15 AUGUST 2021, SUNDAY



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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



# Seguridad sa Marikina watershed pinaigting ng DENR



August 14, 2021 @ 3:39 PM 14 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Sinimulan na ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang pagsasanay sa bagong batch ng environment officer sa Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape matapos ang naganap na pamamaril.

Sa pahayag, sinabi ni DENR said Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu na inatasan na ni DENR Calabarzon Director Nilo Tamoria ang training ng karagdagang Deputized Environment and Natural Resources Officers (DENRO) upang magpatupad ng kautusan sa watershed at mapaigiting ang proteksyon nito.

"Hindi ko pinapayagan ang anumang illegal na gawain lalo dito sa loob ng protected area. We will deal with them one by one," pahayag ni Cimatu.

Kaugnay ng naganap na pag-atake, kinasuhan na ng frustrated murder ang resort owners na pinaniniwalaang nasa likod ng pamamaril. **RNT/FGDC** 

Source: <u>https://www.remate.ph/seguridad-sa-marikina-watershed-pinaigting-ng-</u> <u>denr/?fbclid=IwAR2vMvXbgyhQsZvRJYTDVDNFMF1e1DSQ83tY7sZ8va1yEmu2phLF18M</u> <u>ap3Y</u>



Headline Editorial Column Opinion Feature Article

# DENR ramps up security in Marikina watershed following park rangers' shooting

Job Manahan, ABS-CBN News Posted at Aug 14 2021 11:32 AM

MANILA— The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has started training a new batch of environment officers in the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape following a shooting incident there last month.

Park rangers from the Masungi Georeserve Foundation, which conserves a portion of the Marikina Watershed in Baras, Rizal, sustained bullet wounds in the head and neck in an incident in July.

In a statement, the DENR said Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu has directed DENR Calabarzon Director Nilo Tamoria to start training additional Deputized Environment and Natural Resources Officers (DENRO) to enforce laws inside the watershed and ramp up its protection.

The statement did not mention though how many officers would be trained.

Cimatu also reportedly sought the assistance of the 80th Infantry Battalion, the Philippine Army, and the Philippine National Police Special Action Force to boost presence in the watershed.

"Hindi ko pinapayagan ang anumang illegal na gawain lalo dito sa loob ng protected area. We will deal with them one by one," Cimatu said.

(I will not allow any illegal activities inside the protected area.)

Billie Dumaliang, a managing trustee at the Masungi Georeserve, earlier told ABS-CBN News that they have been receiving "death threats, intimidation, and harassment on the ground from disgruntled violators."

Before the attack, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) recommended the filing of charges against several local officials and establishments in Baras, Rizal over supposed encroachment at the watershed.

Tamoria had also signed 43 cease and desist orders against the establishments due to violations in the protected areas.

Dumaliang <u>earlier this year</u> revealed to ABS-CBN News the supposed expansion of resorts in the Marikina Watershed, and the spike of illegal activities, clearing and burning of areas included, despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

The watershed was granted protection under Republic Act No. 7586 or the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act of 1992. This means the area is "protected against destructive human exploitation."

On Friday, the <u>park rangers filed</u> frustrated murder charges against resort owners they believe were behind the shooting.

The Philippines remain as one of the deadliest countries for environment defenders. Forty-six people were killed in 2019 alone because of environment-related issues, most of which are government workers, latest available data showed.

Source: <u>https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/08/14/21/denr-boosts-marikina-watershed-security-after-shooting?fbclid=IwAR0-</u> cnw88YvqrwULuNm\_V2rogpA1krUQQweff\_Vk5CkjCITMi439F7GtegY



## **PPP projects eyed in protected areas**

Louise Maureen Simeon (The Philippine Star) - August 15, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The government has pushed through with a plan to develop publicprivate partnership (PPP) projects in protected areas in the country.

The PPP Center and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Biodiversity Management Bureau (DENR-BMB) recently inked a memorandum of agreement for PPPs in protected areas.

Protected areas are identified portions of land and water set aside by reason of their unique physical and biological significance, managed to enhance biological diversity and protected against destructive human exploitation.

The MOA aims to ensure that the use of protected areas in developing PPPs is consistent with the principles of biological diversity and sustainable development.

The DENR is designated to issue special-use agreements in protected areas (SAPA) for business ventures that are ecological and environmentally sustainable such as ecotourism, among others.

The PPP Center said it is crucial to have clear policies laid out for developing projects especially in critical sectors such as the country's protected areas.

Further, the agreement confirms the PPP Center's support to building the capacities of the DENR in structuring and designing PPPs in protected areas, with main focus on resilience, safety, and conservation and protection of protected areas and natural resources.

Currently, the DENR-BMB is working with the Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN), a United Nations Development Program-managed global collaborative partnership, on addressing biodiversity finance challenges and designing finance solutions for implementation in biodiversity conservation in the country.

The MOA is anchored on the implementation and compliance with the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act, as amended by the Expanded NIPAS Act of 2018.







Masks and gloves were found scattered along EDSA on September 28, 2020. The STAR/Miguel de Guzman, file

# Pandemic generates 280 tons of medical waste daily – DENR

Rhodina Villanueva (The Philippine Star) - August 15, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Pandemic times have resulted in the accumulation of an estimated 280 metric tons of medical wastes every day, posing a new problem for the country, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said yesterday.

To address this, the DENR will be implementing a health care waste management project in cooperation with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). Geri Sañez of the DENR-Environmental Management Bureau, said addressing this waste problem is necessary, taking into account that COVID-19 is a serious illness and can cause detrimental effects to human health.

A United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) publication indicated that infectious waste refers to medical waste that "carries pathogenic microorganisms and has the hazard of leading to the spread of infectious diseases."

Infectious waste mainly includes articles contaminated by patients' blood, body fluid or excrement and household garbage generated by isolated infectious patients or suspected infectious patients treated by medical institutions.

At Friday's launching of the project, UNDP team leader Floradema Eleazar said there is a \$1.076-million (about P53-million) allocation for the Philippines with financing from China's South-South Cooperation Fund.

The China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA) is co-funding the project which totals \$5 million for five developing countries – the Philippines, Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar and Nepal.

Under the project, two waste treatment facilities will be put up in the Philippines, said Eleazar.

One treatment facility will be put up in cooperation with the Pasig City local government unit (LGU) where several hospitals are run by the government.

"The problem (of medical waste) has reached critical level. The city government does not have the capacity to deal with this infectious waste that has been piling up in the past few months. It is an urgent concern that seeks to be addressed," said Pasig Mayor Vico Sotto.



Meanwhile, Samuel Sumilang, chief nurse of the Dr. Jose Rodriguez Memorial Hospital and Sanitarium in Tala, Caloocan City, also expressed gratitude for having been chosen as a pilot site for the project.

Eleazar said the waste management project will emulate the success experienced by China in its response to the COVID-19 medical waste problem.



## **BEST, DENR launch 'Trash to CashBack'**

### program

(The Philippine Star) - August 15, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Basic Environmental Systems & Technologies Inc. (BEST), a unit of listed IPM Holdings Inc., has partnered with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-National Capital Region (DENR-NCR) in launching a Trash to CashBack program where Filipinos can trade in segregated recyclable waste, earn environmental points and redeem consumer goods from program partners.

The incentivized waste collection system promotes proper waste segregation at source and supports a circular economy. "The program aims to protect the environment while helping communities and businesses comply with waste segregation as mandated by Republic Act 9003 or Solid Waste Management Act," BEST managing director Jan Vincent Mercado said.

BEST will set up its first drop off point called "My Basurero Eco-Community Center" (MBE-C) at DENR's National Ecology Center in Quezon City. More drop off/exchange centers will soon be set up at DENR-NCR offices at the North Sector in Navotas, South Sector in Parañaque and West Sector along Roxas Boulevard in Manila. These centers in strategic areas will serve more companies and individuals who wish to participate and particularly help in DENR's mandate to preserve the environment in the Manila Bay Area.

Participating individuals or companies can bring or deliver recyclable wastes from their homes or offices to their preferred MBE-C, register an account using the bXTRA app, earn credits, and redeem environmental points. Mercado said bXTRA has existing partner outlets that include big companies and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) whose products can be redeemed on site.

With over 17,500 eco-warriors registered in the program, he said BEST is inviting more individuals and companies to be participants or partners. To date, its program partners include the Quezon City government, City of Dreams, Manila Marriott Hotel, Philippine Business for Social Progress, Rotary International (RPC-21), Muntinlupa National High School through the I am Sam Foundation and IPM Holdings.

"It's part of good corporate governance for companies to demonstrate how they're helping save the environment. After all, socially conscious investors always consider environmental, social and governance criteria in screen potential investments," Mercado said.

As proof of concept, he said BEST has an existing bXTRA drop off and exchange center at Brixton St. in Barangay Kapitolyo, Pasig City where individuals and companies can trade their recyclable waste for points and consumer goods.



## Natural ministry to preserve Marawi park

Published 12 hours ago on August 14, 2021 05:56 PM By <u>Nonoy Lacson</u>



ZAMBOANGA CITY—The Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Energy's (MENRE) will formulate regulations and prohibitions that will protect and preserve the Sacred Mountain National Park in Marawi, Lanao del Sur.

MENRE, together with other groups of environmentalists, visited and inspected the state of the Sacred Mountain National Park to conduct an assessment aimed to record the mountain's vulnerabilities and establish policies for its development and conservation of the park on 10 August.

The 94-hectare Sacred Mountain National Park is dominated by the 900-foot Mount Mupo located in the barangays of Guimba and Papandayan.

It was established as a national park on August 5, 1965, by the virtue of Republic Act No. 4190.

Provincial ENRE Officer Asmarie Labao said that the park needs an actual delineation due to the continuous encroachment of the community.

"The remaining forest cover must be conserved and protected," he said.

Mindanao State University, College of Forestry and Environmental Studies (MSU-CFES) Professor Mark Gregory confirmed the existence of exotic species found at the 94-hectare Sacred Mountain National Park.

He named a few of them as the African Tulip trees and Buyo-Buyo plants, which may be harmful to the few native species remaining in the mountain.

"With the help and assistance of the experts from MSU-CFES, we have now the initial data of the existing flora and fauna found at Mount Mupo, especially the endemic species we have and the presence of exotic species," he added.





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## Groups oppose lifting of mining ban

By Franz Sumangil August 15, 2021

THE <u>South Cotabato Irrigators Agricultural Federation</u> (SCIAF) is opposing the lifting of the ban on open pit mining.

Open pit mining, also known as mega-mining, open-cast or open-cut mining, is a surface mining technique of extracting rock or minerals from the earth by their removal from an open-air pit, sometimes known as a borrow pit.

According to SCIAF President <u>Teodorico Fadrigo</u>, open pit mining would cause devastating effects to the environment, particularly to agricultural farms. Fadrigo said aside from affecting the river system in the mountainous parts of Tampakan town in South Cotabato, the mining activity would also have adverse effects on water supplies in the entire province

The group leader added that open pit mining also contributes to global warming, and it is against the Environmental Code of South Cotabato.

Meanwhile, the Diocese of Marbel will begin a signature campaign on Monday, August 16, against open pit mining.

The launching of the campaign will be held in <u>Notre Dame</u> of <u>Marbel University Hope</u> <u>Center</u> for <u>Justice</u> and Good Governance in <u>Koronadal City</u>, South Cotabato. It will be headed by Bishop <u>Cerilo Casicas. Other</u> local and national environmentalist groups are also supporting the campaign, which aims to convince the <u>Provincial Council</u> to keep the ban on open pit mining in the province of South Cotabato.

It can be recalled that the Indigenous Political Structure (IPS) and the Indigenous Peoples Mandatory Representatives (IPMR) proposed to the Provincial Council the lifting of the ban on open pit mining, which is one of the provisions of South Cotabato's Environment Code.

In a proposed joint resolution by the municipal IPMR of Tampakan, Polomolok and Tupi towns and its Barangay IPMRs, the groups aim to amend Section 16 and Section 22 (b) of the environment code.Section 16 of the code provides that "all local government units shall ensure full participation of IPs and that their indigenous knowledge, systems and practices are harmonized in the protection, conservation, rehabilitation, development and management of forest resources of their respective ancestral domains" while Section 22 (b) thereof states that "open-pit mining method shall not be allowed in the Province of South Cotabato."

The groups believe that the operation of the Tampakan Copper-Gold project of <u>Sagittarius</u> <u>Mines Inc.</u> (SMI) would greatly help in mitigating the adverse effects of the <u>Covid-19</u> pandemic and alleviate the economy and livelihood of the Blaan community and other Indigenous Peoples in the province.

SMI employs the open-pit mining method in its operations.

Source: <u>https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/08/15/news/regions/groups-oppose-lifting-of-mining-</u>

ban/1810984?fbclid=IwAR1fDDvgLlrgUshWIRSQ\_Ip2E1PzHALUpGHON87hQR7prrDLzrk \_2Elsckw



## Haribon supports call to junk Dumaguete's 'smart city' project

BYBUSINESSMIRROR AUGUST 15, 2021



BIODIVERSITY conservationist group Haribon Foundation joined the call of the country's leading scientists to junk the "smart city" reclamation project in Dumaguete City.

In a statement, the group also urged the city's local government "to reassess the impacts of reclamation on biodiversity and its ecosystem services."

"Haribon Foundation stands with the leading scientists from Silliman University to urge local and national government authorities to oppose and abandon the proposed 174-hectare Smart City reclamation project along the shores of the renowned university town in Negros Oriental," the group said.

"We believe that decisions over the establishment of large infrastructure projects that creates long-term impacts on the lives of those dependent on these resources should be inclusive and transparent," Haribon added.

The move to authorize the project without public consultation led to an uproar among Dumaguete's constituents, especially its scientists, according to Haribon.

In their recent statement, Silliman University President Dr. Betty Cernol-McCann, SU's former presidents Dr. Angel Alcala and Dr. Ben Malayang III, marine scientists Dr. Hilconida Calumpong, Dr. Rene Abesamis, Dr. Enrique Oracion, Dr. Janet Estacion and Dr. Robert Guinoo said the project will "bury the biodiversity-rich coastal habitats of Dumaguete, impacting 63 percent of the 58 hectares of seagrass beds and 61 percent of the 60 hectares of coral reefs."

### Marine protected areas movement

National Scientist Alcala, a former member of the Haribon Board of Trustees and scientific advisor, led the marine protected areas (MPAs) movement in the Philippines, Haribon said.

The movement started in Dumaguete City when Alcala was the lead marine scientist in the Silliman University Marine Laboratory. He was also a former secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Alcala and his team established the first community-based MPA—known today as the Apo Island Protected Landscape and Seascape—which became one of the most successful MPAs in terms of tourism and fisheries management.



"This MPA continues to be a beacon of hope as one of the 228 Key Biodiversity Areas in the country," Haribon said.

### Ecological and socioeconomic damage

HARIBON said that recent information suggests deeper areas off the coast of Dumaguete City between 30 meters to 90 meters deep also harbor a high diversity of fish.

While these areas offer fewer hiding places and shelter than shallow reefs, 60 percent to 80 percent of the fishes found here are important to fisheries.

"Our waters are interconnected. Fish stocks are shared and know no political boundaries, known as ecological connectivity," the group said.

Haribon said the "irreversible ecological damage will have a ripple effect on dozens of other MPAs along the Negros Oriental coast, Siquijor and Bohol, as well as the DENR-managed MPAs, such as the Apo Island Protected Landscape and Seascape and Tañon Strait Protected Seascape."

### Legally protected MPAs

DUMAGUETE City's four MPAs will also cease to exist once the proposed reclamation project is approved, Haribon said.

MPAs provide refuge for biodiversity, including fishes to thrive, reproduce and be protected from human activities within its boundaries, allowing them to move in and out, or provide eggs and fishes to other areas.

"These MPAs are legally protected through a city ordinance enacted by the Sangguniang Bayan of Dumaguete that localizes the implementation of Republic Act 8550, or the Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998, and its internal rules and regulations, Republic Act 10654," the group said.

Prior to their approval, the MPAs went through a lengthy process that involved consultations with several stakeholders of the city.

#### **Beyond marine resources**

RECLAMATION projects alter coastal topography and will change local water movement, adding to the imminent problem of sea-level rise in low-lying areas.

"The development of artificial islands [also] requires tens of millions of filling materials, which will be sourced through quarrying on land or dredging the seafloor. These are seen to result in permanent environmental damage to the source areas," Haribon said.

While the effects may not be seen in the immediate area, their repercussions will be felt elsewhere through coastal erosion given the interconnectedness of ecosystems.

Haribon said the reclamation project "that promises to build infrastructures, such as high-rise hotels and even a yacht club, will further marginalize fishers and their communities dependent on the resources provided by the MPAs and the coastal habitats of Dumaguete."



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Headline Editorial Column Opinion Feature Article

# Environmental group urges regulated entry to watershed

THE EXPONENT OF

Published August 14, 2021, 4:51 PM by Antonio Colina IV

DAVAO CITY – An environmental group urged the city government to create a mechanism to regulate the entry of people to the Panigan-Tamugan Watershed for recreation after recovering more assorted wastes, mostly face masks, due to the unregulated and unmonitored recreational activities that are making Davao City's next water source as a "trash bin."

PHILIPPINE PROGRESS

LEADING NEWSPAPER

Atty. Mark Peñalver, executive director of the Interface Development Intervention for Sustainability (IDIS), said Saturday that the waste problem would not be solved if these activities are tolerated.

During a cleanup drive conducted by IDIS and Bantay Bukid Volunteers Friday, 80 disposable masks, one bottle of fungicide, 36 plastic cups, cigarette packs, and large amounts of various sachets of shampoo, junk food, and detergents were recovered in the watershed.

Last Tuesday, an ordinance, authored by 2nd District Councilor Diosdado Mahipus Jr., who chairs the Committee on Environment, was passed regulating recreational activities within the watershed-conservation areas of the protection, conservation, and preservation of the natural environment.

Pending the drafting of the implementing rules and regulations, he said local government must immediately regulate the number of people entering the watershed and ensure to strictly implement the Republic Act (RA) 9003, also known as the "Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000," and Davao City Ecological Solid Waste Management Ordinance as the "threat to our watershed continues."

"In the meantime, while waiting for that ordinance to be enforced, the LGU in coordination with the barangay should ensure that these violators are apprehended, if not create a mechanism that would regulate entry of people in the area based on our existing laws and ordinances," he said.





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Headline Editorial Column Opinion Feature Article



SANGKATERBANG LANGAW. Inirereklamo ng mga residente sa Barangay Sucsuquen, Piddig, Ilocos Norte ang naglipanang langaw sa kanilang lugar na nagsimulang dumami noon pang Mayo.

Isang senior citizen ang naghinaing na wala na siyang ganang kumain dahil nakikisalo ang maraming langaw sa kaniya. Dahil dito, ang mga pamangkin niya'y sa loob na ng kulambo kumakain para lang malayo sa mga langaw.

"Takot na nga kami sa #COVID19... tapos stay home nga pero langaw naman ang aming kalaban."

Pinangamngambahan naman ng isang ina na sa rami ng langaw sa kanilang bahay ay maaaring magkasakit na sila lalo na ang kaniyang mga batang anak.

Ang itinuturong dahilan ng pagdami ng mga langaw ay ang poultry farm sa kanilang barangay, na nais nang maipasara ng ilang residente.

Ayon sa isang empleyado nito, na-harvest na nila ang lahat ng alagang manok at nainspeksiyon na sila ng lokal na pamahalaan, rural health unit, at Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Nagbigay aniya ng ang mga awtoridad ng mga rekomendasyon para matiyak ang kalinisan sa farm.

Dagdag pa ng kawani, namigay na ang pamunuan ng farm sa bawat bahay ng mga gamot pangontra sa pagdami ng langaw.

Tiniyak naman ng lokal na pamahalaan na babantayan nila ang poultry farm kung nasusunod ang kanilang mga rekomendasyon. (Contributed photos) | via Grace Alba

BASAHIN ang kaugnay na ulat: https://news.abs-cbn.com/.../barangay-sa-misamis-oriental...



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ABS-CBN News

TINGNAN: Isang pawikan ang ibinalik sa dagat sa Dumangas, Iloilo Biyernes.

Ayon sa MENRO Dumangas, nasagip ng mga mangingisda ang green sea turtle sa dalampasigan ng Barangay Ermita noong Huwebes.

May pinakawalan ding dalawang pawikan sa Canawayon Island, Lapinig, Northern Samar noong Biyernes.

Nasagip ito ng mga mangingisda sa Barangay Lapinig del Norte. (ma: MENRO Dumangas at Lapinig PNP) | via Rolen Escaniel at Ranulfo Docdocan

BASAHIN ang kaugnay na ulat: https://news.abs-cbn.com/.../2-pawikan-nasagip-sa...





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## Legal standing of animals, etc.

By Amado Tolentino Jr. August 14, 2021

THE preamble of the 1982 World Charter for Nature says, "Every form of life is unique, warranting respect regardless of its worth to man." With the emergence of the new field of environmental law, this statement led to the issue of awarding rights to subjects other than man and has granted legal standing to natural entities such as rivers and mountains and the right of species to survive.

Thus far, the following are instances when Mother Nature gained legal standing:

1. In 2008, <u>Ecuador</u> set a legal precedent by giving nature rights like humans in its Constitution. This is interpreted to mean that the entire ecosystems has the "right to exist, persist, maintain and regenerate." Actually, Ecuador is the first country in the world to enshrine rights of nature in the Constitution.

2. Bolivia identified the rights of nature to include the right to life, dignity of life, water, clean air and restoration in its 2010 Law of the Rights of Mother Earth.

3. The Supreme Court of <u>Bangladesh</u> endowed rivers with legal personhood in 2019. That was the offshoot of a case to save the <u>Turag River</u> from pollution, sand extraction and even landgrabbing. It was the first instance when Bangladesh gave legal rights to all its rivers.

4. An Indian court recognized the Himalayan glaciers as legal persons in an effort to curb environmental destruction.

5. A river in New Zealand's North Island became the subject of rights in 2017. A local Maori tribe has fought for nearly 150 years for the <u>Whanganui River</u> to be recognized as an ancestor and a legal person with rights and duties, including property rights, in its riverbed.

6. Colombia's Supreme Court in 2018 recognized the Colombian Amazon as an "entity subject of rights," just as its <u>Constitutional Court</u> in 2016 did with the <u>Atrato River</u>. Such was the conclusion reached by court in its historic decision ordering the president and the ministers of environment and agriculture to make an action plan to reduce deforestation for the life of the Colombian Amazon. Considered as part of the 'lungs of the earth' which absorb the carbon dioxide emissions that produce the greenhouse gas effect, the ruling is a significant step in the inclusion of forest protection in climate change mitigation.

| What | about | the | rights | of | animals? |
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### Humans and apes

Historically, Darwin was the first to notice that apes can communicate; so can dolphins. Does that make them like humans? "Humans and apes may both have opposable thumbs but what makes <u>us</u> unique is our invention of language," opined journalist and Esquire writer <u>Tom Wolfe</u>. Throughout his life, he never seemed to forget that all humans are glorified talking apes, who stumbled upon a new tool.

In 2018, the Uttarakhand high court in India declared the animal kingdom (including the avian and aquatic creatures) to be legal entities with the rights, duties and liabilities of a living person.



In the Philippines, the closest Supreme Court came out with a decision involving the legal standing of animals is in a 2012 case (Resident Marine Mammals of the <u>Protected Seascape</u> <u>Tanon Strait</u>, e.g., toothed whales, dolphins, porpoises and other cetacean species, joined in and represented by human beings <u>Gloria Estenzo Ramos et</u> al v. DENR Secretary <u>Angelo</u> <u>Reves et</u> al) wherein the court initially said dolphins and other sea mammals have no legal personality but eventually, as guardians of the marine species in the Tanon Strait, allowed their representation in the case by young environmental lawyers from the Visayas region.

The Manila Times

In the US, a habeas corpus (one has the body of a person) proceeding on behalf of Happy, a 48-year-old female Asian elephant in the <u>Bronx</u> Zoo in New York City, gained prominence in environmental law circles around the world.

The grounds for the habeas corpus action were: 1) Happy was unlawfully imprisoned in the zoo and should be relocated to one of the two elephant sanctuaries in the US. 2) Happy had lived alone in a 1-acre enclosure which constituted solitary confinement, "notwithstanding the incontrovertible scientific evidence that the elephant is an autonomous, intelligent being with advanced cognition abilities akin to human beings." 3) The Bronx Zoo imprisons Happy in a tiny, cold, lonely, un-elephant friendly and unnatural place and ignores her autonomy as well as her social, emotional and bodily liberty needs.

The court rejected the application of habeas corpus elaborating on what it takes to be deemed a "person" and defined legal personhood as a function of having both rights and duties in society. Elephants "cannot bear duties, submit to social responsibilities or be held legally accountable for their action...rendering it inappropriate to confer upon elephants the legal rights such as the fundamental right to liberty protected by the writ of habeas corpus accorded to human beings."

In connection with that ruling is a decision rendered in another case, <u>Cetacean Community</u> v. Bush (386 F.3d 1169, 1176 (9th Cir. 2004) wherein it was stated: "[I]t is obvious that an animal cannot function as a plaintiff in the same manner as a judicially competent human being. But we see no reason why Article III prevents Congress from authorizing a suit in the name of an animal any more than it prevents suits brought in the name of artificial persons such as corporations, partnerships or trusts, and even ships, or of judicially incompetent persons such as infants, juveniles and mental incompetents." Ultimately, however, in resolving the issue of whether the world's cetaceans have standing under relevant federal legislation, it failed to find such authorization in the statutes under consideration.

| Legal | standing | of | artificial | intelligence |
|-------|----------|----|------------|--------------|
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The issue of standing and personhood of animals easily leads to other issues such as artificial intelligence and intellectual property. For example, if a human being creates a software that qualifies as artificial intelligence, i.e., it can teach itself and learn, and that software generates a piece of music, does that copyright belong to the artificial intelligence or the programmer ?

The <u>US Copyright Office</u> has stated that to qualify for "authorship" a work must be created by a human being. Non-qualifying examples include a photograph taken by a monkey or a mural painted by an elephant. In the same vein are works produced by a machine or mere mechanical process that operates randomly or automatically without any creative input or intervention from a human author.

In the UK, the author of a literary, dramatic, musical or artistic work which is computergenerated is the "person by whom the arrangements necessary for the work are undertaken."

In Spain and Germany, only works created by a human being can be protected by copyright.



The European Union parliament has addressed specifically the legal status of robots as "electronic persons" for purposes of liability. This needs further elaboration and, ultimately, a legislative enactment.

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| Changed | law | in | а | changed | world? |

As with animals, the issue of legal standing for artificial intelligence depends on legislative response or action through a new or amended legislation. Be it noted that animal intelligence is biological, not artificial. Whether that fact ultimately makes a difference remains to be seen.

In all this, the purpose of law - to put order in society - will matter much. As taught in law schools, there is nothing permanent in law. It keeps on changing, evolving. No surprises if animals and artificial intelligence cope with the needs of a changed world after the worldwide climate emergency and health crisis are over via changed law on the rights of animals and artificial intelligence.



## Avoid climate disaster

BREAKTHROUGH - Elfren S. Cruz (The Philippine Star) - August 15, 2021 - 12:00am

Last week, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released a report on the present and future state of global warming in the world. For those who have not read it or about it in my last column – last Thursday – the report was devastating and depressing.

For example, the report said that humans have caused so much emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere that the adverse effects will remain for at least another 30 years, no matter what the world does. However, if the world does not want global warming to get worse or continue beyond the next 30 years, actions must be taken now.

The epidemics of heat waves, forest fires and glacier melting will continue and, if nothing is done, will get worse. Glacier meltdown leads to sea levels rising, rendering coastal areas uninhabitable.

Amidst all these depressing news about the climate disaster that has started, I started looking for something optimistic I could write about climate change. The closest thing to optimism is a book "HOW TO AVOID A CLIMATE DISASTER: The Solutions We Have and the BREAKTHROUGHS We Need" by BILL GATES, published by Alfred Knopf (2021). Although the book was written before the IPCC report, most of its proposals are still relevant. However, the most relevant is that it provides a framework for anyone interested in looking for proposals on how to combat climate change.

Bill Gates has been researching and looking for solutions to the coming climate disaster. He is fortunate that he has been able to use the immense personal wealth in his foundation to finance his studies and research.

In this book with the help of experts in the field of physics, chemistry, biology, engineering, political science and finance, according to the publishers, "...he has focused on what must be done in order to stop the planet's slide to certain environmental disaster. In this book, he not only explains why we need to work toward net zero emissions of greenhouse gases, but also details what we need to do to achieve that profoundly important goal."

According to Gates, the world typically adds 51 billion tons of greenhouse gases every year to the atmosphere. Zero is what the world needs to aim for. To stop global warming and avoid the worst effects of climate change, humans need to stop adding greenhouse gases to the atmosphere. Gates says that there are certain actions that governments and business can do to reduce greenhouse gases.

• **Use procurement power.** Governments and business buy enormous amounts of fuel, cement and steel. They operate planes, trucks, cars and consume gigawatts worth of electricity. They are in a position to use emerging technologies at low cost. They can provide incentives for green products.

• Create incentives that lower costs and reduce risks. The government can give the private sector incentives to go green. Tax credits, loan guarantees and other tools can help reduce the Green Premiums and drive demand for new technologies.

• Build the infrastructure that will get new technologies to market. Even the cost competitive low-carbon technologies won't be able to gain market share if the infrastructure isn't in place to get them to market in the first place. Governments at all levels need to help get that infrastructure built. This includes transmission lines for wind and solar, charging stations for electric vehicles, and pipelines for captured carbon dioxide and hydrogen.



• Change the rules so new technologies can compete. Once the infrastructure is built, new market rules that allow new technologies to be competitive will be needed. Electricity markets that were designed around 20th century technology often put 21st century technologies at a disadvantage.

• **Put a price on carbon.** Putting a price on emissions is one of the most effective things we can do to eliminate Green Premiums. One is by raising the price of fossil fuels. There should be a price for producing emissions.

• **Clean electricity standards.** Require electric utilities to get a certain percentage of their energy from renewable sources. Any clean energy technology like nuclear and carbon capture technology count toward meeting the standard.

• Clean fuel standards. Reduce emissions from cars and buildings as well as power plants. This would increase deployment of electric vehicles, advanced biofuelds, electrofuels, and other low carbon solutions.

• **Clean product standards.** Standards can also help the deployment of low emission cement, steel, plastics and other carbon intensive products.

• Out with the old. In addition to rolling out new technology as fast as possible, governments will need to retire inefficient fossil fueled equipment whether power plants or automobiles. If consumers start buying, prices will go down with the increased volume.

Gates also has a few suggestions for the consumer.

• **Reduce your home's emissions.** Some examples are replace incandescent lightbulbs with LED, install a smart thermostat, insulate your windows, buy efficient appliances.

• **Buy an electric vehicle.** If people buy more electric vehicles, the prices will go down and they will become more affordable.

• **Try a plant based burger.** Eating a meat substitute will cut down on the emissions you are responsible for. The same goes for dairy products.

### • Sign up for a green program with your electric utility.

Obviously I have written only a part of what is in the book. As Bill Gates said: "If we keep an eye on the big goal – getting to zero – and we make serious plans to achieve that goal, we can avoid a disaster. We can keep the climate bearable for everyone, help hundreds of millions of poor people make the most of their lives and preserve the planet for generations to come."

\* \* \*

Young Writers' Hangout on August 21 with Kate Osias, 2-3 pm.

Contact <u>writethingsph@gmail.com</u>. 0945.2273216 Email: <u>elfrencruz@gmail.com</u>



## Wanted: Visionaries who see green

Pacita U. Juan (The Philippine Star) - August 15, 2021 - 12:00am

The world has gone green. Tesla and even Porsche has electric cars. Yet, in a country like ours, GREEN power is not getting enough push. Did you know it would take 200 permits to get a solar plant started? Now that's real red tape.

We used to be number two in geothermal, now we slid to number three because Indonesia overtook us. This and other energy-related tidbits were shared with us by Atty. Jay Layug, who used to work at the Department of Energy (DOE). I asked many questions related to making our little farm shift to solar power.

I asked a solar provider to give me a quotation to turn my coffee mill and cupping lab into a solar-powered facility. Alas, I need to spend AT COST almost P400,000 and three years plus to recover the investment.

But I will still try to make a solar panel installation in my small house to at least provide for hot water and a few lights. Amadeo, Cavite is on a high elevation and we may not need air conditioning through most parts of the year. But we do need hot water and some lights. We need to run our electric water pump, etc.

The ideal scenario – given our GREEN-related laws:

• Use solar power if you consume at least 100 kilowatts (KW)

• Sell your excess to government through Feed In Tariff (FIT) which has been suspended for now but which we hope will be reinstated in the next administration. Hello Mr. Secretary, what is the reason for suspending FIT?

• We have the right and option to get power from green power providers. It's supposed to be cheaper and better than coal, right?

Now, what is happening to our green or renewable sector? Given that we already had a close brush with blackouts last summer, it's time to prepare for the next summer season. Let's use solar power whenever we can.

Besides being cost efficient and cheaper over the long haul, green power is something every household should consider. This is the future. Rommel, my nephew, turns on his air conditioner which is powered by the sun. He installed solar panels and enjoys free aircon while conducting virtual meetings from his home. Rommel is also Mr. Electric Vehicle and started the EVs and electric jeeps many years ago.

So, where is this headed? Even Meralco has started its foray into green power. What about the other coal companies? When will you speed up towards going green?

The damage to the planet is being assessed as "irreversible" but we are not losing hope. The first to go will be methane-producing cows and then simultaneously a conversion or transition to renewable energy.

Another investment is solar plants or solar farms. We are looking for areas where the idle land can be converted into solar farms. Not every country has the gift of so much sun like ours – imagine the western countries who have the technology but do not have as much solar power as we have.



But again, 200 permits to do a solar plant? Let's think again. Where did we make a mistake? In any case, maybe this will be speeded up by the Anti Red Tape Authority (ARTA) or if enough netizens give their opinion about it, maybe the DOE and other agencies will wake up to sun power, or wind power or ocean power.

As congresswoman Loren Legarda says: We have good laws. We just need to implement them well. So what are we waiting for? If each company or each village produced their own power through solar, it can even be a money-making activity for each town.

Let's keep learning. Because power is something we all need. But we can shift to renewables. We can slowly get rid of coal or fossil fuel. But it has to start from the top. So we are calling on our corporate heads to start green projects and the general investing public to choose renewable energy investments.

Why is it taking so long for corporate leaders to realize that this is the way of the future? Is it just profit even if it is not green profit? If one has to adjust to today's pandemic, the heat upon us, the unprecedented power shortages and dire situation of our power plants, we must act now. Be the one who looks into the future. Be the one who looks at a sustainable tomorrow for your company while you are in charge.

It can be done if we all do it. And we can do it if we see it.

Are you one of the visionaries who can see it?



## Climate change is causing tuna to migrate

This could spell catastrophe for the small islands that depend on them

BYTHE CONVERSATION AUGUST 15, 2021



SMALL Pacific Island states depend on their commercial fisheries for food supplies and economic health. But our new research shows climate change will dramatically alter tuna stocks in the tropical Pacific, with potentially severe consequences for the people who depend on them.

As climate change warms the waters of the Pacific, some tuna will be forced to migrate to the open ocean of the high seas, away from the jurisdiction of any country. The changes will affect three key tuna species: skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye.

|   | COUNTRY                        | ANNUAL ACCESS FEE REVENUE | % OF GOV. REVENUE |
|---|--------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | Palau                          | \$7.1 million             | 9.4%              |
| 2 | Federated States of Micronesia | \$68.4 million            | 47.6%             |
| 3 | Papua New Guinea               | \$134.3 million           | 4%                |
| 4 | Marshall Islands               | \$31 million              | 47.8%             |
| 5 | Nauru                          | \$29.5 million            | 31.2%             |
| 6 | Solomon Islands                | \$41.3 million            | 9.6%              |
| 7 | Tuvalu                         | \$25.6 million            | 53.9%             |
| 8 | Kiribati                       | \$128.3 million           | 70.6%             |
| 9 | Tokelau                        | \$13.4 million            | 84.2%             |
| 0 | Cook Islands                   | \$13.5 million            | 10.60%            |

Pacific Island nations such as the Cook Islands and territories such as Tokelau charge foreign fishing operators to access their waters, and heavily depend on this revenue.

Our research estimates the movement of tuna stocks will cause a fall in annual government revenue to some of these small island states of up to 17 percent.

This loss will hurt these developing economies, which need fisheries revenue to maintain essential services such as hospitals, roads and schools.



Headline

Editorial

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Feature Article

The experience of Pacific Island states also bodes poorly for global climate justice more broadly.

### Island states at risk

CATCHES from the Western and Central Pacific represent over half of all tuna produced globally. Much of this catch is taken from the waters of 10 small developing island states, which are disproportionately dependent on tuna stocks for food security and economic development.

These states comprise Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tokelau and Tuvalu.

Their governments charge tuna fishing access fees to distant nations of between \$7.1 million and \$134 million, providing an average of 37 percent of total government revenue (ranging from 4 percent to 84 percent).

Tuna stocks are critical for these states' current and future economic development, and have been sustainably managed by a cooperative agreement for decades. However, our analysis reveals this revenue, and other important benefits fisheries provide, are at risk.

### **Climate change and migration**

TUNA species are highly migratory—they move over large distances according to ocean conditions. The skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye tuna species are found largely within Pacific Island waters.

Concentrations of these stocks normally shift from year to year between areas further to the east in El Niño years, and those further west in La Niña years.

However, under climate change, these stocks are projected to shift eastward—out of sovereign waters and into the high seas.

Under climate change, the tropical waters of the Pacific Ocean will warm further. This warming will result in a large eastward shift in the location of the edge of the Western Pacific Warm Pool (a mass of water in the western Pacific Ocean with consistently high-water temperatures) and subsequently the prime fishing grounds for some tropical tuna.

This shift into areas beyond national jurisdiction would result in weaker regulation and monitoring, with parallel implications for the long-term sustainability of stocks.

### What our research found

COMBINING climate science, ecological models and economic data from the region, our research published recently in *Nature Sustainability* shows that under strong projections of climate change, small island economies are poised to lose up to \$140 million annually by 2050, and up to 17 percent of annual government revenue in the case of some states.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) provides scenarios of various greenhouse gas concentrations, called "representative concentration pathways" (RCP). We used a higher RCP of 8.5 and a more moderate RCP of 4.5 to understand tuna movement in different emissions scenarios.

In the RCP 8.5 scenario, by 2050, our model predicted the total biomass of the three species of tuna in the combined jurisdictions of the 10 Pacific Island states would decrease by an average of 13 percent, and up to 20 percent.

But if emissions were kept to the lower RCP 4.5 scenario, the effects are expected to be far less pronounced, with an average decrease in biomass of just 1 percent.

While both climate scenarios result in average losses of both tuna catches and revenue, lower emissions scenarios lead to drastically smaller losses, highlighting the importance of climate action.



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These projected losses compound the existing climate vulnerability of many Pacific Island people, who will endure some of the earliest and harshest climate realities, while being responsible for only a tiny fraction of global emissions.

#### What can be done?

CAPPING greenhouse-gas emissions, and reducing them to levels aligning with the Paris Agreement, would reduce multiple climate impacts for these states, including shifting tuna stocks.

In many parts of the world, the consequences of climate change compound upon one another to create complex injustices.

Our study identifies new direct and indirect implications of climate change for some of the world's most vulnerable populations.

Katherine Seto, Johann Bell and Quentin Hanich of the University of Wollongong, and Simon Nicol of the University of Canberra/The Conversation (CC)





## US panics over wildfires; firefighters helpless

By Associated Press August 15, 2021 WESTWOOD: The <u>US Forest Service</u> said on Friday (Saturday in Manila) it's operating in crisis mode, fully deploying firefighters and maxing out its support system as wildfires continue to break out across the <u>US</u> West, threatening thousands of homes and entire towns.

The roughly 21,000 federal firefighters working on the ground is more than double the number of firefighters sent to contain forest fires at this time a year ago, and the agency is facing "critical resources limitations," said <u>Anthony Scardina</u>, a deputy forester for the agency's Pacific Southwest region.

An estimated 6,170 firefighters alone are battling the <u>Dixie Fire</u> in <u>Northern California</u>, the largest of 100 large fires burning in 14 states, with dozens more burning in western Canada.

The fire began a month ago and has destroyed more than 1,000 homes, businesses and other structures, much of it in the small town of Greenville in the northern Sierra Nevada.

The fire had ravaged more than 2,000 square kilometers - an area larger than the city of London - and continued to threaten more than a dozen rural and forest communities.

Containment lines for the fire held overnight, but it was just 31 percent surrounded. Gusty and erratic winds were threatening to spread the fire to Westwood, a lumber town of 1,700. Lightning could spark new blazes even as crews try to surround a number of other forest fires ignited by lightning last month.

"Mother nature just kind of keeps throwing us obstacles our way," said <u>Edwin Zuniga</u>, a spokesman with the <u>California Department of Forestry</u> and Fire Protection, working together with the Forest Service to tamp out the blaze.

Meanwhile, firefighters and residents were scrambling to save hundreds of homes as flames advanced across the Northern <u>Cheyenne Indian Reservation</u> in southeastern <u>Montana</u>.

The blaze was still burning near the tribal headquarters town of Lame Deer, where a mandatory evacuation remained in place and a second fire was threatening from the opposite direction.

Smoke from the blazes grew so thick Friday morning that the health clinic in Lame Deer was shut down after its air filters could not keep up with the pollution, Northern <u>Cheyenne</u> <u>Tribe</u> spokesman <u>Angel Becker</u> said.

Smoke drove air pollution levels to unhealthy or very unhealthy levels in portions of Montana, Idaho, Oregon Washington and Northern California, according to Environmental Protection Agency air quality monitoring.

An air quality alert covering seven Montana counties warned of extremely high levels of small pollution particles found in smoke, which can cause lung issues and other health problems if inhaled.

The fires near Lame Deer combined have burned 710 square kilometers this week, sparing homes so far but causing extensive damage to pasture lands that ranchers depend on to feed their cows and horses.

Source: https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/08/15/news/world/us-panics-over-wildfiresfirefighters-helpless/1810962?fbclid=IwAR0F1PLlb8R5aiH3r61DkwEc7870h4Q-YeOfGpsRHVWK4KYVrCloysHTZog ic



| I | August 15, 2021<br>Date | Headline<br>Editorial |
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# Putin alarmed over 'unprecedented' natural disasters in Russia

ABSOCB

NEWS

Agence France-Presse Posted at Aug 14 2021 10:51 PM



A specialist of the local forest protection service works to extinguish a forest fire near the village of Magaras in the region of Yakutia, Russia July 17, 2021. *Roman Kutukov, Reuters/File* 

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Saturday said the scale of natural disasters that have hit Russia this year has been "absolutely unprecedented".

Speaking at a video conference with officials on the effects of Siberia's record-setting forest fires, he said it was "important" to work on the climate agenda "systematically."

While Siberia sees an annual wildfire season each summer, the fires have burned with an increasing intensity in recent years, which Russian weather officials and environmentalists have linked to climate change.

The leaders of Siberian regions affected by the fires, as well as of a southern Russian region affected by floods, took part in the conference.

"In the south (of Russia), the monthly norm of rainfall now falls in a few hours and in the Far East on the contrary, forest fires in drought conditions are spreading rapidly," Putin said.

He called on authorities to be ready to evacuate more people living in areas affected by the fires, as well as provide economic support for them.

He also called on officials to calculate the effects of the fires and make plans to reconstruct houses.

The Russian leader said it was important to do everything to "save the forest riches" and "minimize damage for animals of the taiga", a word used to describe northern Russian forests.

This week Russia launched a national response centre and deployed additional firefighters to battle the devastating Siberian fires.

In Yakutia, one of the hardest-hit regions this year, fires have already burned through more than 9.4 million hectares (23.2 million acres) -- an area larger than Portugal.



## LPA, Easterlies to bring rains, thunderstorms over 4 areas

Published August 14, 2021 5:25pm



A low-pressure area and the Easterlies are expected to bring cloudy skies with scattered rain showers and thunderstorms over Visayas, the Bicol Region, Quezon, and Dinagat Island, according to PAGASA on Saturday.

In its <u>24-hour forecast</u>, the weather bureau warned against possible flash floods or landslides during severe thunderstorms.

At 3 p.m. on Saturday, the LPA was last estimated at 85 kilometers northeast of Borongan City, Eastern Samar.

Meanwhile, partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rain showers are expected over the National Capital Region and the rest of the country due to Easterlies and localized thunderstorms.

Flash floods and landslides are also possible.

PAGASA's synoptic station at the Science Garden, Diliman, Quezon City recorded a minimum temperature of 24.8°C at 5 a.m. and a maximum temperature of 31.4°C at 12 p.m. —Joahna Lei Casilao/LBG, GMA News

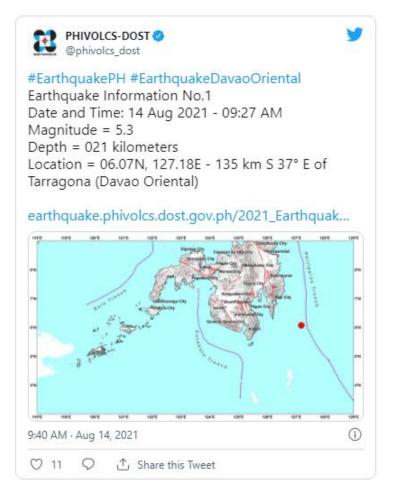
Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/scitech/weather/799345/lpa-easterlies-to-bringrains-thunderstorms-over-4areas/story/?fbclid=IwAR1GRKCMw6IeDz4zvZbipdxcIwz991wjzdBuw8VNxQAbiFMe7eUQ q9fQurE



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## Magnitude 5.3 earthquake strikes off Davao Oriental

Published August 14, 2021 10:19am



A magnitude 5.3 earthquake struck off Tarragona in Davao Oriental on Saturday morning, just hours after a <u>magnitude 5.2 quake</u> occurred in the vicinity, data from the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) said.

The earthquake occurred at 9:27 a.m. and had a depth of 21 kilometers.

Its epicenter was located at 6.07N, 127.18E or 135 km south 37° east of Tarragona.

The tectonic earthquake was an aftershock of the magnitude 7.1 earthquake that occurred on August 12 off Governor Generoso in Davao Oriental, PHIVOLCS said.

No damage and aftershocks are expected, it added.

Meanwhile, the magnitude 5.2 earthquake that occurred at 3 a.m. on Saturday hit Tarragona town itself.

Aftershocks are expected with no damage to property, PHIVOLCS said. ---KG, GMA News

Source: <u>https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/scitech/science/799318/magnitude-5-3-earthquake-strikes-off-davao-oriental/story/?fbclid=IwAR1-xIHcjLv0gLhPkjqpOHwmjET17eRn4b1bMd3YwTndTC9I7OYU2zE0NGg</u>

15 AUGUST 2021, SUNDAY



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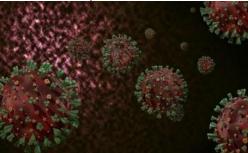
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



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## 11.7K more patients beat Covid-19

By Joyce Ann L. Rocamora August 14, 2021, 5:59 pm



**MANILA** – The Department of Health (DOH) on Saturday reported that another 11,714 patients have recuperated from coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19), pushing the recovery count to 1,598,314.

In its latest bulletin, the DOH also logged 14,249 new infections, jacking up the active cases to 98,847.

It also recorded 233 fatalities, raising the death toll to 30,070.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, the country has recorded a total of 1,727,231 confirmed cases, of which 92.5 percent are recoveries, 5.7 percent are undergoing treatment, while 1.74 percent died.

At least 95.9 percent of the active cases exhibit mild symptoms, while one percent are asymptomatic, 0.8 percent are critical, 1.4 percent are severe, and 0.95 are moderate.

DOH data also showed an alarming 70 percent intensive care utilization rate in the Philippines. Meanwhile, 59 percent of the total 20,100 isolation beds and 61 percent of 13,500 ward beds nationwide are occupied.

### Alert Level 4

In a Laging Handa briefing on Saturday, Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said 54 areas are now under Alert Level 4.

Of this number, at least 11 are in Metro Manila -- Las Piñas, Malabon, Makati, Marikina, Muntinlupa, Navotas, San Juan, Pateros, Quezon City, Taguig, and Valenzuela.

The ICU utilization rate in the entire National Capital Region is at 71 percent. At least 63 percent of the 4,700 isolation beds and 64 percent of 3,900 ward beds dedicated for Covid-19 patients in the region are also in use.

"Pataas pa rin ang trend ng ating mga kaso katulad ng sinabi natin kahapon marami na ang nag-escalate from Alert Level 1. Ngayon wala nang under (Alert Level) 1, puro 2 to 4 na (The trend is still upward and like we said yesterday several areas climbed from Alert Level 1. Now there are no longer areas under this level)," Vergeire said.

The DOH has a four-tier system with Alert Level 1 as the lowest, indicating Covid-19 case transmission is low and the health care utilization rate is less than 50 percent.

The highest of the four is Alert Level 4, meaning dedicated beds for Covid-19 patients are more than 70 percent occupied. (PNA)







Medical workers attend to patients in a makeshift tent hospital in front of Mandaluyong City Medical Center on Aug. 13, 2021.

### The STAR/Walter Bollozos

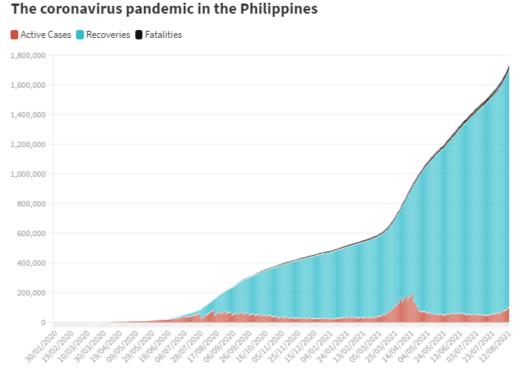
## Philippines sees 14,249 new COVID-19 cases in 2nd highest daily rise since pandemic started

(Philstar.com) - August 14, 2021 - 4:00pm

MANILA, Philippines — Philippine health authorities on Saturday reported 14,249 more COVID-19 infections, pushing the national caseload to 1,727,231.

This is the second-highest daily rise in cases recorded since the beginning of the pandemic, trailing behind the peak of 15,310 infections seen on April 2 and replacing yesterday's 13,177 cases.

- Active cases: 98, 847 or 5.7% of the total
- Recoveries: 11,714, pushing total to 1,598,314
- Deaths: 233, bringing total to 30,070



Source: Department of Health • As of August 14, 2021, 4 p.m.



### MMDA disputes reported ECQ extension in Metro Manila; COVID-19 vaccine updates

- The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority denied that mayors in the capital region have agreed to extend enhanced community quarantine until the end of the month, disputing a since-deleted report from a news outlet.
- A shipment of 15,000 second-dose Sputnik V jabs arrived in the Philippines last night, the National Task Force Against COVID-19 confirmed, adding that the Russianmade vaccines would be "deployed immediately."
- Figures released by the NTF as of August 12 show that 11.26% of the population has been fully vaccinated against COVID-19. The government must fully vaccinate another 58.74% of the country to achieve herd immunity from the virus.
- The US, which is struggling to contain the Delta variant of COVID-19, has authorized an extra dose of vaccine for people with weak immune systems.
- Earlier this month, the United States rejected an appeal from the World Health Organization for a moratorium on booster shots to help ease the drastic inequity in dose distribution between rich and poor nations.



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# OCTA sees no downward trend of COVID-19 cases by Aug. 20

By <u>CNN Philippines Staff</u> Published Aug 14, 2021 7:36:30 PM



**Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, August 14) –** The OCTA Research group does not see any downward trend of COVID-19 cases in the country by Aug. 20, an indication the strictest enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) in Metro Manila may possibly go beyond that date.

OCTA Research fellow Dr. Guido David explained that based on the history of the country's battle against COVID-19, it takes three to four weeks before infections decrease from a surge.

"Whatever happens, we probably don't see a downward trend yet on August 20," David told CNN Philippines' Newsroom Weekend on Saturday.

"Even if maging effective ang ECQ, hindi natin makikita agad ang decrease. Maso-slow down muna yung increase, bababa yung reproduction number, then finally magkakaroon ng downward trend," he said.

[Translation: Even if the ECQ will be effective, we cannot immediately feel the decrease. The increase in cases would slow down, the reproduction number will go down, then finally there will be a downward trend.]

David added that almost all areas in the country - except for General Santos City and Iloilo City - are recording higher COVID-19 cases per day.

Based on OCTA's data, the country's reproduction rate as of Saturday is at 1.46. David said the rate is 1.85 in Metro Manila and "almost two" in Cavite.

"Ibig sabihin nito, dalawang tao na may dalang COVID-19, tatlo ang nahahawaan nila (This means two people with COVID-19 can infect three others)," David explained.

He added that the country is currently averaging 11,000 cases per day, and daily COVID-19 infections are increasing by 30% every week.

If this trend continues, David warned daily infections can reach as high as 14,000 by next week.

The OCTA Research fellow also noted that the country's healthcare capacity is nearing its peak since many local government units have already maximized all their available hospital beds and intensive care units.

In light of the surge, David suggested to boost the country's testing capacity to reduce the positivity rate, which is at 25%.



"If we're testing 50,000 per day, we should have at least double that," said David, who urged the government to use antigen test for mass testing due to its increasing accuracy based on studies.

From Aug. 7-13, the country averaged 49,135 persons tested per day. The number of people tested in the country had its highest count in Aug.13 with 57,355 while its lowest was on Aug. 10 with 33,070.

The country marked <u>two grim milestones</u> on Saturday. It again broke its record for the second highest number of new COVID-19 cases reported in a day with 14,249 while the death toll surpassed 30,000.



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## NTF eyes monthly vax supply of 25M-30M doses

By Lade Jean Kabagani August 14, 2021, 7:00 pm



**PRIVATE PROPERTY.** The shipment of 575,800 doses of the Covid-19 vaccine AstraZeneca arrives at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 1 in Pasay City on Friday (Aug. 13, 2021). The private sector in the National Capital Region will receive most of the jabs. *(PNA photo by Avito Dalan)* 

**MANILA** – The government's vaccine acquisition team is renegotiating with manufacturers to hasten the deliveries of Covid-19 jabs, Secretary Carlito Galvez Jr. reported on Saturday.

The vaccine czar and Chief Implementer of the National Task Force (NTF) against Covid-19 said the renegotiation includes the fast-tracking of schedules and increasing the volume of shipment so that "we could meet the country's monthly requirement of 25 million doses".

"From the initial 19 million doses that are scheduled for delivery monthly, the NTF was able to raise this to more than 22 million doses," Galvez said in a news release.

In the first two weeks of this month, Galvez said more than 8.2 million doses arrived, both donated and procured by the national government, local government units, and the private sector.

"We were able to administer 3.5 million doses per week and this already surpassed our expectation of just three million doses," he said.

With the increasing demand for Covid-19 jabs due to a spike in cases, Galvez said the negotiating team will eventually increase the monthly deliveries to up to 30 million doses.

*"Kaya, kapag dumating na 'yung ibang bakuna* (Once more vaccines arrive) and we are able to receive 25 to 30 million doses, we are confident that we can reach 750,000 to even one million jabs per day," he added.

So far, the Philippines has over 42 million doses of Covid-19 jabs, with a total of 26,677,269 doses already administered nationwide. *(PNA)* 



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# Sputnik V dose II arrive in PH; AZ as 2nd shot still on the table

By Joyce Ann L. Rocamora August 14, 2021, 8:39 am



**SPUTNIK V COMPONENT II LANDS**. A total of 15,000 doses of Sputnik V's component II arrive in Manila on Friday (Aug. 13, 2021) via a Qatar Airways flight. The jabs are part of the 20 million Sputnik V doses procured by the Philippine government from Russia. *(PNA photo by Avito C. Dalan)* 

**MANILA** – The 15,000 doses of Sputnik V's component II that arrived in Manila on Friday will be deployed as soon as possible to those who have received the vaccine's component I, a health official said.

"Hahanapin natin, of course, yung mga nakalista, itong nabakunahan ng Sputnik component I na kailangang kailangan nang makuha ang component II, 'yong mga malapit na sa 42 days (We will track those who got their first dose, those who need to get the component II as soon as possible or those near Day 42)," Director Maria Soledad Antonio of the Department of Health - Bureau of International Health Cooperation (DOH-BIHC) told reporters.

The jabs, which arrived via a Qatar Airways flight, are part of the 20 million Sputnik V doses procured by the Philippine government from Russia.

The Philippines has so far received a total of 285,000 doses of component I and 80,000 doses of component II since the first shipment of Sputnik V was made on May 1.

Based on experts' recommendations, the interval between the first and second doses of these Russian-made vaccines should be 42 days at maximum.

There is no specific date yet as to when the next batch of second doses will arrive but Antonio said the government would ensure that those who received their first Sputnik V shot would get the full protection they need against SARS-CoV-2, including using AstraZeneca shots if necessary.

"Ang same platform na tinitignan is AstraZeneca. 'Yan lang ay kung 'di dadating ang Sputnik component II, pu-posisyon ang gobyerno para (makumpleto) ang proteksyon ng mga nabakunahan ng Sputnik 1 (The same platform that we're looking at is AstraZeneca, that is if component II fails to arrive on time. This is to ensure that those who received their Sputnik 1 will have complete protection)," she said.





Director Maria Soledad Antonio and medical officer Arthur Amansec of the Department of Health - Bureau of International Health Cooperation welcome the arrival of the Russian-made jabs at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. (PNA photo by Avito C. Dalan)

Aside from Manila, Argentina and Guatemala have previously reported delays in the supply of second doses but the Sputnik V team assured the issue "will be fully resolved in August."

"Sputnik V team confirms that owing to a major scale-up in vaccine production capacity, temporary second component delivery delays that occurred due to this production scale-up will be fully resolved in August," an August 4 statement posted on Sputnik V's website read.

The Sputnik V team said it has partnered with producers in 14 countries to double its capacity by September.

Russia has also applied for the emergency use of the single-dose Sputnik Light in the Philippines, which showed 79.4 percent efficacy against the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19), based on data analyzed by the Gamaleya Research Institute.

The Food and Drug Administration is currently reviewing the application, Antonio said. (PNA)



# Science will ultimately overcome the coronavirus



BABE'S EYE VIEW FROM WASHINGTON D.C. - Ambassador B. Romualdez (The Philippine Star) - August 15, 2021 - 12:00am

More than a year since the COVID-19 outbreak, the coronavirus continues its rampage all over the world with the Delta variant deemed to account for majority of new cases, prompting many places to impose fresh lockdowns. Sydney, for instance, has requested additional military personnel to help impose home quarantine rules that include tightened movement restrictions; Malaysia's Parliament has gone on a 14-day lockdown after several staff members tested positive with the Delta variant; and Thailand has issued new travel limitations in several tourist destinations.

Some countries in Europe are likewise imposing restrictions, among them Ukraine that has extended a state of emergency until Oct. 1 due to a surge of infections attributed to the Delta variant that is more contagious than the previous versions of the coronavirus. The CDC has, in fact, characterized the Delta variant to be as easily transmissible as chickenpox with viral loads that are 1,000 times higher than the original strain.

According to leading American epidemiologist Dr. Larry Brilliant who was at the forefront of the World Health Organization team that eradicated smallpox (the only disease that has been officially declared as eradicated), what we're seeing is only "closer to the beginning" of the pandemic rather than the end, "and that's not because the variant that we're looking at right now is going to last that long."

Describing the Delta variant as probably "the most contagious virus ever," he also noted that since the infections spread very quickly, the virus will "run out of candidates" to infect, basing his prediction model on the outbreaks in San Francisco and New York whose patterns are similar to the ones seen in the UK and India, where the presence of the Delta variant was first identified.

He warned, however, that the coronavirus could become a "forever virus" like the influenza, with new variants continuing to emerge "unless we vaccinate everyone in 200-plus countries." While there is low probability of a "super variant" that could render vaccines ineffective, he says that this potentially "catastrophic event" should not be ruled out and reiterated the need for everyone in the world to be vaccinated.

Clearly, the game changer in this fight against the COVID-19 pandemic are vaccines, with worldwide scientists pointing to mRNA technology as the biggest scientific breakthrough that enabled the development of highly effective COVID-19 vaccines at "lightning speed."

The mRNA vaccines, specifically the ones developed by Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech, have demonstrated high efficacy against COVID-19 even in the wake of the Delta variant, preventing the onset of serious illness and even death when "breakthrough" infections occur among the vaccinated, with such risk reduced by half with the mRNA vaccines, according to studies. Not surprisingly, some countries such as Australia and Canada are planning to build mRNA vaccine facilities not only for COVID-19 but other respiratory viruses such as seasonal flu.



Compared to the 1918 Spanish flu pandemic that resulted in 500 million cases of infection and 50 million deaths, scientists say we can deal with the COVID-19 pandemic better because of the vaccines and drugs available today, unlike before. In fact, the WHO is conducting solidarity clinical trials for three promising new drugs that could potentially reduce the risk of death for hospitalized COVID-19 patients. One of these is used as treatment for inflammatory conditions and has shown considerable "efficacy and safety in restricting broad spectrum inflammation, including in elderly populations who are most clinically vulnerable to COVID-19," the WHO said.

Booster shots have rapidly been developed since the immunity provided by vaccines could wane after some time – perhaps within a year – resulting in lessened protection against new variants. This is similar to the seasonal flu virus that keeps changing, which is why people need to get booster shots with updated vaccines that can fight prevalent strains during the flu season.

According to top US infectious disease expert Dr. Anthony Fauci, one group that needs booster shots the most are those who are immunocompromised or have weakened immune systems like people who have undergone organ transplants. Last Friday, the US FDA already gave emergency use authorization of booster shots from Pfizer and Moderna for people who are immunocompromised.

# EEGOGEDENIR

# Covid-19 Situation and Response

# WITH THE DELTA VARIANT HERE, **WHAT SHOULD I DO?**



INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS TO HELP PREVENT COVID-19 SPREAD

1/5



# WITH THE VARIANT DELTA HERE, WHAT SHOULD I DO?

# Correctly follow the minimum public health standards



Proper wearing of face mask and face shield



Frequent hand-washing or sanitizing



Physical distancing of at least **1 meter** 



Ensuring proper ventilation



🚯 doh.gov.ph

# WITH THE VARIANT DELTA HERE, WHAT SHOULD I DO?



# Get the jab done!

If we are eligible, let's also get vaccinated and complete the second dose as scheduled.

We also need to help our loved ones and encourage them to **get vaccinated**, especially our elderly and those with underlying medical conditions to get vaccinated as soon as possible.



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INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS TO HELP PREVENT COVID-19 SPREAD



# WITH THE VARIANT DELTA HERE, WHAT SHOULD I DO?



# When in doubt, isolate and contact your BHERTs

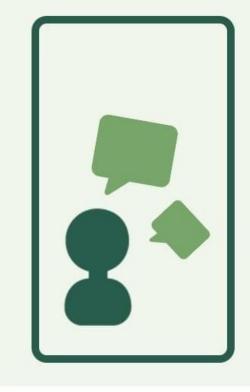
At the first signs of COVID-19 symptoms, immediately **isolate and consult** with your doctor, and / or immediately coordinate with your **Barangay Health Emergency Response Team** for assessment and proper referral.

You may also contact our partner telemedicine providers. http://bit.ly/FreeTelemed



INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS TO HELP PREVENT COVID-19 SPREAD

# WITH THE VARIANT DELTA HERE, WHAT SHOULD I DO?



# Share information responsibly!

We are all responsible for the kind of information we create and share with our peers and loved ones. Get and share information only from reputable sources and organizations.



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University of the Philippines Manila College of Medicine and Philippine General Hospital



12 August 2021

# Informing the Public that COVID-19 vaccines are safe and evidence-based treatment guidelines should always be followed

The University of the Philippines College of Medicine (UPCM) stands firm in its commitment to the promotion of evidence-based practice of medicine especially in this COVID 19 pandemic. Our frontliners and medical faculty continue to serve the Filipino people not only at the Philippine General Hospital but also have volunteered their services in different government task forces, expert panels to mount what constitutes as the best response against SARSCOV2 that continues to ravage the Filipino people. As a community of scholars we appeal to the public to trust the official statements from the DOH, FDA, WHO, CDC and professional specialty or physician organizations like the Philippine Medical Association. Any statement from individuals, physicians they may be, former or retired faculty should be interpreted with caution especially as they are personal and do not necessarily reflect the official stand of the UP College of Medicine. Statements that allude to the dangers of vaccination, promotion of the use of alternative and repurposed medications that are still under study at the Philippine General Hospital are irresponsible when made public while claiming previous affiliation with the UP College of Medicine or the national university hospital, the Philippine General Hospital.

Sa gitna ng umiigting na problema ng COVID, sumunod po tayo palagi sa ipinapatupad na "safety protocols", magpabakuna upang proteksyonan di lang ang sarili kundi ang mga kapamilya, mga kaibigan at mahal sa buhay. Kaya natin ito. Wag magpadala sa mga kuro-kuro, pala-palagay at makinig lamang sa mga kaukulang eksperto, galing sa pinagkakatiwalaang duktor ng pamilya o organisasyon ng mga duktor.

Charlotte M. Chiong, MD PhD

Professor and Dean U.P. College of Medicine

Gerardo D. Legaspi, MD FAFN Director Philippine General Hospital

THE HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER

Pedro Gil St., Ermita, Manila, 1000 Philippines Tel. No.: (632) 5264170 Fax No.: (632) 5260371 Website: http://www.upcm.ph



UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES MANILA College of Medicine 547 Pedro Gil Street, Ermita, Manila

Fax (632) 5218251, Tel (632) 5218251, 5264248; pharmafaculty@gmail.com

#### DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACOLOGY AND TOXICOLOGY

#### 12 August 2021

The faculty and staff of the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology of the UP College of Medicine supports the evidence-based approaches to addressing the COVID-19 pandemic, including vaccination. Based on our evaluation of the evidence, the benefits of vaccination far outweigh the risks. We encourage all Filipinos to get vaccinated and to consult physicians with whom they can have balanced discussions of the various interventions for COVID-19 treatment and prevention.

15 AUGUST 2021, SUNDAY

logs



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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE





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