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DENR

NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR turns over shredder-composters to 161 of 178 LGUs within Manila Bay area

By Ma. Alaine P. Allanigue Published on May 13, 2021



Industrial-grade shredder-composter machines (PIA file photo)

QUEZON CITY, May 13 (PIA) -- At least 161 of the 178 local government units (LGUs) in the eight provinces comprising the Manila Bay area have been provided shredder-composter units through the joint effort of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and Senator Cynthia A. Villar, as part of the government's ongoing efforts to address solid waste pollution and rehabilitate Manila Bay.

"This is part of our continuing efforts to clean up Manila Bay, as ordered in the Supreme Court continuing mandamus. Solid waste management is a major concern in the rehabilitation of the bay along with the illegal discharge of untreated wastewater," said DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu.

Cimatu likewise cited Villar's "untiring and unrelenting advocacy for environmental stewardship has amplified the DENR's voice and be clearly heard within the halls of the Senate."

"Undoubtedly, her advocacy has been a big push for the DENR strides to overcome profound challenges particularly in getting LGUs to prioritize compliance with RA 9003 in their governance, especially in the Manila Bay area," Cimatu said.

DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny D. Antiporda said the 161 units of shredder-composter have been formally turned over to the respective local governments.

"This is a huge help to LGUs to comply with the provisions of Republic Act (RA) 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000. It is anchored on the support Senator Villar has been giving to us in the DENR," Antiporda said.

Antiporda added Villar's effort "raises the call for effective solid waste management as a major concern in the country's discourse on governance both at the national and local level."

He cited the lady lawmaker's determination to equip all LGUs with composting facilities, which not only facilitates compliance of LGUs with RA 9003 but also with the Supreme Court Mandamus on Manila Bay Rehabilitation for LGUs to adopt measures to prevent dumping of solid and liquid wastes into Manila Bay's water.



The Manila Bay region consists of the provinces of Bulacan, Pampanga, Bataan, Nueva Ecija, and Tarlac in Central Luzon; Cavite, Rizal, and Laguna in CALABARZON; and the 16 cities and one municipality in Metro Manila.

Of the 161 shredder-composter units distributed, Laguna received 30; Nueva Ecija, 30; Bulacan, 24; Pampanga, 22; Cavite, 23; Rizal, 14; Bataan, 12; and Tarlac, 6.

The remaining 17 are up for bidding and the DENR aims to complete the bidding process and installation, and to turn them over to their respective LGU hosts within the quarter.

Antiporda reiterated the importance of the shredder-composter equipment as it will not only reduce the amount of waste that ends up in sanitary landfills but also transform the diverted wastes into assets as organic fertilizer and soil enhancers, which are valuable to agriculture and horticulture.

"We appeal to the LGUs to use these assets fully and properly," Antiporda said.

The first batch of five shredder-composter units was rolled out in December 2020 for San Fernando City and the towns of Apalit, Candaba, Guagua, and Magalang in the province of Pampanga.

The equipment, which costs around P1 million each, should be installed near the materials recovery facilities operated by host LGUs and should be supplied with an independent electrical source fitted with an emergency shutdown device as a safety measure.

Each unit requires a floor area measuring 84 square meters or a dimension of 12 meters by seven meters and is operated by at least two to three certified operators trained by the DENR-Environmental Management Bureau (EMB).

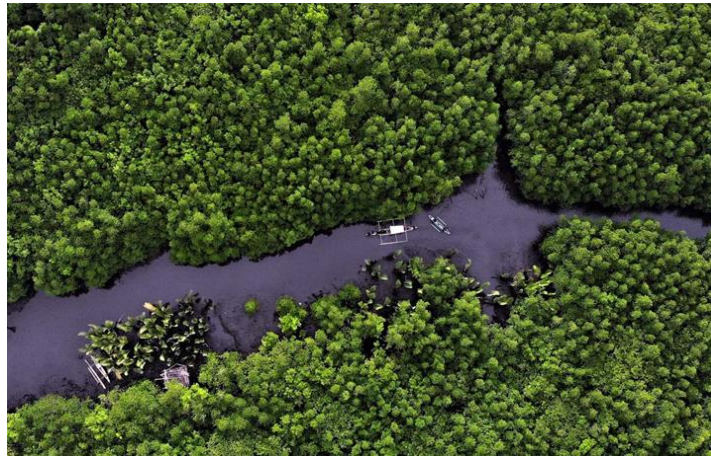
The DENR-EMB will conduct random inspection of the equipment to monitor compliance of the LGUs with the memorandum of agreement and compliance of equipment suppliers on the warranty provisions. (PIA NCR)



DENR execs vow to boost forest protection campaign in Northern Luzon

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

MAY 14, 2021



Del Carmen's mangrove forest by Erwin Mascariñas in file photo

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Northern Luzon vowed to strengthen forest protection effort and combat illegal logging activities in the area.

The Regional Executive Directors in the Ilocos, Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) and Cagayan Valley Region, for a starter, is eyeing to establish inter-region monitoring checkpoints to monitor illegal transport of natural resources coming from the adjoining regions.

The plan to establish the joint checkpoints is a result of the tripartite agreement signed earlier in La Union by DENR Regional Executive Directors Crizaldy Barcelo of Region 1, Gwendolyn Bambalan of Region 2, and Ralph Pablo of CAR “to unify and streamline efforts toward achieving overall conservation and protection of the environment and natural resources.”

In a news statement, Bambalan said the joint stationary and mobile checkpoints will address the problems on the illegal transport of forest products, wildlife, and illegally extracted, removed, and transported minerals/mineral by-products and other natural resources.

“We have to strengthen the guard and stop the cutting at the source. We also need to strictly monitor and check the destination,” the DENR Cagayan Valley chief added.

She said the Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) monitoring checkpoints would be stationed in strategic locations near the forest conservation areas, protected areas, and development areas.



“While we are advancing our National Greening Program, it is also important that we protect the standing trees from being cut,” Director Pablo said in his message.

Under the draft operational guidelines, the assigned personnel at the checkpoints shall operate the monitoring station on a seven-day and 24-hour basis. They shall flag down all suspicious vehicles loaded with forest products, minerals/ores and wildlife passing through the stations for inspection through lawful means.

They shall also apprehend all vehicles and load of forest products, minerals/ores and/or wildlife with no proper document/permit to support shipment.

To effectively implement ENR laws, the team leaders and all personnel to be assigned at the checkpoints will undergo skills enhancement training.

The guidelines also state that the host Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) shall solicit the support of the law enforcement agencies and local government units covering the monitoring stations.

During the virtual meeting facilitated by Region 2 Enforcement Chief Joel Daquioag, the concerned CENROs presented the feasibility, logistic needs and resources adjacent to the proposed monitoring checkpoints, including environmental threats.



Bicameral report on land title measure approved by both chambers

May 12, 2021 | 8:06 pm



PHILSTAR

THE bicameral report of the proposed law that eases the confirmation process in obtaining deeds to land has been approved by both houses of Congress.

On Wednesday, Albay Rep. Jose Ma. Clemente S. Salceda said the House of Representatives and the Senate signed the bicameral conference committee report reconciling House Bill No. 7440 and Senate Bill No. 1931. The measure is to be known as the Imperfect Land Title Confirmation Act if passed.

“This measure will help small farmers and homesteaders. It makes it easier for them to get everything from borrowing capital from banks, to leasing their land to more efficient users, to earning income from their property,” he said in a statement Wednesday.

Mr. Salceda said small farmers have difficulty having titles unconfirmed since they have insufficient funds to go through the process, which includes various legal procedures and litigation. The current requirements for obtaining deeds are a copy of the original classification approved by the Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and a certification from a City or Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO/PENRO). These also need to be published by the DENR.

The bill, if enacted, will reduce the required period of possession for perfection of imperfect title to 20 years from the current 74 years.

The proposed measure will only require the DENR’s approval if the land is more than twenty hectares. Another feature of the bill is that PENROs and CENROs can now apply for free patent year-round and not only within the prescribed period proclaimed by the Environment Secretary.

Mr. Salceda said the measure will also allow informal settlers acquiring land through accession and accretion under existing laws to petition the courts to perfect their claims.

“Informal settlers who have been residing on their lands for so long now also have a chance to own their property. This is a matter of dignity for thousands of Filipino families,” he said.

— **Gillian M. Cortez**

Source: https://www.bworldonline.com/bicameral-report-on-land-title-measure-approved-by-both-chambers/?fbclid=IwAR0yYfgKVjxSxFeioruCYITfGO6sfAwF6twOy7NmJgB006NRH_A83wqUQiY



Bill simplifying land titling for farmers gets bicam nod

May 13, 2021 3 min read

MANILA – The bicameral conference committee on Wednesday approved its report on a measure seeking to improve the confirmation of imperfect titles by simplifying the procedure and requirements in granting land deeds.

With the signing of the report, the congressional bicameral panel ironed out the disagreeing provisions of House Bill 7440 and Senate Bill 1931, otherwise known as the proposed Imperfect Land Title Confirmation Act.

Albay Rep. Joey Salceda, principal author and sponsor of the measure, said it would help small farmers and homesteaders by making it easier for them to borrow capital from banks, lease their land to more efficient users, and earn income from their property.

“Small farmers suffer the most from having their titles unconfirmed. They don’t have the money to litigate or undergo complex processes, and they can’t use their land or sell them in the meantime. It’s like they don’t own their lands,” Salceda said.

The present law governing land titles in the country requires the claimant to present a copy of the original classification approved by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary, as well as a City or Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO/PENRO) certification, that should be accompanied by an official publication of the DENR Secretary’s issuance declaring that the land is alienable and disposable.

These requirements, he said, can be difficult to secure given strict conditions and processes in the courts.

The approved bicameral report requires the DENR and the CENRO to act on petitions for agricultural free patents within 120 days.

The DENR Secretary’s approval is only required for lands above 20 hectares, and the requirement for a proclamation by the DENR Secretary of a time period during which CENROs and PENROs are allowed to take applications for free patents is also removed. This means that PENROs and CENROs can now take such petitions year-round.

The report also harmonizes and shortens the period of possession required for perfection of imperfect titles from 74 years to 20 years.

It shall also allow “those who have acquired ownership of private lands or abandoned riverbeds by right of accession or accretion under the provision of existing laws” to file petitions to the regional trial courts (RTC) for perfection of their claims.



“Informal settlers who have been residing on their lands for so long now also have a chance to own their property. This is a matter of dignity for thousands of Filipino families,” Salceda said.

He said property rights, especially for the small property owner, is crucial in equitable development.

“When people feel more secure in their rights to their property, they tend to develop it more aggressively. We need farmers and small landholders to use their lands efficiently as we recover from the Covid-19 (coronavirus disease 2019) pandemic. This reform is crucial for agricultural and economic recovery,” Salceda said. (PNA)



Climate crisis mitigation, Mindanao peace top priorities in PHL-EU cooperation

By DOFPublished on May 13, 2021

MANILA, May 13 -- Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III and European Union (EU) Ambassador Luc Véron have met to discuss how the Philippines and the EU can broaden their cooperation in mitigating the effects of the climate crisis and strengthening peace building efforts in Mindanao.

These two concerns have emerged as the top two priorities during discussions with Philippine officials on the EU's next Multi-Annual Indicative Program (MIP) for 2021 to 2027, said Ambassador Véron during a recent virtual meeting with Secretary Dominguez held via Zoom.

The Ambassador said MIP's priority to support programs leading to a green and resilient economy in the Philippines dovetails with Secretary Dominguez's goal as chairman-designate of the Climate Change Commission (CCC) to push for the ban on single-use plastics as a climate crisis mitigation measure.

MIP's priority programs on good governance are also in sync with Secretary Dominguez's objective as co-chairman of the Intergovernmental Relations Body (IGRB) coordinating with the Bangsamoro government in Muslim Mindanao to put in place a successful and functional autonomy in the region.

During the same meeting, Ambassador Véron likewise expressed the EU's strong support for Secretary Dominguez's goal to ban single-use plastics as this is aligned with the priorities under the MIP.

On the peace-building efforts in Mindanao, the Ambassador said the EU will continue with its projects to assist the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), particularly in setting up its judicial system, creating jobs and livelihood opportunities, and improving community-based infrastructure in the region.

Secretary Dominguez requested Ambassador Véron to explore the possibility of providing assistance to the BARMM in improving governance and allowing its officials to witness and learn first-hand from the best practices implemented by the autonomous governments in other countries.

The Finance Secretary welcomed EU's focus on climate crisis mitigation and its support for his advocacy on the ban of single-use plastics, which, he said, will make every Filipino an active participant in the fight against the climate crisis and raise public awareness on the urgency of addressing this pressing global concern.

On the Philippines' economic outlook, Secretary Dominguez told the EU Ambassador that the country is "definitely on the road to recovery" starting this year as the COVID-19 vaccination program is now being rolled out to safely reopen the economy.

With a strong fiscal position, high credit rating and prudent spending policy, Secretary Dominguez said the Philippines is fully capable of funding its accelerated spending on its economic recovery program. (DOF)



Drive vs single-use plastics gets UK help

BYBERNADETTE D. NICOLAS

MAY 13, 2021



Plastics compose most of the waste at the Taytay Materials Recovery Facility in Barangay Muzon, Taytay, Rizal.

THE United Kingdom (UK) offered to support the Climate Change Commission's advocacy on banning single-use plastics.

In a recent virtual meeting with British Ambassador Daniel Pruce, Finance Secretary Carlos G. Dominguez III welcomed UK's offer of technical assistance and support in effectively communicating to the public the importance and long-term benefits to the economy of banning single-use plastics.

Pruce also said UK stands ready to assist the Philippines in its preparations for its contribution to the discussions in the 26th United Nations (UN) Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26), which could encompass a broad range of issues such as green finance, energy transitions, and climate crisis resilience and adaptation strategies.

Chaired by the UK this year, COP26 will be held in Glasgow, Scotland this November. It is expected to bring together signatory-parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

In the same meeting, Finance Assistant Secretary Paola Alvarez also shared with Pruce that discussions are under way with the British Embassy on engaging with renewable energy (RE) investors to determine from them the possible Philippine policy gaps that need to be addressed to encourage the entry of RE investments to the country.

Alvarez, the point person of the Department of Finance (DOF) on climate crisis concerns, stressed the need to attract more RE investments into the country, especially given the government's recent decision to impose a moratorium on new coal-fired power plants.

Alvarez said the discussions will be held with representatives from the DOF, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Securities and Exchange Commission, and the Department of Energy.

Apart from this, Dominguez and Pruce also discussed UK's commitment to implement the first phase of its Iconic Bridges Project for Sustainable Socioeconomic Development in Cagayan province.



Dominguez also later met with Minister Anne-Marie Trevelyan, the UK International Champion on Adaptation and Resilience for the COP26 Presidency and Minister of State (Minister for Business, Energy and Clean Growth), to discuss climate crisis-related concerns, particularly on sharing UK's expertise in pushing Philippine legislation on plastics use reduction.

During the meeting with Trevelyan, Dominguez also said the Philippines will be participating in the UK-led Adaptation Action Coalition, which will act as a forum for developed and developing economies to share knowledge and best practices on local, regional and global solutions to deal with the climate crisis.

The Coalition was built in response to UN Call for Action on Adaptation and Resilience and aims to turn the commitments secured from this call to action into on-the-ground support for climate crisis-vulnerable communities.

Dominguez also separately met with Alok Sharma, the President of the COP26 and Member of the UK Parliament, to further explore areas of cooperation between the Philippines and the UK on raising the awareness of Filipinos over the urgency of climate action, and in fine-tuning the legislative measure that aims to ban single-use plastics.

Sharma and Dominguez also briefly discussed how a "green industrial revolution" can give rise to new industries and create more jobs while effectively cutting carbon emissions.



Water treatment costs Maynilad P29B

These projects are part of our commitment to protect the environment by making sure effluents meet legal standards

Water companies are now moving to fulfill their commitment under the contracts with the government as West Zone concessionaire Maynilad Water Services Inc. (Maynilad) announced yesterday a P29 billion project to build a sewage system.

Under the Maynilad program, several sewage treatment plants (STP) are being built at the same time in Caloocan, Las Piñas, Central

Manila, Valenzuela and Muntinlupa.

“These projects are part of our commitment to protect the environment by making sure effluents meet legal standards. On top of these, we also spend much more on projects to provide clean and potable water to our more than 9 million customers,” Maynilad president and CEO Ramoncito S. Fernandez said.

Maynilad and Manila Water were the targets of sharp criticisms from President Rodrigo Duterte earlier for failing to reprocess water before being pumped into Manila Bay despite water users paying a monthly fee for such a service.

Jobs generator

Although quarantine restrictions have made it more difficult to facilitate the projects, Fernandez said the work continued. “We might add that these projects generate jobs and business opportunities which have been drastically affected by the pandemic,” he said.

The CAMANA (Caloocan-Malabon-Navotas) and Las Piñas Water Reclamation Facilities will contribute around 16 percent additional sewerage coverage in the West Zone with a target completion date in 2025.

Maynilad is also building STP in Barangays Cupang and Tunasan in Muntinlupa and Barangay Marulas in Valenzuela, which are targeted for completion within the year, and in Ayala Southvale in Muntinlupa.

For areas that have yet to be covered by STP, Maynilad has been expanding its fleet of vacuum trucks (VTU) that offer septic tank cleaning. The company now has 110 VTU, up from only 32 VTU in 2007 when it took over the West Zone.

We also spend much more on projects to provide clean and potable water to our more than 9 million customers.

Difficult road

“Expanding wastewater services is a long and arduous process requiring massive investments and constant coordination with LGU (local government unit) affected by our pipe-laying activities. Nevertheless, we have a comprehensive wastewater management plan in place,” Fernandez explained.

“The project’s completion will ensure full sewerage coverage in our concession area which will help to considerably reduce the pollution load into Manila Bay,” Fernandez added.

Maynilad currently operates 22 wastewater treatment facilities, up from only two in 2007 when the company was re-privatized, with a combined treatment capacity of around 664,000 cubic meters of wastewater per day.

CL



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF MAYNILAD

MAYNILAD crew set up equipment in the heart of a sewage treatment plant, which is one of many being set up in parts of Metro Manila in compliance with a commitment to the government.



News5
May 12 at 4:00 AM · 🌐

Muling nanawagan si Vice Pre. Leni Robredo na mag-focus ang gobyerno sa pag-address ng COVID-19 pandemic. Aniya, "nakaka-frustrate" daw ang tila pag-aasikaso ng gobyerno sa ibang bagay, tulad ng dolomite sa Manila Bay.

See Translation



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Photo shows urban forest on Nayong Pilipino property.

Nayong Pilipino

Foundation defends mega job hub against environmental concerns

(Philstar.com) - May 13, 2021 - 3:40pm

MANILA, Philippines — The International Container Terminal Services Foundation defended its proposal to construct a mega vaccination site, calling the proposed site "a deserted, uninhabited and vacant area and not an urban forest as erroneously claimed."

To recall, the proposal sparked tension between the group and environmental watchdogs over the potential damage to urban wildlife in the grassland.

As a result, the Nayong Pilipino Foundation has yet to sign the memorandum of agreement to construct the facility.

According to ICTSI In a statement issued Wednesday, the proposed site is on a vacant portion of the Nayong Pilipino property along New Seaside Road, Entertainment City, in Parañaque which "sits on reclaimed land and unused portions of it, along with the Nayong Pilipino property, [which] have limited vegetation including non-endemic trees."

"The facility is designed by Architect Jun Palafox, a renowned environmental planner, who is giving his services free of charge...It must be put in context that one of the advocacies of the ICTSI Foundation is sustainable environmental protection," the statement reads.

Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment earlier called the thriving urban forest on the property a "critical safe space" that will benefit 1.2 million residents of the city and neighboring Pasay.

The group suggested authorities retrofit malls, golf courses, and sports complexes to generate space for vaccination facilities instead.

"It's not just the birds and the bees. The increasing loss of green spaces across Metro Manila is making people more vulnerable to floods and extreme climate impacts," Leon Dulce, national coordinator of Kalikasan PNE said earlier.

But the foundation in its statement asserted that the project had the support of the national government amid the coronavirus pandemic. Vaccine czar Carlito Galvez Jr has also pointed to the project's contribution to the country's vaccination capacity.

Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea has since issued a memorandum to the NPFI board "directing" it to allow government agencies to use its property "as a site for vaccination center."



The NPF for its part has said that the urban forest is home to a variety of wildlife as it serves as a bird flyway network. It is also the “last remaining grassland” in the reclaimed area of Parañaque.

"The new, temporary, and environmentally light vaccination facility has a design capacity to vaccinate as many as 10,000 to 12,000 people a day, roughly 300,000 a month," ICTSI said.

"It will feature an ambulatory vaccination station and a drive-through area. It will take 60 days to construct the facility in time for the arrival of bulk of vaccinations."

— with reports from **Gaea Katreena Cabico**



Urban forest or vaccine facility: Why can't we have both?

By [Gab Meija](#)

May 14, 2021

A RECENT contention about a planned mega-vaccine facility at Nayong Pilipino has sparked public outrage from both concerned parties and supporters. Environmentalists, activists and conservation experts are clashing with the government and the billionaire businessman [Enrique Razon Jr.](#) over a mega-vaccine facility to be built on the proposed site, which is part of a long-term plan for an urban forest on reclaimed land in Metro Manila. Currently, amid a precarious and endangered stage in the pandemic, where vaccination is key to reopening the economy and ultimately achieving herd immunity from a crisis as bad as post-World-War 2 — a moral and legal dilemma has surfaced on who should take ownership of the land and what should ultimately be built there.

Such a case is familiar to the ethical and psychological trolley cart dilemma. What portion of the land should be owned by who? Should we hinder the development of one of the few proposed urban forests in Metro Manila to give way to the welfare and health of the people? Is that even a question to begin with given that we are comparing the value of a person's life of a person with potential green spaces? Would you sacrifice the future quality of life for the present quality of life? These questions may seemingly be as simple and naïve as they looks but it is definitely more complicated than it is. Many articles, photos and stories have been published that may have skewed our positions on the matter — painting both parties as either villains or heroes, yet a far nuanced and more important matter to consider is why we even had to end up with such a convoluted decision in the first place. Why can't we just have both, and what can be done with such a fraught discussion.

What can be observed is that urban planning is a failed and nonexistent concept considering the current situation in Metro Manila. A populous and dense city with roughly only 0.03 percent of its land area dedicated to public spaces and parks, compared to other major cities such as Singapore with 47 percent green spaces and Rio de Janeiro with 29 percent green spaces, according to the veteran environmental planner and architect [Nathaniel "Dinky" von Einsiedel](#). These green spaces are mainly comprised of the La Mesa Ecopark, inaccessible golf courses such as the Wack-Wack Golf and Country Club, and the [Manila Polo Club](#).

According to a report in 2019 by the Department of Natural Resources-National Capital Region, Manila suffers one of the biggest deficits in green spaces, with only 140.4 hectares of green space in a total area of over 3,800 hectares that is continually shrinking, around the metropolis today. Such scarcity of green urban spaces is where this public demand is coming from, given the benefits that the proposed plan for Nayong Pilipino provides, such as protection from heat, a place for leisure and recreation, biodiversity protection, and even as a form of open-air ventilation for some diseases to stop spreading. Another thing to consider is the failed and neglected health care system that our nation has to endlessly deal with. Public hospitals and health infrastructures are inadequate to handle such temperature-sensitive and fragile vaccines, and medical frontliners are severely overworked and underpaid. Coming from both environmental and public health perspectives, what can ultimately be pinned down is that both issues arise from the negligence of the current and previous administrations that lacked the foresight to plan ahead and communicate, giving rise to this conflict between Nayong Pilipino and Enrique Razon Jr. to contest the ownership of the land. Why isn't accountability on the failures of our governments part of this discussion?



Infrastructure for public good

Many citizens have now stated their concerns on the future of Nayong Pilipino's site, and instead recommend building the vaccine facility on a land that Razon already owns, instead of opening up potential concerns for unwelcome developments on the site after the pandemic — a point to consider given how public trust in oligarchs and billionaires continue to dwindle after the reports and criticisms about how billionaires are hoarding wealth and exploiting low-income laborers such as the case with the Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos. This lack of trust from the public because of systemic issues intertwined with environmental ordeal is valid despite the intentions and “goodwill” of these oligarchs’ philanthropy. In the case of urgency and accessibility for the development site of the vaccine facility, professional architects and engineers such as [Paolo Alcazaren](#) suggest how it would be much more practical to build it on an already paved land and space at the [Cultural Center](#) of the Philippines, which is accessible to public transportation. Though Razon argues that the site is accessible to the Skyway and that Nayong Pilipino can do whatever it wants with the site after the mass vaccination is done as the economy can open and people can go to public parks.

The country gravely needs to speed up its vaccination rollout as the government has been utterly slow, with the possibility of vaccines expiring by June — the public does demand more transparency. Possibly an assurance that people in power with the resources can support the green space movement further in Metro Manila alongside Nayong Pilipino and other agencies and organizations. Maybe even possibly invest in developing new urban parks, forests and health care facilities beyond the pandemic? Maybe even convert the hectares of inaccessible lands owned by these billion-peso industries that can cater for the public good in the future? The mega-vaccine facility is a start, and thus compromises are being done. But why does it seem that trust and cooperation is never considered an option, that a public outcry must come first?

In times of such a fraught dilemma amid a pandemic, the threat of the trolley shouldn't even exist — if and only if all sectors of society have cooperated, communicated and worked together that we should have never been in this situation to begin with. Urban forests or a vaccine facility: why can't we just have both? More so, why can't we just have a better government?

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‘Di kailangang magputol ng puno para sa “mega vaccination site”

ni [Nancy Binay](#) - @Be Nice Tayo | May 13, 2021

Muli na namang nasa spotlight ang tunggalian sa pagitan ng polisiya at kalikasan dahil sa isyung pumapalibot sa planong pagpapatayo ng “mega vaccination site” sa lupang pagmamay-ari ng Nayong Pilipino Foundation.

Nagbanggit ang NPF ng mga legal at environmental concerns sa pagtutol nito sa plano.

Ayon sa NPF, ang lupang nais patayuan ng mega vaccine facility, *“Not a vacant lot but has a thriving urban forest that hosts a variety of urban wildlife and is the last remaining grassland in the reclaimed area of Parañaque.”*

“The abrupt cutting of close to 500 trees and other site works on the NPF property will kill the existing ecosystem. Once lost, it could take decades to recover this ecosystem. A mega vaccination facility that will destroy this ecosystem would be a disaster and a disservice to the residents of Metro Manila who need more green and open spaces.”

Giit naman ni vaccine czar Carlito Galvez, Jr., *“It is inappropriate for the NPF to equate the fate of 500 ipil-ipil trees with the lives of hundreds of thousands if not millions of Filipinos. Moreover, the proposed site of the facility is a reclaimed piece of land and not a protected forest or a marine sanctuary.”*



Alin nga ba ang dapat na priority ng pamahalaan, ang buhay o kalikasan?

Ang madalas nagiging pagkakamali sa ganitong tunggalian ay ang pagpapalagay na walang buhay na naaapektuhan sa pagsira ng kahit isang aspeto lamang ng ecosystem. Kung hindi man ngayon, tiyak na ang mga susunod na henerasyon ang makararanas ng epekto nito.

Ang interesado tayong malaman, wala na bang ibang lugar na maaaring pagtayuan ng pasilidad na pansamantala lamang?

Ang mga unibersidad na may malalawak na campus tulad ng University of the Philippines at Ateneo de Manila University ay nag-alok na ng espasyo nila para sa quarantine facility at maging sa pagbabakuna. Baka mainam ding kausapin sila para sa proyektong ito.

Tulad din ng sinasabi ng marami sa mga kababayan natin, maraming pasilidad tulad ng gymnasium at stadium na maaaring i-convert na lamang.

Hindi “buhay o puno” ang tanong sa isyu na ito, kundi “buhay o buhay?” Nakahanda ba tayong ipusta ang kalidad ng buhay ng mga susunod sa atin para sa kaginhawaan sa kasalukuyan?

Ngunit, ang pinakamahalagang tanong ay kung bakit tayo nagpapakulong sa tunggaliang ito kung mayroon namang alternatibong hindi mangangailan na isakripisyo ang kalikasan.



Paalala lamang sa lahat na manatili sa loob ng bahay, ugaliing maghugas ng mga kamay, bigyang-halaga ang kalusugan at huwag kalilimutang magdasal.

Malalagpasan din natin ito.

Be Safe. Be Well. Be Nice! 😊

Kung mayroon kayong nais idulog o ipaabot sa inyong abang lingkod, maaari kayong sumulat sa BE NICE TAYO ni Sen. Nancy Binay, BULGAR Bldg., 538 Quezon Ave., Quezon City o mag-email sa benicetayo@gmail.com.

Paalala lamang na sana ay isama ninyo sa inyong mga liham ang inyong contact number upang mas madali namin kayong mapaglingkuran. Always Be Nice! FOLLOW US! Facebook: www.facebook.com/SenatorNancyBinay Twitter: [@SenatorBinay](https://www.twitter.com/SenatorBinay) Instagram: [@SenatorNancyBinay](https://www.instagram.com/SenatorNancyBinay)



Peña: The 2020 State of the Global Climate Report

[ROX PENA](#) May 13, 2021

THE United Nations report on the State of the Global Climate for 2020 was released recently. The 28th report of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) documents indicators of the climate system, including greenhouse gas concentrations, increasing land and ocean temperatures, sea-level rise, melting ice and glacier retreat and extreme weather.

According to WMO Secretary-General Prof. Petteri Taalas, all key climate indicators and associated impact information provided in the report highlight relentless, continuing climate change, an increasing occurrence and intensification of extreme events, and severe losses and damage, affecting people, societies and economies.

The report states that 2020 was one of the three warmest years on record, despite a cooling La Niña event. The global average temperature was about 1.2° Celsius above the pre-industrial (1850-1900) level. The six years since 2015 have been the warmest on record while 2011-2020 was the warmest decade on record.

The concentrations of the major greenhouse gases continued to increase in 2019 and 2020. The economic slowdown due to the pandemic temporarily depressed new greenhouse gas emissions, according to the United Nations Environment Programme (Unep), but had no discernible impact on atmospheric concentrations.

The year 2019 saw the highest ocean heat content on record, and this trend likely continued in 2020. The rate of ocean warming over the past decade was higher than the long-term average, indicating a continued uptake of heat trapped by greenhouse gases, according to the EU's Copernicus Marine Service. Global mean sea level has risen throughout the satellite altimeter record (since 1993). It has recently been rising at a higher rate partly due to the increased melting of the ice sheets in Greenland and Antarctica.

There were extreme weather events, especially here in our country. The strongest tropical cyclone of the season was Typhoon Rolly, international name Goni. It crossed the northern Philippines on November 1 with a 10-minute mean wind speed of 220 km/h (or higher) at its initial landfall, making it one of the most intense landfalls on record. There was also heavy rain and extensive flooding over large parts of Africa and Asia in 2020.

Elsewhere, Tropical Cyclone Harold had significant impacts in the northern islands of Vanuatu on April 6, affecting about 65 percent of the population and also resulting in damage in Fiji, Tonga and the Solomon Islands. Storm Alex in early October brought extreme winds to western France with gusts as high as 186 km/h, whilst heavy rain extended across a wide area.

While there were strong typhoons in some countries, it was hot in other parts of the world. In the Caribbean, major heat waves occurred in April and September. Australia broke heat records in early 2020. The summer was very hot in parts of East Asia. Severe drought affected many parts of the interior of South America in 2020, with the worst-affected areas being northern Argentina, Paraguay and the western border areas of Brazil.

With all these pieces of evidence, climate change is real and cannot be denied.

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1894522>



Fed privately presses banks on risks from climate change

May 14, 2021 | 12:02 am



REUTERS

WASHINGTON — The US Federal Reserve has asked lenders to start providing information on the measures they are taking to mitigate climate change-related risks to their balance sheets, according to four people with knowledge of the matter.

The previously unreported supervisory discussions highlight how US watchdogs are moving to execute President Joe Biden's agenda to incorporate climate risk into the financial regulatory system, with potentially major ramifications for Wall Street.

While European regulators are this year rolling out climate-change "stress tests" for lenders, the Fed lags its peers.

Fed officials have previously said they are considering a new scenario analysis to help them understand how climate change may affect trillions of dollars' worth of bank assets, but have not said how or when they would start to apply such tests.

In private discussions, however, Fed supervisors have begun pressing large lenders to detail the measures they are taking to understand how their loan books would perform under certain climate change scenarios, the four people said.

Fed officials have not dictated the parameters for the analysis but have made it clear they expect lenders to conduct the internal risk-management exercises and hand over the data, the people said.

That analysis includes testing the geographical exposure of bank assets to physical risks such as flooding, drought and wildfires, as well as testing exposures to different sectors, such as how oil and gas loans may perform versus renewable energy loans.

The aim of the tests is to identify risks, but the Fed has not indicated that the data it is gathering would translate into any additional capital charges or other regulatory actions. "They're being very pragmatic. They're doing their homework," said one of the people.

Global banks — including JPMorgan, Citigroup, Wells Fargo, Bank of America, Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley — have been exploring the implications of climate change for some time, both internally and in some cases with European regulators like the Bank of England who are more aggressively integrating climate change risks into the regulatory framework.

Nevertheless, the new climate scrutiny from the US central bank adds to the pressure on Wall Street lenders, forcing them to make investments in technology, data management and staff.



"The data work is a big deal," said another of the sources.

The banks did not immediately respond to requests for comment on the private discussions with the Fed.

STRESS TESTS

Climate change could upend the financial system because physical threats such as rising sea levels, as well as policies and carbon-neutral technologies aimed at slowing global warming, could destroy trillions of dollars of assets, risk experts say.

In a 2020 report, a Commodity Futures Trading Commission panel cited data estimating that \$1 trillion to \$4 trillion of global wealth tied to fossil fuel assets could be lost.

The Fed in January appointed Kevin Stiroh, one of its top supervisors, to lead a new team focusing on climate-related financial risks, but some congressional Democrats are pushing the central bank to move much faster and add climate risks to bank stress tests which dictate Wall Street's capital plans.

In March, Fed governor Lael Brainard said that climate scenario tests could be helpful but that they would also rely on qualitative judgments and be highly uncertain.

Fed Chair Jerome Powell has said the agency will tread carefully and focus on incorporating climate change into existing regulatory obligations, as opposed to creating strict new rules. It is unclear, though, if he will be renominated to lead the Fed after his term expires next year, while his vice chair Randal Quarles, a Republican appointee who oversees bank regulation, is expected to leave this year.

Progressive groups say there is much more the central bank could do to address climate risks, even if it does not want to go as far as its European counterparts.

Tim Clark, a former senior Fed official who helped build its stress tests after the 2008 financial crisis, said it should publicly communicate that it expects banks to incorporate climate change into their risk management processes.

"That's something they can basically start right now and make it clear to the industry that they expect banks to be working hard on this." — **Reuters**



99 of 100 cities most at risk environmentally in Asia

Published May 13, 2021, 9:40 AM

by [Agence-France-Presse](#)

Of the 100 cities worldwide most vulnerable to environmental hazards all but one are in Asia, and four-fifths are in India or China, according to a risk assessment published Friday.



A general view shows India's capital New Delhi on May 12, 2021 amidst smoggy conditions. Arun SANKAR / AFP

Across the globe, more than 400 large cities with a total population of 1.5 billion are at “high” or “extreme” risk due to some mixture of life-shortening pollution, dwindling water supplies, deadly heat waves, natural disasters and climate change, the report found.

The sinking megacity of Jakarta — plagued by pollution, flooding and heat waves, with worse to come — topped the ranking.

But India, home to 13 of the world's 20 most risk-laden cities, may face the most daunting future of any country in the world.

Delhi ranks second on the global index of 576 cities compiled by business risk analysts Verisk Maplecroft, followed within India by Chennai (3rd), Agra (6th), Kanpur (10th), Jaipur (22nd) and Lucknow (24th).

Mumbai and its 12.5 million souls is 27th.

Looking only at air pollution — which causes more than seven million premature deaths worldwide each year, including a million in India alone — the 20 cities with the worst air quality in the world among urban areas of at least a million people are all in India. Delhi in pole position.

The air pollution assessment was weighted towards the impact of microscopic, health-wrecking particles known as PM2.5, cast off in large measure by the burning of coal and other fossil fuels.

– China's middle class –

Outside Asia, the Middle East and North Africa have the largest proportion of “high risk” cities across all threat categories combined, but Lima is the only non-Asian city to crack the top 100.

“Home to more than half the world's population and a key driver of wealth, cities are already coming under serious strain from dire air quality, water scarcity and natural hazards,” the report's lead author Will Nichols told AFP.

“In many Asian countries these hubs are going to become less hospitable as population pressures grow and climate change amplifies threats from pollution and extreme weather, threatening their role as wealth generators for national economies.” While richer than India, China faces formidable environmental challenges as well.



Thirty-five of the 50 cities worldwide most beset by water pollution are in China, as are all but two of the top 15 facing water stress, according to the report.

But different political systems and levels of development may ultimately play in China's favour, Nichols said.

"For China, an emerging middle class is increasingly demanding cleaner air and water, which is being reflected in government targets," he told AFP.

– Africa hit hardest –

"China's top-down governance structure -- and willingness to take abrupt measures, such as shutting down factories to meet emissions goals -- gives it more of a chance of mitigating these risks." India's weaker governance, coupled with the size and scale of its informal economy, makes it far harder to address environmental and climate issues at the city level, he added.

When it comes to global warming and its impacts, the focus shifts sharply to sub-Saharan Africa, home to 40 of the 45 most climate-vulnerable cities on the planet.

The continent least responsible for rising global temperatures will get hit the hardest not only because of worse droughts, heat waves, storms and flooding, but also because it is so ill-equipped to cope.

"Africa's two most populous cities, Lagos and Kinshasa, are among those at highest risk," the report noted.

Other especially vulnerable cities include Monrovia, Brazzaville, Freetown, Kigali, Abidjan and Mombasa.

The climate index combined the threat of extreme events, human vulnerability, and the ability of countries to adapt.

The first in a series of risk assessments for cities, the report evaluates threats to liveability, investment potential, real estate assets, and operational capacity.



Denmark incinerates minks culled over virus fears

Published May 13, 2021 10:00pm



Denmark on Thursday kicked off the grisly task of unearthing and incinerating minks that were hastily buried after a mass culling sparked by fears of a mutated coronavirus strain, authorities said.

All 15 million of Denmark's minks were killed last year after it emerged they were carrying a virus strain that experts feared could avert vaccines.

Some were buried in November in two mass graves in west Denmark, sparking fears that their decomposing carcasses could pollute surrounding areas.

The government called on them to be dug up and incinerated once the risk of contagion had subsided.

On Thursday, teams started digging up some of the 13,000 tonnes (29 million pounds) of mink carcasses due to be unearthed, which were then transported to the nearby Maabjerg Energy Center (MEC) for incineration.

"I am relieved to see how the whole thing is going according to plan," agriculture minister Rasmus Prehn said in a post to Twitter.

The MEC warned that a foul odor from the carcasses may emanate in the area as they are transported and unloaded, but that burning them at a high temperature should eliminate the smell once they reach the incinerators.

Denmark was the world's largest exporter of mink fur before it culled its entire mink population last year after some were found to be carrying a mutated coronavirus variant.

Health authorities worried that vaccines may not work against the so-called Cluster 5 variant, which was declared wiped out in November.

The government banned mink breeding until January 2022, but it has come under fire for its culling program.

Once the mass gassing program had already begun, a court challenge to the order found that the executive's decision had no legal basis, leading to the resignation of the previous agriculture minister.



Adding to the scandal, it was later revealed that the disposal of the dead animals could cause phosphorus and nitrogen to be released into the soil surrounding mass graves due to the decomposition process.

In one grim turn of events, one mass grave saw dead minks that had been buried too shallow rising out of the ground.

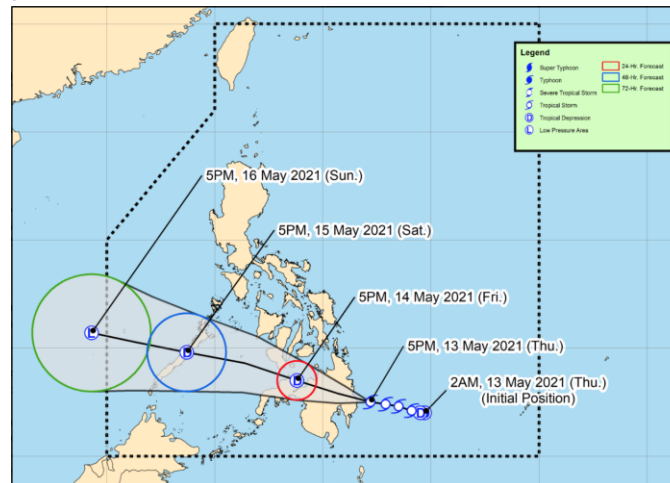
Mink are the only animal confirmed to be capable both of contracting the strain and of passing it to humans. **-Agence France-Presse**



Crising brings moderate to heavy rains over parts of Mindanao; Signal No. 1 over 11 areas

Published May 13, 2021 11:54pm

Updated May 14, 2021 1:34am



Tropical Storm Crising has weakened into a Tropical Depression and makes landfall over Baganga, Davao Oriental on Thursday evening, according to the Severe Weather Bulletin posted by PAGASA.

Moderate to heavy rains may be experienced (especially in the upland and mountainous areas) is expected over Davao Oriental, Davao de Oro, Davao del Norte, Davao City, Cotabato, Maguindanao, Bukidnon, Lanao del Norte, Lanao del Sur, Misamis Occidental, Zamboanga del Sur, and the northern portion of Zamboanga del Norte.

As of 10 pm on Thursday, the center of Crising was estimated in the vicinity of New Bataan, Davao de Oro with maximum sustained winds of 55 kilometers per hour near the center and gustiness of up to 90 kph and moving westward at 20 kph.

Tropical Cyclone Wind Signal (TCWS) No. 1 is hoisted over the following areas:

Visayas

- the southeastern portion of Negros Oriental (Dumaguete City, Valencia, Sibulan, Santa Catalina, Siaton, Zamboanguita, Dauin, Bacong)
- Siquijor

Mindanao

- the southern portion of Surigao del Sur (Barobo, Tagbina, Hinatuan, City of Bislig, Lingig)
- the central and southern portions of Agusan del Sur (Esperanza, San Francisco, Talacogon, San Luis, Rosario, Bunawan, Trento, La Paz, Loreto, Veruela, Santa Josefa)
- Davao Oriental
- Davao de Oro
- Davao del Norte
- Davao City
- the northern portion of Cotabato (Magpet, Arakan, Antipas, President Roxas, Matalam, City of Kidapawan, Kabacan, Carmen, Banisilan, Alamada)
- the northern portion of Maguindanao (Buldon, Barira, Matanog)



- Lanao del Norte
- Lanao del Sur
- Misamis Occidental
- Bukidnon
- the central and western portions of Misamis Oriental (Claveria, Balingasag, Lagonglong, Jasaan, Villanueva, Tagoloan, Cagayan de Oro City, Opol, City of El Salvador, Alubijid, Laguindingan, Gitagum, Libertad, Initao, Naawan, Manticao, Lugait)
- the northeastern portion of Zamboanga del Sur (Midsalip, Sominot, Dumingag, Molave, Mahayag, Josefina, Tambulig, Ramon Magsaysay, Aurora, Tukuran, Labangan)
- the northeastern portion of Zamboanga del Norte (Sergio Osmeña Sr., Katipunan, Pres. Manuel A. Roxas, Jose Dalman, Manukan, Dipolog City, Polanco, Piñan, Mutia, Dapitan City, Sibutad, Rizal, La Libertad)

PAGASA added that strong breeze to near gale conditions is likely over the localities where Tropical Cyclone Wind Signal No. 1 is in effect, especially in the coastal and mountainous areas of these localities.

Over the seaboard, moderate to rough seas will be experienced. So, mariners of small seacrafts are advised not to venture out over these waters. Inexperienced mariners of these vessels should avoid navigating in these conditions.

Tropical Depression Crising is forecast to move westward or west northwestward and cross Mindanao on Thursday evening through Friday evening. -- **BAP, GMA News**

Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/scitech/weather/787421/crising-weakens-makes-landfall-over-baganga-davao-oriental/story/?utm_source=GMAnews&utm_medium=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR3emOs5kfsa0ZsHqwitHSsjHAc_hrVnA40mG_ZdsDRSQ5GQJ2gJpiOtKZQ



Philippines to again protest Chinese ships at sea

May 13, 2021 | 8:08 pm



PHILSTAR

By **Kyle Aristophere T. Atienza** and **Vann Marlo M. Villegas**, *Reporters*

THE PHILIPPINES' top envoy on Thursday ordered his agency to file another diplomatic protest against China for the continued presence of almost 300 ships in the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea.

"Fire a diplomatic protest," Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin, Jr. tweeted.

He also criticized a Philippine Task Force for failing to alert the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) before issuing a statement on the Chinese ships.

Hundreds of Chinese militia vessels were still scattered around the Spratlys, both within and outside Manila's exclusive economic zone, the task force said on Tuesday night.

In a statement, it said 287 Chinese ships were still in Philippine waters, many of them spotted near artificial islands built by China, while some were near islands occupied by Manila, based on patrols made on May 9.

Two Houbei class missile warships were also near Mischief Reef, while two Vietnamese logistics ships and a VN Coast Guard vessel were at Grierson Reef, it said.

Thirty-four Chinese ships also remained at Whitsun Reef, which the Philippines also claims.

The government would continue to defend its sovereign rights and jurisdiction over the "West Philippine Sea," the task force said, referring to areas of the waterway within the country's exclusive economic zone.

It said Whitsun Reef, which the Philippines calls Julian Felipe, is within the country's 200-nautical mile exclusive economic zone and is part of Philippine territory, counting presidential spokesman Herminio L. Roque, Jr.'s earlier claim that the reef was outside the country's ecozone.

Mr. Locsin on Tuesday said he alone should speak for President Rodrigo R. Duterte on foreign policy matters including the sea dispute with China.

Meanwhile, Mr. Roque said he was still allowed to talk about the South China Sea dispute after talking to the top Philippine envoy.

"We are fine," he told a televised news briefing. "We agreed that I would continue to talk about international law as a field," he said in Filipino.



Mr. Roque clarified that Whitsun Reef is part of the territorial sea generated by two high tide elevations occupied by China and Vietnam.

He said the reef, which is within the 200-nautical mile exclusive economic zone of the Philippines, is being claimed by the country based on a presidential decree issued by the late dictator Ferdinand E. Marcos.

'POLITICIZING'

Mr. Roque insists that government critics have been politicizing the presence of Chinese vessels near the reef

This was not the first time that Mr. Roque and Mr. Locsin clashed over the China issue.

In February, the envoy told Mr. Roque to "lay off" after he suggested that the Philippines should sue China at an international court for passing a law allowing its coast guard to fire at foreign vessels in the waterway.

The Philippines has filed several protests against China over the vessels' lingering presence in the disputed sea.

This month, Mr. Locsin minced no words in telling the Chinese to get out of Philippine waters in the South China Sea, cussing at its neighbor for failing to reciprocate its goodwill.

The presidential palace later distanced itself from Mr. Locsin, with Mr. Roque saying Mr. Duterte does not approve the use of profanities in the field of diplomacy.

Mr. Locsin later apologized to his Chinese counterpart, Foreign Minister Wang Yi, after his expletive-laden tweet.

A United Nations arbitration court in 2016 rejected China's claim to more than 80% of the South China Sea. The Philippines under President Benigno S.C. Aquino III filed the lawsuit that critics said Mr. Duterte had failed to pursue.

Aside from the Philippines and China, Brunei, Malaysia, Vietnam and Taiwan also claim parts of the waterway.

Mr. Duterte had said the Philippines and China could settle the dispute peacefully. He also said China was a benefactor, citing vaccine donations and investments from its neighbor.

The tough-talking leader also said he never promised during his presidential campaign to retake the country's territories in the South China Sea.

He rebuked retired Supreme Court Justice Antonio T. Carpio and former Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert del Rosario, who have spoken against his foreign policy on China, for forcing him to quarrel with his neighbor.

But Mr. Carpio belied the President's claim, noting that during the campaign, he had promised to fight for Philippine sovereignty over the South China Sea.

He said Mr. Duterte had promised to ride a jet ski to Scarborough Shoal and plant the Philippine flag there.

Mr. Duterte this week said he was just joking.

NTF-WPS: 287 Chinese ships spotted in WPS; BFAR drives away 3 in Sabina Shoal

May 13, 2021



This handout photo taken on March 27, 2021 and received from the National Task Force-West Philippine Sea (NTF-WPS) via the Philippine Communications Operations Office (PCOO) on March 31, 2021 shows Chinese vessels anchored at Whitsun Reef, some 320 kilometres (175 nautical miles) west of Palawan Island in the South China Sea. - A fleet of Chinese ships that sparked a diplomatic row after parking at a reef off the Philippines for weeks are now scattered across the contested Spratly Islands, a government agency said on March 31, 2021, condemning Beijing's "unlawful presence" in the area. (Photo by Handout / various sources / AFP) / RESTRICTED TO EDITORIAL USE - MANDATORY CREDIT "AFP PHOTO / National Task Force-West Philippine Sea (NTF-WPS) via Philippine Communications Operations Office (PCOO)" - NO MARKETING - NO ADVERTISING CAMPAIGNS - DISTRIBUTED AS A SERVICE TO CLIENTS

The National Task Force for the West Philippine Sea (NTF-WPS) reported on Wednesday (May 12) that more Chinese ships were sighted in the Julian Felipe Reef in the West Philippine Sea.

Based on the maritime patrol conducted on May 9 by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), 34 Chinese ships were spotted in the said area, while 77 Chinese ships were seen at Chigua Reef and three Vietnamese vessels at Sin Cowe East Reef.

"As for the features forming part of the Pagkakaisa (Union) Banks, the 9 May 2021 maritime patrol reported the presence of 34 CMMs at Juan Felipe (Whitsun) Reef (JFR), two Vietnamese (VN) logistics/supply ships, and one VN Coast Guard vessel at Sin Cowe East (Grierson) Reef and 77 CMMs in Chigua Reef," the task force said.

The NTF-WPS said there are 287 Chinese maritime militia vessels in the area. The task force reiterated that Julian Felipe Reef and other portions of the Pagkakaisa Bank, such as the McKennan or Chigua Reef and the Grierson or Sin Cowe East Reef, are under the Municipality of Kalayaan.

Meanwhile, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) on May 7 and May 8 drove away three Chinese vessels anchored in the Sabina Shoal.

The BFAR sent a radio challenge to the ships and due to shallow water, used rubber boats to escort them away from the shoal.

The NTF-WPS said the government is continuously monitoring the area because it is under Philippine jurisdiction. It added that it will continue to fight for the country's sovereignty and rights in the territorial dispute. #

Report from Bea Bernardo/NGS-jlo

Source: <https://ptvnews.ph/ntf-wps-287-chinese-ships-spotted-in-wps-bfar-drives-away-3-in-sabina-shoal/>

14 MAY 2021, FRIDAY



NEWS ALERTS

COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Authorized persons outside of residence (APORs) line up at a bus station on May 11, 2021 in EDSA Monumento Calocan where they are given a free ride on EDSA carousel buses.

The STAR/Michael Varcas

6,385 new COVID-19 cases seen as 'NCR Plus' awaits new quarantine status

(Philstar.com) - May 13, 2021 - 4:02pm

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Health on Thursday tallied 6,385 new coronavirus cases, pushing the country's count to 1,124,724.

Today's development saw active cases up by 2,046 from Wednesday's 53,214.

DOH added that all laboratories were able to submit data from their COVID-19 tests.

- Active cases: 55,260 or 4.9% of the total
- Recoveries: 4,289, bringing the number to 1,050,643
- Deaths: 107, or now 18,821 in total

What's new today?

- Palace said President Rodrigo Duterte will announce tonight a new quarantine status for 'NCR Plus' until the end of the month. The bubble has been in stricter lockdown for months now, but some restrictions had been eased this May.
- Vaccine czar Carlito Galvez Jr. vowed that [1.5 million doses](#) of AstraZeneca will be used by mid-June. This came amid concern that the jabs will be put to waste as it will expire by June 30.
- Enrique Razon's ICTSI sought to dispute reports that its proposed 'mega' vaccination site in Nayong Pilipino will be built on an urban forest, and instead will be on a deserted and uninhabited area.
- Still on vaccines: Galvez announced too that the COVAX facility will deliver 2.2 million more doses of Pfizer before May ends. Some 193,050 doses had arrived this week.



Nahawaan ng COVID-19 sa bansa sumirit sa 1,118,359

(Philstar.com) - May 12, 2021 - 4:03pm



A health worker shows syringes filled with Pfizer vaccine as they administer the first dose to those belonging to A1 (medical frontliners), A2 (senior citizens) and A3 (persons with comorbidity) categories during their continuation of vaccination program for San Juaneños at FilOil Flying V Centre (San Juan Arena) on May 12, 2021.

The STAR/Michael Varcas

MANILA, Philippines – Nakapagtala ang Department of Health (DOH) ng 4,842 bagong infection ng coronavirus disease (COVID-19), Miyerkules, kung kaya nasa 1,118,359 na sumatutal ang nahahawaan nito sa bansa.

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

- **Lahat ng kaso:** 1,118,359
- **Nagpapagaling pa:** 53,214, o 4,8% ng total infections
- **Kagagaling lang:** 8,312, dahilan para maging 1,046,431 na lahat ng gumagaling
- **Kamamatay lang:** 94, na siyang nag-aakyat sa total local death toll sa 18,714

Anong bago ngayong araw?

- Kinumpirma ng Department of Science and Technology, Miyerkules, na naghahanda nang mag-apply ng emergency use authorization ang Pfizer at Moderna para maiturok ang kanilang COVID-19 vaccines sa mga bata sa Pilipinas.

"Ang mga pag-aaral ng Pfizer ay napakabilis for these younger children... Hintayin na lang po natin na mag-apply sila ng EUA sa atin," ani Dr. Nina Gloriano, head ng vaccine expert panel ng DOST sa state-owned PTV.

- Kanina lang din nang sabihin ng World Health Organization (WHO) na [natatagpuan na ang mas nakahahawang B.1.617 COVID-19 variant sa mahigit 44 bansa](#), bagay na nasa likod daw ng biglaang pagputok ng pagkarami-raming kaso sa India kamakailan.
- Kinumpirma naman ng OCTA Research Group na Zamboanga City sa ngayon ang may pinakamaraming kaso ng COVID-19 sa buong Pilipinas labas sa National Capital Region (NCR), bagay na umabot sa 151 kamakailan. Nasa 47% raw aniya ang ibinago nito mula sa mga kaso nito noong nakaraan.



- Nasa 200 katao naman ang inaresto sa Quezon City kaugnay ng hindi pagsusuot ng face masks laban sa COVID-19 vaccine, bagay na nagresulta sa pagmumulta sa kanila ng P300 kada tao.
- [Nakatakda namang ibigay bilang "first dose" ang bulto ng mga AstraZeneca vaccines sa Pilipinas](#), bagay na nalalapit na raw mag-expire, sabi ni Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire sa panayam ng Teleradyo.
- Umabot na sa halos 158.7 milyon ang tinatamaan ng COVID-19 sa buong daigdig, ayon sa [huling datos ng WHO](#). Sa bilang na 'yan, patay na ang mahigit-kumulang 3.3 milyong katao.

— James Relativo



2 mutation ng Indian variant mas mabagsik – DOH

By [Danilo Garcia](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon) - May 12, 2021 - 12:00am



Sa presentasyon ng DOH sa media forum, nabatid na may 16 mutation na ang Indian variant o ang B.1.617 variant ngunit ang E484Q at L452R ang mga mutation na mas nakakabahala.

NIAID

MANILA, Philippines – May dalawang mutation ang COVID-19 Indian variant na mas mapanganib sa tao dahil sa kapabilidad na mas mabilis na makahawa at mas magdulot ng lubha sa pasyente, ayon sa Department of Health (DOH).

Sa presentasyon ng DOH sa media forum, nabatid na may 16 mutation na ang Indian variant o ang B.1.617 variant ngunit ang E484Q at L452R ang mga mutation na mas nakakabahala.

Ang mutation L452R ay sinasabing may mas mataas na kakayahang mas mabilis na makahawa ng marami at malabanan ang antibody ng isang tao. Maaari rin nitong matulungan ang virus na maiwasan ang antibodies ng mga indibidwal na nakarekober na o nabakunahan na.

Ang Mutation E484Q naman ay kahalintulad ng E484K mutation na matatagpuan sa South African variant at Brazil variant. Mas malakas ang binding capacity nito sa tao at maaaring makai-was sa immune system.

Tinukoy na rin ng World Health Organization (WHO) na “variant of concern” ang Indian variant.

Sa Pilipinas bukod sa Indian variant, unang natukoy dito ang presensya ng United Kingdom variant, South African variant at P.3 variant na unang nadiskubre sa ating bansa.

Sa kabila naman ng pagbaba ng mga kaso sa mga nakalipas na araw, nagpaalala si Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire na huwag magpakampante ang publiko dahil wala pa rin sa ‘safe level’ ang sitwasyon sa bansa at mataas pa rin ang average daily attack rate.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2021/05/12/2097558/2-mutation-ng-indian-variant-mas-mabagsik-doh/amp/>

14 MAY 2021, FRIDAY



NEWS ALERTS

VLOGS


STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



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Source:


https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=soEfVL9ILGQ&ab_channel=MizJuly

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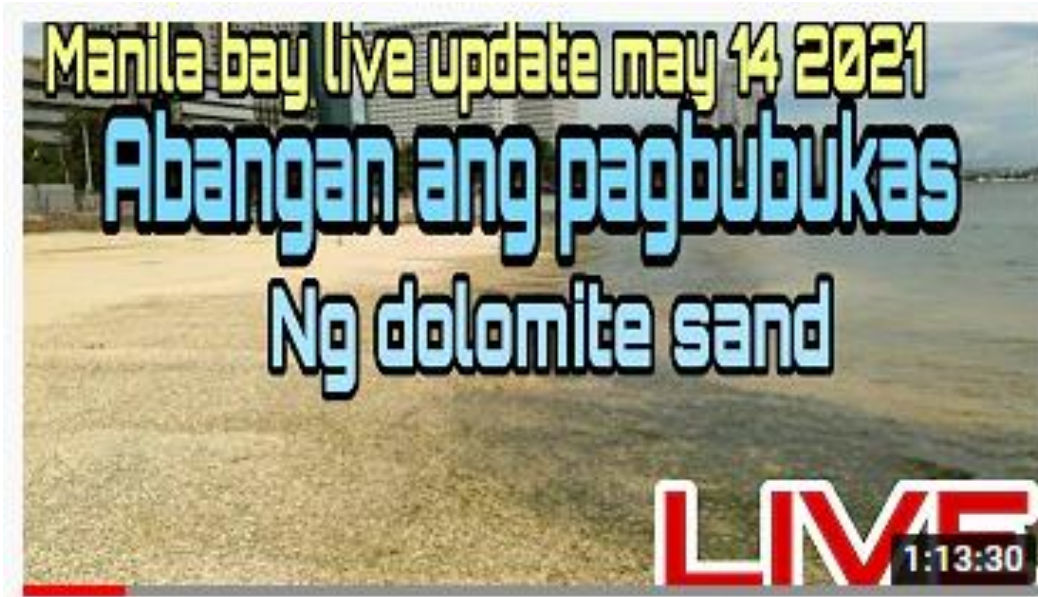
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I traveled by Manila Bay to see how things were looking as they were starting the Sea Wall fence. They have gotten far since I last visited a month ago.

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