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DENR

NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Marikina River dredging begins

A number of structures have been found occupying easement areas, in violation of Presidential Decree 1067

Published 4 hours ago on February 15, 2021 02:30 AM

By [TDT](#) [@tribunephil](#)



Dredging of the Marikina River will begin on Wednesday, 17 February, Task Force Build Back Better (TFBBB) announced over the weekend.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, who is also TFBBB chair, said pilot dredging will be conducted in the portion of the river near Marcos Highway in Barangay Kalumpang, while a simultaneous bamboo planting activity will take place on the banks of Barangay Industrial Valley Complex, both in Marikina City.

“The widening of Marikina River to its original width is but the start of the series of activities the Task Force has identified to address the perennial problem of flooding within the Marikina River Basin,” Cimatu explained.

He said the restored riverbanks will be planted with bamboo to help prevent erosion and siltation, one of the strategies that TFBBB has adopted in the rehabilitation of the Cagayan River.

“We will have to show our political will here and sustain our efforts to rehabilitate Marikina River and other waterways. This is just a prelude to the bigger one,” the DENR said.

He was referring to the tasks that await the TFBBB in downstream portions of the river, particularly in the Pasig River area where the riverbank is narrower due to reclamations and the presence of illegal permanent structures.

A number of structures have been found occupying easement areas, in violation of Presidential Decree (PD) 1067, or the Philippine Water Code.

“Using official land records dating back as far as 1914 and 1961, historical maps and satellite photos from the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority as basis, the DENR-National Capital Region conducted aerial and ground verification surveys that confirm encroachments made not only in the river itself but in the designated legal easements as well,” Cimatu explained.

Article 51 of PD 1067 explicitly prohibits the construction of any permanent structure along three meters of the banks of rivers and streams and shores of seas and lakes in urban areas like Metro Manila, as these areas are reserved “for public use.”

Based on existing land records too, 25 lot parcels with a total area of 271,625 square meters, or roughly 27 hectares, were reclaimed without necessary permits, either partially or completely encroaching into the Marikina River.



Eight of these parcels covering 12,039 square meters have been placed under Category 1, or parcels of land found to be reclaimed but with no titles nor claimants.

Placed under Category 2 are five titled lots, which partially encroach on 10,418 square meters of the river.

Under Category 3 are 16 titled properties measuring 22,467 square meters, which are in the river itself.

The DENR chief noted the width of the river in the upstream portion is about 90 meters wide, then narrows down to 80 meters at the boundary of the Marikina and Pasig rivers. It then becomes uneven, varying anywhere from 46 meters to 78 meters.

We will have to show our political will here and sustain our efforts to rehabilitate Marikina River and other waterways. This is just a prelude to the bigger one.

“It is like traffic. From a three-lane highway, the river becomes a single lane highway once it reaches Pasig River,” Cimatu explained, citing figures from the Department of Public Works and Highways.

Records also show that it is not only the width of the river that has considerably dropped but its depth as well, as the upstream portions measure about eight meters deep, but only three to five meters deep by the time it merges with Pasig River.



DENR sets sights on Marikina River dredging

Published February 14, 2021, 9:46 AM

by [Ellson Quismorio](#)

The time has come for the Marikina River to be dredged and widened with the aim of tempering devastating floods in the metropolis during strong rains.



(MANILA BULLETIN)

This was announced by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Sunday morning, Feb. 14, adding that dredging activities would begin as early as Wednesday, Feb. 17.

DENR Secretary and Build Back Better (BBB) Chairman Roy Cimatu has cited reports that portions of the river have been illegally reclaimed, reducing drastically the ability of the waterway to contain excess rainwater during typhoons.

Cimatu also said that a number of structures have been found occupying easement areas, in violation of Presidential Decree (PD) 1067 or Philippine Water Code.

“Using official land records dating back as far as 1914 and 1961, historical maps, and satellite photos from the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority as basis, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-National Capital Region conducted aerial and ground verification surveys that confirm encroachments made not only in the river itself but in the designated legal easements as well,” noted the former Armed Forces chief.

The pilot dredging will be in the portion of the river near Marcos Highway in Barangay Kalumpang while a simultaneous bamboo planting activity will take place on the banks of Barangay Industrial Valley Complex, both in Marikina City.

“The widening of Marikina River to its original width is but the start of the series of activities the Task Force has identified to address the perennial problem of flooding within the Marikina River Basin,” Cimatu added.

The DENR chief also said that the restored riverbanks will be planted with bamboo to help prevent riverbank erosion and siltation—one of the strategies that TF BBB has adopted in the rehabilitation of Cagayan River.

Based on existing land records, 25 lot parcels with a total area of 271,625 square meters (27 hectares) were reclaimed without necessary permits, either partially or completely encroaching into the Marikina River.

Article 51 of PD 1067 explicitly prohibits the construction of any permanent structure along three meters of the banks of rivers and streams and shores of seas and lakes in urban areas like Metro Manila, as these areas are reserved “for public use”.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/02/14/denr-sets-sights-on-marikina-river-dredging/>



DENR to conduct dredging activity in Marikina City

posted February 14, 2021 at 11:10 pm

by [Manila Standard](#)

In the wake of the devastating floods that plunged Marikina City and several other cities of Metro Manila underwater in November last year, the Task Force Build Back Better announced that it will begin dredging activities in Marikina River on Feb. 17.

Environment Secretary and TF BBB chair Roy A. Cimatu made the announcement following reports that portions of the river have been illegally reclaimed, drastically reducing the ability of the waterway to contain excess rainwater during typhoons.

Cimatu also said a number of structures have been found occupying easement areas, in violation of Presidential Decree 1067 or Philippine Water Code.

“Using official land records dating back as far as 1914 and 1961, historical maps, and satellite photos from the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority as basis, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-National Capital Region conducted aerial and ground verification surveys that confirm encroachments made not only in the river itself but in the designated legal easements as well,” Cimatu said in a news release on Sunday.

Article 51 of PD 1067 explicitly prohibits the construction of any permanent structure along three meters of the banks of rivers and streams and shores of seas and lakes in urban areas like Metro Manila, as these areas are reserved “for public use.”

Based on existing land records too, 25 lot parcels with a total area of 271,625 square meters (27 hectares) were reclaimed without necessary permits, either partially or completely encroaching into the Marikina River.

Eight of these parcels covering 12,039 square meters have been placed under Category 1 or parcels of land found to be reclaimed but with no titles nor claimants.

Placed under Category 2, meanwhile, are five titled lots which partially encroach on 10,418 square meters of the river.

Under Category 3 are 16 titled properties measuring 22,467 square meters, are in the river itself.

The pilot dredging will be in the portion of the river near Marcos Highway in Barangay Calumpang while a simultaneous bamboo planting activity will take place on the banks of Barangay Industrial Valley Complex, both in Marikina City.

“The widening of Marikina River to its original width is but the start of the series of activities the Task Force has identified to address the perennial problem of flooding within the Marikina River Basin,” Cimatu added.

The DENR chief also said the restored riverbanks will be planted with bamboo to help prevent riverbank erosion and siltation, one of the strategies that TF BBB has adopted in the rehabilitation of Cagayan River.

“We will have to show our political will here and sustain our efforts to rehabilitate Marikina River and other waterways. This is just a prelude to the bigger one,” Cimatu said, referring to the tasks that await the TF BBB in downstream portions of the river, particularly in Pasig area where the riverbank is narrower due to the reclamations and presence of illegal permanent structures.

Cimatu noted that the width of the river in the upstream portion is about 90 meters wide, then narrows down to 80 meters at the Marikina-Pasig boundary and becomes uneven, varying from anywhere to 46 meters to 78 meters.

“It is like traffic. From a three-lane highway, the river becomes a single lane highway once it reaches Pasig,” Cimatu explained, citing figures from the Department of Public Works and Highways.

Records also show that it is not only the width of the river that has considerably dropped but its depth as well as the upstream portions measures about eight meters deep but only three to five meters deep by the time it merges with Pasig River.

Source: <https://manilastandard.net/mobile/article/347032>



DENR to begin dredging of Marikina River to recover reclaimed portions

By Jonathan L. Mayuga

February 15, 2021

Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy A. Cimatu announced the first steps in recovering portions of the Marikina River that, he said, were “illegally reclaimed.”

Cimatu said members of a Task Force “Build Back Better” (TF BBB) will begin dredging activities in Marikina River on Wednesday.

The announcement was made after the chief of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and TF BBB chairman confirmed that portions of the river have been illegally reclaimed, reducing drastically the ability of the waterway to contain excess rainwater during typhoons.

In a statement, Cimatu also said that a number of structures have been found occupying easement areas in violation of Presidential Decree (PD) 1067 or the Philippine Water Code.

“Using official land records dating back as far as 1914 and 1961, historical maps, and satellite photos from the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (Namria) as bases, the DENR-National Capital Region conducted aerial and ground verification surveys that confirm encroachments made not only in the river itself but in the designated legal easements as well,” Cimatu said.

Article 51 of PD 1067 explicitly prohibits the construction of any permanent structure along three meters of the banks of rivers and streams and shores of seas and lakes in urban areas like Metro Manila, as these areas are reserved “for public use.”

Based on existing land records too, 25 lot parcels with a total area of 271,625 square meters (27 hectares) were reclaimed without necessary permits, either partially or completely encroaching into the Marikina River, Cimatu said.

A total of eight of these parcels covering 12,039 square meters have been placed under Category 1 or parcels of land found to be reclaimed but with neither titles nor claimants.

Placed under Category 2, meanwhile, are five titled lots, which partially encroach on 10,418 square meters of the river, Cimatu added.

Under Category 3 are 16 titled properties measuring 22,467 square meters, which are in the river itself.

The pilot dredging will be in the portion of the river near Marcos Highway in Barangay Kalumpang while a simultaneous bamboo planting activity will take place on the banks of Barangay Industrial Valley Complex, both in Marikina City.

“The widening of Marikina River to its original width is but the start of the series of activities the Task Force has identified to address the perennial problem of flooding within the Marikina River Basin,” Cimatu said.

The DENR chief also said that the restored riverbanks will be planted with bamboo to help prevent riverbank erosion and siltation, one of the strategies that TF BBB has adopted in the rehabilitation of Cagayan River.



“We will have to show our political will here and sustain our efforts to rehabilitate Marikina River and other waterways. This is just a prelude to the bigger one,” Cimatu said, referring to the tasks that await the TF BBB in downstream portions of the river, particularly in Pasig area where the riverbank is narrower due to the reclamations and presence of illegal permanent structures.

Cimatu noted that the width of the river in the upstream portion is about 90 meters wide, then narrows down to 80 meters at the boundary of the Marikina-Pasig boundary and becomes uneven, varying from anywhere to 46 meters to 78 meters.

“It is like traffic. From a 3-lane highway, the river becomes a single-lane highway once it reaches Pasig,” Cimatu explained, citing figures from the Department of Public Works and Highways.

Records also show that it is not only the width of the river that has considerably dropped but its depth as well as the upstream portions measures about eight meters deep but only three to five meters deep by the time it merges with Pasig River, according to Cimatu.



'TF Build Back Better' begins Marikina River dredging on Feb. 17

February 14, 2021, 1:58 pm



RESCUE. Philippine Coast Guard personnel rescue residents trapped in chest-deep floods in Barangay Barangka, Marikina City on Nov. 12, 2020. The Task Force Build Back Better on Sunday (Feb. 14, 2021) announced that it will begin dredging activities in Marikina River on Feb. 17. (Photo courtesy of PCG)

MANILA – In the wake of the devastating floods that plunged Marikina City and several other cities of Metro Manila underwater in November last year, the Task Force Build Back Better (TF BBB) announced that it will begin dredging activities in Marikina River on Feb. 17.

Environment Secretary and TF BBB chair Roy A. Cimatu made the announcement following reports that portions of the river have been illegally reclaimed, drastically reducing the ability of the waterway to contain excess rainwater during typhoons.

Cimatu also said a number of structures have been found occupying easement areas, in violation of Presidential Decree 1067 or Philippine Water Code.

“Using official land records dating back as far as 1914 and 1961, historical maps, and satellite photos from the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority as basis, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-National Capital Region conducted aerial and ground verification surveys that confirm encroachments made not only in the river itself but in the designated legal easements as well,” Cimatu said in a news release on Sunday.

Article 51 of PD 1067 explicitly prohibits the construction of any permanent structure along three meters of the banks of rivers and streams and shores of seas and lakes in urban areas like Metro Manila, as these areas are reserved “for public use”.

Based on existing land records too, 25 lot parcels with a total area of 271,625 square meters (27 hectares) were reclaimed without necessary permits, either partially or completely encroaching into the Marikina River.

Eight of these parcels covering 12,039 square meters have been placed under Category 1 or parcels of land found to be reclaimed but with no titles nor claimants.

Placed under Category 2, meanwhile, are five titled lots which partially encroaches on 10,418 square meters of the river.

Under Category 3 are 16 titled properties measuring 22,467 square meters, are in the river itself.

The pilot dredging will be in the portion of the river near Marcos Highway in Barangay Kalumpang while a simultaneous bamboo planting activity will take place on the banks of Barangay Industrial Valley Complex, both in Marikina City.

“The widening of Marikina River to its original width is but the start of the series of activities the Task Force has identified to address the perennial problem of flooding within the Marikina River Basin,” Cimatu added.

The DENR chief also said the restored riverbanks will be planted with bamboo to help prevent riverbank erosion and siltation, one of the strategies that TF BBB has adopted in the rehabilitation of Cagayan River.



“We will have to show our political will here and sustain our efforts to rehabilitate Marikina River and other waterways. This is just a prelude to the bigger one,” Cimatu said, referring to the tasks that await the TF BBB in downstream portions of the river, particularly in Pasig area where the riverbank is narrower due to the reclamations and presence of illegal permanent structures.

Cimatu noted that the width of the river in the upstream portion is about 90 meters wide, then narrows down to 80 meters at the boundary of the Marikina-Pasig boundary and becomes uneven, varying from anywhere to 46 meters to 78 meters.

“It is like traffic. From a three-lane highway, the river becomes a single lane highway once it reaches Pasig,” Cimatu explained, citing figures from the Department of Public Works and Highways.

Records also show that it is not only the width of the river that has considerably dropped but its depth as well as the upstream portions measures about eight meters deep but only three to five meters deep by the time it merges with Pasig River. (PR)



In this file photo taken on Jan. 21, workers use a backhoe to clean the flooded villages after the Marikina River overflowed following a heavy downpour.

Boy Santos

Dredging of Marikina River starts Wednesday

[Elizabeth Marcelo](#) (The Philippine Star) - February 15, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The dredging activities in Marikina River will start on Wednesday as the Department of Environment and Natural Resources found out that 25 lot parcels, with a total area of 27 hectares, were illegally reclaimed, DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu said over the weekend.

Cimatu said the Task Force Build Back Better, which was created after massive flooding struck Marikina and other cities in Metro Manila in November last year, would lead the dredging.

“Using official land records dating back as far as 1914 and 1961, historical maps and satellite photos from the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority as basis, the DENR National Capital Region conducted aerial and ground verification surveys that confirmed encroachments not only in the river but in the designated legal easements as well,” Cimatu said.

The pilot dredging operation will be held in the portion of the river near Marcos Highway in Barangay Kalumpang with a simultaneous bamboo planting in Barangay Industrial Valley Complex.

Based on a recent land survey, the DENR said a total area of 271,625 square meters were reclaimed without the necessary permits, either partially or completely encroaching into the Marikina River.

The DENR said this was in violation of Section 51 of Presidential Decree 1067 or the Philippine Water Code, which prohibits the construction of any permanent structure within three meters of the banks of rivers and lakes in urban areas, as these areas are reserved “for public use.”

Eight of the lot parcels covering 12,039 square meters were found to have been reclaimed but with no titles nor claimants, according to the DENR.

Five titled lots were found partially encroaching on 10,418 square meters of the river while 16 titled properties, measuring 22,467 square meters, were constructed in the river itself.



“We will have to show our political will here and sustain our efforts to rehabilitate Marikina River and other waterways,” Cimatu said.

He said the task force would also dredge the downstream portion of the Marikina River, particularly in the Pasig area where the riverbank is narrower due to the reclamations and presence of illegal structures.

Cimatu said with the width of 90 meters in the upstream portion, the Marikina River has become narrower in the downstream portion, with the Marikina-Pasig boundary having a width of 80 meters.

DENR records also showed that Marikina River’s depth has considerably dropped.

Cimatu said from eight meters in the upstream portion, the river’s depth was down to three to five meters in the Pasig area.

He said the restored riverbanks would be planted with bamboo to help prevent soil erosion and siltation.



Marikina River dredging to start Feb. 17 — DENR

February 14, 2021 | 6:32 pm



PHILSTAR

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) announced over the weekend that the Task Force Build Back Better (TF BBB) will begin dredging the Marikina River on Feb. 17.

In a statement Saturday, the DENR said an initial dredging activity will take place on a stretch of the river near Marcos Highway in barangay Kalumpang, Marikina City, while bamboo planting will take place where the riverbank traverses the Industrial Valley Complex, also in Marikina.

“The widening of the Marikina River to its original width is but the start of the series of activities the Task Force has identified to address the perennial problem of flooding within the Marikina River Basin,” Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, who chairs TF BBB, was quoted as saying.

He said bamboo is thought to prevent riverbank erosion and siltation, and was pursued in rehabilitating the Cagayan River, which was also the scene of extensive flooding in late 2020. The DENR said it decided to dredge following reports that parts of the Marikina River were being unlawfully reclaimed, reducing the waterway’s ability to move excess rainwater during typhoons.

In a statement, Mr. Cimatu said that a number of structures were also found to be occupying easement areas, in violation of the Philippine Water Code or Presidential Decree No. 1067.

He said that the DENR’s National Capital Region office conducted aerial and ground surveys which “confirmed that there were encroachments in the river and in the designated legal easements.”

“We will have to show our political will here and sustain our efforts to rehabilitate Marikina River and other waterways. This is just a prelude to the bigger one,” Mr. Cimatu said, referring to the tasks that the TF BBB needed to undertake in a portion of the river that flows through Pasig.

The DENR said that the downstream portion of the river in the Pasig area had a narrower riverbank because of reclamation and the presence of illegal structures.

In November, Mr. Cimatu recommended the widening of the Marikina river to increase its flood carrying capacity after Marikina City and nearby areas were submerged during Typhoon Ulysses (international name: Vamco). — **Angelica Y. Yang**

Source: <https://www.bworldonline.com/marikina-river-dredging-to-start-feb-17-denr/>



Task Force Build Back Better pangungunahan ang rehabilitasyon ng Marikina River



February 14, 2021 @ 2:21 PM 16 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Matapos lumubog sa tubig baha ang malaking bahagi ng Marikina City at iba pang lungsod sa Metro Manila noong Nobyembre ng nakalipas na taon sinabi ng Task Force Build Back Better (TFBBB) na sisimulan na nila ang dredging activities sa Marikina River sa Miyerkoles Pebrero 17, 2021.

Sinabi ito ni Environment Secretary at TFBBB chair Roy A. Cimatu matapos makatanggap ng ulat na may bahagi ng ilog ang iligal na tinambakan na naging dahilan upang mabawasan ang naikakarga nitong tubig sa panahon ng bagyo.

Ayon pa kay Cimatu, may mga istraktura rin na nakitang nakatayo sa easement areas na isang paglabag sa Presidential Decree (PD) 1067 o ang Philippine Water Code.

“Using official land records dating back as far as 1914 and 1961, historical maps and satellite photos from the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority as basis, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-National Capital Region conducted aerial and ground verification surveys that confirm encroachments made not only in the river itself but in the designated legal easements as well,” sabi ni Cimatu.

Ayon sa DENR base sa nakasaad sa Article 51 ng PD 1067, ipinagbabawal ang pagtatayo ng kahit na anong permanenteng istraktura sa kahabaan ng tatlong metro sa paligid ng ilog, batis o sa pampang ng dagat at lawa sa urban areas katulad ng Metro Manila dahil ang lugar na ito ay nakareserba para sa publiko.

Nabatid pa sa kasalukuyang land records, 25 lot parcels na may kabuuang 271,625 square meters (27 hectares) ang iligal na tinambakan ng walang kaukulang permiso sa paligid ng Marikina River.

Sinabi pa ng DENR walo sa parcels na ito na may kabuuang 12,039 square meters ay inilagay sa Category 1 o ang “land found to be reclaimed but with no titles nor claimants.”

Samantala, nailagay naman sa Category 2 ang limang titled lots na bahagyang nakasasakop sa ilog na may kabuuang 10,418 square meters.

Naitala naman sa Category 3 ang 16 titled properties na may sukat na 22,467 square meters na mismong nasa ilog.



Idinagdag pa ng DENR na ang pilot dredging ay gagawin sa bahagi ng ilog malapit sa Marcos Highway sa Barangay Kalumpang habang magkakaroon din ng bamboo planting activities sa gilid ng ilog sa Barangay Industrial Valley Complex na kapwa matatagpuan sa Marikina City.

“The widening of Marikina River to its original width is but the start of the series of activities the Task Force has identified to address the perennial problem of flooding within the Marikina River Basin,” dagdag ni Cimatú.

Ayon pa sa kalihim tataniman din ang gilid ng ilog ng kawayan upang maiwasan ang pagkakaroon ng riverbank erosion at siltation na isa sa ginamit na istratehiya ng TFBBB na ginawa sa Cagayan River.

“We will have to show our political will here and sustain our efforts to rehabilitate Marikina River and other waterways. This is just a prelude to the bigger one,” saad ni Cimatú na tumutukoy sa mas mabigat na trabaho na naghihintay sa TFBBB sa ibabang bahagi ng ilog partikular na sa Pasig area kung saan ang riverbank ay mas makitid dahil na rin sa ginawang reklamasyon at pagkakaroon ng illegal permanent structures.

Sinabi pa ni Cimatú na ang lapad ng ilog sa itaas na bahagi ay 90 meters habang sa ibabang bahagi nito partikular na sa Marikina-Pasig boundary ay 80 meters lamang at lalo pa itong kumikitid mula 46 meters hanggang 78 meters.

“It is like traffic. From a three-lane highway, the river becomes a single lane highway once it reaches Pasig,” paliwanag ni Cimatú na nagbase sa record mula sa Department of Public Works and Highways.

Nakasaad pa sa records na hindi lamang ang lapad ng ilog ang nabawasan dahil maging ang lalim nito ay naapektuhan na rin kung saan ang itaas na bahagi ay may lalim na eight meters habang tatlo hanggang limang metro lamang ang lalim habang papalapit sa Pasig River. **Santi Celario**

Marikina River dredging starts Feb. 17

February 14, 2021 | Filed under: Headlines, News | Posted by: Tempo Desk

BY ELLSON A. QUISMORIO



The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) announced Sunday morning the dredging and widening of Marikina River in a bid to temper devastating floods in the metropolis during strong rains.

The dredging activities would begin as early as Wednesday, Feb. 17.

DENR Secretary and Build Back Better (BBB) Chairman Roy Cimatu has cited reports that portions of the river have been illegally reclaimed, reducing drastically the ability of the waterway to contain excess rainwater during typhoons.

Cimatu also said that a number of structures have been found occupying easement areas, in violation of Presidential Decree (PD) 1067 or Philippine Water Code.

“Using official land records dating back as far as 1914 and 1961, historical maps, and satellite photos from the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority as basis, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-National Capital Region conducted aerial and ground verification surveys that confirm encroachments made not only in the river itself but in the designated legal easements as well,” noted the former Armed Forces chief.

The pilot dredging will be in the portion of the river near Marcos Highway in Barangay Kalumpang while a simultaneous bamboo planting activity will take place on the banks of Barangay Industrial Valley Complex, both in Marikina City.



MARIKINA River (FB)

“The widening of Marikina River to its original width is but the start of the series of activities the Task Force has identified to address the perennial problem of flooding within the Marikina River Basin,” Cimatu added.



The DENR chief also said that the restored riverbanks will be planted with bamboo to help prevent riverbank erosion and siltation – one of the strategies that TF BBB has adopted in the rehabilitation of Cagayan River.

Based on existing land records, 25 lot parcels with a total area of 271,625 square meters (27 hectares) were reclaimed without necessary permits, either partially or completely encroaching into the Marikina River.

Article 51 of PD 1067 explicitly prohibits the construction of any permanent structure along three meters of the banks of rivers and streams and shores of seas and lakes in urban areas like Metro Manila, as these areas are reserved “for public use”. (Ellson A. Quismorio)



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BAGONG SAGAD
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E-mail Address: andres421@sakbo.com

MAKARAAN nga po na madiskubre ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na may grupo ng tao sa Surigao del Sur ang nagpapanggap na empleyado ng ahensiya at nag-imbentista sa operasyon ng logging at mining companies sa naturang probinsiya ay binalaan nila ang publiko hinggil dito.

"We do not condone the use of the name of our department in any transaction without prior knowledge and consent of any DENR official," sabi ni Cimatu. "We want to warn the general public to be more cautious in dealing with people who claim to be employees of the Department" ayon ayon kay Environment Secretary Roy A. Ci-

matu.

Binalaan ni Cimatu ang mga grupo na gumagamit ng pangalan ng DENR para sa kanilang ilegal na operasyon na maaari silang makasuhan base na rin sa nakasaad sa batas.

"We will make sure that these people will face the legal repercussions of committing such misconduct," pagbibigay-dito ni Cimatu.

Base sa ulat ng DENR sa Caraga region, siyam na katao na nagpakilalang miyembro ng DENR task force ang inaresto ng Carrascal Municipal Police sa Surigao del Sur

noong Enero 27

Ayon sa ulat, nagsagawa ng operasyon ang mga naaresto sa logging at mining companies sa Surigao del Sur kung saan ay nagpakita pa ang mga ito ng libam na may logo ng DENR at pirmado ng isa sa mga ito na nagpakilalang lider ng grupo.

May damit din ang mga ito na may tatak ng logo ng DENR at pekeng identification card na pirmado ng DENR officials kabilang na si Cimatu.

Nakilala ang mga naaresto na sina Francisco Dagobay, Arnel Arnieg, Roberto Don, Jr., June

Duero, Melbert Pami, Rogelio Lixmoner, Bon Jovi Arreza, Joaquin Lumaguid at Elma Talip.

Ayon sa Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) ng Cantilan, nakakuha sila ng dokumento sa mga naaresto na ang mga ito ay bahagi ng Moral Advancement and Corruption Prevention Advocacy na isang grupo na humalaban sa graft at corrupt activities.

Sinabi pa ni CENRO Marilou Bonita, hindi nila tinatalaga ang mga ito para ipatupad ang environmental laws.

PUBLIKO BINALAAN LABAN SA HUWAD NA EMPLEYADO



Regional Updates (02/14/21)

February 14, 2021 | 6:40 pm

Bill filed to strengthen Laguna Lake agency

A senator filed a bill to strengthen the powers of Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) for the rehabilitation of Laguna de Bay. Senator Richard J. Gordon filed Senate Bill No. 2047, which will repeal Republic Act No. 4850 or the Laguna Lake Development Authority Act of 1966. Mr. Gordon said under the existing law, the authority exercises policy and planning, regulatory and development functions but does not have control over all projects affecting the Laguna de Bay area. There are also overlapping and conflicting mandates and programs of several agencies and local governments. Among the current problems faced by the LLDA involve solid waste management, sanitation, congestion of shore lands, and decline in water quality, among others. “This bill seeks to expedite the restoration and rehabilitation of Laguna Lake and improve its water quality so it can be used as a major domestic water source for Metro Manila and nearby provinces,” Mr. Gordon said in the explanatory note. “The proposed measure also aims to strengthen the policy-making and regulatory powers of the LLDA, in order that it can realize the vision of a self-sufficient and highly dynamic integrated water management authority, with competent and professional personnel who take the lead towards the sustainable development of the Laguna de Bay,” he added. The Laguna Lake area covers the provinces of Laguna and Rizal, cities of Pasay, Caloocan, Quezon, Makati, Manila, Mandaluyong, San Juan, Pasig, Marikina, Muntinlupa, Tagaytay, Tanauan, Taguig and Lipa, as well as some towns in Cavite, Quezon, Batangas, and the town of Pateros. — **Vann Marlo M. Villegas**



Moorhens are tied together and sold in Esperanza, Sultan Kudarat by farmers who need the money to buy basic goods.

Photo: Ferdinandh Cabrera

DENR alarmed as pandemic forces farmers in S.Kudarat town to sell wild birds

Published February 14, 2021 6:32pm

By [FERDINANDH CABRERA](#)

ESPERANZA, Sultan Kudarat — The COVID-19 pandemic has forced farmers in Esperanza town in Sultan Kudarat to sell birds to motorists along the national highway to augment their incomes and allow them to buy rice and other food commodities.

On Friday, farmers were seen at the roadside offering moorhens, locally known as “kuro,” at P50 each.

Moorhens (*Gallinula chloropus*) are also known as swamp chickens or water hens. Republic Act 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act prohibits, among others, “engaging in the exchange, exportation, or importation, purchase or sale of wildlife, their derivatives or by-products, locally or internationally.

“There are plenty of kuro in the rice field during our morning visit at the farm, and since we don’t have much this pandemic, we decided to catch them using a trap we improvised to have augment our financial needs,” said Nonoy, not his real name, in the vernacular.

Nonoy said that the prices of basic needs have also increased, especially the meat products.

“So, they might opt to buy a cheaper bird meat,” the farmer added.

A teenage boy with him held up bunches of the birds, their legs tied by string.

Most of their buyers, he said, fry the birds or cook them as adobo.

But bird enthusiasts and wildlife conservation advocates were saddened to see the situation in a social media post.

“It’s a violation of our existing laws, it should be returned into the wild,” said environmentalist Marlon Ceballos.



"Nangyayari ito tuwing krisis. Naalala ko noon nung nagkaroon ng El Niño, madaming pinagbibili na ganito from pawas [marshland]," said Aldwin Apostol, a broadcast journalist from Upi, Maguindanao.

"Dito sa Mlang bawal manghuli ng mga ibon lalo na sa palayan," said Mlang Vice Mayor Joselito Piñol highlighting a local law that protects wildlife wetland birds.

According to agriculturist Kim Bagundang, the function of these birds in the environment is to control pests.

"Kumakain sila ng mga kulisap sa palayan," he said. He added that government should intensify and be functional in biodiversity governance.

Dr. Rosalinda Cortez, Chief of the Conservation and Development Division of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Region-12, said that immediately after their team noticed a social media post about the bird poaching, they informed their local counterparts to track and possibly apprehend the sellers.

"Immediately I informed our CENRO in Tacurong City, Mr. Larry Curias, to respond immediately but the culprits were gone," she said.

The site of the illegal selling is at the national highway in Esperanza, Sultan Kudarat.

"Our concern here is not only the violation of the law but impact of misbalancing the biodiversity that could result to other illnesses, these people is possible to be exposed to zoonotic diseases, we are not certain if these birds (sold and eaten) are disease carriers that could infect people," she said.

The illegal poaching of wildlife animals is seen as a likely source of the coronavirus that causes COVID-19.

Cortez also said that she hopes their Regional Wildlife Rescue Center at Sultan Kudarat State University in Lutayan town will be able to have a wildlife ambulance to be used for the rescue of wildlife such as in this situation. — **BM, GMA News**



DENR at Mayor paiimbestigahan!

On Feb 14, 2021



HINDI pa man pormal na nakapagsasampa ng reklamo sa Tanggapan ng National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) ang mga tumututol na mga mamamayan sa hinihinalang ma-anomalyang paniningil ng “pass way permit” at iligal na pasugal sa bayan ng Taysan, Batangas ay nabunyag pa din ang kaduda-dudang pag-iisyu ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ng Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) sa mga kontrobersyal na pagmimina, logging at pagko-quarry sa naturan ding bayan.

Sa bisa ng pag-iisyu ng DENR ng ECC sa mga mining at quarry operator sa mga barangay ng Santo Niño, San Marcelino, Pinagbayanan, Bacao at iba pang lugar sa Taysan ay malayang naituloy ang nahintong pagmimina, at pag-“quarry” na nagreresulta sa pagkapanot ng bundok at pagguho ng lupain sa nabanggit na munisipalidad. Naging sanhi ito ng malawakang pagbaha at land slides sa Taysan at sa ibat-ibang panig ng lalawigan ng Batangas.

Ang mga nahuhukay na lupa ay ibinebenta ng mga mining at quarry operator sa malalaking construction project bilang panambak sa ibat-ibang proyektong pang-pribado at pang-pamahalaan sa mga lalawigang sakop ng CALABARZON (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Quezon) at Metro-Manila.

Winawasak ng mga mining at quarry operator maging ang mga agricultural land kaya nawalan na ang maraming magsasaka sa Taysan ng mga lupaing masasaka na siyang pangunahing pinagkukunan ng kabuhayan ng higit nakararaming residente doon.

Bago pa man pasukin ng mapaminsalang mining at quarry operation ang Taysan ay sagana doon ang ani ng produktong agrikultural. Nalugmok sa kahirapan ang mga magsasaka sa Taysan nang naging palasak ang operasyon ng mining at quarrying at isinisasi ang kanilang kinasapitan sa kapabayaan ng Local Government Unit lalo kay Taysan Mayor Grande Gutierrez.

Batay sa hinaing ng ilang mamamayan na idinulog sa SIKRETA, may 11 mining at quarrying permit ang naiisyu ng DENR Regional at Provincial Offices sa maiimpluwensyang personalidad sa bayan ng Taysan at mayayamang negosyante sa Batangas para makapag-operate ng kontrobersyal na pagmimina at quarrying sa nasabing bayan.

Naisyuhan na ang mga ito ng ECC kahit di pa natatapos ang imbestigasyon sa mapaminsalang baha dulot ng pagmimina, logging at pagko-quarry sa Northern Luzon na nagbunsod upang ipagbawal ang operasyon ng maraming minahan at quarrying sa ibat-ibang panig ng bansa kabilang na sa Batangas.

Kaduda-duda ngang naisyuhan ng ECC ng Batangas Provincial DENR at Regional Offices ang mga mining at quarry operator sa munisipalidad ng Taysan. Hinala ng mga mamamayan sa Batangas, imposibleng hindi ipinaalam kina DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu at Usec. Benny Antiporda ang pagkapag-isyu ng ECC sa mga mga mining at quarry operator sa bayan ng Taysan ng DENR Provincial at Regional Offices.

Kaya nagpipista naman ang kolektor ng passway permit sa Taysan pagkat patuloy ang mga ito sa pagtabo ng milyones na koleksyon mula sa mga dump truck at cargo truck na naghahakot ng lupang panambak mula sa ibat-ibang mining at quarry site sa nasabing bayan.

Tinatayang humigit-kumulang sa Php 18 milyon kada buwan sa nakokolekta ng kolektor ng pass way permit mula sa may apat na barangay na dinadaan ng mga behikulong nagkakarga ng panambak sa mga lisensyado at underground o di lisensyadong mining at quarry site sa Taysan.



Bawat dump truck at cargo truck ay nagbabayad ng Php 150 sa kada barangay na dinadaan ng mga nasabing behikulo, kaya sa kabuuang apat na barangay na kanilang dinadaan ay nakakaltasan ang mga tsuper ng ng Php 600 araw-araw.

Tinatayang hindi kukulangin sa 1,000 byahe ang nakukumpleto ng mga dump truck at cargo truck sa mga mining at quarry site sa Taysan at bawat behikulo ay nagbibigay ng kanilang “tong” sa kolektor ng pass way permit na nakapwesto sa isang out post malapit lamang sa municipal hall ng Taysan.

Ngunit hindi naman nag-iisyu ito ng government official receipt at sa halip ay ipinagdidinang lamang nito na ang pangongolekta ay utos ng kanilang meyor?

Desididong dumulog ang mga nagrereklamang mamamayan sa tanggapan ng NBI Regional Office sa Lipa City para ipasiyasat si Mayor Gutierrez at maging ang mga hepe ng DENR Provincial at Regional Offices at malinaw sa mga ito ang mga basehan ng paniningil ng pass way permit at pag-iisyu ng ECC sa mining at quarry operator sa Taysan.

“Punong-puno na at nag-uumapaw sa katiwalian ang aming bayan, mayroon na ngang operasyon ng licensed at di lisensyadong mining at quarry, koleksyon ng pass way permit ay may pa-jueteng pa sina alias Zalding Konti at alias Bedung.

May iligal na pasabong o patupada pa si alias Bedung sa Brgy. Tulos tuwing Sabado at Linggo kung saan ay malakasan ang pustahan, daig pa nito ang mga ligal at lisensyadong sabungan na ipinagbabawal pa ang operasyon.

Ngunit para kina Bedung at Zalding Konti wala silang pakiaalam sa pinairal ng pamahalaan na health protocols. Ang importante ay nakatutupad daw sila sa “obligasyon: sa kapulisan at sa LGU. Teka nga pala, ano bang cash-unduan meron sa pagitan ng Taysan LGU, Taysan Municipal Police at PNP Provincial Offices hinggil sa pailigal nina Zalding Konti at Bedung? Kung meron man, makabubuting alamin na lamang natin ito kay Batangas PNP Provincial director, P/Col. Arvin Rex Malimban?

Punong -puno ng hangin ang utak nitong si alias Zalding Konti pagkat pinalulutang nito na kaalyado nito sa pulitika si Mayor Gutierrez. Ipinagbabanduhan din nito na siya ang binendisyan ng tanggapan ng alkalde para mag-operate ng STL cum jueteng sa may 15 barangay ng Taysan samantalang lima lamang na barangay ang inilaan kay alias Bedung.

Si alias Bedung naman ay pinalalabas na pinondohan nito ng milyones na salapi bilang election campaign fund si Gutierrez noong 2019 Election kaya tinalo nito ang dating alkalde ng Taysan.

Isa sa mga plataporma pulitikal ni Gutierrez nang kumampanya pa lamang ito bilang Taysan mayor ay ang paglilinis ng naturang bayan laban sa katiwalian at korapsyon, paglansag sa mapaminsalang pagmimina, pagko-quarry, drug trade at iligal na pasugal sa kanyang bayang nasasakupan.

Nabalita naman na sinuportahan ang kandidatura ni Gutierrez ng mga makakaliwang grupo sa pag-aakalang magiging malinis at matapat ito sa kanyang panunungkulan kapag nahalal nang alkalde. Ngunit ngayon, anyare mayor?

Malalaman natin kung may katotohanan nga ang akusasyon ng mga nasabing mamamayan na may nagaganap na katiwalian at korapsyon sa administrasyon ni Gutierrez sa sandaling umusad na ang imbestigasyon ng NBI. Bukas po ang ating pitak para sa panig ni Mayor Gutierrez at iba pa. Subaybayan...

Para sa komento: Cp # 09293453199 at 09664066144, email: sianing52@gmail.com.

Source: https://www.policefilestonite.net/2021/02/14/denr-at-mayor-paiimbestigahan/?fbclid=IwAR3jPj-PZV3RFWHvI7C3UN3_7LDev4yqI_npG87itifcC_YKjuU_HX4uJMg



Revisiting solid waste segregation



WASTE AT WATERSHEDS. IDIS staff conducts clean-up and waste audit at the wetlands at Sitio Gravahan, Matina and Brgy. Bucana, Davao City early February 2021. In this clean-up drive, almost seven sacks of assorted solid waste were collected. Most of the waste was plastic materials. (Photo by Idis)

The Yellow Drum Project is an initiative by Davao Thermo BioTech Corp that uses technology to convert biodegradable waste into useful resources. After the 4th drum, subscribers may receive incentives such as this potting mix. (Photo by DTBC)

JENNIE P. ARADO

February 14, 2021

WHEN we throw away the vegetable and fruit peeling in our kitchen garbage can or the empty shampoo and conditioner sachets, the destination of these solid wastes are usually the least of our concern. We take the trash out when it's full to the designated collection points in our barangay and forget about them once the City Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro) garbage trucks collect them around 9 p.m. to 10 p.m.

With nearly a year into community quarantine when almost everyone stays at home, Davao-based environmentalists become more and more concerned about the increase in solid waste the public has accumulated over time. In celebration of World Wetlands Day 2021, the Interfacing Development Interventions for Sustainability (Idis) conducted a clean-up and waste audit at the wetlands located in Sitio Gravahan, Matina and Barangay Bucana, Davao City early this month.

In this clean-up drive, almost seven sacks of assorted solid waste were collected. Most of the waste was plastic materials, as stated in a post on Idis' official Facebook page on February 5, 2021.

This is still different from the 1,194 pieces of different types of non-biodegradable solid waste such as plastics, cans, bottles, face masks, and face shields gathered during Idis and Bantay Bukid's clean-up drive at the Panigan-Tamugan Watershed in Baguio District, Davao City on January 27, 2021.

"More than the plastics, we are alarmed that we found bottles of pesticides in the rivers. We call on those who are using pesticides especially those whose areas are near rivers to bury empty containers in accordance with good agricultural practice, or better yet, practice organic farming to protect our rivers and watersheds," Mavic Hilario, Idis program coordinator, said.

Instances like this raise great alarm to the community as Panigan-Tamugan Watershed is being tapped to be the next source of potable water in Davao City. Dirty watersheds not only bring negative effects to the animals and life forms nearby but eventually to the residents in the city.

"It only shows that plastic pollution is not just an urban environment problem but also of the upland environment especially of our watersheds... Plastics never biodegrade. They only turn into microplastics, which could find their way into our drinking water if treatment and filtering are not good. More so, the river current only hastens the disintegration of plastics into microplastics. Without us knowing, our body has been accumulating plastics through the water we drink," lawyer Mark Peñalver, Idis executive director, told SunStar Davao.

This is why Idis and other environmental groups in Davao City continue to advocate against the use of single-use plastic. Different alternatives were being pushed to the public to lessen plastic waste: menstrual cup/reusable pads in place of disposable sanitary napkins, wooden utensils in place of plastic ones, bamboo or steel straws (or none at all) in place of plastic straws, and eco-bags in place of plastic grocery bags.



“A shift in paradigm or practices necessarily entails effort. It will be uncomfortable and hard, but the long-term effect of our efforts should be the motivating factor to somehow unburden us from shifting to a more sustainable lifestyle. Bringing water containers, utensils, bags, and other reusable containers and packaging are efforts that may add burden to the comfortable life plastics give us. But if we see these efforts as our social responsibility and contribution to better our environment, to better our beloved Davao City, this might give us a better perspective on what a sustainable lifestyle it can give us, the environment, and the future generation. For me, the best way to improve solid waste management is by making a shift towards a more conscious, responsible, and sustainable lifestyle,” said Peñalver.

Getting the most of our biodegradable waste

As environmentalists loudly and openly advocate against the use of single-use plastics, the proper disposal of biodegradable waste can sometimes be shoved to the side.

On July 1, 2011, the city government implemented the “No Segregation, No Collection Policy” ordinance, which was signed by Mayor Sara Duterte-Carpio on May 3, 2011. The said local ordinance complies with Republic Act 9003, or the Act Providing for Ecological Solid Waste Management Program. Those who do not segregate waste will be fined not more than P3,000 or maximum imprisonment of six months.

But 10 years after, this local ordinance seemed to have been forgotten by garbage collectors and residents themselves as garbage collection still takes place even when garbage is not segregated.

“Magsalig man gud ang mga tao kay malata lang ang biodegradable waste so ang thinking pwede ra malabay bisan asa (Many think that it is just okay to throw biodegradable waste anywhere because it will simply decompose),” Lyen Yap-Joaquin, project head of The Yellow Drum Project said in an interview with SunStar Davao.

The Yellow Drum Project is an initiative by the Davao Thermo BioTech Corp. (DTBC), a waste management company that collects, transports, and treats biodegradable waste. DTBC Chief Executive Officer Dr. Bo Puentespina said they started the project with industries whose wastes were segregated before they started their trial run in the barangays. This project has been going on for around four years.

Puentespina said people should also pay attention to the way biodegradable waste is being disposed of as 60 percent of waste is biodegradable.

In 2011, he conducted a study on bats together with Japanese scientists and found out about the coronavirus and ebola. He said, in their study, these bats lived in caves but forage in landfills.

“If we manage our biodegradables, that’s 60 percent of our problems solved. We have to realize that the spread of Covid and other diseases has a lot to blame on our solid waste management,” he said.

When the pandemic came, some of the companies they were working with had to close and so the Yellow Drum Project decided to shift its focus in November 2020 and help out private individuals and residents.

For P500 per drum, subscribers will be provided a 60-liter yellow drum where they could dump their biodegradable waste. They can also fill it with compost starter to help lessen the smell should there be any. Acceptable biowaste to be put in the yellow drum include food waste, kitchen waste, fruit waste, paper waste, yard waste, barbecue sticks, tissue, hair and nail clippings, pet waste, and cat litter.

According to Yap-Joaquin, they do pick up and deliver the yellow drum every Tuesday and Saturday in any part of Davao City. They currently have 40 subscribers covering areas of Communal, Indangan, Mintal, Tacunan, Catalunan Grande, and even the downtown areas in Davao City. After subscribers filled their third yellow drum, they will be given incentives in the form of a 10-kilogram (kg) compost starter, 10-kg potting mix, or 2-kg biofertilizer.



“We use an activator with a patent from Japan. It makes use of aerobic bacteria that eliminates odor on contact. We encourage Yellow Drum Project subscribers to really think natural. We are also thinking, what’s in it for them if they subscribe? In the process, pathogens such as Ecoli and salmonella will be killed,” said Puentespina, highlighting that subscribers need not worry about the foul smell that it may leave.

He shared that once all the gathered biowaste of their subscribers are brought to the plant, it will be mixed with other substrates, in the process producing nitrogen, potassium, and phosphorus. They will be placed in separate compartments as the bacterial activators produce moisture and steam, then the temperature rises to 100 degrees Celsius, killing anything hazardous like pathogens and bacteria in the process.

One of the subscribers of the Yellow Drum Project is Rommel Real, a Dabawenyo residing with his family in Agdao. Real spent a few years in Australia studying and living in a dormitory. He shared how people are very organized even with their garbage there. People were very disciplined when it comes to segregation, recycling and composting. When he came back to Davao City, he was looking for that practice as well but failed to find one. When the Yellow Drum Project launched late last year, he was one of the first to avail.

“I strongly recommend this one, especially for those na may limited space lang sa bahay. At the same time, I’m thinking maka-benefit pud ang mga naay carinderia or eatery since daghan sila mga lamaw or leftover food,” Real said. Now on his fourth drum, he said it was really helpful during the holiday season when they had so much cooking going on. With the vegetable and fruit peelings, the drums easily filled up.

“My recommendation sa local government, pinakauna gyud dapat naay awareness on properly managing waste ang mga tao. Sunod, naay proper infrastructure such as recycling facilities na mudawat gyud recyclable waste (there should an awareness campaign on proper waste management. There must also be proper infrastructure like recycling facilities that will accept recyclable waste),” added Real.



Two decades after SC ordered cleanup, Manila Bay waters now 'filthier' – Atienza

Published February 14, 2021, 1:45 PM

by [Ben Rosario](#)

Already polluted 22 years ago, the waters of Manila Bay are now “several times filthier” notwithstanding the multi-million peso backed government effort to improve it.



(ALI VICOY / MANILA BULLETIN)

Deputy Speaker and BUHAY Partylist Rep. Lito Atienza made this assessment as he recalled that it took a Supreme Court ruling to force 13 government agencies to clean up the inlet.

The ruling was the SC's response to a civil action filed by concerned residents in Manila, of which Atienza was a former mayor.

“We checked court records. Water samples taken from Manila Bay way back in 1999 showed fecal coliform counts of 50,000 to 80,000 most probable number (MPN) per milliliter (ml),” Atienza said in a statement released on Sunday, February 14.

“In contrast, based on the most recent water samples taken from major outfalls along Roxas Boulevard, fecal coliform counts now range anywhere from 11 million to 54 million MPN per ml,” the veteran solon said.

He explained that a “very high fecal coliform count” suggests the heavy presence of bacteria or viruses in the water that may cause diseases such as typhoid fever, viral and bacterial gastroenteritis and hepatitis A.

“This is really not surprising because up to now, of the 16.3 million water-served population in Metro Manila, only 15 percent or 2.4 million are connected to a sewerage system,” Atienza pointed out.

There were actually two court cases involving Manila Bay pollution that elicited rulings from the Supreme Court.

The first was filed in 1999 by concerned residents who demanded action on the worsening Manila Bay pollution from the Metro Manila Development Authority and 12 other agencies.

The case reached the Supreme Court, which ruled in favor of the residents in 2008 and issued a continuing mandamus that required the agencies to rehabilitate the waters of the bay.

The second one was case decided by the High Court in 2019.

The SC penalized Metro Manila's two private water concessionaires and the Metropolitan Waterworks Sewerage System with P1.84 billion in combined fines due to their failure to connect households to a sewerage system and their lack of wastewater treatment facilities.



Until they fully comply with the provisions of Clean Water Act, the three parties will have to pay a daily fine of P322,102 that escalates by 10 percent in two years, plus legal interest of six percent per annum.

The tribunal upheld the penalty imposed by Atienza when he was Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources in 2009.

“Clearly, the bulk of Metro Manila’s household toilet waste continues to drain into waterways, including the Pasig River, that all empty out into the bay every day,” Atienza said.

“This proves our point that we have stop the uncontrolled outflow of human sewage if we truly want to decontaminate Manila Bay,” Atienza, former three-term mayor of Manila, said.



Manila Bay waters several times 'filthier' than before —Rep. Atienza

Published February 14, 2021 1:23pm

The waters of Manila Bay are now “several times filthier” compared to 22 years ago, when concerned residents first launched a civil action that eventually led to a Supreme Court order forcing 13 agencies to clean up the inlet, Deputy Speaker Lito Atienza said Sunday.

“We checked court records. Water samples taken from Manila Bay way back in 1999 showed fecal coliform counts of 50,000 to 80,000 most probable number (MPN) per milliliter (ml),” Atienza said in a statement.

“In contrast, based on the most recent water samples taken from major outfalls along Roxas Boulevard, fecal coliform counts now range anywhere from 11 million to 54 million MPN per ml,” Atienza, who represents Buhay in Congress, he said.

Likewise, he pointed out that a very high fecal coliform count suggests the heavy presence of bacteria or viruses in the water that may cause diseases such as typhoid fever, viral and bacterial gastroenteritis and hepatitis A.

“This is really not surprising because up to now, of the 16.3 million water-served population in Metro Manila, only 15 percent or 2.4 million are connected to a sewerage system,” Atienza added.

Clearly, he said, “The bulk of Metro Manila’s household toilet waste continues to drain into waterways, including the Pasig River, that all empty out into the bay every day.”

He stressed that uncontrolled outflow of human sewage should be stopped to decontaminate Manila Bay.

Court records Atienza was referring to were based on the 1999 lawsuit filed by residents who claimed that the Metro Manila Development Authority and 12 other agencies, out of neglect, failed to protect and clean up the waters of Manila Bay.

The case reached the Supreme Court, which ruled in favor of the residents in 2008 and issued a continuing mandamus that required the agencies to rehabilitate the waters of the bay.



Further, Atienza said that in a separate case, the Supreme Court in 2019 penalized Metro Manila's two private water concessionaires and the Metropolitan Waterworks Sewerage System with P1.84 billion in combined fines due to their failure to connect households to a sewerage system and their lack of wastewater treatment facilities.

Until they fully comply with the provisions of Clean Water Act, the three parties will have to pay a daily fine of P322,102 that escalates by 10 percent in two years, plus legal interest of six percent per annum.

The tribunal upheld the penalty imposed by Atienza when he was Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources in 2009, the statement added. —**LBG, GMA News**



Manila Bay ‘several times filthier’ now — Atienza

posted February 14, 2021 at 11:40 pm

by [Rio N. Araja](#)

Buhay party-list Rep. Joselito Atienza on Sunday said the waters of Manila Bay are now “several times filthier” compared to 22 year ago.

He said Manila Bay was much cleaner before when concerned residents

then filed a civil suit that prompted the Supreme Court to order government agencies to clean up Manila Bay.

“We checked court records. Water samples taken from Manila Bay way back in 1999 showed fecal coliform counts of 50,000 to 80,000 most probable number per milliliter (ml),” he said in a statement.

“In contrast, based on the most recent water samples taken from major outfalls along Roxas Boulevard, fecal coliform counts now range anywhere from 11 million to 54 million MPN per ml,” he added.

A very high fecal coliform count suggests the heavy presence of bacteria or viruses in the water that may cause diseases, such as typhoid fever, viral and bacterial gastroenteritis, and hepatitis A.

“This is really not surprising because up to now, of the 16.3 million water-served population in Metro Manila, only 15 percent or 2.4 million are connected to a sewerage system,” the party-list lawmaker said.

“The bulk of Metro Manila’s household toilet waste continues to drain into waterways, including the Pasig River, that all empty out into the bay every day,” he added.

The uncontrolled outflow of human sewage should be stopped to decontaminate Manila Bay, he noted.

On Dec. 8, 2008, the Supreme Court in a landmark decision issued a mandamus directing 13 government agencies “to clean up, rehabilitate and preserve Manila Bay, and restore and maintain its waters to SB

Llevel [Class B sea waters per Water Classification Tables under DENR Administrative Order 34 (1990) to make them fit for swimming, skin-diving and other forms of contact recreation.”

In a separate case, the Supreme Court in 2019 penalized Metro Manila’s two private water concessionaires and the Metropolitan Waterworks Sewerage System with P1.84 billion in combined fines due to their failure to connect households to a sewerage system and their lack of wastewater treatment facilities.



Going green is also about going blue

By: [Maria Theresa Marcial](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 04:01 AM February 15, 2021

Going green is important. That is why we plant trees in the mountains, and are conscious of our greenhouse gas emissions.

But did you know that oceans are important in saving our planet?

More than 70 percent of the world is covered by oceans. And scientists estimate that at least 50 percent of the oxygen produced on Earth comes from the oceans. An archipelagic country like the Philippines has 266,000 square kilometers of coastal waters teeming with aquatic life and other resources.

We depend on our seas for our dear life. So much is at stake. Yet we have done little for our seas in our advocacy for climate change (CC) and against environmental degradation.

What we can do

You may have heard of the Green New Deal in the United States and a similar one being adopted by the European Union. The Green New Deal seeks to avert climate disasters by reducing greenhouse gas emissions while fixing problems associated with such a move, including economic inequality and racial injustice.

A new movement calling for a “Blue New Deal” has emerged in the United States. Its proponents, led by David Helvarg and his advocacy group Blue Frontier, call for the adoption of ocean-based solutions for CC.

The group has a comprehensive set of policies and programs to help protect the oceans and assist coastal communities in the United States cope with CC. This Blue New Deal focuses on four areas: (1) coastal adaptation and financing; (2) clean ocean energy; (3) ports, shipping and the maritime sector; and (4) sustainable fisheries, aquaculture and marine biodiversity conservation.

In the Philippines, there is no formal Green New Deal being pushed in Congress, but we have laws and programs that help protect the environment. But like in the United States and elsewhere, these laws and programs are inadequate, and we have neglected our seas in our programs addressing CC.

One glaring manifestation of our neglect is our ranking as the third biggest polluter of the oceans, after China and Indonesia. This is according to the Ocean Conservancy charity and the McKinsey Center for Business and Environment.

Our country generates around 2.7 million tons of plastic waste annually, and the worst thing is that around 20 percent of that goes to our seas. The Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives, an environment group, said the country consumes 163 million pieces of plastic sachets a day. This means more than one and a half of our population is throwing away a piece of plastic every day, 365 days a year.

Better implementation of RA 9003

Also known as the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, this law mandates city and municipal governments to manage the collection and disposal of solid waste, shutter open dumps and segregate and recycle waste.

Local governments should muster the political will to implement this law properly. If 20 percent of our waste goes to the sea, proper implementation of this law should help reduce that number substantially.



Prohibit single-use plastics

Prohibiting the use of single-use plastics will drastically reduce the pernicious debris that kills aquatic life and harms the livelihoods of our fishermen. The prohibition is not directed at consumers, but the companies who earn from selling products using single-use plastics.

It is time for companies to be more responsible for the waste that they produce. If we put the responsibility on these firms, we have a better chance of limiting the waste that blights our seas. The government may also put in place mechanisms that require the use of plastic pollutants as raw materials for useful products, such as rugs, textile, footwear or bags. There are companies whose business models are based on the use of these recycled materials.

Sustainable fishing

Just last year, the chief of the Fish Right Program in the Philippines of the United States Agency for International Development, Nygiel Armada, was quoted in Sunstar as saying that around 70 percent of our fishing grounds are overfished. Catching the illegal fishers is just one part of the solution. We need a sustainable program to ensure that our aquatic resources are replenished as we reap the rich bounty of our seas.

The country has begun instituting reforms towards sustainable fishing through the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) and its partnership with Environmental Defense Fund, one of the world's leading environmental organizations. With practical solutions based on science and economics, we hope to finally make sustainable fishing a reality, perhaps sooner than the 2022 target of BFAR.

World Wide Fund for Nature-Philippines, through its Partnership Program Towards Sustainable Tuna, has been supporting the livelihood of artisanal tuna handline fishers around Lagonoy Gulf and Mindoro Straits by establishing long-term market access and responsible fisheries management. We need more projects like this across the country to help promote sustainable fishing.

Financing renewable energy

The Philippines is admittedly still dependent on fossil fuels for its energy needs. While adopting renewable energy (RE) is the way to go, the road towards clean energy is not simple. As a developing economy with a fast-growing population, we have to carefully plan our energy needs to sustain our requirements.

How much do we sacrifice to achieve RE? For many financial institutions, it is a matter of working with the right energy mix in their portfolios. The goal is to increase that share of the pie for RE in the coming years. Aside from solar, wind, hydro and geothermal, sea-based RE is another area we should explore.

Offering green bonds, on the part of banks, can help too. Bank of the Philippine Islands, for example, issued last year its pioneering 100-million Swiss franc-denominated green bond to fund environmental projects through its Green Finance Framework. It followed up with a \$300-million Asean green bond to further satisfy investor demand for socially responsible investments.

Restoring our mangrove forests

When we talk about saving the environment, we think about planting trees. This is very important, but planting mangroves may have a much bigger impact on our environment. We have about 39 species of mangroves, or more than half of the world's 65 species.

Mangroves stabilize our shorelines and they can protect us from storm surges, flooding, and hurricanes. They can hold up to four times more carbon compared to rainforests and they provide livelihoods for our fishermen.



Let us think blue

For those of us in the private sector, we can do more to take care of our seas. We have the responsibility to do so. For those in the government, there is an urgent need for political will to make this blue thinking work for the benefit of the Filipino people.

We should also set more ambitious goals. CC is not slowing down, and neither should we.

On Feb. 14, 1990, the Voyager 1 space probe took a photograph of the Earth some 6 billion kilometers away. It was the last photograph of the Earth taken by the space probe as it left the Solar System—a poignant image of our home in this vast universe.

It was called the “Pale Blue Dot.” I hope this will help us remember to think blue, think of this pale blue dot when we talk about saving our planet. INQ

This article reflects the personal opinion of the author and does not reflect the official stand of the Management Association of the Philippines or the MAP. The author is Chief Finance Officer and Chief Sustainability Officer of Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI), and Trustee and Treasurer of WWF Philippines.

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Malampaya Foundation bags award for 'marine protected area' in Palawan

Published February 14, 2021, 6:00 AM

by [Myrna M. Velasco](#)

Malampaya Foundation's help to the community in preserving and upholding the integrity of the Bulalacao marine protected area (MPA) has been bestowed with award and recognition by the provincial government of Palawan.

The Bulalacao marine protected area in Coron, Palawan was named as the province's "Best Community-Management MPA", having been bequeathed with active support in the recovery and regeneration of coastal and marine ecosystems in the area.



The Malampaya-assisted Bulalacao project named best "Marine Protected Area" in Palawan.

According to Karen Agabin, executive director of Malampaya Foundation, "through the collaborative effort of all stakeholders, we have observed a 100-fold increase in fish abundance, along with the return of long-absent endangered species like the napoleon wrasse."

She chronicled that "when we first mapped and surveyed Bulalacao back in 2012, the surrounding ocean was in a horrible state – with reefs and the fishing grounds heavily damaged from decades of dynamite and other unsustainable fishing methods."

On those years, she further narrated that "you would hardly see any fish, any marine life," hence, that served as an awakening endeavor for the Malampaya Foundation to breathe life back into the Bulalacao MPA's ecosystem.

That worthy undertaking, according to the Malampaya Foundation, was pursued in multi-pronged partnerships with the Bulalacao indigenous peoples' group, the local government of Coron, National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), as well as the Philippine Coast Guard.

The other key government-partners have been the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Energy (DOE) and the Philippine National Police-Maritime.

The 3,297-hectare Bulalacao MPA, which was established in 2014, comprises of two strict protection zones and two sustainable use zones.



Agabin emphasized “the establishment and launch of Bulalacao MPA is a culmination of about two years of social preparation, collaboration and cooperation” between the barangay and Tagbanua leaders, community members, the Coron municipal government, NCIP, BFAR, the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development and the Malampaya Foundation.

She noted that the longer-term goal for the MPA is “to see continuous coral regeneration,” and a large component of that task is attained by “addressing the coastal communities, making them our partners, and getting their leaders to contribute in the overall marine conservation effort.”

Agabin stressed “with the active participation of all stakeholders, we are very optimistic to see a sustainable development in coral regeneration.”

It was in October 2019 when tourism establishments around the Bulalacao area had inked a partnership deal, calling for a concerted effort “to help protect the site’s biodiversity with strengthened protection and enforcement.”

As further noted, in the regular monitoring of the site, a local diver had been engaged to undertake frequent reef monitoring as well as to assist Malampaya project managers and marine biologists in their twice-a-year assessments.



EDC wants to become 'zero-waste' company

By Jonathan L. Mayuga
February 15, 2021



EDC's 100 MW Mt. Apo geothermal facility. BusinessMirror file photo

Lopez-led Energy Development Corp. is initiating a program to eliminate plastic waste materials as part of its mission to achieve a regenerative and decarbonized future.

EDC said it is teaming up with Plastic Flamingo (PLAF) for its plastic-to-shelter project in line with the target of becoming a "zero-waste" company.

PLAF is a French social enterprise with a pilot project in the Philippines that aims to develop a solution to fight marine plastic pollution in emerging countries.

In a statement, EDC said it has signed an agreement with PLAF to realize the company's aim of waste- and plastic-free, and eventually, a zero-waste company.

EDC Corporate Support Functions Head and Assistant Vice President Regina Victoria J. Pascual said waste management is nothing new for EDC.

The company has been releasing sustainability reports since 2010 following the Global Reporting Initiative that includes how it manages its hazardous and non-hazardous waste. Pascual said the company has been implementing various programs to eliminate plastic waste such as information campaigns among employees on proper waste materials disposal and encouraging employees to donate eco-bricks to its sister company, First Balfour.

"Still, we knew that there's always a way to do more, to have less waste, to have better environmental impact—which led to our desire to have zero waste in EDC," said Pascual.

"Our bigger hurdle came last year when we started working from home due to the Covid-19 pandemic and realized that all those food and grocery deliveries and items ordered online that came in layers of bubble wrap have resulted in accumulation of plastic waste in our employees' respective houses. This led to our search for a partner that can help us manage our personal plastic waste and convert them into sustainable products. The search is over, thanks to PLAF."

Under the agreement, plastic waste materials of EDC employees who are based in Manila and adjacent areas will be collected once a month and will be turned over to PLAF for proper waste recycling, upcycling, and disposal. Part of PLAF's program is segregating the collected plastics according to its classifications and then transforming them into Eco-Planks. The eco-planks are used in producing emergency shelter for populations hit by disasters.

In an article published by the National Institute of Health in the United States, the demand for single-use plastic is expected to increase by 40 percent in packaging and 17 percent in other applications, including medical uses.



Several environmental groups also posed concern on the increasing usage of single-use plastic during the pandemic, particularly due to disposable medical equipment such as PPEs, face shields and face masks for the frontliners and the rise in e-commerce as shoppers avoided going to the mall to buy food and other items.

PLAF Chief Revenue Officer Gauthier Belhomme said EDC and PLAF shared the same value of protecting the environment for the benefit of the community and the future generation. "Please keep in mind that all you do at home and all you do at work will help no matter how small it is." Moreover, EDC Human Resources Management Group Head and Senior Vice President Ma. Elizabeth D. Nasol gave her pledge of commitment on behalf of EDC employees. "We commit to do our best to make this partnership a success, not by purposely consuming more but by being mindful of our plastic waste."

EDC's over 1,499MW total installed capacity accounts for 20 percent of the country's total installed renewable energy capacity while its 1,204.67MW geothermal portfolio accounts for 62 percent of the country's total installed geothermal capacity and has put the Philippines on the map as the 3rd largest geothermal producer in the world.



Police confiscated P50 million worth of endangered giant clam shells in Negros Oriental on Feb. 12, 2021. Photo courtesy: PNP

P50M worth of endangered giant clam shells confiscated in Negros Oriental

Published February 14, 2021 8:46am

Authorities confiscated P50 million worth of endangered giant clam shells in Bayawan City, Negros Oriental on Friday, the Philippine National Police said.

The endangered items were found in Barangay Pagatban.

A suspect identified as Ricarido Santiana Dela Cruz Jr. was arrested in an entrapment operation conducted by personnel of the Crime Investigation and Detection Group RFU 7 Negros Oriental PFU, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Bayawan City Police Station, Negros Oriental Police Provincial Office (NOPPO) and 1ST Provincial Mobile Force Company, NOPPO.

Dela Cruz was allegedly found to be selling 1,000 kg of giant clam shells (taklobo) worth P5 million to a police decoy.

Recovered from the suspect were the entrapment money; 1,000 kg of taklobo which were part of the total inventory of 10,000 more or less kilos of taklobo valued at P50 million; one cal. 45 Colt pistol; one magazine for cal. 45 pistol; and seven live ammunition for a cal. 45 pistol.

"This accomplishment ensures that the sustainable conservation and protection of fishery and aquatic resources law is being implemented by our local authorities", PNP chief Police General Debold Sinas said.

Authorities said Yan Hu Liang alias Sunny owns the endangered giant clam shells estimated to have an international market value of P918 million. He is still at large.

Dela Cruz and Yan Hu Liang will face charges of violating Republic Act 8550 as amended by Republic Act 10654 (Fisheries Code of the Philippines in relation to Fisheries Administrative Order 208 "Conservation or rare, threatened and endangered fishery species"), the PNP said.

Dela Cruz is currently detained at the Bayawan City Police Station. —**KG, GMA News**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/regions/775866/p50m-worth-of-endangered-giant-clam-shells-confiscated-in-negros-oriental/story/>



Seller ng P50M taklobo laglag sa NegOr

By Abante News Online — Last updated Feb 14, 2021

VISMIN



Aabot sa P50 milyong halaga ng giant clam o taklobo ang nakumpiska ng mga awtoridad sa Negros Oriental.

Sa ulat ng pulisya nitong Sabado, tinukoy ang suspek na si Ricardo dela Cruz Jr. na nagbenta ng 1,000 taklobo sa isang poseur buyer sa Brgy. Pagatban, Bayawan City noong Biyernes.

Samantala, pinaghahanap naman ang isa pang suspek na si Yan Hu Liang alyas 'Sunny', na diumano'y may-ari ng mga giant clam.

Nakuha pa sa suspek ang marked money, .45 caliber pistol at bala.

Mahaharap sa kaukulang kaso si Dela Cruz sa pagbebenta ng tinuturing na endangered marine species.



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Nasabat ng mga awtoridad ang nasa P50 million halaga ng endangered giant clam shells o taklobo sa Brgy. Pagatban, Bayawan City, Negros Oriental nitong Biyernes, Feb. 12.

Ayon sa paunang imbestigasyon, isang nagngangalang Yan Hu Liang alias Sunny ang nagmamay-ari ng mga nakumpiskang shells na may international market value na P918 million.

👤: PNP-PIO

See Translation



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PH logs close to 11K new Covid-19 recoveries

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor February 14, 2021, 5:11 pm



MANILA – An additional 10,967 patients have recovered from the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19), pushing the country's overall tally of recovered cases to 511,743 on Sunday.

In its 4 p.m. case bulletin, the Department of Health (DOH) said the figures represent 93.2 percent of those who tested positive for the virus nationwide.

The agency also reported 1,928 new confirmed cases and eight new deaths.

These figures brought the overall tally of active cases to 25,918 and death toll to 11,515.

The DOH said about 86 percent of the active cases are mild, 7.2 percent are asymptomatic, 2.9 percent are severe, 0.91 percent are moderate, and 3 percent are in critical condition.

"Seven duplicates was removed from the total case count, and of these, four are recoveries. Moreover, one case that was previously tagged as recovery was reclassified as a death after final validation," it added.

Currently, there are 21,400 beds dedicated to patients with Covid-19.

Available are 62 percent of 1,900 intensive care unit beds, 67 percent of 13,500 isolation beds, and 78 percent of 6,000 ward beds.

About 80 percent of 2,000 ventilators are available for Covid-19 patients' use. **(PNA)**

Limited COVID-19 vaccine global supply prevents manufacturers from signing supply agreements with PH gov't

February 14, 2021



DOH PR

Following recent allegations of snail-paced negotiations between the Philippine government and vaccine manufacturers, the National Task Force Against COVID-19 Chief Implementer and Vaccine Czar Secretary Carlito G. Galvez today clarified that the supply agreement negotiations are ongoing and that the current limited global supply prevents vaccine manufacturers from entering supply agreements with the government.

In an interview with ANC last 12 February 2021, Sec. Galvez emphasized that a supply agreement is a binding contract and that negotiating supply agreements is a complicated process which provides for specific details such as payment schemes and definite delivery dates, among others.

Sec. Galvez further noted due to the binding nature of supply agreements, and given the limited supply of vaccines globally, manufacturers have not been able to commit specific delivery dates, hence preventing them from entering into supply agreements with the national government. Moreover, Sec. Galvez reported that no indicative delivery dates have been provided by any of the manufacturers the country is in talks with either.

Meanwhile, with the recent confirmation that the Philippines will receive doses of the COVID-19 vaccine from the COVAX Facility, the Philippine government has completed the first set of requirements set by COVAX which includes documents pertaining to the country's readiness to receive vaccines, as well as the deployment plan. The government is now awaiting other documentary requirements which have yet to be provided by the COVAX Facility.

"The entire vaccine cluster, with our Vaccine Czar Sec. Charlie Galvez at the helm, is doing everything to secure cost-effective vaccines for the Philippines at the soonest possible time. In the meantime, with the arrival of vaccines from the COVAX Facility just around the corner, our attention and efforts are focused towards ensuring the country's readiness to roll out the vaccines," Health Secretary Francisco T. Duque III said.

"As the entire government prepares for the COVID-19 vaccination, I call for the cooperation of everyone in addressing the persistent issue of vaccine hesitancy—we want everyone to be assured that vaccines are safe and effective. I further call on the public to continue strict and proper adherence to our Minimum Public Health Standards. Yes, vaccines will afford us a certain degree of protection, but we emphasize that prevention remains to be the best strategy to combat COVID-19," Sec. Duque added.

Source: <https://ptvnews.ph/limited-covid-19-vaccine-global-supply-prevents-manufacturers-from-signing-supply-agreements-with-ph-govt/>



500K PATAY SA COVID SA US BUKAS; 'WAG MAGRELAKS SA PINAS



February 15, 2021 @ 12:30 AM 6 hours ago

KUNG mananatiling maglaro sa nasa 5,000 ang patay araw-araw sa United States, malamang na sasampa na sa 500,000 o kalahating milyon ang patay roon bukas.

Ito'y kahit bumabagsak na ang bilang ng mga naiimpeksyon o nahahawaan sa coronavirus disease o COVID-19 sa US dahil milyon-milyon na ang nabakunahan at lumilipas na ang mga holiday nila, kasama ang Kapaskuhan, nakaraang halalan at taglamig na sinasabing naging superspreader ng COVID-19.

Tingnan natin, mga Bro, ang nagaganap.

Mula Disyembre 2020 hanggang Enero 17, 2021, mahigit 200,000 ang karaniwang bilang ng mga nahahawaan at naglaro sa 3,000-4000 at may umabot pa sa 5,000 ang patay araw-araw.

Pero magsimula nitong Enero 18, 2021, nagsimula nang bumaba sa mahigit 100,000 ang nahahawaan hanggang sa umabot pa nga sa 84,000 lang nitong Pebrero 8 at siyempre pa, nagsimulang bumaba rin sa mahigit 1,000 at kulang sa 2,000 ang namamatay.

Pero kahit bumaba na ang nahahawaan, aba, simula nitong Pebrero 10, lumundag ulit ang patay sa halos 3,400 at kulang-kulang sa 4,000 at meron pang 5,208 nitong Sabado.

Kaya naman masasabing maaaring nasa 500,000 na ang patay sa bansang nabanggit bukas o makalawa.

HINDI PA MALAMAN AT NAGKAKAGULO

HINDI pa malinaw kung bakit nagkakaganito ang nagaganap sa US pero may paniniwalang mas malaki ang bilang mga patay kaysa napauulat.

Halimbawa, noong Pangulo pa si Donald Trump, pinaliit nito umano ang bilang ng namamatay sa US kumpara sa namamatay sa Europe bilang bahagi ng kanyang propagandang pulitikal.

Ngayong si Biden na ang Pangulo, lumabas na marami ang magulong rekord ukol sa mga patay at ang masakit, mga Bro, hindi umano gaanong pinansin ang mga "underserved at minorities" gaya ang mga Asyano, Latino, American Indian at iba pa.



Gusto ni Biden na malaman kung gaano na talaga karami ang namamatay at isa sa mga ginawa na ng Centers for Disease Control and Prevention nila ay ikumpara ang bilang ng mga patay noong 2019 sa 2020 at dito lumabas na may sobrang patay na 445,162 na maaaring biktima ng COVID-19 o natuluyan dahil dito.

At sa araw na tinitipa ito kahapon, may patay nang 492,663 ayon sa nakalap na datos ng virusncov.com. o 496,063 naman ayon sa worldometer.

Ayon sa pamahalaang Biden, hindi umano magiging malinaw ang mga gagawing programa laban sa COVID-19 at pagbangon ng US bilang bansa mula sa krisis hangga't hindi lalabas ang totoong bilang ng mga patay.

Ang magandang balita sa US, nasa 51 milyon na ang nababakunahan laban sa pandemya na inaasahang makapagpababa na sa bilang ng patay bilang resulta ng pagliit ng bilang ng mga nahahawaan.

Pero mismong si Biden ang nagsasabing maaaring madaragdagan pa ng 200,000 patay sa US hanggang Disyembre 2021 kung mananatiling delikado ang lagay ng bansa, lalo't nananalasa at pinagkakaguluhan na rin doon ang United Kingdom variant ng COVID-19 na 40% higit na nakahahawa at karaniwang bumibiktima sa mga senior citizen na madali na ring mamatay.

MAHALAGANG USAPIN ANG US COVID-19

Hindi malayo kundi malapit sa bituka ng mga Pinoy ang pagmasaker o pag-genocide ng COVID-19 sa US.

Naglalaro sa apat na milyon ang Pinoy sa nasabing bansa at dito nanggagaling ang pinakamalaking remittance o padala ng mga oversease Filipino worker.

Sa 100 porsyentong padala ng mga OFW taon-taon mula sa iba't ibang bansa na nagkakahalaga ng nasa \$28 bilyong dolyar, 34-40 porsyento rito ang galing sa US.

Dahil sa rami ng OFW sa US, marami rin ang namatay at nagkasakit sa COVID-19.

Nitong Oktubre 2020, iniulat ng CDC na may 742 patay mula sa kabuuang 170,000 health worker na natamaan ng pandemya.

Pero isang nagmamalasakit na doktor, si Claire Resba, ang nagsabing nasa 1,200 ang patay.

Sa kabilang banda, sinabi naman ng National Nurses United na may 1,700 patay sabay sabing 58 porsyento rito ang hindi puting Kano kundi mga Asyano, Hispanic at Black.

At tatlong beses ang dami ng nagkakasakit at namamatay sa mga ito kumpara sa mga puting Kano dahil hindi sila gaanong binibigyan ng buong proteksyon gaya ng suot na protective personal equipment at iba pa.

Ngayon, kung 58% o 97% ang mga Asyano, Hispanic at Black ang namamatay at nagkakasakit, ilan dito ang Filipino?

Noong Setyembre 2020, may 67 Pinoy nurses ang namatay mula sa buwan ng Marso 2020 at may sumunod pa sa mga ito sa kalaunan.



Hindi ba gutom at kalam sa sikmura ang nararanasan ng mga pamilya ng mga ito sa Pinas?

Paano ang iba pang milyong Pinoy na nawalan ng trabaho o negosyo o naghirap dahil sa pandemya at hindi rin ba naapektuhan ang milyon din nilang pinadadalhan sa Pinas?

Ilang bilyon din ang nawalang dolyar na gamit ng Pinas sa pakikipagkalakalan nito sa ibang bansa?

Ipagpalagay na lang natin na P580 bilyon halaga ng 40% remittance mula sa US, gaano kalaking halaga ang nawalang remittance sa Pinas dahil sa tama ng COVID-19 sa milyong OFW?

PAANO TAYO SA PINAS?

Sa ngayon, nagrerelaks na tayo.

Wala kasi umanong gaanong napapansing maramihang nagkakahawaan at namamatay.

Kokonti na lang ang nasa ilalim ng general community quarantine at karamihan ay nasa ilalim na ng modified general community quarantine.

Kaya nga marami na ang mga lugar at gusali na idineklarang pwedeng puntahan nang sama-sama ang maraming tao pero hanggang 50 porsyento lang ang pupwede at hindi 100 porsyento.

Simbahan, sinehan, parke, convention center, palengke, mall, restoran, pabrika at iba pa.

Gayundin sa public transportation pero walang siksikan o tayuan at may mga barrier ang mga pasahero.

Ginawa ang desisyong ito upang mabuhay muli ang ekonomiya o hanapbuhay at kita ng marami.

At makalanghap din ng ginhawa sa labas ang mga nakakulong sa mga bahay.

Pero kailangan pa rin ang social distancing, pagsusuot ng face mask at face shield, thermal scanner sa mga papasok sa gusali, hugasan ng kamay o disinfectant at iba pa.

Ang epekto ng pagluluwag ay hindi pa malalaman.

Pero dapat nakahanda ang lahat sa anomang pagbabago kung may mga hindi magandang mangyari gaya ng community transmission ng luma at bagong anyo ng COVID-19.

Sana, hanggang sa naglalarong 1,000 pataas at kulang sa 2,000 lang araw-araw ang nagkakasakit.

At pailan-ilan lang ang mamamatay.

Mahigpit pa ring habilin at dapat gawin, huwag magpakampante o magrelaks nang walang pakundangan.



MAGPABAKUNA NA TAYO

Upang matiyak ang kaligtasan natin sa COVID-19, isa sa mga isipin natin ang darating na mga bakuna.

Dapat tayong magpabakuna at huwang matakot dito.

Gusto man natin o hindi, meron talagang mamamatay o magkakasakit nang seryoso.

Sa mga gawang Kano nga na Pfizer at Moderna na sinasabing ligtas at epektibo nang 90-95 porsyento, may patay na umanong 181 sa US habang 33 ang patay sa Norway at 10 sa Germany sa Pfizer.

Meron ding mga patay sa India sa paggamit nila ng sarili nilang bakuna na Covishield at Covaxin.

Pero itinatangi ng mga kompanyang may gawa sa mga ito na bunga ng kanilang mga bakuna ang mga kamatayan.

Wala pa namang naiulat na namatay sa Sputnik V ng Russia at Sinovac at Sinopharm ng China.

Sa kabila ng mga ulat na ito, umabot na sa halos 100 milyon sa US at Europa ang nabakunahan sa Pfizer, Moderna at AstraZeneca at 72 milyon naman ang nabakunahan naman Pfizer at AstraZeneca na gawang UK, Covishield at Covaxin ng India at Sinopharm, Sinovac at dalawang iba pa na gawang China.

Kung magpabakuna tayo, tiyak na huhupa ang COVID-19 at makaaasa tayo ng lalong pagliit ng bilang ng magkakasakit.

Sana rin, hindi darami kundi liliit na rin ang bilang ng mga mamamatay na Pinoy.

At sana, kung panatilihin natin ang mga health protocol hangga't hindi natatapos ang pandemya, magtatagumpay tayo.

May 16 milyon na araw-araw ang nababakunahan at nasa 172 milyon na ang benepisyaryo sa buong mundo.

Ayon sa mga eksperto, ang totoo, aabutin ng limang taon mula ngayon bago mabakunahan ang lahat ng dapat na mabakunahan sa buong mundo o 75% ng nasa pitong bilyong tao.

Hindi tayo dapat magpaabot ng limang taon sa pagpapabakuna at kung maaari sana, sa loob lang ng isang taon, 70 milyon na ang nabakunahang Pinoy upang makabalik na tayo sa normal at kahit papaano'y mas maginhawang pamumuhay kumpara sa ngayon na puro krisis at gutom ang nararanasan ng higit na nakararami.



EDITORIAL - Ibayong pag-iingat sa paparating na vaccine

(Pilipino Star Ngayon) - February 13, 2021 - 12:00am



MALAPIT nang dumating ang mga bakuna laban sa COVID-19. Unang sinabi ng Malacañang na bukas (Pebrero 14) darating ang unang batch at may report naman Pebrero 23. Pfizer at Moderna umano ang paparating na vaccine at mayroon ding bakuna mula sa Sinopharm. Nasa 400, 000 doses ang Pfizer at 600,000 doses sa Moderna. Hindi naman sinabi kung gaano karaming doses ng vaccine mula sa Sinopharm.

Tiyak nang ngayong buwan darating ang mga bakuna kaya nararapat paghandaan at protektahan ang mga ito kapag nasa bansa na. Mahalagang mapangalagaan ang mga bakunang magpapabago sa nadiskaril na pamumuhay ng mga tao mag-iisang taon na ang nakalilipas.

Noong Lunes, nagsagawa na ng mga exercise para sa pagdating ng bakuna. Mula sa pagbaba sa eroplanong sinakyan ng mga bakuna sa NAIA hanggang sa pagta-transport nito sa pasilidad sa Alabang.

Guwardiyado ang mga ita-transport na bakuna. Maraming pulis ang inaasahang magbabantay at mag-eescort sa mga bakuna hanggang sa madala nang ligtas sa pasilidad. Ayon pa sa report, hindi dapat maalog o matagtag ang mga bakuna kaya kailangan ang kaukulang pag-iingat.

Nanawagan naman si President Duterte sa Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) at sa armed-wing nitong New People's Army na huwag gagambalain ang delivery ng mga bakuna. Hayaan na madeliber nang ligtas at malaya ang mga bakuna. Para sa mamamayan ang mga ito kaya huwag gagalawin. Binili ito ng pamahalaan para sa mamamayan kaya kailangang makarating ang mga ito nang maayos.

Marami nang pangyayari na ginambala ng NPA ang mga tulong ng gobyerno. Kagaya noong nakaraang taon na pati mga tulong para sa Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino ay inagaw ng mga rebelde. Dahil sa nangyari, maraming kapuspalad ang hindi napasakamay ang ayuda.

Hindi sana mangyari ang ganitong sitwasyon sa pagdedeliber ng bakuna. Masyadong mahalaga ang mga ito kaya nararapat na maprotektahan. Magtulong-tulong para mapangalagaan ang mga bakuna na magpapabago sa kinasadlakang buhay na dulot ng COVID-19.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/opinyon/2021/02/13/2077371/editorial-ibayong-pag-iingat-sa-paparating-na-vaccine/amp/>



Kanlaon's ground deformation data showed a slight inflation of the lower and middle slopes since June 2020.

Philstar.com/File

Kanlaon Volcano showing signs of abnormality

[Helen Flores](#) (The Philippine Star) - February 15, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Residents near Kanlaon Volcano in Negros Occidental have been advised to remain vigilant due to the increased possibility of phreatic or steam-driven eruptions.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said the volcano's monitoring network recorded 28 volcanic earthquakes between Feb. 11 and 13.

The sulfur dioxide emission reached 1,130 tons on Saturday, the highest recorded this year, Phivolcs said.

Kanlaon's ground deformation data showed a slight inflation of the lower and middle slopes since June 2020.

The data indicated that a slow pressurization activity is occurring inside the volcano.

"These parameters could indicate hydrothermal, tectonic or even deep-seated magmatic processes beneath the edifice," Phivolcs said in an advisory issued on Saturday night.

"The observational parameters signify that Kanlaon is in a restive state, with increased possibilities of phreatic or steam-driven explosions occurring at the summit crater," the agency added.

Phivolcs cautioned the public against entering the volcano's four-kilometer permanent danger zone due to sudden and hazardous phreatic eruptions, which may occur without warning.

Phivolcs said seven volcanic quakes were recorded during the 24-hour observation period yesterday as well as moderate emission of white steam-laden plumes that rose 500 meters.



Hazard hunter app launched

Meanwhile, state seismologists launched a one-stop shop geographic information system platform for hazard assessment service.

The HazardHunterPH app, which is initially available for Android phone users, can be downloaded from the Google Play Store.

The app will soon be available on iOS devices, Phivolcs said.

The app also aims to increase people's awareness of natural hazards and advocates the implementation of plans to prepare for and mitigate effects of natural disasters.

15 FEBRUARY 2021, MONDAY



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