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NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR chief ‘alarmed’ by discovery of discarded face masks in Anilao reef

Published March 14, 2021, 7:56 PM

by [Ellson Quismorio](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has acknowledged Sunday, March 14 the environmental menace being created by improperly disposed household healthcare wastes during the persisting coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

“The recent discovery of disposable face masks, plastic face shields, and other household healthcare wastes in our reefs is alarming. These wastes will harm both marine life and divers,” Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu.



Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, chief coronavirus disease (COVID-19) response implementor in the Viayas (NTF AGAINST COVID-19 / MANILA BULLETIN FILE PHOTO)

Cimatu was referring to the single-use face masks found entangled in the coral reefs of Anilao, Batangas.

The DENR chief underscored that while it is vital to follow minimum public health protocols to curb the spread of new coronavirus, it is as important to be aware of each person’s responsibilities to the environment.

Household healthcare wastes such as single-use face masks and COVID-19 test kits became commonplace at around this time last year when the new coronavirus first began to spread in the country.

“We have coordinated with the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) to ensure that all international and inter-island vessels, and even fishing vessels, have placed yellow bins for the proper disposal and storage of generated COVID-19 related healthcare waste such as, used face masks, gloves, cottons, tissue papers, and testing kits,” Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units (LGUs) Concerns Benny D. Antiporda said.

The DENR is also working closely with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), which had issued a directive to local government units (LGUs) on the proper handling of household healthcare wastes as well as the cleaning of esteros.

Antiporda acknowledged that the monitoring of discarded face masks and gloves from households is more difficult than those collected from hospitals and quarantine facilities.

“These (quarantine and medical) facilities are required to put up a treatment facility and get a hauling permit, so monitoring medical wastes comes easy with these sectors,” he said.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/03/14/denr-chief-alarmed-by-face-mask-discovery-in-anilao-reef/>



“The recent discovery of disposable face masks, plastic face shields, and other household healthcare wastes in our reefs is alarming. These wastes will harm both marine life and divers,” Environment secretary Roy Cimatu said.

twitter.com/DENROfficial

DENR raises alarm over healthcare waste in ocean

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

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has called on local government units (LGUs) to strictly implement the proper handling of pandemic-related wastes following the discovery of single-use face masks entangled in the coral reefs of Anilao, Batangas.

“The recent discovery of disposable face masks, plastic face shields, and other household healthcare wastes in our reefs is alarming. These wastes will harm both marine life and divers,” Environment secretary Roy Cimatu said.

As a remedial measure, the DENR said it has coordinated with the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) to ensure that all international and inter-island vessels and even small fishing vessels, are provided with yellow bins for the proper disposal and storage of generated COVID-related healthcare wastes including used face masks, gloves, cotton, tissue paper and testing kits.

Environment Undersecretary for solid waste management and LGU concerns Benny Antiporda said the DENR is also working closely with the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) regarding the proper handling of household healthcare wastes, cleaning of estuaries or esteros and to constantly remind those living near waterways to not throw wastes directly into the bodies of water.

Antiporda admitted that monitoring the handling of healthcare wastes from households is more difficult than monitoring those collected from hospitals and quarantine facilities.

“These (quarantine and medical) facilities are required to put up a treatment facility and get a hauling permit, so monitoring medical wastes comes easy with these sectors,” Antiporda pointed out.

Antiporda said imposing strict compliance with waste segregation at source is the best way to manage solid waste from households.

“Since the start of the pandemic in March 2020, we already expected that more household healthcare wastes will be generated. Hence, the DENR through the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC), has issued reminders on the proper disposal of these wastes,” Antiporda, who is also the alternate chair of the NSWMC, said.



Antiporda said the DENR, together with its partner-agencies, will further discuss in the coming days effective solutions to address the “global problem” of household healthcare wastes ending up in oceans and other water bodies.

Cimatu, meanwhile, reminded LGUs that aside from imposing strict segregation of wastes in households, they must also implement an effective collection system and advocate use of yellow bins for potentially infectious wastes or personal protective equipment.

The DENR has already distributed yellow bins to the city government of Manila in November 2020. It said it will distribute more yellow bins to other LGUs in the coming months.

British Broadcasting Network (BBC) Philippine correspondent Howard Johnson, together with professional divers from the Anilao Scuba Dive Center, had found disposable surgical masks and plastic waste littering a popular dive spot in Anilao. The discovery was reported by BBC last week.

Groups urge gov’t to address plastic pollution

Consumer advocacy group Laban Konsyumer Inc. and environmental watchdog EcoWaste Coalition have called on the government to address the worsening plastic pollution in the country such as enacting measures that would ban single-use plastics (SUPs).

In a joint statement issued yesterday, Laban Konsyumer and EcoWaste highlighted two policy opportunities that may lead to the country’s shift to environmentally sustainable packaging and product delivery systems.

First is through the 18th Congress’ enactment of a national legislation banning SUPs, and second is through the issuance of a list of non-environmentally acceptable products and packaging (NEAP) in accordance with Republic Act (RA) 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act.

Both groups issued the joint statement in observance of World Consumer Rights Day today, with a theme “Tackling Plastic Pollution” set by Consumers International, an organization of consumer groups around the world.

“We need a strong policy in the form of a Republic Act that will provide a general framework, direction and timeline toward phasing out SUPs on a national scale within a reasonable period,” Vic Dimagiba, president of Laban Konsyumer and a full-time member of Consumers International, said.

“The adoption of such a law will support and strengthen the efforts by national government agencies, local government units, industries and businesses, civil society groups and consumers to address plastic pollution in an effective and united manner,” he added.

Among the LGUs that have already adopted ordinances banning or regulating plastic bags and other SUPs include the cities of Quezon, Manila, Makati, Muntinlupa, Parañaque, Pasay, Pasig, Las Piñas, Mandaluyong, Caloocan, Antipolo, Baguio, Batangas, San Fernando, Santa Rosa, Trece Martires, Cagayan de Oro, Bacolod, Iriga, Lapu-Lapu, Puerto Princesa, San Carlos and many other cities and municipalities across the country.

For his part, EcoWaste’s chemical safety campaigner Thony Dizon stressed the importance of releasing the long overdue NEAP list, which the NSWMC is required to do one year after RA 9003 took effect in 2001.



“The 20-year delay in identifying and consequently banning products and packaging materials that are not environmentally acceptable has sadly led to the massive production of throw-away SUPs that are barely reused or recycled,” Dizon said.

Dizon noted that tons of plastic waste and their chemical additives are getting dumped, incinerated or disposed of in the oceans, endangering marine species.

The groups cited the 2015 report titled Plastic Waste Inputs from Land into the Ocean published in the US academic journal Science Magazine, wherein the Philippines was identified as among the world’s top contributors of plastic waste in the ocean. The report said the Philippines accounts for 6,237,653 kilos of plastic waste per day, of which 81 percent is mismanaged.

Meanwhile, in another report, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) said that “plastic packaging accounts for nearly half of all plastic waste globally, and much of it is thrown away within just a few minutes of its first use”

“Our oceans have been used as a dumping ground, choking marine life and transforming some marine areas into a plastic soup,” the UNEP said.

In a separate statement, Consumers International director general Helena Leurent said it is high time for consumers and governments to work together toward sustainable consumption.

“Plastic pollution is one of the most pressing issues facing our planet. Consumer awareness of the plastics crisis is growing around the world,” Leurent said.

“Consumers have a crucial role to shape the marketplace, and we must support them to mobilize businesses and governments, to ensure sustainable consumption is accessible to all,” she added.



Cimatu hits out at improper waste disposal

posted March 14, 2021 at 11:40 pm

by [Rio N. Araja](#)

After the recent discovery of single-use face masks entangled in the coral reefs of Anilao, Batangas, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu on Sunday said the increasing amount of improperly discarded household health-care wastes amid the COVID-19 pandemic has become a serious cause for concern.

“The recent discovery of disposable face masks, plastic face shields and other household health-care wastes in our reefs is alarming. These wastes will harm both marine life and divers,” he said.

While it is vital to follow minimum public health protocols to curb the spread of COVID-19, it is as important to be aware of each person’s responsibilities to the environment, he said.

As remedial measures, Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny Antiporda said: “We have coordinated with the Philippine Coast Guard to ensure that all international and inter-island vessels, and even fishing vessels, have placed yellow bins for the proper disposal and storage of generated COVID-19 related healthcare waste such as, used face masks, gloves, cottons, tissue papers and testing kits.”

Solid waste ending up in our waterways, especially the oceans, must be avoided, he said.

The DENR is also working closely with the Department of the Interior and Local Government that has a directive to LGUs on handling household health-care wastes, cleaning of esteros and reminding those living near waterways to not throw wastes directly in the bodies of water.

Antiporda acknowledged that handling of used face masks and gloves from households is more difficult than those collected from hospitals and quarantine facilities.

“These (quarantine and medical) facilities are required to put up a treatment facility and get a hauling permit, so monitoring medical wastes comes easy with these sectors,” he said.



Cimatu backs these two wildlife protection bills

Published March 14, 2021, 8:30 AM

by [Ellson Quismorio](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) leadership is backing two Senate bills that seek to strengthen current environmental laws on the anti-illegal wildlife trade.



Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu (RTVM / FILE PHOTO / MANILA BULLETIN)

“We at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) give our full support to the initiatives of the legislators who are seeking to reinforce and recalibrate the existing Wildlife Act, particularly against wildlife traffickers who wreak havoc to our biodiversity that causes the imbalance in our ecosystems, impacting not only our livelihood but our economy in general,” Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu.

Cimatu was referring to Senate Bills (SB) 2078 and SB 2079, filed by Senators Cynthia Villar and Juan Miguel Zubiri, respectively.

The Villar bill aims to strengthen the wildlife conservation and protection mechanism in the Philippines, amending Republic Act (RA) 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2001.

Meanwhile, the Zubiri bill is meant to be a supporting bill to RA 9147, providing for a revised Act, appropriating funds therefor and for other purposes. Villar said SB 2078 will provide timely or relevant amendments to RA 9147. Among its proposed amendments is the recognition of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) government over wildlife species in their territory.

It also proposes “wildlife trafficking” and “wildlife laundering” as crimes, which are not included in and not made punishable under the present law. This also includes “organized syndicated crime” as a means of committing wildlife offenses.

The bill also seeks to increase fines and jail time “to serve as a deterrent for the commission of wildlife crimes.” On the other hand, SB 2079 is the appropriation of the funds for implementing SB 2078 once it becomes a law. It acknowledges that after almost two decades of implementation, RA 9147 is “ripe for further strengthening and improvement.” Both bills hope to “establish a more stringent legal framework, improve enforcement mechanisms, and strengthen inter-agency cooperation against illegal wildlife trade, among others.” “The Senate bills came at the most opportune time amid the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, when many notorious and organized traffickers are taking advantage of the situation by resorting to online markets, and changing traffic routes which prove to be more challenging to our law enforcers,” Cimatu pointed out.

“With this, we are giving the culprits a stern warning that we are vigilant on their criminal schemes, and that we are very keen in our enforcement operations. We in the Department cannot tolerate any of their criminal acts,” added the DENR head honcho.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/03/14/cimatu-backs-these-two-wildlife-protection-bills/>



Nationwide round-up (03/14/21)

March 14, 2021 | 7:07 pm

DENR welcomes two Senate bills that seek to strengthen wildlife conservation

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Roy A. Cimatu has welcomed two Senate bills that aim to strengthen existing laws against illegal wildlife trade in the country. “We give our full support to the initiatives of the legislators who are seeking to reinforce and recalibrate the existing Wildlife Act, particularly against wildlife traffickers who wreak havoc to our biodiversity that causes the imbalance in our ecosystems, impacting not only our livelihood but our economy in general,” Mr. Cimatu was quoted in a press release issued by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Saturday. The two bills are No. 2078 or the The Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2021, and No. 2079 or the Revised Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2021, filed by Senators Cynthia A. Villar and Juan Miguel F. Zubiri, respectively. Copies of the proposed measures were released during the annual World Wildlife Day on Mar. 3. Bill 2078 proposes that a provision on regulating the collection, possession, use and trade of wildlife, and its by-products and derivatives be included in the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2001. The bill also calls for the amended act to cover all wildlife species across the country. Ms. Villar’s bill also seeks to recognize the authority of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) government over wildlife species in its territory. Bill 2079 also proposes that the DENR and the Department of Agriculture have legal oversight over terrestrial plant and animal species, and critical aquatic habitats. “Both bills hope to “establish a more stringent legal framework, improve enforcement mechanisms, and strengthen inter-agency cooperation against illegal wildlife trade, among others,” the DENR said. Earlier this month, DENR Undersecretary Jim O. Sampulna said the pandemic has made efforts to monitor and curb the lucrative illegal wildlife trade in the country more challenging as fewer manpower could be deployed. — **Angelica Y. Yang**



Amid rising cases, DENR eyes tourist entry in protected area

By [JONATHAN L. MAYUGA](#)

MARCH 15, 2021

AMID the rising number of Covid-19 cases, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Region 2 plans to resume tourism activities in the Palaui Island Protected Landscape and Seascape (PIPLS), a popular tourist destination in Santa Ana, Cagayan Valley.

The members of the PIPLS Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) held last March 12 a special meeting to discuss safety measures and health protocols, among others, as part of the plan to re-open the area to tourists. The officials said these are consistent with Malacañang's plan to reopen the economy.

Ads by [optAd360](#)

The announcement, however, came as the Department of Health (DOH) reported an increasing number of confirmed Covid-19 cases in various parts of the country.

At least 5,000 new Covid-19 cases was recorded by the Department of Health last March 13, bringing to 616,611 the total number, with 56,679 the number of active cases, 547,166 recovered, and 12,766 deaths.

During the same period, Cagayan Valley recorded a total of 10,239 cases, with 1,460 active cases, 8,617 recovered cases and 162 deaths.

DENR Region 2 Executive Director and PAMB Chairman Gwendolyn C. Bambalan said minimum health and safety protocols should be strictly enforced to ensure the health of tourists and local residents.

Ecotourism activities in the PIPLS have been suspended since the declaration of a public health emergency in March last year.

In a statement, Bambalan assured that the re-opening of the PIPLS to tourists means following strictly recommended guidelines.

“As much as we want the tourism industry to recover and to help local residents bounce back against the effect of the Covid-19 pandemic, we will not start the operation without all the necessary preparation,” Bambalan said.

The Cagayan Valley's top DENR official said she has requested the ecotourism committee of the PAMB chaired by the Department of Tourism to meet and polish the guidelines.

The PAMB chairperson told the public, resort owners and boat operators that the island is still closed for tourism activities until the PAMB passes a resolution for reopening.

Following the PAMB meeting, Bambalan together with Cagayan Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer Ismael T. Manaligod and Aparri Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer Ilarde C. Viernes toured the protected area.

The island covers 8,048 hectares with 1,008 has. of coral reefs, 472 has. of sea grass and 102 has. of mangrove.

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/03/15/amid-rising-cases-denr-eyes-tourist-entry-in-protected-area/>



Sanctuary for endemic plant, animal species

Mangatarem Critical Habitat

By [JONATHAN L. MAYUGA](#)

MARCH 14, 2021



This thickly forested portion of the Zambales Mountain Range in Mangatarem town in Pangasinan, is now named the Mangatarem Critical Habitat.

Good news for threatened wildlife species, including the endemic Philippine deer and Philippine warty pig, which populations are declining due to habitat loss and hunting in the thickly forested Zambales Mountain Range in the town of Mangatarem, Pangasinan.

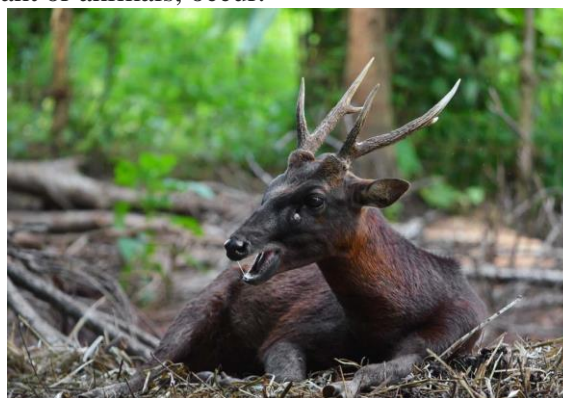
The 4,422.8-hectare forest, home to the threatened endemic plants and animals, is earmarked for conservation. It was named Mangatarem Critical Habitat based on the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Administrative Order (DAO) 2020-17 signed by Secretary Roy A. Cimatu on December 16, 2020.

The area provides sanctuary to the species traditionally hunted to the brink of extinction.

Critical habitat

A critical habitat is an area that is considered important for the survival of certain species of plants and animals. As such, they must be preserved and conserved to allow the species to thrive.

Section 25 of Republic Act 9147, or the Wildlife Act, provides for the establishment of critical habitats outside protected areas under Republic Act 7586, or the National Integrated Protected Areas System (Nipas) Act, where unique but threatened species, plant or animals, occur.



A Philippine deer is a rare sight nowadays. This stag was photographed in the hinterlands of Agusan del Sur by wildlife photographer Gregg Yan. The Philippine deer, listed as a vulnerable species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature can be found in the newly established Mangatarem Critical Habitat in Pangasinan.

“All designated critical habitats shall be protected, in coordination with the local government units and other concerned groups, from any form of exploitation or destruction, which may be detrimental to the survival of the threatened species dependent therein,” the law states.



'Vulnerable' species

Both species, traditionally hunted for their meat, are listed as “vulnerable” by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

The IUCN’s Red List of Threatened Species states that the population of the Philippine deer, known as “usa,” are fragmented but are reported to be common in isolated areas. However, heavily hunted and declining in number throughout most of its range.

IUCN states that the largest populations of the Philippine deer are in Luzon, Mindanao, Samar and Leyte, but local extinctions have been reported on Biliran in 1993, and probably Bohol and Marinduque.

“Population declines have been reported in the subspecies found on Mindoro Island. The overall population of the species remains unknown, but a decline of 30 percent over three generations [estimated at 24 years] seems plausible,” it states.

On the other hand, the Red List of the IUCN states that while precise data on the Philippine warty pig populations is lacking, considering the extent of forest degradation the species more commonly called “baboy-damo” in Filipino was undoubtedly far more extensively distributed in the past.

The Philippine warty pig has also been declared as extinct on Marinduque, an island province in the Mimaropa Region (consisting of Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon and Palawan provinces), which is ironically known for its rich biodiversity and high endemism.

Primary forest

The Mangatarem Critical Habitat encompasses forested territories of barangays Cacaoiten, Cabaluyan II, Calombuyan Sur, Lawak Langka, Catarataran, Pacalat and Malabobo.

Cimatu said the area is critical for the survival of endemic Philippine species at risk of extinction.

Establishing the Mangatarem Critical Habitat, he explained, aims to protect them and their habitat from destructive human activities.

“By doing this, we at the DENR can save habitats that are critical for the survival of threatened species or species at risk of extinction, including other associated wildlife and, at the same time, provide this land area a legal framework to protect it from destructive uses,” Cimatu said in a statement.

Wildlife sanctuary

A first-class municipality, whose name is associated with mango and oyster in the old days, Mangatarem’s thick forest also provides sanctuary to some of the country’s rare and unique animals and plant species.

Some of the species are the endemic Philippine duck, the flame-breasted fruit dove, Philippine eagle owl, Luzon scops owl and Rufous hornbill.

Unique plants that are found in the forest include the threatened oi-oi, kalíngag and malabayabas.

Management regime, goals

As a newly declared critical habitat, the DENR will work hand-in-hand with the local government, communities and other stakeholders involved in accomplishing the locally driven ecosystems management approach for the protection of the territory.



“We need to sustainably manage this certain area, as this is one of the most important and few remaining forest blocks in Pangasinan,” Cimatú pointed out.

“Through this, we can both protect the endemic and threatened flora and fauna living in it, while sustaining the ecosystem services and community livelihood dependent on the forest,” he added.

Under the DAO 2020-17, the Mangatarem Critical Habitat shall be under the DENR-Ilocos Region office, together with the local government of Mangatarem and other stakeholders.

The DENR regional office will take the lead and shall be responsible for the preparation of the Critical Habitat Management Plan to ensure that existing ecosystems in the critical habitat are preserved.

The management of the critical habitat is mandated to ensure that the existing ecosystems in the habitat are preserved and kept in a condition that will support and enhance existing populations of endemic and wild plants and animals, assess development and safeguard the ecological integrity of the area and strictly enforce all applicable environmental laws for the protection of the habitat.

‘Off-limits’

Mangatarem, the country’s ninth critical habitat, is now “off-limits” to destructive human activities, including mining and quarrying and logging.

The other critical habitats in the Philippines are Rafflesia schadenbergiana Critical Habitat, Cabusao Wetland Critical Habitat, Malasi Tree Park and Wildlife Sanctuary Critical Habitat, Carmen Critical Habitat, Adams Wildlife Critical Habitat, Magsaysay Critical Habitat for Hawksbill Turtles, Cleopatra’s Needle Critical Habitat, and Dumaran Critical Habitat.

Under Cimatú’s order, dumping of waste products detrimental to wildlife, squatting and/or occupying any portion of the area will be strictly prohibited in accordance with Republic Act 9147, or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2001.

A boost to forest protection

Marlyn M. Banda, technical division chief of the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (Penro) in Pangasinan, said declaring Mangatarem a critical habitat will be a big boost to the ongoing forest protection program in the area.

She said the crafting of the management plan would hopefully include livelihood programs for communities around it to ensure that the people will not see the forest as their primary or main source of income and livelihood that may eventually lead to unsustainable activities like logging, charcoal making, or worse, hunting animals.

Banda noted that there’s no ongoing livelihood program for the communities in the area as far as the DENR is concerned.

“The DAO has just recently been signed and the crafting of the management plan has not been started,” she explained.

Nevertheless, she is confident that the management plan will be thoroughly discussed by the DENR and various stakeholders next year.

“The fact that it is now a critical habitat, there will be a restriction in its use. Hence, destructive activities will not be allowed just like in a protected area,” Banda told the BusinessMirror in telephone interview on March 9.



She said under the Nipas law, there are prohibited acts inside the strict protection zone. The same, she said, will now apply in the entire Mangatarem Critical Habitat.

She said the DENR Ilocos Region office is expected to include the management of the Mangatarem Critical Habitat in the Work and Financial Plan for 2022.

Undisturbed

Fortunately, Banda said the Mangatarem Critical Habitat remains intact and undisturbed by destructive human activities.

“So far, the area which is thickly forested remains intact. The trees and the forest provide safety for the wild animals there and we see no problem so far,” she said in Filipino.

The DENR, Banda said, makes sure that regular patrolling and monitoring in the forest is conducted regularly, to prevent any attempt to cut trees or hunt animals.

“We see no illegal activities in the area so far because of the regular patrolling and monitoring,” she said.

Image credits: [DENR-SCIS photo](#)



Villar to DENR: Buffer zone needed to protect Las Piñas – Paranaque Wetland Park

Published March 14, 2021, 11:22 AM

by [Hannah Torregoza](#)

Senator Cynthia Villar on Sunday, March 14, urged the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to set buffer zones in the 182-hectare Las Piñas-Parañaque Wetland Park to better provide protection in the area.



Sen. Cynthia Villar (Senate of the Philippines / MANILA BULLETIN)

Villar, who chairs the Senate Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change, made the call as the country observes the 8th year anniversary of the wetland's designation as the 6th Philippine Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention on Monday, March 15.

The Ramsar Convention or the Convention on Wetlands is an intergovernmental treaty that recognizes the fundamental ecological value of wetlands. The Convention primarily seeks to curb encroachment on wetlands, its possible degradation now and in the future.

As a signatory to the Convention, the Philippine is obligated to conserve and protect the Ramsar-listed Philippine wetlands and their resources.

"To fulfill the government's obligations under the Ramsar Convention and maintain the protected area status of the wetland, DENR should be proactive to repel the impending threats confronting Las Piñas – Paranaque Wetland Park, including the reclamation projects in proximity to the wetland," Villar said in a statement.

Villar, who has consistently stood up against reclamation in the area and in neighboring vicinities, said establishing a buffer zone in the wetland park, also known as the Las Piñas – Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area (LPPCHEA) will ensure better protection "not only to the wetland itself, but also to the wildlife it supports."

She also stressed the necessity of protecting the communities that rely on it "either for livelihood or for the protection it gives against disasters."

"As an initial necessary measure, a buffer zone surrounding the wetland should be established immediately and such buffer zone should be large enough to ensure that the wetland's ecological attributes and functions will be maintained and not be disrupted," the senator further said.

Villar has filed bills adopting wetlands and wildlife protection particularly Senate Bill (SB) No. 2036 or the proposed National Wetlands Conservation Act and SB No. 2078 or the Revised Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2021.



The LPPCHEA is a 182-hectare coastal wetland on the south of Manila Bay that encompasses two-interconnected islands that include lush mangrove forest, lagoons, mudflats, ponds and marine habitat.

The wetland serves as a sanctuary to around 82 bird species, including migratory birds using the East Asian-Australasian Flyway, with some coming from as far as Siberia. It also functions as a significant spawning habitat of the fishes of Manila Bay.



DENR getting fresh P1.56-b fund for Manila Bay rehab — Defensor

posted March 14, 2021 at 10:10 pm

by [Rio N. Araja](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources is getting P1.56 billion in fresh funding this year for the rehabilitation of Manila Bay, according to Anakalusugan party-list Rep. Michael Defensor.

“The amount is 16 percent greater than the P1.35-billion budget that the DENR obtained last year for the development, updating and implementation of its operational plan for the Manila Bay coastal management strategy,” he said.

The operational plan is pursuant to the Supreme Court’s 13-year-old continuing mandamus directing the DENR and 12 other agencies to clean up the waters of Manila Bay, he noted.

“If we look closely at the 2008 mandamus, the high court’s specific instruction is for the agencies to restore Manila Bay’s waters to Class B, or suitable and safe for public swimming, skin-diving and other forms of contact recreation,” he said.

Based on the DENR’s old water classification table, the fecal coliform level of Class B coastal waters “should not exceed 200 most probable number (MPN) per 100 milliliters (ml),” he said.

Defensor served as DENR head for about 18 months between 2004 and 2006.



DENR to get fresh P1.56-B fund for Manila Bay rehab

By [JOVEE MARIE DE LA CRUZ](#)

MARCH 15, 2021

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is getting another P1.56 billion in fresh funding this year for the rehabilitation of Manila Bay, Rep. Michael T. Defensor of Anakalusugan said in a statement issued last Sunday.

Defensor said the allocation for this year is higher than the 2020 budget for an “Operational Plan for the Manila Bay Coastal Management Strategy.”

The lawmaker said the operational plan is pursuant to the Supreme Court’s 13-year-old continuing mandamus directing the DENR and 12 other agencies to clean up the waters of Manila Bay.

The amount is 16-percent greater than the P1.35 billion budget that the DENR obtained last year for the development, updating and implementation of its operational plan, according to Defensor.

“If we look closely at the 2008 mandamus, the high court’s specific instruction is for the agencies to restore Manila Bay’s waters to Class B, or suitable and safe for public swimming, skin-diving and other forms of contact recreation,” he said.

Earlier, Deputy Speaker Jose “Lito” L. Atienza said the yearly allocation for Manila Bay will just go down the drain due to the failure of Manila Water Co. Inc. and Maynilad Water Services Inc. to capture and decontaminate the national capital’s wastewater.

In 2019, the Supreme Court upheld a 2009 DENR order penalizing Manila Water and Maynilad, along with the Manila Waterworks and Sewerage System, with a combined P1.84-billion fine for their failure to put up sewage lines, violating Section 8 of the Clean Water Act.

Until they fully comply with the Clean Water Act, the Supreme Court said Manila Water, Maynilad and the MWSS will have to continue to pay a P322,102 daily fine that escalates by 10 percent in two years, plus legal interest of six percent per annum.

Defensor, who served as DENR head for less than 18 months between 2004 to 2006, said that based on the DENR’s old water classification table, the fecal coliform level of Class B coastal waters “should not exceed 200 most probable number (MPN) per 100 milliliters (ml).”

Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu has said that water samples taken last month from 21 monitoring stations around Manila Bay showed an average fecal coliform level of 4.87 million MPN/100ml, down markedly from the 7.16 million MPN/100 ml detected in 2020.

Cimatu also said the fecal coliform level in the waters near the so-called beach nourishment project had dropped from 2.2 million MPN/100ml to 523,000 MPN/100 ml, based on the average count from three stations.

An aquatic environment’s high fecal coliform level indicates severe contamination with human toilet waste.

It points to the heavy presence of bacteria or viruses that may cause diseases such as typhoid fever, hepatitis, gastroenteritis and dysentery in people who come into contact with the waters.

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/03/15/denr-to-get-fresh-%e2%82%a71-56-b-fund-for-manila-bay-rehab/>



Manila Bay rehab busog sa pondo

By Abante News Online — Last updated Mar 14, 2021

NEWS



MAY nakalaang P1.56 bilyon ngayong taon ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) para sa pagpapatuloy ng rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay.

Ayon kay Anakalusugan Rep. Michael Defensor mas mataas ito kumpara sa P1.35 bilyon na inilaan noong 2020 sa ilalim ng operational plan para sa Manila Bay Coastal Management Strategy.

Ang rehabilitasyon ay alinsunod sa desisyon ng Korte Suprema na inuutusan ang DENR at 12 iba pang ahensiya na linisin ang Manila Bay.

Nauna ng sinabi ni DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu na batay sa nakuhang sample sa 21 monitoring station sa paligid ng Manila Bay, ang average fecal coliform level dito ay 4.87 milyong MPN/100ml, bumaba mula sa 7.16 milyong MPN/100 ml noong 2020. (Billy Begas)



Rebisco reopens; gets 90-day reprieve to correct WTF, comply with DENR standards

By CDODev Admin - March 14, 2021



Some 3,000 workers will be back at work after the factory of Republic Biscuit Corporation (REBISCO) located at Barangay Alae, Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon was recently granted a Temporary Lifting Order (TLO) from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Pollution Adjudication Board (DENR-PAB) last March 12 in relation to the Cease and Desist Order (CDO) issued by DENR-PAB for failing to meet effluent standards.

It can be recalled that Rebisco was initially ordered closed by the DENR-PAB last November 2020 after results of water samplings of its wastewater effluent revealed it failed to pass the standards set by Republic Act 9275 or The Clean Water Act.

The TLO came after the company filed a motion for a Temporary Lifting Order after submitting documentary requirements such as a comprehensive pollution control program which includes rehabilitation, redesigning, retrofitting and upgrading of its wastewater treatment facility (WTF) costing P6.5 million, a surety bond of P1.625 million, and proof of employment of newly hired Pollution Control Officer, among others.

Accordingly, the TLO gave the company ninety (90) to operate wherein during that period, it shall implement the necessary improvements on their WTF. Subsequently, the DENR-EMB will conduct water sampling every 30 days and should the company still fail to comply the DENR standards after the 90-day period has lapsed, the closure order shall be automatically reimposed.





- Headline
- Editorial
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- Opinion
- Feature Article



Photos below show the removal of locks of one of the valves at Rebisco factory wastewater treatment facility.



LGU Manolo Fortich
on Friday

Nadawat sa pamunuan sa Republic Biscuit Corporation kon REBISCO nga nahimutang sa Barangay Alae, Manolo Fortich ang Temporary Lifting Order (TLO) sa giatubang niini nga Cease and Desist Order gikan sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources Pollution Adjudication Board kon DENR-PAB ning adlaw Marso dose.

Kahinumduman nga Pebrero dies ning tuig, giisyuhan og Closure Order ang kumpanya gikan sa DENR-PAB tungod sa kalapasan sa Republic Act 9275 kon Clean Water Act human... [See More](#)

👍 527
💬 69
➡️ 639

Source: <http://www.cdodev.com/2021/03/14/rebisco-reopens-gets-90-day-reprieve-to-correct-wtf-comply-with-denr-standards/>



Environment dep't agrees PHL not ready for carbon tax

March 14, 2021 | 6:52 pm



THE Environment department has concurred with the Department of Energy's (DoE) position that the Philippines is not ready to implement a carbon tax, noting the need to establish an emissions data reporting system.

“We maintain our position that the imposition of carbon tax would not be an acceptable form of carbon pricing initiative in the Philippines. We agree with DoE's stand on this matter,” DENR (Department of Environment and Natural Resources) Climate Change Division Chief Albert A. Magalang told *BusinessWorld* by e-mail Wednesday.

Mr. Magalang said that the Philippines has yet to conduct a study on the social implications of a carbon tax, and to establish a company or facility-level emissions data reporting system.

The DENR's Climate Change Service first outlined its position two years ago to Camarines Sur 2nd District Representative Luis Raymund F. Villafuerte, Jr. during hearings on a House bill which sought to impose a climate tax on residential users equivalent to P1 per 1 kilogram of carbon emissions.

“A comprehensive study is needed to look at social and economic implications of implementing a policy on carbon tax imposition as a means of instituting carbon pricing,” Mr. Magalang said.

He added that a greenhouse gas emissions data reporting system is a “prerequisite” to implementing carbon taxes.

“Currently, companies have no mandatory obligations to report their emissions to the government. Although emissions have been incorporated in the sustainability reporting by the Securities and Exchange Commission... this is voluntary and applicable only to publicly-listed companies,” Mr. Magalang said.

The DoE said last week that the Philippines is still “building capacity” in terms of generating electricity and measuring emissions, and noted that carbon taxes could hinder the country's economic competitiveness.

The Center for Energy, Ecology, and Development's Executive Director Gerry C. Arances said that imposing high carbon taxes, particularly on coal, “can strengthen the country's capacity to shift to clean energy systems.”

“By disincentivizing fossil fuel companies that for so long have enjoyed revenue-sharing schemes lopsided in their favor, the Philippines will be painting renewables as a much more beneficial sector to invest in. By aligning with the ‘polluter pays principle,’ a carbon tax would also be a step forward in internalizing costs of coal and other fossil fuels often dismissed as externalities, including pollution, health impacts, and high electricity prices,” Mr. Arances told *BusinessWorld* by e-mail over the weekend.



He said that they were “disappointed that the DoE has failed to recognize these.”

“We urge Secretary (Alfonso G.) Cusi to rethink his statement and understand that it is not by continued dependence on fossil fuels that we can have energy security, but by maximizing the availability of abundant indigenous renewable energy sources in the Philippines,” Mr. Arances said.

He added that the imposition of the carbon tax must be coupled with other reforms in the power sector that will protect consumer welfare.

Mr. Magalang said that if a carbon tax will be imposed as a means of carbon pricing, the policy must be designed to allow the country to transition to “low emission energy sources and avoid the passing of companies’ economic burden to consumers.” — **Angelica Y. Yang**



A regenerative, decarbonized future

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

MANILA, Philippines — (The following is excerpted from the author's message during the online forum of environmental non-profit organization Green Convergence last December 2020.)

The Philippines, despite its tiny contribution to world emissions, is one of the most vulnerable nations on Earth to the unfolding climate crisis. We have an inordinate stake in limiting global temperature rise to within 1.5 degrees Celsius. Our voice in the community of nations resonates with a stronger moral power if we're willing to back our words with action, proving it can be done.

What could it look like if we put the goal of carbon neutrality by 2050 (CN2050) into action? First, we could carve out a definitive path to a decarbonized electricity system in the country that charts a transition from fossil fuels like coal and natural gas today to renewables such as geothermal, solar and wind; storage batteries; and energy efficiency technologies.

Natural gas-fired power plants we have today that keep the lights on and complement RE intermittency nicely because of their flexibility and speed are useful in ushering the age of pure renewables and batteries, and could eventually be repowered into using clean hydrogen in the coming decades as technology develops.

Second, if we green the electricity grid, it opens up the electrification of transport, too, which today is practically the source of all pollution from gasoline and diesel. The improvement in our urban air quality would be tremendous. Beyond the energy sector, we would reimagine how and where we get our food; our building materials (even integrating carbon negative materials like bamboo); the design of our buildings; how we cool them; how we insulate them; and so forth.

Third, beyond designing for a decarbonized world, just as important would be planning for resilience amidst a harsher climate. Here, we could reimagine how we design our cities with resilient infrastructure like underground powerlines and distributed generation as well as circularity in the use of water, rainwater and waste – a valuable resource we're literally throwing away. It will also be about building cities that encourage social integration, community and compassion – the so-called "15-minute cities" being planned by progressive urban designers in Paris, Barcelona, London, Detroit, Melbourne and Oregon where work, shopping, health and culture are not more than a 15-minute walk, bike ride or mass transit ride away.

Corporate social responsibility (CSR) or philanthropy may ease our consciences, but can never scale up enough to heal our hurting world in time. There is an urgency for all of us to go beyond incremental sustainability and transform into regenerative forces that align our profit engines with the need for a better, more just world and a safer planet. Collectively, we have the creativity and innovative energy needed to solve the world's greatest problems.



Unlocking these will be the foundation to some of the greatest business opportunities in the coming century.

How do we align our businesses and profit engines with fixing a hurt world and solving its most intractable problems? Ronald Heifetz, the pioneer in the study of leadership from the Harvard Kennedy School, whom I invited to the Philippines to spend two days with the Lopez Group in 2014, would say that we are clearly in the midst of what is called an “adaptive challenge.” The solutions to the problems we face are not known and cannot be solved, he says, by “someone who answers from on high.”

They require “experiments, new discoveries and adjustments from numerous places in the organization or community. Without learning new ways – changing attitudes, values, and behaviors – people cannot make the adaptive leap necessary to thrive in the new environment. The sustainability of change depends on having the people with the problem internalize the change itself.”

CN 2050 could become that focal point, which catalyzes multidimensional solutions from all sectors and corners of society. Tackling climate change – the issue, the emergency, the crisis of our time – requires nothing less than global communities coming together to create countless collaborative pathways toward the paradigm shift and quantum leap we all need to see right now. — **Federico R. Lopez** Chairman and CEO, Energy Development Corp.



Groups urge government to update PHL's air quality standard

By [JONATHAN L. MAYUGA](#)

MARCH 15, 2021

ENVIRONMENTAL groups have called on the government to address the country's outdated air quality standard and the lack of capacity to monitor PM2.5 especially in provinces with coal plants.

PM2.5 refers to particles that have diameters less than 2.5 micrometers. These particles remain suspended in the air longer, hence, making them more hazardous to human health.

Environment groups Greenpeace Philippines and the Center for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA) believe that the first step to protecting Filipinos from air pollution is by enhancing the capacity to monitor and measure PM2.5.

In a statement, the groups said the "outdated air quality standard" in the Philippines cast doubt on the government's capacity to protect Filipinos from the worsening air pollution. They said this is exacerbated by the country's dependence on coal, which was "responsible for over a thousand premature deaths in 2019."

As the government focuses on economic recovery efforts from the pandemic, programs to control air pollution must not be sidetracked, the groups said in statements.

These programs include raising stringent standards to control emissions from coal power plants, adding more air quality monitoring stations, investing in low-carbon transport, and transitioning to renewable energy sources.

"The threat of air pollution to human health—and the external costs associated with long-term exposure to it—increases with growing dependence on fossil fuels. In addressing this problem, robust monitoring capacity across the country is vital for not only understanding the scale of the health threat to Filipinos, but also ensuring that the right standards and solutions are pursued to control air pollution as quickly as possible," CREA Analyst Isabella Suarez said.

Greenpeace Philippines Campaigner Khevin Yu said the government must first address the outdated air quality standards and the lack of capacity to monitor PM2.5, especially in provinces with coal plants, to ensure that measures to protect Filipinos from health risks are in place.

The Clean Air Act requires the Department of Environment and Natural Resources—Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB) to conduct a review of standards for stationary sources every two years and revise for further improvement. However, the National Emission Standards for Source-Specific Air Pollutants have not been updated since they were set in 1999.

At present, the Philippines only has a fleet of 55 government-owned PM2.5 monitoring stations. Twenty-two are stationed in Metro Manila, while some are not strategically located in areas with high PM2.5 concentrations, such as major highways and coal plants. Bataan, which houses major megawatt-coal plants, has a lone PM2.5 monitor for the whole province, according to Greenpeace and Crea.

"Now more than ever, the government needs to ensure stringent air pollution mitigation because the surge of air pollution that may arise from the reopening of our economy increases our vulnerability to Covid-19," Yu said.

"The number of deaths due to coal-induced air pollution will only rise if the government continues to force us to breathe blindly. We need policy developments to uphold our right to clean air by first providing needed information on air quality to the public," he added.

The groups believe that improving country-wide air quality monitoring will enable local governments to take measures to mitigate the impacts of air pollution originating from coal plants and heavily polluting facilities.

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/03/15/groups-urge-government-to-update-phls-air-quality-standard/>



Irisan dumpsite in Baguio to become ecopark

Published March 14, 2021, 2:30 PM

by [Zaldy Comanda](#)

BAGUIO CITY – The former Irisan dumpsite here will become an environment-friendly ecopark in a few months.

General Services Office official Eugene Buyucan said P17-million has been allocated for the project that will be completed in 175 calendar days.

Buyucan said the ecopark will have walls, paved road, cemented pathways, improved parking space, greenery on terraces, trees, and huts for shade.

Recyclables have been used as planting materials in available areas.

“From a mountain of mixed biodegradables, recyclables, and residual garbage, procedures are being undertaken to clean up and turn the area into a habitable area,” Buyucan said.

He said a leachate tank has been constructed for liquid filtrate – contaminants from the mixture of residuals and special wastes which threaten the water table in the area.

Buyucan said transformation through leveling, terracing, planting, and landscaping has been done in the dumpsite since the meeting and inspection conducted by Mayor Benjamin Magalong two years ago.

Agricultural lime has been sprayed to control odor from the buried garbage.

Market waste or biodegradables are still being processed at the Environmental Recycling System (ERS) in the area to turn them to soil conditioner or compost for fertilizer.

Usual recyclables in neighboring houses’ rooftops or lower parts are no longer seen, with changes to other lines of businesses.

Several government officials have visited the dumpsite, including Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu and Undersecretary Benny Antiporda and Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) Secretary Eduardo Ano. They pointed out areas that need improvement and tackled environmental factors such as water and air quality.

In August 2011, heavy rains from typhoon “Mina” released tons of garbage from the dumpsite which breached a side of the concrete wall and ended up in the neighboring municipality of Tuba, Benguet. Five persons were killed and three houses were damaged.

A Writ of Kalikasan from the courts later deemed the dumpsite closed and transferred the staging area from Irisan to Lamtang, La Trinidad, Benguet.

At present, the city is using a government property at the Department of Agriculture (DA) Dairy Farm on Marcos Highway as sorting and staging area for non-biodegradable waste before these are transported to an engineered sanitary landfill some 70 kilometers away in Urdaneta City, Pangasinan.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/03/14/irisan-dumpsite-in-baguio-to-become-ecopark/>



Forest products defy fall in export receipts

By Catherine Teves March 14, 2021, 3:15 pm



MANILA – Philippine forest products collectively registered double-digit growth in January 2021 free-on-board export receipts, outshining all other major types of goods shipped from the country.

Forest products' total January receipts grew 12.1 percent to USD31.35 million this year from almost USD28 million only during the same month in 2020, showed data Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) released this week.

However, 2021 receipts covering outbound shipments of total agro-based products, mineral products, petroleum products, special transactions and even re-exports shrank 22.7 percent, 33.7 percent, 98.8 percent, 5.0 percent and 26.3 percent from 2020 levels, respectively.

Receipts for manufactured goods also shrank by less than 1.0 percent this year.

Outbound shipment of forest products contributed to the USD5.49 billion total in January 2021 receipts from all major types of goods that the country exported then.

That total is 5.2 percent lower than the country's USD5.79 billion receipts from such exports in January last year.

Fanning the January 2021 growth in forest product export receipts were outbound shipments of lumber, plywood and others, PSA data showed further.

Such shipments generated receipts worth USD17.49 million, USD8.34 million and USD5.52 million, respectively.

Those receipts are correspondingly 8.8 percent, 19.2 percent and 12.7 percent higher than the shipments' USD16.07 million, USD7 million and USD4.90 million in 2020.

PSA reported no data for logs and veneer sheets/corestocks. **(PNA)**



Forest product exports increase in January

By [The Manila Times](#)

March 15, 2021

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Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/03/15/business/business-top/forest-product-exports-increase-in-january/851148/>



Benjie Fruta earns more than P300K by simply growing seedlings for CMC. He's shown here in his nursery with Jean Litang, community development coordinator of CMC's Community Relations Department.

STAR/File

Farmers earn from Cagdianao Mining's greening program

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

MANILA, Philippines — In 2019, the year before the pandemic hit hard on the communities, Cagdianao Mining Corp. (CMC), a subsidiary of Nickel Asia Corp. (NAC), initiated a seedling production program that continues to benefit residents in the Dinagat Islands financially and proves that there is money in 'greening' and in environment protection activities.

To date, CMC's "ECOMmunity Program" has already paid up some P4.4 M to participants of this livelihood program from the mining company's five host barangays – Boa, Cuarinta, Diegas, Legaspi and Valencia – who produced more than one million seedlings and planting materials that CMC uses for its various mine rehabilitation and greening programs.

CMC initiated the "ECOMmunity Program" to directly engage community stakeholders in the company's rehabilitation and reforestation commitments.

The program aims to uplift the lives of beneficiaries through contracted seedling production, raising awareness about the environment, its protection and conservation.

Nathalie Radaza, CMC's community output-based program coordinator, testifies that many "ECOMmunity" participants have not had the chance before to hold in their hands such huge amounts of money. Radaza, who graduated in 2018 with a degree in Environmental Science from CARAGA State University, is proud to have joined CMC right after graduation to be a part of the company's environmental protection and reforestation initiatives which she considers a dream come true.

The CMC mine site is located in the municipality of Cagdianao, at the Northeastern side of the province of Dinagat Islands. Its area of operations is within the Surigao Mineral

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/business/2021/03/15/2084274/farmers-earn-cagdianao-minings-greening-program>



Experts checking presence of radiation in Cagayan corals

By [BUSINESSMIRROR](#)

MARCH 14, 2021



Experts from the Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Nuclear Research Institute (DOST-PNRI) and University of the Philippines-Marine Science Institute (UP-MSI) searched the sea waters of Palau Island in Sta. Ana, Cagayan province, on March 11 to gather information on human nuclear activities and possible presence of radiation of corals.

Led by Dr. Angel Bautista VII of DOST-PNRI and Dr. Fernando Siringan of UP-MSI, the team checked out meter-long coral cores, said a DOST-PNRI news release posted on its Facebook.

The research was timed on the 10th year of the March 11, 2011, massive magnitude-9 earthquake and 17-meter-high tsunami that hit the eastern coast of Japan. This led to the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station accident that triggered the shutdown of all nuclear power plants in Japan.

Ads by [optAd360](#)

Earlier, the project team was able to detect radionuclide contaminants among corals in Baler, Aurora, and Vinzons, Camarines Norte, by measuring the radionuclide, iodine-129.

The presence of radiation among the corals in the locations suggest that radionuclide contaminants from the Fukushima nuclear accident might have already reached the Philippines, the team explained.

“The radiation detected is low and is far from being a health concern. However, confirmation about the arrival of radioactive contamination from the Fukushima nuclear power accident site to the Philippine coasts give us vital information that can help us prepare in the event of similar incidents in the future,” the team said.

The project is funded by the DOST- Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development.

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/03/14/experts-checking-presence-of-radiation-in-cagayan-corals/>



These two ‘Bloody Sunday’ deaths are reason enough for Kaliwa Dam cancellation

Published March 14, 2021, 4:19 PM

by [Ellson Quismorio](#)

The alleged murder of two indigenous Dumagat during the March 7 “Bloody Sunday” incident should give authorities enough basis for the cancellation of the Kaliwa Dam project, which the tribesmen have opposed.



(Photo via PNA / FILE PHOTO)

“We remember the deeds and sacrifices of Randy and Puroy Dela Cruz for the defense of the environment and their ancestral domain. Murder most foul should be grounds for the cancellation of the Kaliwa Dam where proponents clearly did not do their human rights due diligence,” Leon Dulce, national coordinator of Kalikasan People’s Network for the Environment (PNE), said in a statement Sunday, March 14.

Cousins Randy and Puroy Dela Cruz were among the nine activists killed in what Kalikasan PNE described as “a region-wide crackdown against dissenters in the Southern Tagalog region.” They were active members of Dumagat Sierra Madre, a group advocating for the rights of indigenous people (IP) in Luzon’s longest mountain range.

“Randy and Puroy did not deserve the price they paid for protecting the rights of their fellow Dumagat. The Dela Cruz cousins only wanted to protect the ancestral domains and their community from the imminent collapse of the watershed from the vested interests that have been pursuing the project,” Dulce noted.

The Kaliwa Dam project has been long opposed by multi-sectoral alliances due to the displacement of the IPs who live and depend on the Kaliwa watershed.

According to Kalikasan PNE, the controversial project will displace around 150,000 members of the Dumagat tribe from their villages and degrade the entire watershed.

“The Dumagat have been vocal about their opposition to the Kaliwa Dam Project,” Dulce said.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/03/14/these-two-bloody-sunday-deaths-are-reason-enough-for-kaliwa-dam-cancellation/>



Discarding e-waste? Globe may help dispose of them safely

By [BUSINESSMIRROR](#)
MARCH 14, 2021



E-waste Caloocan City

Do you have old mobile phones, excess cables, chargers, broken TV sets, DVD players and other nonworking electronic devices that you would like to dispose of without adding up to the piles of garbage in the landfills? Globe will help you let go of these safely!

As Globe continues to provide reliable voice and data connection, it also makes sure to do its part in creating a safe environment for people to live in. It aims to lessen the harm brought by improper disposal of materials, particularly of electronic waste (e-waste), said Globe in a news release.

More than 100 bins under the Globe E-waste Zero program are now placed in different collection points nationwide, such as Globe Stores and malls, which the public can easily access.

The bins can accommodate mobile phones, IT accessories, such as mouse, earphones and speakers; Internet and WiFi modems and routers; cable wires, batteries, circuit boards, CDs /DVDs and other small electronic devices.



E-waste Phone

Bigger items, such as computer sets, IT servers and electronic network equipment (antennas, transmitters, etc.), and home appliances (washing machine, oven, refrigerator, etc.) may be requested for pick up.

“Globe recognizes the importance of taking this extra step in ensuring e-wastes are disposed of properly and can’t be harmful to the environment. We would like to enjoin our customers to help dispose of e-waste properly,” said Yoly Crisanto, Globe chief sustainability officer and SVP for Corporate Communications in the news release.

E-waste is made up of various materials that are toxic and hazardous, making the process of recycling risky for those who are not trained properly and who do not have the necessary facilities to do it.

According to the UN Environment Programme, it is estimated that more than 50 million metric tons of e-waste is produced globally per year and its continued importation and increased local generation is a cause for concern.



Roughly 80 percent of these e-waste ends up in landfills, pollute the environment and make informal communities susceptible to the hazards of e-waste.

According to a recent study made by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, and EcoWaste Coalition, only 28 out of the 135 registered treatment, storage and disposal (TSD) facilities in the Philippines process e-waste.

While the informal sector benefits from these discarded items, their methods of dismantling and recycling e-wastes are unconventional and against approved government standards.

In response to this situation, Globe's e-waste program not only promotes proper disposal but also educates people about the potential harm of e-waste to the environment and the overall benefits of e-waste recycling.

Proper e-waste recycling conserves natural resources. Instead of extracting raw materials, valuable materials from old electronics can be turned into new glass, plastic chairs, filament for 3D printing, and reuse the extracted alloys.

E-waste recycling avoids unnecessary dumps in landfills. It provides proper handling and management of toxic chemical substances, and helps avoid possible leakage, especially toward water streams.

It also prevents possible health hazards to informal communities living near dumps and whose main source of income is the manual processing of these disposed devices.

In 2020 alone, the program managed to collect and responsibly dispose of over 250,000 kg of e-waste, bringing the total collection to more than 1.4 million kg since 2014.

These e-wastes are delivered to Globe's partner TSD facilities, namely Total Environment Solutions-Asset Material Management Philippines (TES-AMM) in Pasig City, and Maritrans Recycler Inc. in Cebu.

E-wastes are segregated to recover plastic materials, electronic components and precious metals. The final recycling process is done in TES-AMM's facility in Singapore.

"We are thankful to have partners and contributors, composed of more than 66 corporations, private organizations, NGOs, local government partners and schools nationwide that share Globe's commitment of building a better and safer world for future generations. We encourage more individuals and organizations to join us in this advocacy. Let us all work together in keeping our planet safe from the harm posed by improper e-waste disposal," Crisanto added.

Globe remains committed to the 10 UN Global Compact principles and contributes to 10 of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals such as UN SDG 12 on Sustainable Consumption and Production about achieving economic growth and sustainable development by urgently reducing ecological footprint.

It is also about decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation, increasing resource efficiency and promoting sustainable lifestyles by changing the way we produce and consume goods and resources.

Interested parties may visit any of the participating Globe stores nationwide or check the list of drop off areas and bulk hauling on E-waste Zero on Globe's sustainability web site <https://www.globe.com.ph/about-us/sustainability/environment.html>

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/03/14/discarding-e-waste-globe-may-help-dispose-of-them-safely/>



A cop joins rounds as the local government imposed a seven-day granular lockdown on Block 41 Zones 4, 5, and 9 at Barangay Addition Hills in Mandaluyong City on Friday midnight, March 12, 2021 to limit the movement of residents and curb the spike in COVID-19 related cases.

The STAR/Miguel de Guzman

DOH records 4,899 coronavirus cases, total now at 621,498

(Philstar.com) - March 14, 2021 - 1:48pm

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines on Sunday, March 14 recorded 4,899 additional COVID-19 cases, bringing the total number of infections to 621,498.

- Active cases: 48,157 or 7.7% of the total cases
- Recoveries: 13,371, pushing total to 560,512
- Deaths: 63, bringing total to 12,829

What's new today? Saturday afternoon's 5,000 additional cases marked the highest daily rise since August last year.

- That same day, health authorities reported that they found a new coronavirus variant in the country.
- According to the OCTA Research Group earlier Sunday, the additional daily cases could hit 8,000 by end-March if the current influx is not controlled.
- Globally, over 120 million coronavirus infections have been recorded, leading to more than 2.6 million casualties.
- It has been 362 days since enhanced community quarantine was first hoisted. The Philippines is still under the world's longest quarantine.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/03/14/2084248/doh-records-4899-coronavirus-cases-total-now-621498>

15 MARCH 2021, MONDAY



DENR

NEWS

ALERTS

VLOGS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Please click here to watch this video on YouTube:

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rlxLLtyETDw>

MANILA BAY
FINISHED NA! 4 NA BACKHOE NAGTULONG TULONG | MANILA BAY PHASE 2 MALAWAK NA! AERIAL VIEW
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MANILA BAY UPDATE
MARCH 14, 2021

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MANILA BAY

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MANILA

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