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NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR to remove sandbars along constricted portion of Cagayan River

Published January 14, 2021, 1:54 PM

by [Chito Chavez](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said Thursday that the sandbars along the constricted portion of Cagayan River known as the “Magapit Narrows” will be removed late this month or early February.



(MANILA BULLETIN)

DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu and Task Force Build Back Better (TFBBB) co-chair Roy A. Cimatu emphasized that this is a short-term option “while medium- and long-term solutions for the flooding in Cagayan Valley are still underway.”

He bared this in a recent meeting of the TFBBB which he co-chairs with Secretary Mark Villar of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).

In a statement, the DENR noted that the three sandbars are located in Magapit Narrows, which is being described by the DPWH as the “constriction point” in the mid-stream portion of the 500-kilometer Cagayan River.

The DPWH reported that the three sandbars have a total estimated volume of seven million cubic meters, covering 235 hectares of sandbars.

These are located at Barangay Bangag in Lal-lo town covering 11.4 hectares with 334,305 cubic meters of sand; Casicallan Norte, Gattaran that covers 89 hectares with 2.7 million cubic meters of sand; and Dummun, Gattaran covering 174.70 hectares with 4.04 million cubic meters of sand.

Of the 19 priority sandbars, Cimatu explained that the DPWH has recommended the immediate dredging of the three sandbars in the Magapit Narrows as these significantly hinder the flow of flood water to the Aparri Delta and finally to the Babuyan Channel.

Cimatu explained the TFBBB is tapping the resources of other national agencies to fast track the removal of the three sandbars, which the DPWH estimates to be completed after a year.

The DENR noted that six units of dredging equipment, which are modular type for ease of transport and assembly in the dredging sites, will be deployed by the DPWH in Magapit Narrows.

It added the removal of sandbars will be done in 250-meter segments or blocks, while the use of geotubes is proposed for the management of dredged materials.



“This is another showcase of whole-of-government approach,” Cimatu said, stressing that the strategy “will drastically reduce the flooding problem in Cagayan Valley,” Cimatu said.

He disclosed that 24 dump trucks, five bulldozers, five scoop loaders, four prime movers with long bed, and two backhoe loaders from the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) are on stand-by for deployment to augment the equipment of the DPWH.

Cimatu also ordered DENR-Cagayan Valley Regional Executive Director Gwendolyn Bambalan to coordinate with her local counterparts at the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) “to ask for assistance from the beneficiaries of Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/ Displaced Workers program as well as TESDA-trained heavy equipment operators and mechanics in the dredging activities.”

DPWH Secretary Mark Villar welcomed Cimatu’s move to beef up DPWH’s manpower needs with the project operating in two three-hour shifts.



Cagayan River sandbars to be removed

posted January 14, 2021 at 11:00 pm

by [Rio N. Araja](#)

To help reduce severe floods in Cagayan Valley” drastically,” the Department of Environment and Natural Resources will remove sandbars along the constricted section of Cagayan River—the Magapit Narrows—by late January or early February, an official said Thursday.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, Task Force Build Back Better co-chairman, said “this is a strategic move in the short-term while medium- and long-term solutions for the flooding in Cagayan Valley are still underway.”

Secretary Mark Villar of the Department of Public Works and Highways is the task force chairman.

The three sandbars are located in Magapit Narrows, which is described by the DPWH as the “constriction point” in the mid-stream portion of the 500-kilometer Cagayan River.

According to the DPWH, the three sandbars have a total estimated volume of seven million cubic meters covering 235 hectares of sandbars in Barangay Bangag in Lal-lo town covering 11.4 hectares with 334,305 cubic meters of sand; Casicallan Norte, Gattaran that covers 89 hectares with 2.7 million cubic meters of sand; and Dummun, Gattaran covering 174.70 hectares with 4.04 million cubic meters of sand.

Of the 19 priority sandbars, Cimatu said, the DPWH had recommended the immediate dredging of the three sandbars in the Magapit Narrows since these significantly hinder the flow of flood water to the Aparri Delta and finally to the Babuyan Channel.

He says the TFBBB is tapping the resources of other national agencies to speed up the removal of the three sandbars, which the DPWH estimates to be completed after a year.

The removal of the sandbars would be done in 250-meter segments or blocks, while the use of geotubes is proposed for the management of dredged materials.

“This is another showcase of whole-of-government approach,” Cimatu said, adding the strategy “will drastically reduce the flooding problem in Cagayan Valley.”



Dredging sa Cagayan River sisimulan sa katapusan ng Enero



January 14, 2021 @ 6:02 PM 13 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Upang mabigyan solusyon ang pagbaha sa Cagayan Valley nakahanda na ang gobyerno sa pagtanggap ng sandbars sa kahabaan ng masikip na bahagi ng Cagayan River na tinatawag na “Magapit Narrows” sa huling yugto ng Enero o unang bahagi ng Pebrero ayon na rin kay Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary at Task Force Build Back Better (TFBBB) co-chair Roy A. Cimatu.

“This is a strategic move in the short-term while medium- and long-term solutions for the flooding in Cagayan Valley are still underway,” sabi ni Cimatu sa ginanap na pulong ng TFBBB noong Enero 7 kung saan ay co-chair nito si Secretary Mark Villar ng Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).

Batay sa DENR, matatagpuan ang sandbars sa Magapit Narrows na ayon na rin sa pagsasalarawan ng DPWH ay isang “constriction point” sa gitnang bahagi ng 500-kilometer na Cagayan River.

Sa ulat ng DPWH, ang tatlong sandbars ay may humigit-kumulang na kabuuang volume na seven million cubic meters at sumasakop sa 235 ektarya ng sandbars.

Ito ay matatagpuan sa Barangay Bangag sa bayan ng Lal-lo na may kabuuang 11.4 ektarya at may 334,305 cubic meters ng buhangin; Casicallan Norte, Gattaran na may 89 ektarya at 2.7 million cubic meters ng buhangin at sa Dummun, Gattaran na may 174.70 ektarya at mayroong 4.04 million cubic meters ng buhangin.

Sa 19 na “priority sandbars”, ipinaliwanag ni Cimatu na ang inirekomenda ng DPWH na unahin ay ang dredging sa tatlong sandbars sa Magapit Narrows dahil nakasasagabal ito sa daloy ng tubig baha sa Aparri Delta hanggang sa Babuyan Channel.

Punto pa ng DENR chief, tinitingnan din ng TFBBB ang pag gamit ng resources ng iba pang national agencies upang mapabilis ang pagtanggap sa tatlong sandbars na base na rin sa tantiya ng DPWH ay aabutin ng isang taon.

Anim na dredging equipment ang gagamitin ng DPWH sa Magapit Narrows. Ang mga ito ay modular type upang mabilis na maibiyaha at madali ring buuin sa dredging sites.

Nabatid pa sa DENR ang pagtanggap sa sandbars ay gagawin sa 250-meter segments o blocks habang iminungkahi din ang paggamit ng geotubes para sa pagsasaayos ng “dredged materials.”



“This is another showcase of whole-of-government approach,” lahad ni Cimatú na nagsabi pa na ang istratēhiyang ito ay makababawas sa malaking problema sa pagbaha sa Cagayan River.

Dalawampu’t apat na dump trucks, limang bulldozers, limang scoop loaders, apat na prime movers na may long bed, at dalawang backhoe loaders mula sa Armed Forces of the Philippines ang naka-stand-by para sa deployment at dagdag na kagamitan ng DPWH.

Inatasan na rin ni Cimatú si DENR-Cagayan Valley Regional Executive Director Gwendolyn Bambalan na makipag-ugnayan sa kaniyang local counterparts sa Department of Labor and Employment at Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) upang makahingi ng tulong mula sa mga benipisyaryo ng Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers program maging sa TESDA-trained heavy equipment operators at mechanics para sa dredging activities.

Tinanggap naman ni DPWH Secretary Mark Villar ang hakbang na ito ni Cimatú upang tulungan ang kinakailangang manpower ng proyekto na mag-ooperate ng dalawang three-hour shifts. (Santi Celario)



Cagayan River dredging to start late Jan. or early Feb.

Thursday, January 14, 2021 [Cory Martinez](#)¹²

THE dredging of the Cagayan River will soon start by late January or early February with the removal of sandbars along its constricted section called "*Magapit Narrows*."

This was disclosed by Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu, saying that the move is part of the short-term solution to prevent the flooding in Cagayan Valley.

Cimatu, who is also the Task Force Build Back Better (TFBBB) co-chairperson, disclosed that the medium- and long-term solutions for the flooding in Cagayan Valley are still underway. Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Secretary Mark Villar also co-chairs the TFBBB

The three sandbars are located in Magapit Narrows, which is being described by the DPWH as the "*constriction point*" in the mid-stream portion of the 500-kilometer Cagayan River.

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The removal of sandbars will be done in 250-meter segments or blocks, while the use of geotubes is proposed for the management of dredged materials.

"This is another showcase of whole-of-government approach," Cimatu said, stressing that the strategy *"will drastically reduce the flooding problem in Cagayan Valley."*

Twenty-four dump trucks, five bulldozers, five scoop loaders, four prime movers with long bed, and two backhoe loaders from the Armed Forces of the Philippines are on stand-by for deployment to augment the equipment of the DPWH.

Cimatu also ordered DENR-Cagayan Valley Regional Executive Director Gwendolyn Bambalan to coordinate with her local counterparts at the Department of Labor and Employment and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) to ask for assistance from the beneficiaries of Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/ Displaced Workers program as well as TESDA-trained heavy equipment operators and mechanics in the dredging activities.

Villar, meanwhile, welcomed Cimatu's move to beef up DPWH's manpower needs with the project operating in two three-hour shifts.

Source: <https://journal.com.ph/news/metro/cagayan-river-dredging-to-start-late-jan-or-early-feb/>



Pena: Lesser air pollution at the year's start

[ROX PENA](#)

Issue

January 14, 2021

NEW Year's eve is usually greeted with polluted air from fireworks and firecrackers. The first day of 2021 however had a much cleaner air compared to previous years. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said that the air pollution level in Metro Manila was reduced by as much as 59 percent compared last year. This is a good way to start the year!

DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu credits the cleaner air to the effective implementation of Executive Order (EO) 28 which limits the use of firecrackers to "community fireworks display." Strict health protocols also limited the movement of people. In Pampanga, the 10pm curfew was lifted but people were only allowed to loiter in front of their homes. In Metro Manila, MMDA reinforced EO 28 with Resolution 20-17, which prohibited individual and household use of firecrackers and other pyrotechnic devices during General Community Quarantine.

Now for the statistics. Measurements done by DENR-EMB from its six monitoring stations show an average concentration of 87 micrograms per normal cubic meter (ug/Ncm) of Particulate Matter (PM 10) between 12 midnight of December 31, 2020 to January 1, 2021. Last year, these six monitoring stations yielded an average of 213 ug/Ncm. The short-term limit for PM10 is 150 ug/Ncm under RA 8749 or the Clean Air Act.

For the smaller and more dangerous pollutant called PM2.5, the EMB also reported significantly lower concentrations compared to last year, particularly for its station at the Muntinlupa Bilibid open ground which posted a maximum concentration of 12 ug/Ncm between 12 midnight to 2 a.m. of January 1, 2021. The short-term limit for PM2.5 is 35 ug/Ncm in the Clean Air Act.

PM2.5 pollutants are fine particles that can reach the lungs when inhaled, leading to respiratory and circulatory diseases, including brain damage and cancer. They are usually emitted by vehicles and burning plants. The use of pyrotechnics also releases these pollutants.

Congratulations are in order to retired DENR Asec. Ricardo L. Calderon who was appointed as Executive Director of the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCo). He is the first Filipino to assume this post. He will serve AFoCo for 2 years in its headquarters in Seoul, South Korea. AFoCO is an intergovernmental organization that is committed to strengthening forest cooperation. It has 13 member countries, the Philippines included, and 2 observers.

Asec. Ric, a licensed Forester who placed 5th in the 1985 board exam, chose to retire after more than 30 years in government service so he can serve AFoCo. His last post at DENR was Assistant Secretary for Climate Change and concurrent Director, Biodiversity Management Bureau. He was assigned here in Region 3 initially as Regional Technical Director for Forestry but left after he was promoted and transferred to other regions. He returned to Region 3 as Regional Executive Director from August 2009 to June 2012.

Good luck Director Ric!

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1882767/Pampanga/Opinion/Pena-Lesser-air-pollution-at-the-years-start>



2 huli sa pagsalakay sa illegal dump site sa Cavite

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jan 14 2021 05:16 PM | Updated as of Jan 14 2021 08:12 PM



Ipinasara ng mga awtoridad ang isang ilegal na dump site sa bayan ng Tanza, Cavite. *Dennis Datu, ABS-CBN News*

Dalawa ang arestado matapos salakayin ng mga awtoridad ang isang ilegal na dump site sa Tanza, Cavite ngayong Huwebes.

Nagsanib-pwersa ang mga tauhan ng National Bureau of Investigation, Philippine National Police at Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa pagsalakay at pagpapasara sa 6 na ektaryang dump site sa Barangay Sahud Ulan.

Kabilang sa mga hinuli ang isang truck driver at pahinanteng naghahakot ng basura sa lugar.

Paliwanag ni Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda, sanitary landfill ang pinapahintulutan ng batas at hindi open-dump site.

Natuklasan ang tambakan ng basura dahil sa sunod-sunod na reklamo ng mga kalapit na subdivision, na hindi na makatiis sa napakabahong amoy sa lugar.

Tinatayang nasa 180,000 cubic meters ng iba't ibang basura ang nakatambak sa dump site.

Sa impormasyon ng DENR, maraming taon nang ilegal na nag-o-operate ang dump site pero mistulang hindi kilala kung sino ang may-ari nito.

Tinitingnan na ng DENR kung may pananagutan ang local government unit (LGU) ng Tanza sa operasyon ng dump site.

Umapela naman ang mga mangangalakal ng basura na huwag ipasara ang dumpsite dahil doon lamang anila sila kumukuha ng kabuhayan.

Ayon naman sa DENR, trabaho ng LGU na tulungan ang mga maapektuhang mangangalakal.

Nahaharap naman ang mga naaresto sa paglabag sa Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, gayundin ang may-ari na inaalang pa ang pagkakakilanlan.

-- **Ulat ni Dennis Datu, ABS-CBN News**

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/01/14/21/2-huli-sa-pagsalakay-sa-illegal-dump-site-sa-cavite?fbclid=IwAR19HjXCd8ZMnDsPyugUwDOWC1nCDLi4wVimFu11PDq8m6mE1XjNT56YSB4>



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Ipinasara ng DENR at NBI ang isang dumpsite sa Tanza, Cavite. Bukod sa wala itong permit, ipinagbabawal din ang pag-operate ng open dumpsite. | via [Shyla Francisco](#)



155

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ONE News

17h · 🌐

DENR and NBI close a dumpsite in Tanza, Cavite for lack of permits. Open dumpsites are also barred under the law. (via News5/Shyla Francisco)



👍❤️ 28

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ABS-CBN News
Yesterday at 4:15 AM

Nadiskubre ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources ang 4 ilegal na tubo ng naglalabas ng wastewater sa Manila Bay.
Ito ang itinuturing sanhi kung bakit mas lumala pa ang kalidad ng tubig sa naturang look.
Ang problema hindi pa matiyak kung saing establisimiyento nakakonekta ang mga tubo.
BASA HIN DITO ang buong ulat: <https://bit.ly/3dH9IV>

4 NA ILIGAL NA TUBO NA NAGLALABAS NG WASTEWATER SA MANILA BAY IPINASASARA NG LLDA AT DENR

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2:02 / 3:15

375 237 Comments 30 Shares



DENR translocates 81 Olive Ridley eggs to a hatchery



ZAMBOANGA. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has translocated 81 Olive Ridley turtle eggs to a marine turtle hatchery in Dohinob village, Roxas, Zamboanga del Norte. A photo handout shows a DENR personnel watches the mother turtle lays eggs at the shore of East Poblacion village, Manukan, in the same province. (SunStar Zamboanga)

January 13, 2021

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has translocated 81 Olive Ridley turtle eggs to a marine turtle hatchery in Zamboanga del Norte.

Rosevirico Tan, DENR regional information officer, said Wednesday, January 13, 2021, that the turtle eggs were translocated by the personnel of the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro)-Manukan to the hatchery on Monday, January 11, in Dohinob village, Roxas, Zamboanga del Norte.

Tan said the mother turtle was spotted laying its eggs at the coastal area of East Poblacion village, Manukan, Zamboanga del Norte by Carmelito Jimenez.

Jimenez immediately reported his find to Cenro-Manukan for proper documentation and handling of the turtle eggs.

Upon assessment and inspection of the nesting site, the Cenro-Manukan team decided to transfer the eggs to the marine hatchery in Dohinob, Roxas for safekeeping and a higher chance of survival until it hatches.

He said it is expected that there will be an increase in mother turtles nesting their eggs in the area since November to March is observed to be the nesting season in Zamboanga del Norte. (SunStar Zamboanga)



The injured Philippine Eagle found in a forested hinterland in Maitum town in Sarangani province.
Philstar.com/John Unson

Philippine eagle rescued in Sarangani

[John Unson](#) (Philstar.com) - January 14, 2021 - 12:23pm

SARANGANI, Philippines — Villagers turned over to the Philippine Eagle Foundation a raptor with bullet wounds found in a tropical rainforest in Maitum town.

Experts from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-12 confirmed Thursday that the raptor is a rare Philippine Eagle, whose scientific name is *Pithecophaga jefferyi*.

In separate statements, the Maitum local government and the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office in nearby Kiamba town in Sarangani said the eagle was found by a highland tribesman named Mang Ganang trapped in a thick web of rattan vines dangling from a huge tree.

The rescued raptor has two gunshot wounds, according to Maitum Mayor Alexander Bryan Reganit.

The DENR-12's Sarangani provincial office announced Thursday that the injured raptor had been turned over to the Philippine Eagle Foundation in Davao City.

The Maitum municipal police and personnel of CENRO-Kiamba are now investigating on who could have shot the raptor twice for immediate prosecution.



Wounded Philippine Eagle rescued in Sarangani

[John Unson](#) (The Philippine Star) - January 15, 2021 - 12:00am

SARANGANI, Philippines — A wounded Philippine Eagle trapped in rattan vines in the forest in Maitum town in this province has been rescued by villagers.

The Maitum municipal government and Kiamba community environment and natural resources office said a certain Ganang, a member of a tribal community, found the eagle.

The eagle has two gunshot wounds, according to Maitum Mayor Alexander Bryan Reganit.

The bird was turned over to the Philippine Eagle Foundation in Davao City.



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Nia-rescue ng isang lalaki sa Sarangani ang isang sugatang Philippine Eagle matapos mapit sa rattan vines. Nasa kustodiya na ngayon ng Philippine Eagle Foundation ang agila na tinatayang nasa 3-5 anyos.

📍: CENRO Kiamba via DENR Soccsksargen



👍❤️👏 1.6K

89 Comments | 87 Shares



P50M worth of giant clam shells recovered by authorities in Palawan

January 14, 2021 1 min read

By Glen S. Ramos

ROXAS, Palawan – Officials from the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD) together with members of the Naval Intelligence and Security Group, Naval Force West and Bantay Roxas on Tuesday, January 12, 2021 successfully recovered giant clam shells worth P50 million pesos in a raid conducted in Green Island Barangay Tumarbong, Roxas, Palawan.

The shells were confiscated from Cristine Parcellano, 30 years old and Roque Lawan, 28 years old, both residents of the barangay.

The suspects were immediately arrested after authorities found out that they were hiding giant sea shells without the proper documents.

Charges for violation of Republic Act 9147 (Wildlife Resources and Conservation Act) will be filed against

A total of 76 dried and fossilized giant clam shells were recovered.

The items are now under the custody of PCSDS who acted instantly after receiving a report of undocumented giant shells being stashed in the residence of the two suspects. (AI/MTVN)

Source: https://maharlika.tv/2021/01/14/p50m-worth-of-giant-clam-shells-recovered-by-authorities-in-palawan/?fbclid=IwAR0saDBSOqLIEqwc-SZ0tmJad_IPyNhykw5L9Ytcf-z_rklnZlxJfqel9hs



Another green sea turtle released in Pagudpud

By Leilanie Adriano **January 14, 2021, 4:28 pm**



RELEASED. A trained responder pours salt water on a sea turtle before releasing it on Thursday (Jan. 14, 2021). The green sea turtle was spotted at 3 a.m. while laying her eggs in a beach front area of Barangay Caparisipan, Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte. (Photo courtesy of Henelyn Alterado)

LAOAG CITY – Coastal residents of Barangay Caparisipan in Pagudpud cheered as they watched a female green sea turtle crawled its way to the sea on Thursday morning.

Henelyn Alterado, president of the Lifeguard Association in the Ilocos Norte town, told the Philippine News Agency in a phone interview that a fisherman spotted the green sea turtle measuring 102 centimeters long and 97 centimeters wide nesting in a beach front area owned by the family of Pagudpud Mayor Rafael Benemerito at about 3 a.m.

"The fisherman immediately reported what he saw to a village chief tanod and relayed it immediately to local authorities," said Alterado, who is also an active member of the Pagudpud Pawikan Conservation Group.

Following a training on "pawikan" (sea turtle) conservation, Alterado said more villagers are now becoming aware of their responsibilities toward nature particularly on saving these endangered species.

Since November last year, the newly-formed Pagudpud Pawikan Conservation Group has been monitoring and guarding at least four nests of sea turtles in Pagudpud.

The first nest with 400 sea turtle eggs is located at the Pawikan hatchery in Saud village. These are expected to hatch next week after a female green sea turtle was spotted in the area last Nov. 24, 2020.

The Pawikan hatchery is installed at the municipal beach park to host endangered species.

Over the years, the shoreline of Ilocos Norte from Badoc to Pagudpud is a favorite nesting place of sea turtles. Marine sea turtles often lay their eggs from dusk till dawn, mostly from November to March. (PNA)



US grants P42-M to address ocean plastic pollution in PH

By Raymond Carl Dela Cruz January 14, 2021, 3:32 pm



CLEAN CITIES, BLUE OCEAN. Screen capture of the virtual launch of the United States Agency for International Development's Clean Cities, Blue Ocean program. Nearly PHP42 million in grants were awarded by the USAID to five organizations with programs that aim to reduce plastic pollution in Philippine waters. (Screen capture courtesy of USAID)

MANILA – Five organizations with programs that aim to address plastic pollution in Philippine waters were awarded grants worth USD890,000 or nearly PHP42 million by the United States government through the US Agency for International Development's (USAID).

During the program's virtual launch on Thursday, the USAID awarded the grants to the Communities Organized for Resource Allocation (CORA) for a project in Parañaque City, the Catholic Relief Services for its Manila City project, Green Antz Builders Inc. for a project in Pasig City, the Plastics Credit Exchange for its project in Manila City, and Project Zacchaeus for its undertaking in Puerto Princesa, Palawan.

The grants serve as the "first wave" of support provided by the USAID that will pilot solutions to stop the flow of plastics to waters within and surrounding the Philippines.

According to a 2015 McKinsey and Company study, a total of 2.7 million tons of plastic are generated in the Philippines each year, with about 20 percent ending up in the ocean.

Through these grants, the USAID partners with local and international organizations to test new models to increase recycling rates, reduce landfill waste and leakage into nearby bodies of water, and improve community livelihoods.

US Embassy Chargé d'Affaires John Law said the program signifies the US' commitment to the country.

"The United States is a committed ally and partner of the Filipino people in protecting the country's rich marine ecosystems and resources for the benefit of present and future generations," Law said.

To date, the USAID's Clean Cities, Blue Ocean program is working in several countries around the world and was launched in the Philippines in late 2019 to support the national government in advancing solid waste management. (PNA)

Source: https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1127364?fbclid=IwAR3YsyqGHiHgbr-o1fCrSmIsypsiJCFO8pqppUYSX9J9sLXVEyc4W_09PGE



USAID grants P42-M to projects on solving ocean plastics pollution

Published January 14, 2021, 3:00 PM

by [Hanah Tabios](#)

The United States government, through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)'s Clean Cities, Blue Ocean (CCBO) program, has awarded grants worth around P42 million (\$890,000) to five organizations in support of local solutions that address ocean plastics pollution.



U.S. Embassy Chargé d'Affaires John Law, USAID Philippines Mission Director Lawrence Hardy II, Puerto Princesa City Vice Mayor Nancy Socrates, Manila Department of Public Services Head Kenneth Amurao, Pasig City Environment and Natural Resources Officer Allen Angeles, Clean Cities, Blue Ocean (CCBO) Chief of Party Jon Angin, and CCBO Moderator and Grants Manager Amy Kirk at the virtual CCBO program launch and grant award ceremony on January 14. (US EMBASSY IN THE PHILIPPINES / MANILA BULLETIN)

USAID's Clean Cities, Blue Ocean (CCBO) program is a five-year, \$48 million program that works globally to target plastic pollution originating in, and perpetuated by, rapidly urbanizing areas in low- and middle-income countries.

According to a 2015 McKinsey and Company study, a staggering 2.7 million tons of plastic are generated in the Philippines each year, 20 percent of which is estimated to end up in the ocean.

Through these grants, USAID will partner with local and international organizations to test new models to increase recycling rates, reduce landfill waste and leakage into nearby waters, and improve community livelihoods to help build sustainable waste systems. "The United States is a committed ally and partner of the Filipino people in protecting the country's rich marine ecosystems and resources for the benefit of present and future generations," U.S. Embassy Chargé d'Affaires John Law said.

The first wave of grants will pilot solutions to stop the flow of plastic pollution to the waters within and surrounding the Philippines.

Program grantees are: Communities Organized for Resource Allocation (CORA) for its project in Parañaque City; Catholic Relief Services for its Manila City project; Green Antz Builders, Inc. for a project in Pasig City; The Plastics Credit Exchange for its project operating in the City of Manila; and Project Zacchaeus, undertaking an effort in Puerto Princesa, Palawan

"We look forward to a lasting partnership with USAID toward achieving sustainable goals that highlight the health and welfare of the environment and local citizens," Parañaque City Mayor Edwin Olivarez said.



The USAID CCBO program is working in several countries around the world. In late 2019 it launched its effort in the Philippines, where it aims to support the national government in advancing solid waste management.



U.S. bares P42M grants to address ocean plastics pollution

Thursday, January 14, 2021 People's Tonight



THE United States government, through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)'s Clean Cities, Blue Ocean (CCBO) program, has awarded grants worth nearly P42 million (\$890,000) to five organizations in support of local solutions that address ocean plastics pollution.

A staggering 2.7 million tons of plastic are generated in the Philippines each year, 20 percent of which is estimated to end up in the ocean, according to a 2015 McKinsey and Company study. Through these grants, USAID will partner with local and international organizations to test new models to increase recycling rates, reduce landfill waste and leakage into nearby waters, and improve community livelihoods to help build sustainable waste systems.

"The United States is a committed ally and partner of the Filipino people in protecting the country's rich marine ecosystems and resources for the benefit of present and future generations," said U.S. Embassy Chargé d'Affaires John Law.

The first wave of grants will pilot solutions to stop the flow of plastic pollution to the waters within and surrounding the Philippines. Program grantees are:

- Communities Organized for Resource Allocation (CORA) for its project in Parañaque City
- Catholic Relief Services for its Manila City project
- Green Antz Builders, Inc. for a project in Pasig City
- The Plastics Credit Exchange for its project operating in the City of Manila; and
- Project Zacchaeus, undertaking an effort in Puerto Princesa, Palawan

"We look forward to a lasting partnership with USAID toward achieving sustainable goals that highlight the health and welfare of the environment and local citizens," said Parañaque City Mayor Edwin Olivarez.

The USAID CCBO program is working in several countries around the world, and in late 2019 launched its effort in the Philippines, where it aims to support the national government in advancing solid waste management. CCBO is currently operating at three engagement sites around the country to implement and test scalable waste and recycling solutions.

Source: <https://journal.com.ph/editorial/miscellaneous/u-s-bares-p42m-grants-to-address-ocean-plastics-pollution/>



Solon pushes nationwide ban on single-use plastic

Thursday, January 14, 2021 Ryan Ponce Pacpaco10

FOLLOWING the call of Finance Sec. and Climate Change Commission (CCC) Chairperson Carlos Dominguez to ban single-use plastic, a House leader has appealed to his colleagues and urged them to support legislation aimed at "preserving our environment for future generations of Filipinos." According to Deputy Speaker and Manila Rep. Bienvenido "Benny" Abante Jr., with barely 18 months left in the 18th Congress, "the times call for us in the House to pass landmark legislation that will have a long-term, positive effect on the environment: a nationwide ban on single-use plastic."

"Let us leave a concrete and lasting legacy for our children, grandchildren, and their children--let us be remembered as the Congress that ushered in the end of plastic pollution in the Philippines," Abante said. Abante is the author of House Bill (HB) 3773 or the "Single-use Plastic Product Ban of 2019."

The measure, if passed, would prohibit the manufacture, importation, sale, and use of all single-use products one year after the effectivity of the law.

The bill defines single-use plastic as "disposable plastic products which are commonly used for packaging and include items to be used only once that are thrown away or recycled," such as grocery bags, food packaging containers and bags, water bottles, straws, stirrers, styrofoam, cups, sachets, and plastic cutlery.

In a virtual meeting with the Management Association of the Philippines, Dominguez said "we don't have a lot of time left, so let's limit our efforts to getting something important passed and this is doable," referring the passage of legislation banning single-use plastic.

The ranking member of the government's economic team stated that it would be a priority project of the CCC.

Abante stressed that the House "should view this as a signal to aggressively and enthusiastically work to pass HB 3773 and similar measures at the soonest possible time."



P20M earmarked for Ecija UPRIIS climate change project

Thursday, January 14, 2021 Steve A. Gosuico9

CABANATUAN CITY — At least P20 million worth of funds has been allocated by the National Irrigation Administration-Upper Pampanga River Integrated Irrigation Systems for their watershed management program (WMP) to mitigate the effects of climate change for this year 2021, a top irrigation official said here yesterday.

Engr. Rosalinda B. Bote, NIA-UPRIIS department managers said the budget for the WMP was allocated by the agency in its bid to ensure that its watershed areas are continuously protected amid the impact of climate change on the country.

Bote said the force account works for the WMP, which was prepared by the Pantabangan Dam and Reservoir Division involves the replanting, maintenance, and protection of the 320-hectare established plantation for the said UPRIIS' climate change project.

The watershed activity involves replanting of hardwood such as narra, molave and mimosa, and fruit-bearing trees like cashew, guyabano, duhat, sampalok, langka and bignai trees.

"Kaya continuous ang watershed activity natin sa Pantabangan area, at hindi lang doon tayo may climate-change-related activity na isinasagawa, the UPRIIS department manager said.

Bote noted that the agency is also conducting similar replanting activities at the Upper Tabuating Irrigation Project and the Macanae Dam project in the towns of General Tinio and Lupao, respectively.

In General Tinio, at least 5,000 fruit-bearing trees were already planted in collaboration with the administration of former mayor Virgilio Bote and now with the proposed eco-tourism agreement forged with incumbent mayor Isidro T. Pajarillaga, while more than 21,000 seedlings of molave, bamboo and narra were planted in Lupao.

"Malaking tulong itong ginagawa natin sapagkat na-re-restore ang watershed area, naayos ang gilid ng daan at ang mga slopes ng reservoir, kaya mas madali ang pag-ha-harvest ng tubig para sa dam, nako-kontrol ang erosion at hindi mababahaw ang reservoir ng dam," added Engr. Bote.

Meanwhile, Bote said several patrolling operations that were conducted to protect the Pantabangan watershed area during the period January to December 2020 have resulted in the seizure of six pieces of chainsaw, 1,252 board feet of gmelina and 1,500 culms of bocawe.



Leyte mining firm to donate coronavirus vaccines

By Sarwell Meniano January 14, 2021, 4:34 pm



VACCINE DONATION. The dredger and magnetic separator plant of MacArthur Iron Sand Project Corp. The firm on Thursday (Jan. 14, 2021) says they are committed to providing funds to procure coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) vaccines. (PNA photo by Sarwell Meniano)

TACLOBAN CITY – A mining firm operating in MacArthur, Leyte has committed to set aside funds for the procurement of the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) vaccines.

In a statement Thursday, the MacArthur Iron Sand Project Corp. (MIPC) said the management just approved the proposal to include vaccination as one of their initiatives.

"The management is still deliberating on the amount that we will allocate. We intend to supplement the vaccine supply because this is a primary need (for) this pandemic," the MIPC stated.

The company will meet with the Leyte provincial government which has the authority to negotiate with vaccine manufacturers through the central government.

"We cannot represent ourselves to vaccine manufacturers. The best people to do that are those from the local government units. If we can consolidate all efforts, the impact will be great," the firm said.

MIPC recommended prioritizing residents of MacArthur town in the provision of vaccines since residents are directly impacted by mining operations. The town has a population of over 21,000.

The provision of Covid-19 vaccines is just one of the assistance of MIPC to the local health sector.

Others are the provision of nebulizer, wheelchairs, and medicines; health apparatus for village health workers and nutrition scholars; turnover of rescue and protective equipment; hospitalization for indigents; and mobile medical mission.

The Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) reported that the MIPC is one of the priority mining projects tapped by the government to help the economy adversely affected by the health crisis.

The firm is reportedly investing PHP500 million and has already hired nearly 300 workers in MacArthur town since last year.

The MGB granted the MIPC mining claims of 2,300 hectares last September 2020, covering the towns of MacArthur, Javier, and Abuyog.

In MacArthur alone, the MIPC has mining claims of about 300 hectares for three years. (PNA)

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1127369>



Black sand mining sa Cagayan pinaimbestigahan

By Abante News Online — Last updated Jan 14, 2021

NEWS



Photo courtesy of blackandsm.com / black-sands-mining-technology.com



19 0

Kinaimpag ng Pinoy Aksyon for Governance and the Environment (Pinoy Aksyon) ang lokal na pamahalaang lokal ng Cagayan para imbestigahan ang operasyon ng ilegal na pagmimina rito na kontrolado umano ng mga negosyanteng Intsik.

Ayon kay Pinoy Aksyon chairperson BenCyrus Ellorin, laging sinisisi sa ilegal na pagtotroso at pagmimina ang mga pagbaha kapag may malalakas na bagyo sa bansa, pero sa umpisa, lang naman umano masigasig ang pagsisyasat dito.

Hiniling ng grupo kina Cagayan Gov. Maruel Mamba at 2nd district Rep. Samantha Louise V. Alfonso na mapaimbestigahan ang paghuhukay ng milyung-milyong metriko tonelada ng lupa at buhangin sa bayan ng Claveria na ipinadadala umano sa China at mga kalapit pang bansa tulad ng Hongkong para sa kanilang imprastruktura.

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"The question is what has been done? Shall we wait for another disaster to again look into illegal mining and logging? ayon pa dito.

Diin niya, ang mga nasabing ilegal na gawain ang wawasak sa mga baybaing dagat at dalampasigan.

Maaapektuhan din aniya nito ang mga Build project ng gobyerno dahil sa inaasahang pagsirit ng presyo ng mga panambak na buhangin, bato at nga kauri nito.

Ang Pinoy Aksyon ay isang independyenteng grupo na nagbabantay at nagtataguyod ng pangangalaga sa kapaligiran at demokrasya. (Mia Billones)



Municipal civil engineer arrested for Illegal Logging

Published January 14, 2021, 11:52 AM

by [Liezle Basa Iñigo](#)

CAGAYAN— A municipal civil engineer of Pamplona town here was arrested by authorities following the discovery of a pile of lumber at the bank of Pamplona river.

Pamplona police arrested Felicimo Bilas, 52, a resident of Brgy. Allasitan, Pamplona, Cagayan for violation of PD 705, Anti-Illegal Logging, on January 13, 2021.

Joint elements of Pamplona Police led by Capt. Marlou U. Del Castillo, and the 2nd Provincial Mobile Force Company, were conducting anti-criminality operations when they discovered the pile of lumber.

Bilas arrived at the scene and claimed that he was the owner of the lumber but failed to present documents authorizing him to gather and possess the more or less 1,000 board feet fresh cut lumber of common hardwood (Tanguile) .

This resulted in his arrest and the confiscation of the lumber.



Engineer nabbed over illegal logging in Cagayan

By: [Villamor Visaya Jr.](#) - Correspondent / [@VillVisayaJrINO](#)

[Inquirer Northern Luzon](#) / 12:51 PM January 14, 2021

TUGUEGARAO CITY -- A 52-year-old government worker was arrested for alleged illegal logging along a riverbank in Pamplona, Cagayan on Wednesday, Jan. 13, police said.

Police discovered the stocked sawn lumber in Barangay Abbangkeruan and later seized these.

The suspect was identified as Felicimo Bilas, municipal engineer of Pamplona and a resident of Barangay Allasitan.

Bilas admitted to owning the lumber. He would be charged with violation of the Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines.

LZB



Municipal engineer nabbed for illegal logging

[Artemio Dumlao](#) (The Philippine Star) - January 15, 2021 - 12:00am

BAGUIO CITY, Philippines — A civil engineer of the municipal government of Pamplona, Cagayan was arrested on Wednesday for alleged illegal logging.

Felicimo Bilas, a resident of Barangay Allasitan, was apprehended after he claimed that he was the owner of around 1,000 board feet of freshly cut tanguile found in the riverbank, but failed to present the required documents.

Cagayan Valley police director Brig. Gen. Crizaldo Nieves said personnel of the Pamplona police and 2nd Provincial Mobile Force Company were conducting anti-crime operations when they discovered the pile of lumber.



Police Files Tonite

20h

...

MUNICIPAL ENGINEER SA CAGAYAN TIMBOG SA ILLEGAL LOGGING

Cagayan - Dinakip ang municipal engineer ng local government unit ng Pamplona, Cagayan nang maiktuhang nagsasagawa ng illegal logging sa Barangay Abbangkeruan, Pamplona.

Nagpapatrolya ang mga tauhan ni Police Capt. Mario del Castillo, hepe ng PNP Pamplona, nang makita ang mga pinutol na kahoy sa gilid ng ilog sa bahagi ng Brgy. Abbangkeruan ng nasabing bayan.

Habang ininspekyon ang mga nadiskubrang tinutis na kahoy, dumating ang si Engr. Felcimo Bitas, 52-anyos, Municipal Civil Engineer ng Pamplona, at residente ng Brgy. Allasitan na umamirt na sa kanya ang mga nifagareng kahoy.

Nang imbestigahan ng pulisya ay wala itong maipakitang mga kaukulang dokumento, dahilan para arestuhin ito ng mga otoridad.

Tinatayang nasa isang libong board feet ng "Tanguile" ang nakumpiskang kahoy na ngayon ay nasa kustodiya ng Pamplona Police.

Nahaharap sa kasong paglabag sa PD-705 o anti-illegal logging ang nasabing municipal engineer.
- REY VELASCO



3

1 Share



More pocket forests up along floodway



Photo by Iloilo City Office of Executive Assistant for Environment

January 13, 2021

ILOILO City Government personnel continue to create pocket forests, with the fifth site completed along the floodway in Jaro district.

This is the extension of second pocket forest planted earlier in coordination with Department of Public Works and Highways.

This is also part of the greening initiative of Mayor Jerry Treñas to implement massive tree planting activities all over the metropolis.

"Problem of persistent dumping of garbage in the floodway is still present. Goats roaming especially in Barangay Bitoon, Jaro have caused a lot of damages to dwarf coconuts. We are asking assistance to look into the city ordinance on stray animals in public places, so that we can solve this problem of animals eating our plants," Executive Assistant for Environment Armando Dayrit said.

City Hall called on Ilonggos to help sustain greening efforts to enhance environmental conservation. (PR)



More mangroves planted at Iloilo River



Photo by Jorge Fernandez

January 13, 2021

EMPLOYEES and agency personnel of SM City Iloilo planted the first batch of mangroves at riverbank near Esplanade 9 on January 13.

Several batches of staff will be deployed on specific days to complete the target of 2,000 mangroves at the site.

Mayor Jerry Treñas thanked partners for helping implement initiatives for environmental preservation.

The activity was part of the massive mangrove planting activities of City Government, set to spruce up banks of Iloilo River particularly along new sections of Esplanades.

The mall, headed by SM Regional Operations Manager for Visayas 3 Girlie Liboon, responded to the call of collective efforts in conserving the waterway at the heart of the city.

Mangroves serve as sanctuary to fishes and home to other marine life. (PR)

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1882641/ILOILO/Local-News/More-mangroves-planted-at-Iloilo-River>



COVID-19 cases ng bansa tumalon ng 1,912, pumalo sa lagpas 494,000

(Philstar.com) - January 14, 2021 - 4:09pm



Sinusubukan ng mga debotong ito na sumunod sa isang metrong physical distancing habang nasa Pista ng Itim na Nazareno, ika-9 ng Enero, 2021

AFP/Ted Aljibe

MANILA, Philippines — Ini-report ng Department of Health ang nasa 1,912 sariwang kumpirmadong kaso ng coronavirus disease ngayong Huwebes, dahilan para lumobo patungong 494,605 ang kabuuang bilang ng tinamaan ng nakamamatay na sakit.

Nasa 25,614 diyan ang itinuturing na "aktibong kaso" o mga patuloy na nagpapagaling sa karamdaman.

Umabot naman sa 40 ang bagong naitalang patay, kung kaya'y nasa 9,739 na ang binabawian ng buhay sa Pilipinas dulot ng COVID-19. Sa kabila niyan, 459,252 na ang mga gumaling dito.

Lugar na may pinakamararaming fresh cases

- Davao City, 136 (*general community quarantine*)
- Quezon City, 107 (*GCCQ*)
- Agusan del Sur, 61 (*modified general community quarantine*)
- Dagupan City, 53 (*MGCCQ*)
- Cavite, 51 (*MGCCQ*)

Anong bago ngayong araw? Kagabi lang nang kumpirmahin ng DOH na nakapasok na ng Pilipinas ang kinatatakutang United Kingdom variant ng COVID-19, na siyang mas nakahahawa sa karaniwan: hanggang 70%.

Ang nasabing pasyente, isang 29-anyos na Pilipino mula Quezon City, ay sinasabing nanggaling mula sa United Arab Emirates. Pagpupulungan na raw ng gobyerno kung isasama ang UAE sa 33 bansang pinapatawan ng travel restrictions bunsod ng bagong COVID-19 variant.



Batay din sa mga datos, ngayon ang ikaapat na sunod na araw na hindi bumababa ang "active COVID-19 cases" sa Pilipinas. Mula 20,087 noong Linggo, umakyat sa 25,614 ang patuloy na nagpapagaling.

Umaabot na sa 90.33 milyon ang tinatamaan ng COVID-19 sa buong mundo, ayon sa huling ulat ng [World Health Organization](#). Sa bilang na 'yan, halos 2 milyon na ang pumapanaw. — James Relativo



‘Hindi ipipilit’: Filipinos who refuse COVID-19 vaccine jab will be on ‘bottom list’, says DOH

Job Manahan, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jan 14 2021 10:47 PM | Updated as of Jan 14 2021 11:15 PM

MANILA — Filipinos who will refuse the government-issued vaccine against COVID-19 will be put at the bottom of recipients' list, losing their chance to be inoculated early, the Department of Health (DOH) said Thursday.

During the health department's town hall meeting on the COVID-19 vaccine deployment plan, Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said while everyone has the choice to freely choose their COVID-19 vaccines, the country is still under a state of public health emergency.

“Ang napag-usapan, kung kayo po ay tatanggi, we will have to put you at the bottom of the list and we will give it to the next person in line as part of our priority. Hindi po natin ipipilit, very simple consent actually kaya nga lang po, mawawala ang chance niyo,” Vergeire explained, noting that the DOH understands the reason why Filipinos want to choose their vaccines.

“You would go to the bottom of the line and the next time na puwede na kayo uli magpabakuna ay yan po kapag pagdating ng susunod ng delivery at kapag tapos na po ang sektor na kabilang po kayo,” she added.

(If you refuse to be vaccinated... We will not force you. That's very simple, but you will lose your chance to be vaccinated. You could only be vaccinated once the next batch of deliveries arrive and after your sector.)



Vergeire's statement came as criticism mounted over the government's suggestion to the public to just accept whatever vaccine brand is available during the inoculation drive.

The health official also said Filipinos who will refuse inoculation cannot demand to be included on the priority list if the next batch of vaccines is delivered in the country.

“Kaya lang hindi po namin kayo puwede ilagay na... dumating yung another vaccine, kayo na ang priority, hindi po, hindi po ganun ang mangyayari. Uunahin natin yung iba pa pong priority population natin,” she said.

“Hindi namin sinasabi na diretsahan na hindi ka puwede mamili kasi may informed consent naman po kayo, you will have to give us the consent kung gusto niyo yung bakuna or hindi.”

Recent surveys revealed public hesitancy to join the government's vaccination drive.

A Pulse Asia survey conducted last year showed that nearly half or 47 percent of Filipinos will not have themselves vaccinated against COVID-19 due to safety concerns.



A [study](#) by the OCTA Group released on Jan. 5, on the other hand, showed that only 25 percent of Metro Manila residents were willing to be vaccinated against COVID-19.

‘Isipin ang kapakanan ng komunidad’

Dr. Jaime Montoya, executive director of the Philippine Council for Health Research and Development, said Filipinos should think of vaccination as a means to protect oneself and others from COVID-19, which has already killed over 9,000 in the country.

“When you accept a vaccine for whatever reason, you are taking responsibility not only for yourself but for your family, the society and the country. Kapag ikaw ay tumanggap ng bakuna, hindi mo lang pinoproteksyonan ang sarili mo, ang iyong mahal sa buhay, iyong pamilya at ang bansa,” Montoya said.

(If you get vaccinated, you do not only protect yourself, but also the people around you including your loved ones and family members, eventually, the country.)

The public should also take into consideration the public health crisis, and being vaccinated against the novel coronavirus would help bring some normalcy, he said.

“Karapatan po natin yun (choosing vaccines), pero sana isipin natin na nakasalalay dito ang malaking kapakanan, hindi lang pang kapakanan ng sarili kundi kapakanan ng ating mga komunidad para tayoy bumalik na to some degree of normalcy.”

(It is our right to choose but we have to think about the welfare of others aside from ourselves. This would at least help our communities to attain some degree of normalcy.)

The Philippines has secured 25 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine from China's Sinovac Biotech, and 30 million doses from the Serum Institute of India.

The country might also receive an initial vaccine batch from SU-based Pfizer and Russia's Gamaleya Institute in February, according to Malacañang.



City of San Carlos, Negros Occidental niyanig ng lindol

By Angellic Jordan January 14, 2021 - 05:47 PM



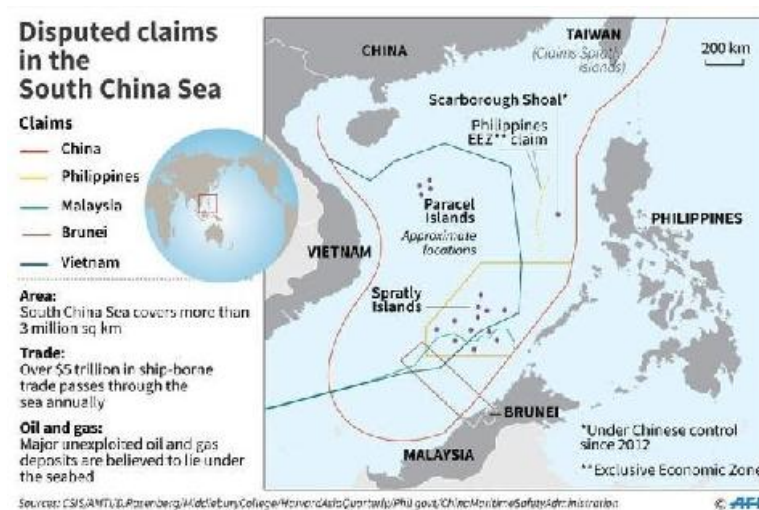
Tumama ang magnitude 3.5 na lindol sa Negros Occidental, Huwebes ng hapon.

Ayon sa Phivolcs, namataan ang episentro ng lindol sa 15 kilometers Southwest ng City of San Carlos.

Naramdaman ang lindol dakong 5:22 ng hapon.

May lalim ang lindol na 13 kilometers at tectonic ang origin.

Gayunman, sinabi ng Phivolcs na walang napaulat na pinsala at aftershocks matapos ang pagyanig.



"The United States stands with Southeast Asian claimant states seeking to defend their sovereign rights and interests, consistent with international law," Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in announcing the sanctions.

US imposes sanctions on Chinese officials, oil giant over South China Sea 'coercion'

Published January 15, 2021 2:53am

By DAVID SHEPARDSON, ALEXANDRA ALPER AND DAVID BRUNNSTROM Reuters

WASHINGTON - The United States announced sanctions on officials of Chinese state-owned enterprises and military on Thursday and added Chinese oil giant CNOOC to an economic blacklist, accusing them using coercion against states with rival claims in the South China Sea.

The moves by the Trump administration will further increase tensions with China, Washington's strategic rival in Asia, days before President-elect Joe Biden takes office on Jan. 20.

The United States has long opposed China's extensive territorial claims on the South China Sea, a potentially resource-rich area that is also a strategic trade route. Washington accuses Beijing of seeking to intimidate other Southeast Asian coastal states such as Vietnam and the Philippines that have competing claims there.

China says Washington has sought to stir up controversy over maritime sovereignty claims and tried to destabilize the region by sending warships and planes to the South China Sea.

"The United States stands with Southeast Asian claimant states seeking to defend their sovereign rights and interests, consistent with international law," Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in announcing the sanctions.

"We will continue to act until we see Beijing cease its coercive behavior in the South China Sea."

A statement from Pompeo said the United States was imposing visa restrictions on Chinese individuals, including executives of state-owned enterprises and officials of the Chinese Communist Party and navy.

He said the sanctions were directed against those "responsible for, or complicit in, either the large-scale reclamation, construction, or militarization of disputed outposts in the South China Sea, or (China's) use of coercion against Southeast Asian claimants to inhibit their access to offshore resources in the South China Sea."



The restrictions could also apply to immediate family members, he said.

The Commerce Department accused CNOOC of harassing and threatening offshore oil and gas exploration and extraction in the South China Sea, "with the goal of driving up the political risk for interested foreign partners, including Vietnam."

The department added CNOOC to an "Entity List" that requires firms to be granted a special license before they can receive exports of high-tech items from U.S. suppliers.

The department also said it was adding Chinese aviation firm Skyrizon to a Military End-User (MEU) List over its ability to develop military products including aircraft engines, restricting its access to U.S. exports.

Pompeo said China had used CNOOC and other state enterprises as weapons to attempt to enforce Beijing's "unlawful 'Nine Dashed Line'" claim in the South China Sea. He said CNOOC had deployed a mammoth survey rig off the Paracel islands in 2014 in an attempt to intimidate Vietnam.

The Chinese embassy, CNOOC and a legal representative of Skyrizon did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

CNOOC 'ACTS AS A BULLY'

President Donald Trump's administration has pursued a tough line on China and has kept up pressure in its final days, targeting what Washington sees as Beijing's bid to use corporations as a means to harness civilian technologies for military purposes.

Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said China's "reckless and belligerent actions in the South China Sea" were a threat to the security of the United States and of the international community.

"CNOOC acts a bully for the People's Liberation Army to intimidate China's neighbors, and the Chinese military continues to benefit from government civil-military fusion policies for malign purposes," Ross said in a statement.

Last month, CNOOC was added to another US blacklist of alleged Chinese military companies, forcing US investors to shed their holdings in the company by November 2021. -- Reuters

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/world/771836/us-imposes-sanctions-on-chinese-officials-oil-giant-over-south-china-sea-coercion/story/>



Oceans' temp record-high in '20 – study



By [Global Times](#)

January 15, 2021

PARIS: Despite the small dip in global carbon emissions because of restrictions on travel and other activities due to the coronavirus pandemic, global ocean temperatures, particularly Pacific, Arctic and Indian, continued breaking records in 2020, with a recent study reporting the highest ocean temperatures since 1955 from surface level to a depth of 2,000 meters.



Rare "sea smoke" is seen over waters off the coastal city of Qingdao, East China's Shandong Province, on January 7.
GLOBAL TIMES PHOTO

Ocean temperatures will continue to rise this century and will prompt more extreme weather events such as intensive rainfall and hurricanes globally, and in China, rising global sea levels together with extreme weather may cause seawater to flood China's coastal areas and even inundate some regions, researchers from the study warned.

The paper, authored by 20 scientists from 14 institutes around the world, found that in 2020, the upper 2,000 meters of the world's oceans absorbed 20 Zettajoules more than in 2019.

The paper was published by the international journal *Advances in Atmospheric Sciences* on Wednesday.

That amount of heat could boil 1.3 billion kettles, each containing 1.5 liters of water, Cheng Lijing, the lead author and associate professor with the International Center for Climate and Environmental Sciences at the Institute of Atmospheric Physics (IAP) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), told the *Global Times* on Wednesday.

Over 90 percent of the excess heat due to global warming is absorbed by oceans, which means ocean warming is a direct indicator of global warming, according to Cheng.

Due to the ocean's delayed response to global warming, the trend of ocean temperatures rising will persist for at least eight decades, and ocean temperatures will rise three times as much in the next 80 years as they did in the last 60 years even after fulfilling the Paris climate agreement of limiting the global temperature increase this century to 2 degrees Celsius, Cheng said.

Using a method developed at IAP/CAS, the researchers calculated temperatures and salinity of the oceans down to 2,000 meters with data taken from the World Ocean Database.

"Warmer oceans will promote more intense rainfalls in storms, and especially hurricanes, increasing the risk of flooding, and extreme fires like those witnessed in 2020 will become even more common in the future," Cheng said.



Chinese coastal regions are among the most vulnerable areas in the world to rises in sea level, and the increasing ocean temperature will lead to rising sea levels which will erode and, in extreme situations, inundate land, forcing people in coastal regions to relocate, Cheng said.

Rare “sea smoke” was seen over waters off the coastal city of Qingdao, East China’s Shandong Province on January 7.

The phenomenon was created by current sub-zero winds in Qingdao combining with the relatively warm water.



stricter lockdowns to
prevent the spread
of the new and
more infectious
Covid-19 variant,
Malacañang said

anxiety among Filipinos

Turn to page A2



MOHD RASFAN/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Animal's appeal This Macaque monkey in Malaysia playing with a mask may well be another reminder to stay protected against the spread of the Covid-19 coronavirus.

BY MICHEL
GUILLANG
@tribunephil

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Speaker
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15 JANUARY 2021, FRIDAY



NEWS ALERTS

VLOGS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Source:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tRIWnGKJm1U&feature=youtu.be&ab_channel=MelVie

#DENR #USECBENNYANTIPORDA #CAVITE
CAVITE ILLEGAL DUMPSITE MAGKAKAALAMAN NA

1,321 Views · Jan 13, 2021

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