng leeg ng dalawang giraffe pero maigsi ang kanilang mga binti.--Reuters/FRJ, GMA News

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/balitambayan/umg/771646/2-pambihirang-bansot-na-giraffe-nakita-sa-africa/story/>



The striking conclusion here is that we now have strong evidence that homes in Europe and North America are directly polluting the Arctic with fibres from laundry (via wastewater discharge)," said lead author Peter Ross, of Ocean Wise and the University of British Columbia.

## Washing your clothes can create Arctic microplastic pollution

Published January 13, 2021 6:11am

by Kelly Macnamara

PARIS, France - Households in Europe and North America are flooding the oceans with plastic pollution simply by washing their clothes, scientists said Tuesday after research found the majority of microplastics in Arctic seawater were polyester fibers.

Plastic particles have infiltrated even the most remote and seemingly-pristine regions of the planet.

These tiny fragments have been discovered inside fish in the deepest recesses of the ocean -- the Mariana Trench -- peppering Arctic sea ice and blanketing the snows on the Pyrenees mountains between France and Spain.

But questions remain over exactly where this plastic contamination is coming from.

In the new study by the Ocean Wise conservation group and Canada's Department of Fisheries and Oceans, researchers sampled seawater from across the Arctic and found synthetic fibers made up around 92 percent of microplastic pollution.

Of this, around 73 percent was found to be polyester, resembling the dimensions and chemical identities of synthetic textiles -- particularly clothing.

"The striking conclusion here is that we now have strong evidence that homes in Europe and North America are directly polluting the Arctic with fibres from laundry (via wastewater discharge)," said lead author Peter Ross, of Ocean Wise and the University of British Columbia.

He said the mechanisms for this remain unclear, but added that ocean currents appear to play a major role in transporting the fibres northwards, while atmospheric systems may also contribute.

"Plastics are all around us, and while it would be grossly unfair to specifically point our finger at textiles as the only source of microplastics to the world's oceans, we nonetheless see a strong footprint of polyester fibres that are likely to be largely derived from clothing," he told AFP.





## Washing machine to ocean

Researchers collected near-surface seawater samples along a 19,000 kilometre section from Tromso in Norway to the North Pole, through the Canadian Arctic and into the Beaufort Sea, where they also analysed some samples up to a depth of around 1,000 metres.

"We found microplastic in all but one sample, underscoring the widespread distribution of this emerging pollutant in this remote region," said Ross.

Researchers used microscopy and infrared analysis to identify and measure the microplastics, which they defined as shreds of plastic smaller than five millimetres.

With almost three times more microplastic particles found in the eastern Arctic compared to the west, the authors suggested that new polyester fibres could be being delivered to the east of the region by the Atlantic.

Ocean Wise has run tests on washing machines and estimates that a single item of clothing can release millions of fibres during a normal domestic wash.

The organisation has also warned that wastewater treatment plants are often not catching the plastic fibres, calculating that households in the United States and Canada could collectively release some 878 tonnes of microfibres annually.

"The textile sector can do much to design more sustainable clothing, including by designing clothes that shed less," said Ross, while governments could make sure wastewater treatment plants have installed technologies to remove microplastics and incentivise innovation.

Households can also play their part by choosing products made with more environmentally friendly fabrics and installing lint traps on their washing machines, Ross added.

In 2019 a study published in Science Advances concluded that a large quantity of microplastic fragments and fibres are transported by winds into the Arctic region, and then hitch a ride Earthward in snowflakes.

Several million tonnes of plastics also find their way each year directly into oceans, where they are broken down into microscopic bits over time.

In the last two decades, the world has produced as much plastic as during the rest of history, and the industry is set to grow by four percent a year until 2025, according to a 2020 report by Grand View Research. -- **Agence France-Presse**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/scitech/science/771525/washing-your-clothes-can-create-arctic-microplastic-pollution/story/>

14 JANUARY 2021, THURSDAY



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