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**DENR**

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**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**



## Agency closes six-hectare open dump in Tanza

posted January 15, 2021 at 11:10 pm

by [Rio N. Araja](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has closed down a six-hectare open dump in Tanza, Cavite, for violation of Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

With help from the National Bureau of Investigation and the DENR's Environmental Management Bureau, the department locked the entry points of the privately owned open dump in Barangay Sahud-Ulan.

Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny Antiporda, who led the operation, said the government would not hesitate to arrest operators of illegal waste disposal sites and to run after all open dump operators.

"This is how serious the government is when it comes to the illegal operation of these open dumpsites," Antiporda said.

"Let's deal with them head on. Declare total war against them."

Based on the report of the DENR Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office in Cavite, the dump had accumulated a three-meter high or 180,000-cubic meter mix of solid waste materials.

RA 9003, particularly Section 37, strictly prohibits the establishment and maintenance of open dumpsites, which pose serious threat to the environment and public health.

While waiting for the results of the investigation, Antiporda said the DENR would invite the local government officials of Tanza to explain the existence of the open dump.

They would be informed of the possible repercussions if it was proven that they were involved in the operation, Antiporda said.

"We will investigate and look into it if they have knowledge on the operation of this open dumpsite. If found that they are involved in the operation of this, we will file cases against them," he said.

He instructed the local environment office of Tanza to prepare a rehabilitation plan for the area.



## Agency closes six-hectare open dump in Tanza

Antiporda is the alternate chairman of the National Solid Waste Management Commission.

He says the operation marks the celebration of Zero Waste Month and the 20th year of the enactment of RA 9003.

**Topics:** [Department of Environment and Natural Resources](#) , [Ecological Solid Waste Management Act](#) , [National Bureau of Investigation](#) , [Benny Antiporda](#) , [National Solid Waste Management Commission](#)



## DENR closes illegal open dumpsite in Cavite

Friday, January 15, 2021 [Dennis Abrina](#)



Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) undersecretary Benny Antiporda leads the team together with NBI in closing the illegal open dumpsite in Bgy. Sahud Ulan in Tanza, Cavite Thursday, January 14, 2021. Photo courtesy of the DENR Office Cavite

**TANZA, Cavite** — Operatives of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) led by U Secretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Unit Concerns Benny Antiporda and National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) – Environmental Crime Division (ECD) closed an illegal open dumpsite in Barangay Sahud Ulan here, Thursday, January 14, 2021

DENR personnel said the six hectare-open dumpsite (OD) situated in a private land owned by Harmony Homes has been issued a Cease and Desist order from the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) in violation of Republic Act No. 9003, Presidential Decree 1586 and their implementing rules and regulations.

The operation was led by the NBI-ECD with assistance provided from the line bureaus, field offices and partners of DENR namely from DENR Central Office represented by Antiporda, Environmental Protection and Enforcement Task Force Director Nilo Tamoria, National Bureau of Investigation Environmental Crime Division Chief Eric Nuqui, EcoWaste Coalition Zero Waste Campaigner Eloisa Tolentino, Environmental Management Bureau Solid Waste Management Division Chief Maria Delia Valdez, Cavite PENRO Ronita Unlayao, and Cavite Provincial Environmental Management Officer (PEMO) Adan Umipig.

The dumpsite violated the provisions under the RA 9003 which include open dumping, not ensuring segregation of different types of solid wastes for re-use, recycling and composting; and violating the clean air act as the burning is observed during the operation.



## DENR closes illegal open dumpsite in Cavite

Antiporda wants to close all OD within a year and start adapting to a sanitary landfill (SLF).

*“An open dumpsite causes adverse impacts to the environment and to its nearby communities. One of its effect is water pollution, this is when the time that the leachate of the solid waste reaches the ground water. This is where we extract our water use for domestic consumption such as drinking, bathing, cleaning, and washing,”* said Antiporda.

*“The dumpsite has been subject of numerous complaints mostly from the local residents of Suntrust Ecotown Subdivision and nearby areas. We hope that this operation may give serenity to the local residents who suffered from ill effects of illegal act on open dumpsite,”* he added.

In a report provided by DENR Calabarzon, the open dumpsite was spotted by the PEMO of Cavite on September 23, 2020 via aerial drone shot.

*“Full force po tayo dito, tuloy-tuloy ang ating trabaho. We’re looking at closing all the open dumpsites within the year. And within the year, makapagpatayo tayo ng mas maraming sanitary landfills, which is the most doable in the meantime,”* said Antiporda.



## Dredging of Cagayan River bottleneck sites to commence late Jan

By DENR Published on January 15, 2021



QUEZON CITY, Jan. 15 -- Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary and Task Force Build Back Better (TFBBB) co-chair Roy A. Cimatu said the government is all set for the removal of sandbars along the constricted section of Cagayan River called "Magapit Narrows" by late January or early February.

"This is a strategic move in the short-term while medium- and long-term solutions for the flooding in Cagayan Valley are still underway," Cimatu said during the Jan. 7 meeting of the TFBBB, which he co-chairs with Secretary Mark Villar of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).

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.



## Dredging of Cagayan River bottleneck sites to commence late Jan

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.

The DENR chief said 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.

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.

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.

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



## Cagayan River rehab to benefit residents



By [Leander C. Domingo, TMT](#)

January 16, 2021

THE Cagayan Valley Regional Build Back Better (BBB) Task Force has allayed fears of a massive impact on the livelihood of residents along the Cagayan River once the massive rehabilitation project for the river commences to mitigate perennial flooding.

BBB Task Force chief Gwendolyn Bambalan has assured livelihood assistance to residents who will be affected by the Cagayan River rehabilitation following the tall order of Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu.

Also, Department of Environment and Natural Resources Region 2 (Cagayan Valley) Director Gwendolyn Bambalan announced during the Regional BBB Task Force meeting on Tuesday a directive from Cimatu to tap local residents as laborers or beneficiaries in livelihood activities.

“The Department of Labor and Employment (DoLE) will also be engaged through its cash for work program or the Tupad (Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers) program, and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority to provide training assistance for livelihood,” Bambalan said.

Earlier, some 100 individuals were provided with financial assistance for the planting and maintenance of bamboos along riverbanks under DoLE’s Tupad program.

Bambalan said the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) has also committed job opportunities for residents in the dredging operations.

As the lead agency in the implementation of immediate dredging and desilting of the Cagayan River, the DPWH will start the project in Barangay Bangag in Lallo and Barangays Casicalan Norte and Dummun in Gattaran.

Lead agencies of the six key result areas (KRAs) under Executive Order 120 that created the BBB Task Force include the DPWH, Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD), Office of Civil Defense (OCD), Department of Trade and Industry, Department of the Interior and Local Government, and DENR.





## Cagayan River rehab to benefit residents

The KRAs are better and resilient infrastructure, stronger shelter and resilient settlement, improved systems and essential services, restored sustainable livelihood, strengthened governance through broad-based citizen input, and intensified watershed management.

During the meeting, the agencies presented their interventions and implementation plans for the priority activities in the rehabilitation of the Cagayan River.

Regional BBB Task Force Co-Chairman Loreta Malaluan, also the DPWH Region 2 director, said they have collaborated with the Philippine National Police, Armed Forces of the Philippines and the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency on security measures in priority sites for the sandbar dredging activities.



## Guardians of conservation, protected areas receive help

posted January 14, 2021 at 11:10 pm by [Macon Ramos-Araneta](#)

A prefabricated modular structure for enforcers, who will serve as a deterrent against violations of environmental laws, has been donated by Senator Cynthia Villar to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

The joint monitoring team was deployed to preserve and guard the grounds of a protected area—the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape—which included the Masungi Georeserve, the award-winning conservation project site found within the protected area.

DENR Undersecretary for Special Concerns Edilberto Leonardo says the donation will complement the efforts of team formed as a pro-active initiative by the DENR against the intrusions and the conduct of illegal activities at the protected area.

The illegal activities include illegal mining, quarrying, wildlife poaching, slash and burn farming as well as other related operations.

Villar said “there is an urgent need for the DENR to strengthen its law enforcement efforts at UMRBPL and the Masungi Georeserve due to the alarming incidents of encroachment activities on the premises with the presence of armed men, which continuously undermine the conservation efforts and pose threats to the safety of Masungi’s conservationists and volunteers working in the protected area”.

Moreover, she said, the DENR’s lack of presence in the protected area had contributed to the proliferation of the unregulated quarrying operations and other related activities.

These activities are blamed for the degradation of the Marikina watershed, as well as the resulting landslides and devastating flooding experienced by several towns and villages in Rizal and Marikina.

In December last year, the Senate Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change chaired by Villar conducted a hearing-inquiry on the alleged denuded state of forests that largely contributed to the massive flooding in parts of Luzon during the onslaught of typhoon “Ulysses” in November 2020.

The conservation efforts or lack of it at the UMRBPL, which is legislated under the Expanded NIPAS Act, was highlighted.

It was only after Typhoon “Ulysses”, which brought devastating flash floods and landslides to several Rizal towns and Marikina City, that the Rizal government ordered the suspension of all quarrying, mining and other related activities in the province in December 2020.



## Guardians of conservation, protected areas receive help

The DENR–Mines and Geosciences Bureau Regional Office in Region 4-A followed suit with the suspension of 11 quarrying and crushing plant operations within the area.

Despite the suspension orders, the residents of the affected areas in Rizal and in Marikina City and environmentalists are still worried that these quarrying firms will be back.



## Senator Villar donates to DENR a modular office for joint monitoring team at protected area

By [BMPlus](#)

January 14, 2021



In Photos: (in white) Isidro L Mercado, Ph.D. PENR Officer Rizal Province, Yolanda S. Ortiz, Sitio Chairman, Brgy. Pinugay Baras, Rizal, Ricky Mark N. Aban, Technical assistant II, DENR PENRO Rizal with Pat, Christian Morete and Pat. M.G. Oloroso

Senator Cynthia Villar donated to Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) a prefabricated modular structure to serve as the office/station of the joint monitoring team deployed to preserve and guard the grounds of the protected area Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape (UMRBPL), including the Masungi Georeserve, the award-winning conservation project site found within the said protected area (PA).

Use. Edilberto Leonardo, the DENR Undersecretary for Special Concerns, appreciates Sen. Villar's donation as it is a welcome complement to DENR's action of forming a joint monitoring team, made up of DENR foresters, forest rangers, and pertinent units of PNP and AFP, who are deputized to guard and prevent illegal activities at the said PA. With the said physical structure, the deployed personnel will have a specific base where they could stay while on duty at the immense area of UMRBPL, encompassing around 26,125 hectares. The Joint Monitoring Team was formed as a pro-active initiative by DENR against intrusions and conduct of illegal activities at the protected area, which may include illegal mining, quarrying, poaching of wildlife, slash and burn farming as well as other related operations. The presence of enforcers will serve as a deterrent against violation of environmental laws in the area.



## Senator Villar donates to DENR a modular office for joint monitoring team at protected area

Sen. Villar said that “there is an urgent need for DENR to strengthen its law enforcement efforts at UMRBPL and the Masungi Georeserve in the light of alarming incidents of encroachment activities on the premises with the presence of armed men, which continuously undermine the conservation efforts and pose threats to the safety of Masungi’s conservationists and volunteers working at the protected area”. Moreover, DENR’s lack of presence at the protected area as contributed to the proliferation of the unregulated quarrying operations and other related activities, which are being blamed for the degradation of the Marikina watershed, as well as the resultant landslides and devastating flooding experienced by several towns and villages in the Province of Rizal and in Marikina City.

In December last year, the Senate Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change chaired by Senator Cynthia Villar conducted a hearing-inquiry on the alleged denuded state of forests that largely contributed to the massive flooding in part of Luzon during the onslaught of typhoon Ulysses in November 2020. The conservation efforts or the lack of it at the UMRBPL, which is a legislated PA under RA No. 11038 or the Expanded NIPAS Act, was highlighted. Due to its protected area status, the said PA should be undergoing strict conservation and restoration interventions, yet it was revealed that through the years, it has been subjected to so much abuse due to quarrying operations and related activities.

It was only as an aftermath of the Typhoon Ulysses which brought devastating flash floods and landslides to the residents of several towns in Rizal and Marikina City that the provincial government of Rizal has ordered the suspension of all quarrying, mining and other related activities in the province in December 2020. The DENR–Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) Regional Office in Region 4-A followed suit with the suspension of 11 quarrying and crushing plant operators within the area.

Despite the suspension orders, the residents of the affected areas in Rizal and in Marikina City as well as concerned environmentalists are still worried that these quarrying firms will be back in “business as usual” mode once the controversy has died down as what happened in previous years.

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/01/14/senator-villar-donates-to-denr-a-modular-office-for-joint-monitoring-team-at-protected-area/>



## BuCor joins tree planting, boosts nat'l greening program

Published January 15, 2021, 2:18 PM

by [Jeffrey Damicog](#)

The Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) said it has joined government efforts in planting more trees in the country.

“The Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) through its Director General, Undersecretary Gerald Q. Bantag expressed its solidarity with the Department of Environment and Natural Resource (DENR)’s Enhanced National Greening Program (ENGP),” said the BuCor in a statement issued Thursday night, Jan. 14.

The BuCor said that just last Sunday, Jan. 10, it participated in a tree planting activity at organized by the DENR at the Masungi Geo Reserve Park in Baras, Rizal.

“A total of 1,000 indigenous tree seedlings of guyabano, cacao, coffee, banaba, bitaog, balobo were planted in the area in partnership with representatives from other law enforcement agencies, the local media and other stakeholders,” it said.

The BuCor contingent who participated in the tree planting activity was led by BuCor Assistant Secretary Gabriel Chaclag.

The BuCor explained the DENR’s ENGP aims “to plant over 150,000 hectares of forests and produce almost 167 million seedlings, as well as to maintain 318,871 hectares of forests and watersheds.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/01/15/bucor-joins-tree-planting-boosts-natl-greening-program/>



## Cagayan Valley dioceses to plant 1.2 million trees in 500 days

By [CBCP News](#)

- January 15, 2021 - 7:13 PM



Buildings are flooded in the aftermath of Typhoon Vamco, in the Cagayan Valley region in the Philippines, November 14, 2020. (Philippine Coast Guard/Handout via Reuters)

Following the massive flooding that devastated parts of Cagayan Valley, the dioceses in the area banded together to plant more than a million trees in 500 days.

Dubbed as “Missio 500”, the ecology initiative aims to plant 500 trees per day in the Tuguegarao archdiocese, and each in its suffragans: Ilagan, Bayombong, Tabuk and Batanes.

The target is to plant at least 1.25 million trees by early next year.

The program was launched on Thursday before the ceremony for the imposition of the sacred pallium on Archbishop Ricardo Baccay of Tuguegarao.

Baccay said the launching of the initiative was timed for the occasion “as a symbol of our solidarity, working together, and convergence”.

The project also aims to celebrate this year’s 500th anniversary of the arrival of Christianity in the Philippines.

Since the initiative involves local governments, civil society organizations and non-government organizations, the number of trees to be planted could exceed the target.



## Cagayan Valley dioceses to plant 1.2 million trees in 500 days

Bishop Elmer Mangalinao of Bayombong said last November's flooding that affected thousands of families shows "the urgency to protect our common home".

"The missio 500 is a testament to our commitment to teach, to mold, and to remind our faithful that we are the stewards of God's creation," he said.

Bishop Danilo Ulep of Batanes, for his part, also expressed his prelature's commitment to the initiative.

"May this project intensify and strengthen our advocacy to protect God's creation and heal the wounds of mother earth for sustainable development of our communities," he said.

Also launched was the Metropolitan Ecology Desk and the Eco-convergence Luzon Hub, in partnership with Caritas Philippines.

Eco-convergence is a partnership of church and civil society groups to promote the teachings of Pope Francis' encyclical on ecology, Laudato Si.

The two other regional hubs are the Diocese of San Carlos for the Visayas and the Diocese of Marbel for Mindanao.





## Retiradong pulis timbog sa illegal logging

**PROVINCIAL**

On Jan 15, 2021



Cauayan City – Hindi nakaligtas sa kamay ng mga alagad ng batas ang isang retiradong pulis dahil sa pagpupuslit nito ng iligal na mga pinutol na puno sa Sitio Magoli, Barangay Antagan, Tumauni, Isabela.

Nakilala ang dinakip na si Rolando Castillo, 54 anyos, retiradong sarhento ng PNP Tumauni, at residente ng Brgy. Anao, Cabagan.

Nakatakas naman ang kasama ni Castillo na si Randy Estioko Peduca, nasa wastong gulang, ng Antagan 1st, Tumauni.

Si Castillo ay inaresto ng pinagsanib na pwersa para sa anti-illegal logging operation ng mga kasapi ng PNP Tumauni, Provincial Intelligence Unit ng Isabela Police Provincial Office, DENR Cabagan at mga opisyal ng barangay.

Nasabat sa Sitio Magoli ang minamanehong Elf Truck ni Castillo na may plakang UHK545 na naglalaman ng tinatayang mahigit 300 boardfeet ng Gmelina flitches at 30 sako ng uling.

Nang sitahin ang dating pulis ay wala itong maipakitang mga kaukulang dokumento kung kaya't tuluyan itong inaresto at kinumpiska ang mga nilagaring kahoy kasama ang kanyang sasakyan.

Mahaharap sa kasong PD 705 o ang retiradong pulis. (REY VELASCO)



## President stops mine operations in Tawi-Tawi



By [The Manila Times](#)  
January 16, 2021



President Rodrigo Duterte

President Rodrigo Duterte has suspended all mining operations on an island in Tawi-Tawi province in southern Mindanao that has been “completely devastated” because of quarrying activities, according to a Malacañang official.

Cabinet Secretary Karlo Alexei Nograles on Tuesday said Duterte issued the directive to government agencies during a full Cabinet meeting on Monday after he expressed concern over the state of Tumbagan Island in Languyan, Tawi-Tawi.

“The island at this point has been mined out. And while rehabilitation efforts are underway, the President is issuing a directive to stop any and all mining operations in Tumbagan island,” Nograles said in an online news briefing.

The Palace official added that Duterte also directed the planting of more trees and the implementation of other rehabilitation efforts on the island, a nickel-mining hub.

“More action will be considered as more light is shed, regarding the state of the island and the conduct of mining operations in the area,” Nograles said.



## President stops mine operations in Tawi-Tawi

He added that Duterte has prioritized environmental protection and preservation, citing the President's order to rehabilitate Boracay Island in 2018.

In 2018, the President said he might push for a total ban on mining, saying the industry has damaged the environment and has caused deadly landslides.

Duterte noted that while the mining industry contributes P70 billion a year to government coffers, its operations have softened the soil and have caused landslides.

"The repairs needed after the landslide and assistance to the dead, perhaps the cost reached P70 billion times five. The environment has also been damaged. Like you, I also want it (total ban on mining). The problem is [that] there is a law (that allows mining)," the President said.

"Sirang-sira talaga ang bayan natin. Nakakaawa. [Ang] Mindanao [‘pag] makita niyo, parang tansan – iyong Coke. Ganoon ‘yun. Madaming butas. Puno ng butas, butas, butas (The country has been severely damaged. It's in a pitiful state. Mindanao, have you seen it? It's like a bottle cap that's full of holes)," he added. CATHERINE S. VALENTE



## China inaabuso ang black sand mining sa Cagayan

[NATIONALNEWS](#)

On Jan 15, 2021



**NANAWAGAN** ang Pinoy Aksyon for Governance and the Environment (Pinoy Aksyon) sa lokal na pamahalaan ng Cagayan na imbestigahan ang ulat ukol sa iligal na pagmimina sa Cagayan na kontrolado ng mga negosyanteng Intsik.

“Illegal mining and logging have been the default fall guys everytime floods strike, and orders of probe follows,” pahayag ng Pinoy Aksyon na nagsabi pang “soon after, nothing is heard.” Sinabi pa ng grupo na nais nilang matigil ang masamang gawain dahil may malaking problema na ayaw pag-usapan – ang malakihan at bulto-bultong paghuhukay ng lupa at buhangin upang ipadala sa China at mga kalapit pang bansa tulad ng Hong Kong.

“The question is what has been done? Shall we wait for another disaster to again look into illegal mining and logging?”, ayon kay Pinoy Aksyon chairperson BenCyrus G. Ellorin.

Sinabi rin ni Ellorin na ang pag-i-export ng milyon milyong metro kubiko ng buhangin sa malalaking imprastraktura sa mga kalapit na bansa ang wawasak sa baybaying dagat at dalampasigan bukod pa sa magiging sanhi ng napakataas na presyo ng mga panambak, buhangin, bato at mga kauri nito na magpapabagsak sa pag-angat ng paggawa (construction) sa bansa dulot ng proyekto ng pamahalaang ‘Build Build Build’.

“We call on Cagayan Gov. Manuel Mamba to look into reports of massive black sand mining for export in Claveria town,” saad ng Aksyon Pinoy.



## China inaabuso ang black sand mining sa Cagayan

Nanawagan din ang Aksyon Pinoy kay Cagayan 2nd district Rep. Samantha Louise V. Alfonso na nakakasakop sa bayan ng Claveria na imbestigahan at aksyunan ang black sand mining sa kanyang distrito.

Ang Pinoy Aksyon ay isang independyenteng tagapagbantay at “think-tank” na nagtataguyod ng pananagutan sa publiko, pangangalaga sa kapaligiran at totoong demokrasya.



## Construction of landfill in watershed area, illegal



By [Persida Acosta](#)  
January 16, 2021

Dear PAO,

I have been informed that a landfill will be constructed in a portion of a watershed area situated in our town. The local government unit (LGU) has stated that it will do anything necessary to preserve and not contaminate the watershed area while construction is on-going. I am a concerned citizen, so I want to know if the LGU can legally implement such a project.  
Yuri

Dear Yuri,

For your information, the law that addresses your situation is Section 48 (12) of Republic Act 9003, otherwise known as the "Ecological and Solid Waste Management Act of 2000," which reads:

"Section 48. Prohibited Acts – The following acts are prohibited:

"(16) The construction or operation of landfills or any waste disposal facility on any aquifer, groundwater reservoir, or watershed area and or any portions thereof."

Relatedly, the same law provides a penalty for violation of the same, viz:

"Section 49. Fines and Penalties –

"(f) Any person who violates Sec. 48, pars. (14), (15) and (16) shall, upon conviction, be punished with a fine not less than One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) but not more than One million pesos (P1,000,000.00), or imprisonment not less than one (1) year but not more than six (6) years, or both."

It is clear from the cited provisions that the construction or operation of landfills or any waste disposal facility on any aquifer, groundwater reservoir, or watershed area and or any portions thereof is illegal and may subject the offender to a penalty of fine or imprisonment, depending upon the discretion of the court. In your situation, the concerned LGU may be held liable if it should proceed with the construction project of a landfill.



## Construction of landfill in watershed area, illegal

We hope that we were able to answer your queries. Please be reminded that this advice is based solely on the facts you have narrated and our appreciation of the same. Our opinion may vary when other facts are changed or elaborated.

*Editor's note: Dear PAO is a daily column of the Public Attorney's Office. Questions for Chief Acosta may be sent to [dearpao@manilatimes.net](mailto:dearpao@manilatimes.net)*



## COVID-19, climate change and water security

By: [Ernesto M. Ordoñez](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)  
[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 04:00 AM January 16, 2021

With the double whammy of COVID-19 and climate change, we must now assess the situation of our water security.

First, the good news. Last Dec. 18, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) released the Asian Water Development Outlook 2020. It stated: “Economies of Asia and the Pacific must put water security at the top of their agenda to recover from the coronavirus disease pandemic and adapt to climate change.”

The ADB stated that the Philippines had greatly improved in its water security. In its Water Development Report, the Philippines increased its rating from 1 (nascent) in 2013, to 2 (engaged) in 2016, to 3 (capable) in 2020.

More impressively, the Philippines had a cumulative score of 67.9 out of 100. This is second only to Malaysia’s 74.7, and higher than Indonesia’s 61, Vietnam’s 59.9, Thailand’s 58.6, and Cambodia’s 57.5.

What preceded this improvement? On April 16, 2016, in a meeting of the five coalition heads of the Agri-Fisheries Alliance (AFA) with President Duterte, AFA’s Elias Jose Inciong requested action from Duterte on our water crisis, where more than 55 people die everyday.

Catalysed by Sen. Loren Legarda from the legislature and Secretary Regina Lopez from the executive branch, Duterte formed an executive-legislative-private sector task force for a “National Water Roadmap and Summit.” Cabinet Secretary Leoncio Evasco, Jr. was the chair, with myself from the private sector as the secretary general. The other secretaries were from the Departments of Environment and Natural Resources, Agriculture (DA), Public Works, Economic Planning, and Local Government. The National Water Resource Board served as the secretariat. Technical support was provided by seven deans from the University of the Philippines-Los Baños. Each led a team to produce seven volumes for the different water subsectors identified in the ADB 2013 and 2016 Water Outlook reports.

Seven water presummits on the seven subsectors were held in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. These resulted in key recommendations for each subsector, with the top two identified per sector. The most important recommendation was on governance: a body should be created to coordinate the government’s 32 water-related agencies for a unified water response.

Though an intermediate alternative was a temporary executive order to implement this, the path chosen was a proposed Department of Water/ Water Regulatory Commission. This is still pending in Congress. It has been recommended as a priority by the Philippine Business Group/Joint Foreign chambers, and should be acted upon soon.





## COVID-19, climate change and water security

Since many in the private sector across the country were motivated by the seven water presummits, they organized a Movement for Water Security (MWS). On June 25, 2019, MWS chair Roberto Pagdanganan, Boy Scouts of the Philippines president and former head of the League of Provincial Governors, wrote a letter to both the Congress and the the executive branch. This became a subject in a Congressional hearing. Eight priority actions were recommended. One of these is mangrove development. It addresses both jobs lost from COVID-19 and climate change.

Forest Foundation Philippines states: “Mangroves are important ecosystems that provide livelihoods for coastal communities as well as protection from waves and water movements. In addition, mangroves are important in mitigating climate change. A hectare of mangrove trees can store up to five times more carbon than most tropical forests around the world.”

In terms of livelihood, this would greatly help the fisherfolk, which is our poorest sector with 1.3 million registered small scale fishers and their families. They are faced with dwindling catch, partly because commercial fishing boats have illegally encroached into the municipal waters reserved for them and depleted the fish supply. Though the DA-initiated Vessel Monitoring System that can automatically track illegal ship movements in municipal waters, the additional proactive initiative of restoring and increasing mangroves for fish breeding grounds will increase fish supply. Related livelihood opportunities coming from this will be provided.

On climate change, mangroves have saved communities from damaging floods by serving as barriers against sudden water inflow from storm surges. A project providing such benefits is that of San Miguel Corp. It is establishing 150,000 mangroves for flood protection with an initial 100,000 mudcrabs monthly for livelihood.

With COVID-19 and climate change confronting us, we must not lose our momentum in improving water security, and consider mangrove restoration as a useful initiative to support this.

The author is Agriwatch chair, former Secretary of Presidential programs and Projects, and former undersecretary of DA and DTI. Contact is [Agriwatch\\_phil@yahoo.com](mailto:Agriwatch_phil@yahoo.com)

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## Child malnutrition pinalalala ng Climate Change – pag-aaral



January 15, 2021 @ 10:55 AM 19 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines – Mas malala ang epekto ng Climate Change sa malnutrisyon sa kabataan kaysa sa kadalasang epekto ng kahirapan, ayon sa pag-aaral.

Sa kabila ng pagbaba ng antas ng malnutrisyon sa buong mundo sa nakalipas na taon, tumaas naman ang antas ng kulang sa sustansya o undernourishment noong 2015, dahil umano sa warming temperature at malalang panahon, ayon pa sa research.

Ayon sa United Nations, 144 milyong kabataan edad 5-anyos pababa ang naapektuhan noong 2019 na resulta ng chronic malnutrition, kung saan 47 million pa ang naghihirap dahil sa mababang nutrient intake.

Nagsiyasat ang grupo ng mga eksperto sa University of Vermont ng diet diversity sa higit 100,000 na mga kabataan sa nasabing edad sa 19 low-income countries sa Asia, Africa at South America.

Hinalo nila ito sa 30 taong datos sa temperature at precipitation.

Nakita nila na sa mas mataas na temperatura ay kasabay rin nito ang pagbawas sa kalidad ng diet sa lima sa anim na rehiyon.



## Child malnutrition pinalalala ng Climate Change – pag-aaral

Sa akda sa journal Environmental Research Letters, ibinabala ng grupo na makaapekto ang climate change sa child development.

“Certainly, future climate changes have been predicted to affect malnutrition, but it surprised us that higher temperatures are already showing an impact,” anang pangunahing awtor Meredith Niles, assistant professor ng Nutrition and Food Services sa Vermont. *RNT/ Ulat mula AFP*



## Dominguez, CCC bat for a plastic-free PH

By Jerome Carlo R. Paunan Published on January 15, 2021



### Contributed photo

CALOOCAN CITY, Jan. 15 (PIA) -- Finance Secretary and Chairperson-designate of the Climate Change Commission Carlos G. Dominguez said that the CCC will be pushing for a nationwide ban on single-use plastics during the 72nd Management Association of the Philippines (MAP) Inaugural Meeting 2021 and Induction of 2021 MAP Board of Governors.

“While we are pursuing more sustainable practices during this pandemic, why not push ourselves even further by addressing our perennial problem on plastic pollution? Plastic waste clogs our waterways resulting in massive flooding. It kills marine life and threatens biodiversity, as well as causes global warming from the burning of fossil fuels to produce and transport these plastics. This will create more problems in the future, entailing more public costs and resources from us, if we don’t address this problem now,” Dominguez explained.

For the CCC, single-use plastics such as sachets, thin shopping bags, and plastic "labo" bags, are a waste, public health, and climate change problem.

The report “Plastic Exposed: How Waste Assessments and Brand Audits (WABA) are Helping Philippines Cities Fight Plastic Pollution” by the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA) found that Filipinos use around 59.7 billion pieces of sachets yearly. The report also stated that Filipinos use 20.6 billion pieces of shopping bags and 16.5 pieces of "labo" bags a year, approximately eight million tons of which end up in the ocean, impacting ecosystems and killing millions of sea birds, sea mammals, and fish.



## Dominguez, CCC bat for a plastic-free PH

The climate body views plastic pollution as a serious climate-related concern, with the production and distribution of single-use plastics linked to fossil fuel extraction and transport, and contributing to the world's increasing greenhouse gas levels. The improper and inadequate disposal and management of single-use plastics also pollutes the environment and disrupts ecosystems, resulting in significant biodiversity loss.

The World Economic Forum (WEF) has highlighted the need for governments to ensure that waste management systems are well supported to deal with current and future plastic waste, especially with the significant increase in plastic pollution from home deliveries and medical waste due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Chairperson Dominguez also noted that many local government units have already issued ordinances to regulate or ban single-use plastics, and government agencies have adopted national policies to support this, such as the National Solid Waste Management Commission Resolution No. 1363 directing the ban on unnecessary single-use plastics in national and local government agencies and units, and the CCC Resolution on Adopting a Circular Economy.

The DOF and CCC fully support legislative measures for a phase out of single-use plastics and for extended producer's responsibility that will cover large-scale collection, sorting, and recycling or reusing of plastics. In the Senate, proponents include Senate Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Climate Change Chair Cynthia Villar; and Senators Sonny Angara, Nancy Binay, Manny Pacquiao, Lito Lapid, Risa Hontiveros, and Francis Pangilinan; while in the House of Representatives, Speaker Lord Allan Jay Velasco, Deputy Speaker Loren Legarda, and Committee on Ecology Chair Glona Labadlabad, have each filed their versions on banning single-use plastics and extended producer's responsibility along with many other representatives, so that there are at least 38 bills pending.

Dominguez urged top corporations, many of which are producers and retailers of plastic-based products, to take the lead in the private sector for the anti-single use plastics initiative and not wait for incentives from the government.

“Corporations have the means and the responsibility to design a system where their products do not pollute our lands and seas and aggravate our problems on public health and climate change. They should not wait for any incentives from the government if it's for the greater good and welfare of all Filipinos,” Dominguez said. (PIA NCR)



## Communities go plastic-free, cashless with Plastic Bank, PayMaya

posted January 15, 2021 at 06:55 pm

by **Manila Standard**

Global social enterprise Plastic Bank® has tapped digital financial services leader PayMaya to build more sustainable communities in the Philippines with cashless technology.



Through Plastic Bank's recycling ecosystem program, residents of partner communities can exchange plastic waste for rewards that they will receive through their PayMaya accounts.

Through Plastic Bank's recycling ecosystem program, residents of partner communities can exchange plastic waste for rewards that they will receive through their PayMaya accounts. They can then use the incentives they receive in their PayMaya wallet for everyday transactions such as sending money, buying prepaid reloadable cards, paying bills, scanning to pay purchases via QR, and online purchases, among others.

The cashless project will initially be implemented at select Plastic Bank partner communities including Payatas in Quezon City, Barangay 105 in Manila, and Barangay San Felipe and Barangay Cararayan in Naga City.

“As we provide a viable solution to the plastic waste problems in the Philippines, this initiative with PayMaya strengthens our recycling infrastructure for the benefit of our community collectors. PayMaya allows us to disburse plastic tokens in a safer and more convenient way. At the same time, we are empowering our partner communities with digital financial services,” said Gidget Velez, Global Director for Country Development at Plastic Bank.



## Communities go plastic-free, cashless with Plastic Bank, PayMaya

Since expansion to the Philippines in 2017, Plastic Bank has been able to establish and grow over 60 collection branches in 8 major cities of Metro Manila. Plastic Bank utilizes a proprietary blockchain platform that secures the entire ecosystem transactions and provides real-time data visualization - allowing for transparency, traceability, and rapid scalability for its collectors and partners.

"We are excited to help build these cashless ecosystems with Plastic Bank. This sustainable initiative will definitely help foster financial inclusion, create more economic opportunities, and increase environmental awareness in these communities," said Shailesh Baidwan, President at PayMaya.

### Empowering Plastic Bank communities with safer contactless payments

To further strengthen its mission towards providing livelihood opportunities, Plastic Bank is also enabling sari-sari stores in partner communities with the PayMaya Negosyo app to provide safer contactless transactions through QR payment technology.

Sari-sari store owners can also utilize the PayMaya Negosyo app to augment their income through its other features such as accepting bills payments, selling mobile prepaid reloadable cards, processing remittances, among others.

PayMaya is the only end-to-end digital payments ecosystem enabler in the Philippines with platforms and services that cut across consumers, merchants, communities, and government. Through its enterprise business, it is the largest digital payments processor for key industries in the country including "everyday" merchants such as the largest retail, food, gas, and eCommerce merchants as well as government agencies and units.

Through its app and wallet, PayMaya provides over 28 million Filipinos with access to financial services. Customers can conveniently pay, add money, cash out or remit through its over 200,000 digital touchpoints nationwide. Its Smart Padala by PayMaya network of over 33,000 partner agent touchpoints nationwide serves as last mile digital financial hubs in communities, providing the unbanked and underserved with access to digital services. To know more about PayMaya's products and services, visit [www.PayMaya.com](http://www.PayMaya.com) or follow @PayMayaOfficial on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

**Topics: [Plastic Bank](#) , [PayMaya](#) , [cashless technology](#) , [Shailesh Baidwan](#)**

Source: <https://manilastandard.net/mobile/article/344469>



## Bawas plastik, dagdag ganda: Mga makukulay na likha ng mga lola, patok na negosyo

Josiah Antonio, ABS-CBN News  
Posted at Jan 15 2021 06:51 PM



Mga larawan mula sa Invisible Sisters.

MAYNILA — Sinong mag-aakala na ang mga ito ay galing sa recycled plastic?

Ito ay ilan lamang sa mga nakabibilib na gawa ng ilang mga kababaihan mula Taguig at Maynila. Bukod sa negosyo, layon ng mga gumagawa nito na makatulong sa kalikasan sa pamamagitan ng paggamit ng recycled materials.

Kwento ni Deseree Mangulabnan, program director ng Invisible Sisters, kasama nila ang 25 na mga nanay at lola mula sa nabanggit na lugar para makatulong sa komunidad at kalikasan simula pa noong 2008.

“We currently work with 25 women from communities across Taguig and Manila. These are mainly nanays and lolas. They are paid per item they make,” kwento ni Mangulabnan sa ABS-CBN News.

“The goal was to help provide livelihood to women from poor communities and help save the environment as well,” dagdag pa niya.

Ayon kay Mangulabnan, ang mga materyales ay mula sa isa nilang partner recycler at matapos makuha ang mga order ay ibinibigay nila ito sa mga kababaihan.

Naglalaro sa halagang P100 hanggang P1,500 ang mga produkto nila tulad ng mga placemat, wallet pati na rin mga alcohol holder at iba pa.





## Bawas plastik, dagdag ganda: Mga makukulay na likha ng mga lola, patok na negosyo



Coasters at placemats ng Invisible Sisters.

“Our main material is recycled plastic and we get this from a partner recycler. Upon taking orders from customers, our women from the communities work on crocheting them. Lead time usually depends on the volume of orders and types of items,” saad ng program director.

“Products are mostly fashion items like bags, clutches, purses, wallets, and home items like placemats and coasters. Our range of prices are from P250-P1,500. With the pandemic, we do offer crocheted alcohol holders too which are at P100 each,” dagdag pa niya.



Throw pillow case ng Invisible Sisters.



## Bawas plastik, dagdag ganda: Mga makukulay na likha ng mga lola, patok na negosyo

Ayon sa program director, malaking bagay ang pagtulong sa kapwa lalo na sa panahon ng pandemya.

“It has been so challenging the past months due to the pandemic and the marginalized are greatly affected by this,” aniya.

“We do our best o help our women by providing a means of livelihood. Even pre-COVID, I believe it's best to embrace compassion for the underprivileged communities.”



## Basilica friar calls for action on proper face mask disposal

By John Rey Saavedra January 15, 2021, 2:54 pm



**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT.** Improper disposal of face masks and face shields as wastes related to the Covid-19 pandemic may bring another social paralysis if it not addressed, Fr. Aladdin Luzon of the Basilica Minore del Sto. Niño said. In his 8th novena day homily on Friday (Jan. 15, 2021), Luzon pushed for actions against improper disposal of pandemic wastes to prevent its adverse environmental effect. *(PNA photo by John Rey Saavedra)*

**CEBU CITY** – A friar at the Basilica Minore del Sto. Niño here on Friday said there must be a proactive action to address the emerging environmental effect of the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic on the lives of the Filipinos.

Fr. Aladdin Luzon, head of safety and security of the Basilica, said in his homily during the novena mass that proper disposal of used face masks and face shields must be observed.

“We hope that our government will formulate better ways to resolve the emerging problem on wastes under the new normal,” Luzon said in mixed Cebuano and English.

Luzon, an environmentalist, said if the concern on Covid-19 wastes is “not properly taken into consideration, (it) may again form part in piling up” of the people’s problem which may contribute to another factor of “social paralysis” apart from hunger and poverty brought by the pandemic.

He cited the recent news on calamities which can be attributed to the negative effect to sheer neglect in proper ways of disposing garbage.

The cleric said the Filipinos have endured the social impact of the pandemic on their lives as many went jobless when lockdowns were implemented to protect communities against the coronavirus.



## Basilica friar calls for action on proper face mask disposal

“Our fellow Filipinos have been in social paralysis in socio-economic (aspect) and in terms of livelihood and jobs while many businesses shut down when Covid-19 hit the country,” he noted.

In March last year, the friars at the Basilica allowed a Cebu-based water bottling firm to install six pet bottle bins that are now found in different corners of the historical church.

The move was to ensure proper disposal of plastic bottles brought in by pilgrims and tourists visiting Cebu’s lone Roman Catholic basilica.

The friars said the project is among the ten-point agenda of the Committee of the Sto. Niño at 500, aimed to promote conservation in the church and its surrounding structures in time for the celebration of the 500th Year of Christianity. (*PNA*)



## Body created to ensure air quality in Cebu City

By [Mary Ruth R. Malinao](#) (The Freeman)

- January 16, 2021 - 12:00am



CEBU, Philippines — The Cebu City Council has approved the creation of a multi-sectoral air quality council (MSAQC) that will monitor and regulate emissions related to air pollution to ensure breathable air for the people in the city.

The “2020 Multi-sectoral Air Quality Council Ordinance of the City of Cebu” authored by Councilor Alvin Dizon was recently passed by the members of the City Council.

“This ordinance aims to boost the efficiency of the City of Cebu in ensuring that the people’s rights to health and to a balanced and healthful ecology shall be protected by maintaining a good air quality of the city through useful techniques and proper research studies,” Section 2 of the ordinance read.

“Given the state of deteriorating air quality in Cebu City which compromises the health and general welfare of the public, it is imperative that the Cebu City government create and mandate a Multisectoral Council with the discretion to enforce ambient air quality guideline values that assure a breathable air for the people in Cebu City with the authority to assess, regulate, and monitor reports, applications, and emissions related to air pollution,” it added.



## Body created to ensure air quality in Cebu City

Section 4 states that the MSAQC shall lead and coordinate the formulation, implementation, and enforcement of all policies, programs, and projects relative to guarantee the maintenance of good air quality that will be enjoyed by the people of the city.

It is mandated to formulate policies for the development of a science and technology-based ambient air quality guideline values in the city level and to encourage coordination and awareness of efforts to maintain an air pollution-free community and develop social responsibility, among others.

The council shall be composed of the ex-officio and regular members. It shall be chaired by the mayor with the chairperson of the City Council's Committee on Environment, Committee on Health, as well as the minority floor leader, among others, as members.

Other regular members shall include five representatives from accredited Cebu City People's Organizations and Civil Society Organizations; two representatives from the scientific and research institutions based in Cebu City; one representative each from Philippine College of Physicians in Cebu City and Cebu Medical Society, among others.

Section 13 of the ordinance provides that the "Council shall be held accountable to the city. Any wrongdoing committed by any member and officer of the Council in their official capacity shall be subject to disciplinary action as may be deemed proper by the Local Chief Executive upon the observance of due process. Any disciplinary action imposed will be without prejudice to the investigation and filing of civil and criminal charges."

For the effective implementation of the ordinance, a specific line item for Council operations will be included in the annual city budget for the operation and maintenance of the council for each calendar year.

The Office of the Mayor shall issue the implementing rules and regulations for the effective implementation of the ordinance within 60 days after its approval. — **FPL (FREEMAN)**

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/the-freeman/cebu-news/2021/01/16/2070854/body-created-ensure-air-quality-cebu-city/amp/>



## Environmental fee sa Boracay, tataas na simula Pebrero 1 – LGU

By [Bombo Radyo Kalibo](#)

-January 15, 2021 | 11:36 PM

KALIBO, Aklan – Simula sa Pebrero 1, pormal nang ipapatupad ang Municipal Ordinance No. 431 series of 2020 na nagtatakda sa pagpapataas ng singil sa environmental fees sa mga turistang pumapasok sa isla ng Boracay.

Ang naturang ordinansa ay inaprubahan ng Sangguniang Panlalawigan noong nakaraang Nobyembre 9.

Mula sa dating P75, ang environmental fee ay tataas na sa P150 sa mga local tourist na hindi Aklanon.

Ang mga senior citizens, PWDs at mga estudyante ay P120.

Samantala ang environmental fee para sa mga foreign tourists ay P300 na.

Nauna dito, sinabi ni Malay councilor Maylynn Aguirre Graf na kailangan ng LGU-Malay ang naturang revenue-generating project upang mapondohan ang mga gastos sa tourism infrastructure at pangangalaga sa isla.

Sa kabilang dako, inihayag ng ilang turista na wala sa “timing” ang naturang hakbang lalo pa at nahaharap sa pandemya ang bansa.

Dagdag gastos lamang aniya ito sa mga gustong magbakasyon maliban sa hinihinging mahal na RT-PCR tests.

Source: <https://www.bomboradyo.com/environmental-fee-sa-boracay-tataas-na-simula-pebrero-1-lgu/>



## DENR starts inventory of migratory bird population Davao region

Published January 15, 2021, 7:50 AM

by [Zea Capistrano](#)

**DAVAO CITY** – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources Region 11 (DENR-11) has started bird counting activities in different municipalities in the region to gain information on the population of migratory birds and monitor the status of wetlands.



Egrets feast on a drained pond in Barangay Caganghohan in Panabo City. (Manila Bulletin / File photo / Keith Bacongco)

In a statement, the DENR-XI said the bird watching and counting activities were being conducted through its Protected Area Management and Biodiversity Conservation Section (PAMBCS).

It added that the activities were in line with the Annual Asian Waterfowl Census (AWC) for migratory birds.

“There are nine migratory flyways in the world and one of which is the East Asian-Australasian Flyway where the Philippines is a part of it. All these flyways are also conducting its census,” the DENR said Monday.

It said migratory birds from other countries, such as Siberia, China, Korea, Japan, Australia and New Zealand, come in numbers during the annual bird migration season, which begins in September and extends until February of the following year.





## DENR starts inventory of migratory bird population Davao region

“The migratory birds prefer the Philippine wetlands for their nesting, feeding and breeding grounds while escaping the cold season from their country of origin,” DENR said.

“Last week, DENR-11 team, together with one of its partner bird expert and photographer Pete Simpson, sighted several migratory birds including the critically-endangered Chinese Crested Tern in Carmen, Davao del Norte,” it said

Carmen town was among the areas being monitored by the PAMBCS. The other areas were Busaon, Davao del Norte; Banaybanay and San Isidro, Davao Oriental; Malalag and Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur and; Bucana, Davao City.

To raise awareness about the significance of migratory birds, the DENR said the World Migratory Bird Day is being celebrated every second Saturday in May and in October every year. It said the Wetlands Day is also celebrated every February 2 of each year “to highlight the importance of conserving and protecting waterfowls and its habitat. “

“In the Philippines, volunteers from all sectors are encouraged to join this annual census for them to learn and appreciate the importance of the migration season and its flyways as stop overs for the birds,” it added.

The DENR also reminded the public that illegal hunting and selling of migratory birds is strictly prohibited.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/01/15/denr-starts-inventory-of-migratory-bird-population-davao-region/>



## Iloilo town's wildlife park breeds endangered bird

By Perla Lena January 15, 2021, 2:34 pm



**SUCCESSFUL BREEDING.** “Bebong” (first from left) is the newest writhed-billed hornbill to be born in captivity inside the Mari-it Wildlife and Conservation Park in Barangay Jayubo in Lambunao, Iloilo. The male chick got out from the nest on December 28, 2020 and was able to flap its wings and fly on January 10, 2021.

(Photo courtesy of Jennifer Osorio)

**ILOILO CITY** – A newly-bred writhed-billed hornbill, considered as the world’s second most critically endangered hornbill, has given hope to its kind when it finally flew last week while in captivity inside the Mari-it Wildlife and Conservation Park in Barangay Jayubo in Lambunao town, Iloilo.

Dr. JB Ian G. Bullo, Veterinarian 2 of the West Visayas State University-College of Agriculture and Forestry (WVSU-CAF) and assigned at the park, said that the male chick hornbill got out from the nest on December 28, 2020 and was able to flap its wings and fly on January 10.

“It took around one and half-month before we heard chirps from the newborn chick,” he said in a phone interview on Friday.

Only one pair was able to breed and only one egg was laid and hatched, he said.

The Park has 15 birds of this species also known as “dulungan” or the Visayan wrinkled hornbill.

The bird is monogamous and its mate serves as its partner for life.

The breeding period of hornbills usually starts every September. It is the male that prepares the nest.



## Iloilo town's wildlife park breeds endangered bird

“Losing their partner will greatly affect breeding as they will not breed with other birds that they are not compatible with. When the female starts to lay eggs, it will seal itself in a hollow tree trunk and rely on the male partner to feed her and the future chick. If the male is killed while the female is still sealed together with its chick, they may suffer and die due to hunger,” he added.

Currently, they are still observing the new chick if it is independent enough to collect its own food. While it can already fly, it still relies on its parents for food.

Bullo said usually it will take a month, after leaving the nest, that the chick can already be separated from its parents.

They plan to name the hornbill as "Bebong" after the current president of the university.

The veterinarian said that the support extended by the university, local government unit of Lambunao, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and the Talarak Foundation Inc., helped a lot in the successful breeding of the bird.

He recalled that on his first year at the park in 2018, a pair aborted breeding. It was suspected that the failed breeding was due to nutrition issues.

A female chick was hatched in 2019 but it died after two months. The necropsy showed the chick had an injury on its left hind limb and there were signs of gastrointestinal problems.

“We were not able to place the best ration and nest as we are still constricted by financial concerns so we have to make use of what we have. Our goal is to satisfy both the nutritional and environmental requirement, as close as possible, to the optimum condition while being economical,” he said.

He added that this time, they are fortunate to have successful breeding; the chick left its nest alive and showed no visible deformities or signs of disease.

The last successful breeding inside the center was in 2011, a female hornbill, he said.

As breeding the endangered bird is delicate, Bullo said that they need all the help they could get to ensure its success.



## Iloilo town's wildlife park breeds endangered bird

“We need to give the birds optimum rations and facilities not only during the breeding season but whole year-round in order for the birds to stay in the right condition to breed again. Operating expense remains the biggest hurdle of the center and help of any kind is very much welcome,” he said.

Meantime, Lambunao tourism officer Jennifer Osorio said that apart from the support from the local government unit, the quarantine period has helped a lot because their environment was not disturbed.

“Somehow our endangered species were also stressed every time there are visitors,” she said.

Since the season for breeding is over and the restrictions have relaxed a bit, Osorio said that the park is already open and visitors can view the baby hornbill.

However, health protocols such as wearing face masks, logging in and out, and stepping on a foot bath for disinfection must be observed.

Mari-it (enchanted) is the first conservation, breeding, and rescue park in Panay Island. It is situated in a 1,000-hectare lot within the 3,000-hectare campus of the WVSU-CAF in Barangay Jayubo, some 16 kilometers away from the town of Lambunao.

Apart from the Visayan writhed hornbill and endangered Visayan tarictic hornbill, the park also hosts the endangered Visayan spotted deer; critically endangered Visayan warty pig; vulnerable Visayan leopard cat, and the cloud rat, among others.

The wildlife and conservation park is being promoted as an eco-tourism site having two springs and rich flora and fauna. *(PNA)*

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1127475>



News5

9h ·



Ibinahagi ng Masungi Georeserve ang kuha nila sa isang dragontail butterfly na makikita sa kanilang wildlife sanctuary. Isa ito sa mga pinakamaliit na paruparo sa swallowtail family (Papilionidae) at isa rin sa species na may transparent na pakpak.

: Kal Joffres / Masungi Georeserve Foundation





## Septic tank project turns into illegal treasure hunt



SIGNS. Florida Fortaliza (right) tells Lapu-Lapu City Mayor Junard Chan (left) that they found signs pointing to a treasure buried in their community. / ALAN TANGCAWAN

January 16, 2021

WHAT was originally an excavation for a septic tank turned into an illegal treasure hunt after some residents of Sitio Hawaiian, Brgy. Marigondon in Lapu-Lapu City claimed to have found signs pointing to an unknown treasure.

Three people, who initiated the excavation, were invited to appear before the Lapu-Lapu City Police Station 4. They are Florida Fortaliza, Edward Mangubat Caro and Ryan Fortaliza.

Lapu-Lapu City Mayor Junard Chan and Police Colonel Arnel Banzon, head of the Lapu-Lapu City Police Office, inspected the site Friday morning, Jan. 15, 2021, after reports about the excavation reached the Mayor's Office.

The hole, with a depth of at least 10 feet, was covered with a wooden board, a sofa and other materials.

Chan said the hole appeared to be bigger than what is normally required for a septic tank.

“We saw that what they did was not for an ordinary septic tank. It is clear that they are looking for something. It is possible that this is a treasure hunt,” Chan said, citing the ladders that were found in the hole.



## Septic tank project turns into illegal treasure hunt

### Denial

Florida Fortaliza initially denied that they were looking for treasure.

She said they started digging in September 2019 to construct a septic tank that would benefit five households in the area.

“That’s not treasure hunting. That’s for our drainage,” she said.

Fortaliza said personnel from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and Solid Waste Management Office of Lapu-Lapu City already inspected the site and ordered them to stop digging.

Fortaliza said they stopped excavating in May 2020.

As Chan relentlessly questioned her, she admitted that the purpose of the excavation shifted to treasure hunting after they found signs pointing to a treasure that may have been buried in the area.

“That should have been a septic tank. But we saw some signs of a treasure. So we continued digging,” she said.

She showed the mayor some documents, including one that says “treasure under.”

### Permit

No permit has been issued for the excavation.

Lawyer James Sayson of the Lapu-Lapu City Legal Office, said any excavation needs a permit from the DENR.

“Application for a permit is a tedious process. If a treasure is found other than heritage or cultural items, the government would get a bigger share,” Sayson said.



## Septic tank project turns into illegal treasure hunt

Among others, he said those who dug the hole are required to restore it. In mining, permittees are required to restore and rehabilitate the mined out area when the resources are already depleted.

Sayson said he was not certain about the penalties that await those who conduct illegal excavations such as the one in Sitio Hawaiian.

Aside from investigating the illegal treasure hunt, Banzon said they will also look into the security aspects of such activities.

“If there is no permit, any treasure hunt is illegal. We can’t just arbitrarily dig anywhere just because we think there is a treasure,” he said. / **NDT**





## Group weighs in on vaccine assistance from mining



LEYTE. Leyte provincial council members hold an on-site inspection at the mining site in MacArthur town. (Contributed photo)

**RONALD O. REYES**

January 15, 2021

AN ANTI-MINING group has expressed its reservation over the plan of a mining company to help finance the procurement of vaccines against coronavirus disease (Covid-19) in Leyte.

“The national government has all the machineries and resources to ensure its citizens are safely vaccinated. The intention may be good but it will only further divide the people,” said Fara Diva Gamalo of Freedom from Debt Coalition (FDC)-Eastern Visayas.

“They can help the people of McArthur and nearby towns without destroying the land. They can donate the funds to improve the agriculture sector,” added Gamalo, whose group is helping the Save MacArthur Leyte Movement (Samacamo) in its resistance to the black sand mining operation in Macarthur, Leyte.

“Mining the area will only worsen the food security problem especially these times where almost all our rice-producing towns in the region were submerged in water,” Gamalo told Sunstar Philippines.

The MacArthur Iron Sand Project Corp. (MIPC), which invested around P500 million in its operation, said that it is “deliberating” on how much fund it would allocate for the vaccines.



## Group weighs in on vaccine assistance from mining

"We intend to supplement the vaccine supply because this is a primary need in this pandemic," the MIPC management said on Thursday, January 14, 2021.

MIPC said it will present its proposal to the Provincial Government of Leyte since it is not authorized to transact with vaccine companies.

"If we can consolidate all efforts, the impact will be great," said MIPC, adding that it recommended the local residents as priority in their vaccine allocation.

MIPC, which obtained mining claims of around 300 hectares for three years in MacArthur, has hired around 300 workers in the said town alone.

Amid the Covid-19 pandemic, MIPC management said it continued with its health assistance to the residents in MacArthur through its medical mission and distribution of medical equipment, medicines, and rescue gears.

Meanwhile, MacArthur parish priest Amadeo Alvero expressed concern over MIPC's initiative, saying "there is a string attached to that move."

"I think it is meant to lead MacArthurnons to consent to their operation of mining. But if the people accept that, I would respect their decision," Alvero said.

According to Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB)-Eastern Visayas, MIPC is "one of the priority mining projects tapped by the government to help the economy which is adversely affected by Covid-19."

MGB Regional Director Leo Van Juguan earlier said MPIC is "compliant" in their mining operations.

MIPC was given mining claims of 2,300 hectares in MacArthur, Javier, and Abuyog towns in Leyte. (**SunStar Philippines**)

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1882901/Tacloban/Local-News/Group-weighs-in-on-vaccine-assistance-from-mining>



## 551 new Covid-19 recoveries raise total to 459K: DOH

By Raymond Carl Dela Cruz January 15, 2021, 5:10 pm



**NEW RECOVERIES.** The Department of Health's (DOH) daily coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) bulletin released on Friday (Jan. 15, 2021). The DOH reported 551 new recoveries and 2,048 new Covid-19 cases. (PNA)

**MANILA** – The Department of Health (DOH) on Friday reported 551 new recoveries from the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19), raising the total recoveries to 459,737 or 92.6 percent of all Covid-19 infections in the country.

In its daily Covid-19 bulletin, the DOH also reported 2,048 new cases, with active cases now at 27,033 or 5.4 percent of all Covid-19 infections.

Bulacan reported the highest number of new infections with 98, followed by Davao City with 89, Pangasinan with 84, the city of Manila with 80, and Leyte with 73.

Of the active cases, the majority at 84.5 percent are experiencing mild symptoms, followed by the asymptomatic at 7.4 percent, those in critical condition at 4.9 percent, those with severe symptoms at 2.8 percent, and those with moderate symptoms at 0.42 percent.

Some 137 new deaths from Covid-19 were also reported, bringing the country's death toll to 9,876 or 1.99 percent of all Covid-19 infections in the country.

Many of the country's Covid-19 facilities remain available, with 60 percent of 2,100 beds at intensive care units (ICU) unoccupied, 62 percent of 16,400 isolation beds still available, 73 percent of 8,000 ward beds unoccupied, and 78 percent of the country's 2,100 ventilators not in use.



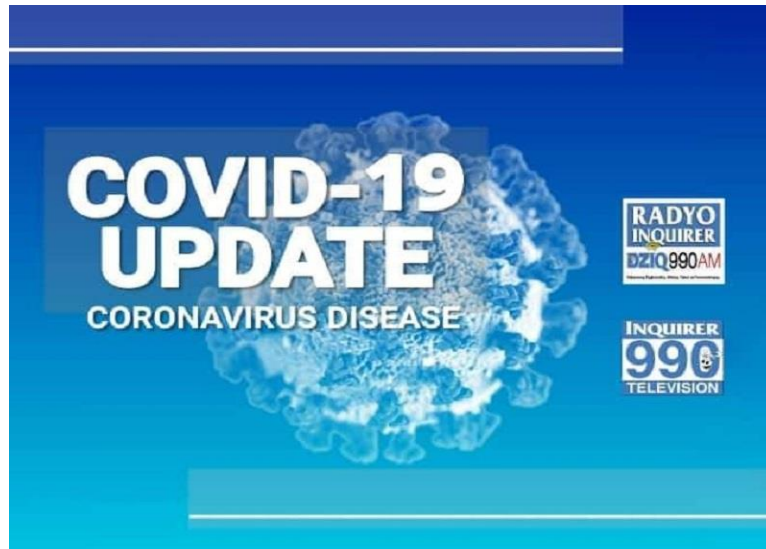
## 551 new Covid-19 recoveries raise total to 459K: DOH

Following the first reported case of the new variant of Covid-19 in Quezon City, the DOH called on the public to continue following the “BIDA Solusyon” minimum public health standards such as always wearing face masks and shields, proper physical distancing, and regular hand washing or sanitizing after touching any objects. *(PNA)*



## Kaso ng COVID-19 sa mundo, sumampa na sa 93.53 milyon

By Angellic Jordan January 15, 2021 - 01:51 PM



Pumalo na sa mahigit 93.53 milyon ang bilang ng kumpirmadong kaso ng COVID-19 sa buong mundo.

Batay sa huling tala, pumalo na sa kabuuang 93,533,917 ang tinamaan ng nakakahawang sakit sa iba't ibang bansa.

Nangunguna pa rin sa may pinakamaraming naitalang kaso ng COVID-19 ang Estados Unidos na may 23,848,410 cases.

Sumunod na rito ang India na may 10,528,508 na nagpositibo sa pandemiya.

Nasa 8,326,115 naman ang kaso sa Brazil habang 3,495,816 ang napaulat na kaso sa Russia.

Narito naman ang naitalang COVID-19 cases sa iba pang bansa at teritoryo:

- United Kingdom - 3,260,258
- France - 2,851,670
- Turkey - 2,364,801
- Italy - 2,336,279
- Spain - 2,211,967
- Germany - 2,004,011
- Colombia - 1,849,101
- Argentina - 1,770,715
- Mexico - 1,588,369
- Poland - 1,414,362
- Iran - 1,311,810



## Kaso ng COVID-19 sa mundo, sumampa na sa 93.53 milyon

- South Africa - 1,296,806
- Ukraine - 1,138,764
- Peru - 1,048,662

Samantala, lumabas din sa pinakahuling datos na umakyat na sa kabuuang 2,002,411 ang bilang ng nasawi sa iba't ibang bansa.

Nasa 66,835,146 naman ang total recoveries ng COVID-19 pandemic sa buong mundo.

Read more: <https://radyo.inquirer.net/283006/kaso-ng-covid-19-sa-mundo-sumampa-na-sa-93-53-milyon#ixzz6jeggmsA3>

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## KATAKOT-TAKOT NA AWAY SA BAKUNA DAPAT ISANTABI



January 15, 2021 @ 12:57 PM 17 hours ago

KAHIT saan, may mga nag-aaway-away sa bakuna kontra coronavirus disease o COVID-19.

Bawat bansa, may kanya-kanyang katwiran kung ano o ano-ano ang kanilang gagamiting bakuna at kung bakit ayaw nila ang isang bakuna.

Maging sa loob mismo ng mga bansa, may mga nag-aaway-away rin.

Kung tutuusin, nakalilito na ang kalagayan, lalo na sa mga bansang hindi pa napolisimulan ang pagbabakuna gaya ng ating bansa.

### **BISA AT LIGTAS**

Bago natin ipagpatuloy ang lahat ng diskusyon dito, kabilang sa mga pinakamahalagang usapin sa bakuna sa COVID-19 ang kung epektibo at ligtas gamitin.

Ngayon, napakahalagang isipin na bago ang lahat ng bakuna at kinakailangan ang mahabang panahon bago masabi talaga kung mabisa at ligtas ang mga ito at pwedeng gamitin ng lahat ng tao sa lahat ng oras.

Bilang pruwera, mga Bro, sa puntong ito, hindi kaila sa atin ang sumemplang na bakuna sa dengue na Dengvaxia.



## **KATAKOT-TAKOT NA AWAY SA BAKUNA DAPAT ISANTABI**

Bago nagbakuna ang gobyernong Benigno Aquino III noong unang linggo ng Abril 2016, sinabi ng Sanofi Pasteur na tapos na ang clinical trial sa Dengvaxia sa 10 bansa at sinabing epektibo na, ligtas pa sa panganib ang sinomang matuturuan nito.

Hayun na nga at naging paspasan ang pagbabakuna na umabot sa mahigit 800,000, higit karamihan ay bata sa mga public school mula edad 9.

Dumating ang Disyembre 2017 o anim na buwan makaraang maluklok si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte sa Malakanyang, anak ng tokwa, umamin na ang Sanofi Pasteur na delikado pala sa sinomang hindi pa nagkaka-dengue ang nasabing bakuna.

Ngayon nga ay sinasabi ng Public Attorney's Office na pinamumunuan ni Atty. Persida Acosta na nasa 600 na ang namatay sa Dengvaxia at nasa 150 biktima na ang ginawan ng kaso laban sa grupo ni dating Secretary of Health at ngayo'y Congresswoman Janette Garin ng iba't ibang kaso gaya ng homicide at paglabag sa anti-torture law.

Apektado umano ang 10 porsyento ng mga naturukan at matatapos ang obserbasyon dito sa taong 2022.

Wala kayang magiging Dengvaxia sa mga pinag-aawayang bakuna sa COVID-19 ngayon?

### **AWAY NG MGA BANSA AT KOMPANYA**

Iba't ibang anyo ang mga awayan ng mga bansa at kompanya ukol sa mga bakuna laban sa COVID-19.

Ang AstraZeneca, halimbawa, na inaprubahan ng United Kingdom bilang bakuna na ginagawa sa UK at nagsimula na ring gawin sa India, ay ayaw gamitin sa Australia dahil mababa umano ang bisa nito na nasa 65 porsyento kumpara sa 90% ng Pfizer na gawa ng Amerikano at Moderna na gawa pa rin ng Amerikano.

Imadyin, ginagawa na ang AstraZeneca mismo sa Australia pero ayaw gamitin ng mga Australiano.

Pero itong bakunang Sinovac ang ngayo'y sentro ng awayan dahil sa magkakaibang bisa nito na lumalabas.

Sa Brazil, sinasabing 50.4 porsyento ang bisa nito samantalang sa Turkey, 91% naman umano at sa Indonesia, 65%.





## **KATAKOT-TAKOT NA AWAY SA BAKUNA DAPAT ISANTABI**

Sumagot naman mismo ang kompanyang Sinovac sa pagsasabing 100% na nakapipigil ito ng severe na COVID-19 at 79 ang bisa sa mga nangangailangan ng pangagamot samantalang 50% sa mga asymptomatic.

Patunay ng kompanyang Sinovac, may 7 milyon nang nababakunahan mismo sa China ng Sinovac at walang naiulat na namamatay rito kundi gumaling sa sakit.

Kasama ang Sinovac sa nasa limang bakunang gawang China na ginagamit laban sa pandemya simula pa noong Setyembre 2020 at target na mabakunahan ang 50 milyong Chinese bago mag-Chinese New Year sa Pebrero 12, 2021 bilang panlaban sa posibleng hawaan sanhi ng okasyong ito.

Dahil sa report sa Brazil, may mga bansang gustong malaman ang totoo bago kumuha o bumili ng Sinovac.

Ang gawa naman ng Russia na 95% umanong mabisa ay iniismiran naman ng mga may gawa ng Pfizer at Moderna.

At dinadamay na rin nila ang mga gawang China.

Pero may ikinukubling dahilan ng mga nag-aaway-away na bansa at kompanya: ang pagkopo nila ng merkado o tindahan ng kanilang mga produktong bakuna para sila kumita ng limpak-limpak na salapi.

### **MAKATWIRANG POSISYON NG SINGAPORE**

Ang Singapore na gustong magkaroon ng Sinovac na siyang ibinabakuna na sa Indonesia makaraang magpabakuna mismo si President Joko Widodo at Turkey na rin ay may ibang katwiran ukol sa Sinovac.

Sinabi ng pamahalaang Singapore na wala silang pakialam sa mga nag-aaway-ayaw sa bisa ng bakuna.

Ang tanging gusto nila ay ang malinaw na pahayag mismo ng kompanyang Sinovac ukol sa bisa at ligtas na paggamit ng nasabing bakuna.

Magiging matibay na batayan na kaya sa kredibilidad ng Sinovac ang pahayag ng kompanyang gumagawa nito na gumaling at gumagaling ang 7 milyong Chinese sa pandemya at pag-apruba ng Turkey at Indonesia rito?



## **KATAKOT-TAKOT NA AWAY SA BAKUNA DAPAT ISANTABI**

### **SA PILIPINAS NAMAN**

May mga nag-aaway-away rin sa mahal kong Pinas, lalo na ukol sa Sinovac.

At ang pinalalabas lang na dahilan ng mga umaayaw sa bakunang ito ay ang rekord sa Brazil at ayaw tanggapin ang rekord sa China, Turkey at Indonesia.

At ang gusto ng mga umaayaw ay ang gawang mga Amerikano na Pfizer at Moderna at gawang United Kingdom o Europeo na AstraZeneca o kaya'y Sputnik V ng Russia.

Itong mga kritiko ng administrasyong Duterte ang lumalabas na pinaka sa lahat ng mga umaayaw dahil isa ito sa kanilang paraan ng paninira.

Binibigyan kasi ng puwang ng Pangulo ang Sinovac na isa ito sa lahat ng mga bakuna na pupwedeng angkatin at gamitin sa pagbabakuna.

Ayon sa United States Food and Drug Administration at World Health Organization, basta nakaabot ang isang bakuna sa 50%-70%, kinikilala na itong mabisa sa virus o bakteriya na paggagamitan nito.

Sampol dito ang flu vaccine na may bisang 40-60% pero milyon-milyong tao sa buong mundo ang naliligtas nito sa pagpapaospital at kamatayan.

At ito ang isa sa mga pinanghahawakan ng ating pamahalaan, partikular ang Food and Drug Administration, na sukatan sa pag-apruba ng bakuna na gagamitin sa mahal kong Pinas.

Ayon sa ating Uzi, mga Bro, ang pamantayan at pag-apruba ng ating Food and Drug Administration sa isang bakuna, anoman ang brand o tatak at saanman at kanino man gawa ito, ang siyang mapagpasya.

Pero may iba pang mga dapat na isaalang-alang.

Kung allergic ka sa gamot at pagkain, maaaring bagsak ka sa kwalipikadong mabakunahan ng bakuna sa COVID-19.

Kung edad 16-18 pababa ka, posible ring hindi ka mababakunahan sa katwirang hindi pa buo ang iyong katawan na tumanggap ng bakunang pang-COVID-19.

Kaya dapat na isantabi ang mga awayan at magpabakuna ang dapat na magpabakuna o may gusto nito para matapos na ang delubyong pandemya.



## 14 lindol, 36 rockfall naitala sa Mt. Mayon; alert level 1 pa rin



January 15, 2021 @ 7:31 PM 10 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Patuloy pa ring binabantayan ang Mt. Mayon dahil sa ilang pagyanig na naitala, batay sa Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Philvocs).

Sa datos, 14 volcanic earthquakes at 36 rockfall events na ang naiulat mula Jan. 1 hanggang 15.

“A crater glow is also observed on (the) summit at night time,” lahad ni Dr. Paul Karson Alanis, senior science research specialist and officer in charge sa Lignon Hill Mayon Volcano Observatory station sa Legazpi City.

Nananatili naman sa Alert Level 1 ang Bulkang Mayon. **RNT/FGDC**



## 6.2 quake kills 34 in Indonesia



By [Xinhua](#)  
January 16, 2021

**JAKARTA:** At least 34 people were killed and 14 others were buried under the rubble after a 6.2-magnitude quake jolted Indonesia's West Sulawesi province early Friday, the National Search and Rescue Office said.

"The report from the rescuers on the scene said at least 17 people became the victims of the quake. Pictures showed three bodies under big parts of debris," spokesman of the National Search and Rescue Office Yusuf Latief told Xinhua.



**QUAKE'S FAULT** Residents inspect earthquake-damaged buildings in Mamuju, West Sulawesi, Indonesia on Jan. 15, 2021. A strong inland and shallow earthquake hit eastern Indonesia early Friday causing people to panic in parts of the country's Sulawesi island and run to higher ground. PHOTO BY AP

Rescuers were struggling to pull out the victims under the rubble, head of the operation unit of the provincial search and rescue office Fathur Rahman told Xinhua via phone.

The quake destroyed hospitals, the main building of the governor office, hotels and houses in the province, said Fajri Mursalin, a rescuer at the provincial search and rescue office.

Rescuers, policemen and volunteers were struggling to extricate the victims trapped under the debris, the rescuer told Xinhua.



## 6.2 quake kills 34 in Indonesia

Reinforcement of personnel from the search and rescue office in the province have been sent to quake-hit Majene district, which was also impacted by the quake, he said.

“Three people are dead and 24 are injured,” said National Disaster Mitigation Agency spokesman Raditya Jati.

The country’s search and rescue agency also confirmed that at least one hotel had collapsed.



## 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.



## Oceans' temp record-high in '20 – study

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.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/01/15/news/world/oceans-temp-record-high-in-20-study/827803/>

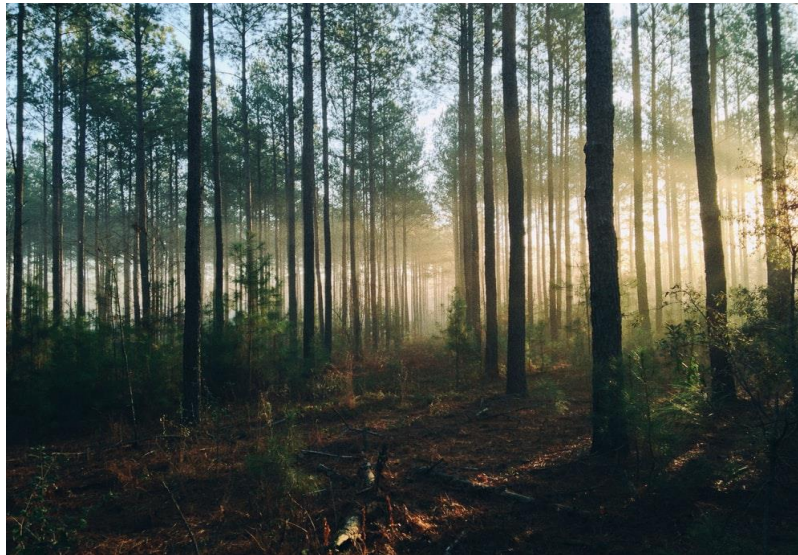


## Forests may flip from CO<sub>2</sub> 'sink' to 'source' by 2050

Published January 15, 2021, 8:39 AM

[by Agence France-Presse](#)

Forests and other land ecosystems today absorb 30 percent of humanity's CO<sub>2</sub> pollution, but rapid global warming could transform these natural 'sinks' into carbon 'sources' within a few decades, opening another daunting front in the fight against climate change, alarmed researchers have said.



(UNSPLASH / MANILA BULLETIN)

Climate sceptics often describe CO<sub>2</sub> as "plant food", suggesting that increased greenhouse gas emissions will be offset by a massive upsurge in plant growth.

But the new study shows that beyond a certain temperature threshold — which varies according to region and species — the capacity of plants to absorb CO<sub>2</sub> declines.

Under current greenhouse gas emission trends, plants across half the globe's terrestrial ecosystem could start to release carbon into the atmosphere faster than they sequester it by the end of the century, researchers reported this week in *Science Advances*.

Ecosystems that store the most CO<sub>2</sub> — especially tropical and boreal forests — could lose more than 45 percent of their capacity as carbon sponges by mid-century, a team led by Katharyn Duffy from Northern Arizona University found.

"Anticipated higher temperatures associated with elevated CO<sub>2</sub> could degrade land carbon uptake," said the study, based not on modelling but data collected over a period of 25 years.





## Forests may flip from CO<sub>2</sub> 'sink' to 'source' by 2050

Failure to take this into account leads to a “gross overestimation” of the role Earth’s vegetation might play in reducing global warming, the researchers warned.

“The temperature tipping point of the terrestrial biosphere lies not at the end of the century or beyond, but within the next 20 to 30 years.”

Key to understanding how this could happen is the difference between photosynthesis and respiration, two chemical processes essential to plant life that respond differently to rising temperatures.

Drawing energy from sunlight, plants absorb carbon dioxide through their leaves and water from the soil, producing sugar to boost growth and oxygen, which is released into the air.

This is photosynthesis, which can only happen when there is daylight.

By contrast, the transfer of energy to cells through respiration — with CO<sub>2</sub> excreted as a waste product — happens around the clock.

### Tipping points

To find out if there is a temperature beyond which land-based ecosystems would start to absorb less CO<sub>2</sub>, Duffy and her team analyzed records from a global observation network, called FLUXNET, spanning 1991 to 2015.

FLUXNET essentially tracks the movement of CO<sub>2</sub> between ecosystems and the atmosphere.

They found that global photosynthesis peaks at certain temperatures, depending on the type of plant, and then declines thereafter.

Respirations rates, however, increase across all types of ecosystems without appearing to reach a maximum threshold.

“At higher temperatures, respiration rates continue to rise in contrast to sharply declining rates of photosynthesis,” the study found.

If carbon pollution continue unabated, this divergence will could see the CO<sub>2</sub> absorption drop by half as early as 2040.

“We are rapidly entering temperature regimes where biosphere productivity will precipitously decline, calling into question the future viability of the land sink,” the researchers concluded.

The findings also call into question the integrity of many national commitments under the Paris Agreement — known as nationally determined contributions, or NDCs — to reduce greenhouse gases.



## Forests may flip from CO<sub>2</sub> 'sink' to 'source' by 2050

"These rely heavily on land uptake of carbon to meet pledges," the authors point out.

The study notes that capping global warming under two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, the cornerstone target of the 2015 Paris climate treaty, "allows for near-current levels of biosphere productivity, preserving the majority of land carbon uptakes."

Earth has warmed at least 1.1C so far, and is currently on track to heat up another two to three degrees by century's end unless emissions are rapidly and drastically reduced.

In 2019, a football pitch of primary, old-growth trees was destroyed in the tropics every six seconds — about 38,000 square kilometres (14,500 square miles) in all, according to satellite data.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/01/15/forests-may-flip-from-co2-sink-to-source-by-2050/>

16 JANUARY 2021, Saturday



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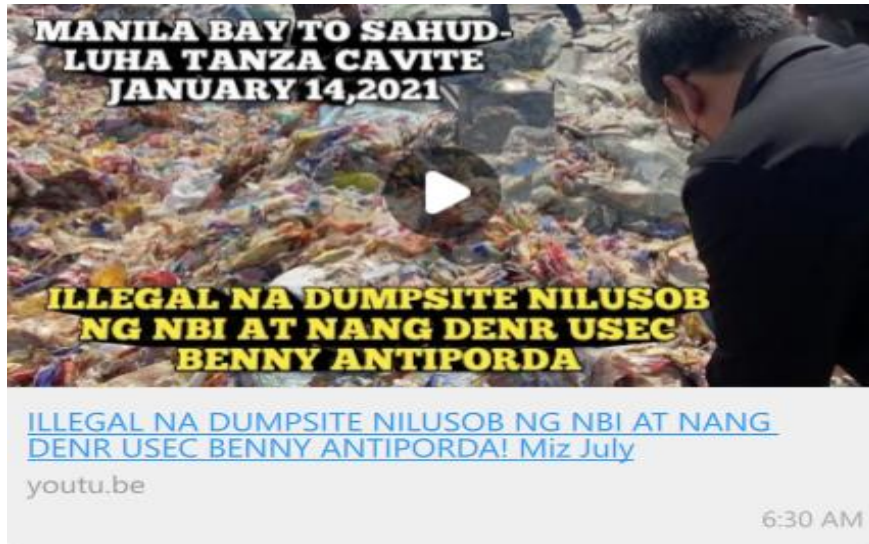
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