

16 JULY 2021, FRIDAY



DENR

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



1,103 LGUs now have approved solid waste mgmt plans, DENR chief says

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA JULY 15, 2021



Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu

A total of 1,103 local government units now have their approved 10-year solid waste management plans, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) announced on Thursday.

The latest batch of 21 LGUs to have their solid waste management (SWM) plans approved by the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) include 4 LGUs from Ilocos Norte, 4 from Misamis Occidental, 2 from Zambales, 2 from Bohol, 2 from Lanao del Norte, and each from Nueva Ecija, Quezon province, Negros Oriental, Misamis Oriental, Surigao del Sur, Benguet, and Mountain Province.

“These SWM plans shall be the foundation for the effective solid waste management of cities and municipalities through the leadership of their local executives,” said Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary and National Solid Waste Management Council (NSWMC) Chair Roy A. Cimatu said in a news statement.

“These newly-approved plans are commitments of the NSWMC to capacitate LGUs. The commission shall continue to support them by approving fully compliant and sound SWM plans and overseeing the implementation of these plans,” he added.

DENR Undersecretary for SWM and Local Government Unit Concerns and NSWMC Alternate Chair Benny D. Antiporda said the commission is optimistic that it will be able to reach its total target of 1,716 SWM plans soon.

There are a total of 146 cities and 1,488 municipalities in 81 provinces nationwide.

Each LGU is required to come up with their 10-year solid waste management plans under Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

“Upcoming deliberations and reviews of other SWM plans of LGUs that are not yet approved will continue in the coming months,” Antiporda said.

“We will not waver until all LGUs in the country effectively practice the proper reuse, collection, processing, and disposal of wastes in their respective jurisdictions,” he assured.

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/07/15/1103-igus-now-have-approved-solid-waste-mgmt-plans-denr-chief-says/>



DENR eyes raps vs LGUs that snubbed solid waste management plan requirement

Published July 15, 2021, 12:45 PM

by [Ellson Quismorio](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) bared Thursday, July 15 that it is investigating the local government units (LGUs) that have so far failed to submit their 10-year solid waste management (SWM) plans.



(Photo by Antoine Giret/ Unsplash)

The agency said in a statement that legal actions will be taken against the erring LGUs by the end of the third quarter of 2021.

Under Republic Act (RA) No.9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, LGUs, through their local solid waste management boards, are tasked to formulate their respective 10-year SWM plans consistent with the National Solid Waste Management Framework of the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC).

The SWM plans include strategies on waste diversion, waste collection efficiency or coverage, collection and disposal of residual waste, operation and maintenance of SWM equipment and facility.

In the same statement, the DENR said that 64 percent or 1,103 out of the total target of 1,716 SWM plans nationwide have already been greenlighted by NSWMC.

“These SWM plans shall be the foundation for the effective solid waste management of cities and municipalities through the leadership of their local executives,” said DENR Secretary and NSWMC Chairman Roy A. Cimatu.

The latest batch of SWM plan approvals covered 21 LGUs. Of these, four are in Ilocos Norte, four in Misamis Occidental, two in Zambales, two in Bohol, two in Lanao del Norte, and one each in Nueva Ecija, Quezon province, Negros Oriental, Misamis Oriental, Surigao del Sur, Benguet, and Mountain Province.

“These newly-approved plans are commitments of the NSWMC to capacitate LGUs. The commission shall continue to support them by approving fully compliant and sound SWM plans and overseeing the implementation of these plans,” Cimatu added.

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“Upcoming deliberations and reviews of other SWM plans of LGUs that are not yet approved will continue in the coming months. We will not waver until all LGUs in the country effectively practice the proper reuse, collection, processing, and disposal of wastes in their respective jurisdictions,” Antiporda said.



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DENR, planong kasuhan ang mga LGU na walang isinumiteng solid waste management plans

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Cimatu: Environmental law enforcement summit timely to revisit, update ENR policies

Published on: July 15, 2021

By Kate Shiene Agna

QUEZON CITY -- The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will conduct the 4th National Environmental Law Enforcement (NELE) Summit on July 14-16, 2021, to provide updates on efforts to prevent and fight environmental crimes.

Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said that holding the NELE summit during this health crisis is "a good opportunity to revisit the environmental law enforcement (ELE) components to make sure they are updated, and to make sure that the policies are relevant and timely."

"There could never be a much better time for holding the NELE summit, as it is during this quarantine that we have more challenges in apprehending environmental law violators who are taking advantage of the immobility and lesser resources that we have," Cimatu said.

According to Cimatu, holding the NELE Summit this 2021 is "especially significant, especially when most environment and natural resources (ENR) laws are already 20 years old and older, and during this time that the agency gears up for the creation of an Enforcement Bureau."

"The previous NELE Action Plan has already expired last 2020. With this summit, we hope to create a new Action Plan that would serve the needs of the ever-changing and evolving modern society," Cimatu said.

With the theme, "Sustaining inter-agency collaborations for intensified ELE towards a better environment amidst pandemic," the NELE Summit has been a venue for updating the latest developments on ELE, such as new laws and policies, implementing guidelines, programs, and tools and technologies.

It has also been the venue for ensuring continuous coordination and cooperation among the agencies involved and giving recognition to partner-agencies and institutions, as well as individuals.

During the summit, participants are expected to share their respective agencies' and branches' major highlights or milestones on ELE for the last 15 years; identify the contribution of the agencies in mainstreaming environmental and natural resources protection in the national strategies and policies; and formulate responsive strategies that will expedite actions for urgent ENR concerns in support of Philippine development.



They are also expected to receive information on the state of the environment, that is, state of the forest and protected areas including the caves and wildlife resources, urban environment and marine and coastal areas including the fishery resources; review selected ELE technologies and identify needed advancement to cope up with the current enforcement needs and changes; and assess the implementation and update the ELE action plan. (DENR)



Environment Usec. Benny Antiporda tells One PH's #SaTotooLang that they are pushing to reopen the artificial beach in Manila as soon as possible now that the IATF is allowing outdoor tourism. DENR is also expanding the coverage of the dolomite beach.

WATCH: <https://bit.ly/3kiO7G6>

DOLOMITE BEACH

Usec. BENNY ANTIPORDA
DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
JULY 14, 2021
(On One PH's Sa Totoo Lang)

“ This can serve as a **safe haven to those people who are suffering from anxiety attacks.** Siguro 'pag nakita nila ito, it's something different, it's something na makakagaan sa kanilang pag-iisip sa gitna ng pandemic. ”

OneNews.ph | OneNewsPH | date pic: June 16, 2021

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"Wala hong nawalang dolomite."

Nagbigay ng maikling update si Environment Usec. Benny Antiporda sa status ng dolomite project sa Manila Bay sa programang #SaTotooLang ng One PH. Kailan kaya ito bubuksan sa publiko?

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UPDATE SA MANILA BAY 'WHITE SAND' PROJECT

Sa Totoo Lang, One PH



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Magpapadala ang gobyerno ng team sa West Philippine Sea para magsagawa ng water sampling kasunod ng ulat ng pagtatapon ng human waste doon, ayon kay Environment Usec. Benny Antiporda.

Nagbigay din ng personal na obserbasyon si Antiporda hinggil sa isyu sa panayam ng #SaTotooLang ng One PH. "Let us always remember na ang China, wala pong sariling dagat 'yan. 'Yan pong dagat na 'yan ang tanging karagatan nila na puwede silang mangisda. So hindi natin makita 'yung logic na bakit sisirain nila na dyan din sila nabubuhay."

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GOBYERNO, MAGPAPADALA NG TEAM SA WPS PARA MAGSAGAWA NG WATER SAMPLING

Sa Totoo Lang, One PH



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DENR, kukuha ng water samples mula sa West PHL Sea

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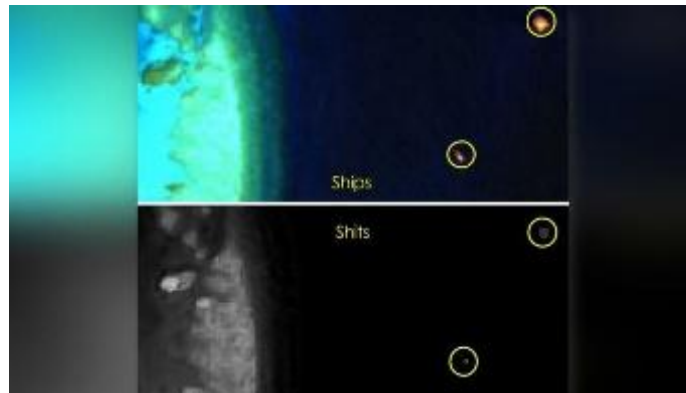
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Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=60IthCmabA8>



DENR, susuriin ang kalidad ng tubig sa WPS kasunod ng ulat na nagtatapon ang China ng dumi ng tao

By [RadyoMaN Manila](#) - Jul. 15, 2021 at 7:18am



Susuriin ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang water quality sa West Philippines Sea.

Ito ay kasunod ng mga ulat na may ilang barko ng China ang nagtatapon ng dumi ng tao sa karagatan.

Ayon kay Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda, aalamin nila ang mga lugar kung saan nangyayari ito.

Pero duda siya na totoong nagtatapon ng dumi ng tao sa West Philippines Sea.

Sa mga kumakalat na litrato, tingin ni Antiporda na hindi ito human waste pero oil spill.

Source: <https://rmn.ph/denr-susuriin-ang-kalidad-ng-tubig-sa-wps-kasunod-ng-ulat-na-nagtatapon-ang-china-ng-dumi-ng-tao/>



‘Phl not anyone’s toilet’

Our position now is just like our position when the administration of President Duterte returned shipping containers full of garbage to Canada

Published 8 hours ago on July 16, 2021 12:20 AM

By [Michelle R. Guillang](#) @tribunephil_mish



Malacañang on Thursday said it will issue a stern warning against China if reports on the alleged dumping of human feces in the West Philippine Sea (WPS) by Chinese vessels are accurate.

Presidential spokesperson reiterated that the national government has yet to verify a report by Similarity, a US-based tech company, that claimed that over the years, hundreds of Chinese ships have been seen unloading human wastes into the contested waters.

“First of all, we verify the reports before we make a response. However, our position now is just like our position when the administration of President Duterte returned shipping containers full of garbage to Canada,” Roque said.

“Of course, if we cannot bring the wastes back, they (Chinese government) will certainly hear harsh words and a serious warning that they should stop because the Philippines is not anyone’s toilet,” he added.

Earlier, the official said the Philippine government is giving China the “presumption of good faith” while the investigation into the Chinese ships allegedly discharging wastes in the WPS reportedly continues. Former foreign secretary Albert del Rosario raised concern about the incident considering the damage to the marine life of WPS.

“I think we should be concerned about the damage that is being done. We should try to validate this.... so, we can address the situation,” Del Rosario told reporters during the opposition coalition 1SAMBAYAN virtual media conference.

Should this be proven true, he suggested that the national government file a diplomatic protest against China.

“I don’t know whether we can send a protest at this time because there has to be a validation, but if this is factual, it’s worse,” he said.

Meanwhile, a House bill was filed by six lawmakers that seek to direct the House Committee on Aquaculture and Fisheries and Committee on Foreign Affairs to launch a probe into the issue.



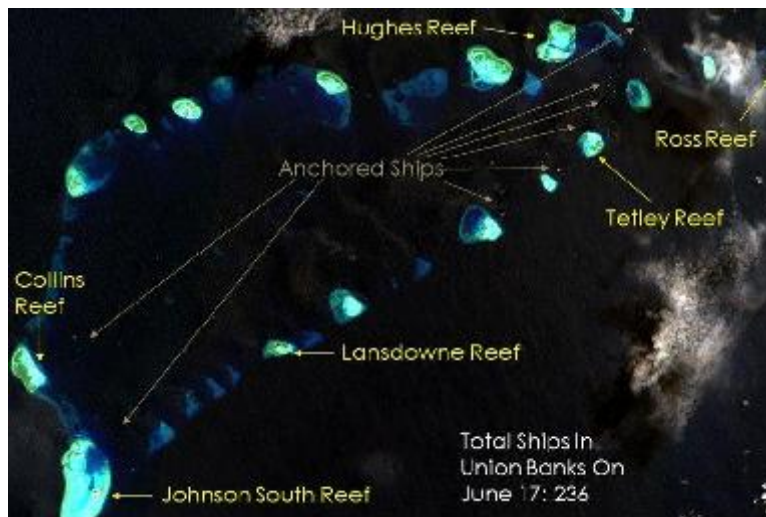
Gabriela Rep. Arlene Brosas, Carlos Zarate, Ferdinand Gaité, and Eufemia Cullamat (Bayan Muna Partylist); France Castro (ACT-Teachers Partylist); and Sarah Elago (Kabataan Partylist), collectively known as the Makabayan bloc, filed House Resolution 1961.

“This brazen act of Chinese vessels is a brazen manifestation of China’s utter disrespect to the sovereignty and landmark victory of the Philippines on the West Philippine Sea dispute,” the solons stated.

“The constant dumping of human waste and sewage of vessels seriously destroys the reefs and marine life in the West Philippine Sea. This could lead to a decrease of food supply and could eventually result in a hunger crisis for the entire world since the West Philippine Sea became the source of food for migratory fish,” they stated.

The lawmakers also lamented that this alleged practice could affect the source of livelihood of the Filipino fisherfolks.

Source: https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2021/07/16/phl-not-anyones-toilet/?_cf_chl_jschl_tk__=pmd_26aa4e7cdabba364061891fc4e6191d837bdcf0a-1626393087-0-gqNtZGzNAG2jcnBszQmi



This June 17, 2021 photo show anchored ships in Union Banks within the Philippine exclusive economic zone.

Similarity via European Space Agency

House probe sought into dumping of raw sewage in West Philippine Sea

(Philstar.com) - July 15, 2021 - 4:50pm

MANILA, Philippines — The Makabayan bloc in the House of Representatives is calling for a congressional investigation into the reported dumping of raw sewage in parts of the South China Sea, including the West Philippine Sea.

“The constant dumping of human waste and sewage of vessels seriously destroys the reefs and marine life in the West Philippine Sea,” the six-member bloc said in House Resolution No. 1961, warning that this can even lead to a “hunger crisis for the entire world.”

The progressive group which forms part of the House minority bloc based their call for a probe on a report by US-based geospatial imagery and data analysis company Similarity which said that [raw sewage from hundreds of anchored ships](#) have damaged coral reefs in the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea.

It remains to be seen whether the Duterte-aligned House will heed the leftist bloc’s call for a probe on this. It had rarely acted on previous appeals for investigations coming from the Makabayan bloc. — **Xave Gregorio**



Philippines to probe report of Chinese sewage-dumping at sea

July 15, 2021 12:25 AM by [DZRH News Online](#)



FILE PHOTO: Chinese fishermen head to the shoal to fish at the disputed Scarborough Shoal April 6, 2017. REUTERS/Erik De Castro/File Photo

MANILA (Reuters) – The Philippines' defence minister on Tuesday ordered the military to investigate a report by a U.S.-based tech firm that hundreds of Chinese vessels were dumping sewage into contested areas of the South China Sea.

China maintains a constant presence of coastguard and fishing boats in the South China Sea to assert its claim of sovereignty, including hundreds in the Spratly islands, where the Philippines, Brunei, Taiwan, Vietnam and Malaysia also have claims.

Similarity, an AI-based satellite image analysis firm, on Monday made public satellite images over a five-year period that it said showed damage caused by untreated human waste from Chinese vessels.

“While we are confirming and verifying these wastes being dumped ... we consider such irresponsible acts, if true, to be gravely detrimental to the marine ecology in the area,” Philippine Defence Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said in a statement.

“Despite conflicting claims and interests by states in the South China Sea, all nations must be responsible stewards of our natural resources and environment.”

At a forum on Monday, Liz Derr, Similarity co-founder and CEO, said the waste could threaten fish stocks.

“It is so intense you can see it from space,” Derr said.

The Chinese embassy in Manila did not immediately respond when asked by media for comment on Similarity's report.

The Philippines has become more vocal in recent months over the presence of hundreds of vessels it believes are Chinese maritime militias.

(Reporting by Karen Lema; Editing by Martin Petty)

Source: <https://dzhnews.com.ph/philippines-to-probe-report-of-chinese-sewage-dumping-at-sea/>



HUMAN WASTE | China's ships could be dumping more human waste in other parts of the sea – analyst

July 15, 2021 , 08:14 PM

By Beatrice Puentes, News5 Digital

(July 15, 2021) – Chinese ships anchored within the country's sovereign waters could be dumping more waste in other parts of the sea, the head of a California-based artificial intelligence satellite image analysis company said on Thursday.

Liz Derr, head and founder of Similarity Inc, told a forum organized by Manila-based foreign correspondents the initial report merely covered the area around Union Banks where they detected 236 ships as of June.

"There are actually more ships in the Spratlys that I did not count—the ones in Gaven or Thitu. That was just for [the] Union Banks, actually," Derr told the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines (FOCAP).

In a report published on Monday, Similarity said the excessive Chlorophyll-a production in the sea can contaminate the waters and damage the coral reefs and marine wildlife.

She said many ships around the world have continued to dump waste into the ocean but what sets China apart was the stationary movement of the vessels in portions of the West Philippine Sea.

"It's a bit of a smoking gun that we are seeing big blooms of plants right where the ships are now," Derr said. "I don't know. They could be growing a garden out there or something. But I really got no other explanation as to why there's this bloom of chlorophyll or plants right next to all these ships."

Union Banks is an island chain within the country's 200-nautical-mile exclusive economic zone (EEZ) but China and Vietnam also have competing claims in the area.

While both countries deployed ships in the area, Derr said their satellite images point to Chinese ships as the culprit for the illegal waste discharge because of their consistent monitoring as well as the large size of the vessels compared to the ones owned by Vietnam, among other factors.

Derr also encouraged the national government to verify Similarity's report.

"We've done this from space because that's really all anybody can do right now because the area is really militarized but I wholeheartedly encourage the government to validate our findings, question our findings, understand the science, and see for themselves," Derr said.

President Rodrigo Duterte's officials have already started looking into Similarity's report, according to a government spokesman, counting on Beijing's ["good faith"](#) for now.

But Harry Roque, in his regular briefing on Thursday, said they would criticize Beijing if the reports were proven to be true.

"Kung mapapatunayan po 'yan, kung 'di mapapabalik 'yung duming 'yun, makakarating sila ng maaanghang na salita," Roque said. "Hindi kubeta ang Pilipinas ng kahit sino."



In the past years, Duterte has maintained a non-confrontational stand in response to China's bullying in the West Philippine Sea as the firebrand leader "set aside" the legal landmark arbitral ruling the country won in 2016.

It honored the Philippines' economic claims over a portion of the South China Sea and nullified Beijing's nine-dash line historical claim. The Hague's ruling followed the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

China, however, refused to recognize the ruling.

(MM)

Source: https://news.tv5.com.ph/top-stories/read/human-waste-chinas-ships-could-be-dumping-more-human-waste-in-other-parts-of-the-sea-analyst?fbclid=IwAR2u_o7Xyfql312ISw6hmzUU3aj064pg4oLUXrNuzRjoBTLc6QGYXZEU_Xcc



PAGTATAPON NG DUMI SA WPS IIMBESTIGAHAN

July 14, 2021 jake



“WE need to verify first because that is just a report.”

Ito ang tugon ni Presidential spokesperson Harry Roque sa ulat na ginagawang kubeta o tapunan ng dumi ng tao ng China ang West Philippine Sea.

Sinabi ni Sec. Roque na hindi maingat kundi kailangan na maging responsable lamang ang pamahalaan na sagutin ang mga bagay na gaya nito.

“Tingnan muna natin kung may katotohanan dahil kung wala naman eh di tayo naman ang mapapahiya,” ayon kay Sec. Roque.

“Dapat i-verify muna bago pumutak. Noong na-verify naman po natin na nag-export ng basura ang Canada sa atin.. pinabalik naman natin ang basura sa Canada. No IFs, no BUTs,” ang pahayag ni Sec. Roque.

Ayon naman kay Senadora Grace Poe, ang ginawa ng China ay tahasang insulto hindi lamang sa ating soberanya kundi maging sa lahat ng umaasa ng kabuhayan mula sa karagatan.

Iginiit naman ni Senador Panfilo Lacson na kumpirmahin muna ng pamahalaan ang nasabing ulat bago aksiyunan. (CHRISTIAN DALE)

Source: http://saksingayon.com/nasyunal/pagtatapon-ng-dumi-sa-wps-iimbestigahan/?utm_source=ReviveOldPost&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=ReviveOldPost&fbclid=IwAR0zlrnmS5DIf0ofnv7xHPDx26qnoIp53KMr70FFUfpNBgMAT-W3s0fmgIQ



DENR seeks PRRD's certification of EPEB bill

By Catherine Teves July 15, 2021, 3:15 pm



MANILA – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is awaiting President Rodrigo Duterte's official call for Congress to immediately pass the bill that will create the Environmental Protection and Enforcement Bureau (EPEB).

"To help fast-track the bill's passage, we requested the President's support certifying this as urgent," DENR Region IV-A Executive Director Nilo Tamera said Thursday during the online 4th National Environmental Law Enforcement Summit.

DENR is hoping for EPEB bill's passage into law as soon as possible, Tamera said.

The creation of EPEB will systematize, institutionalize and professionalize law enforcement within DENR - enabling this department to be the country's lead agency for environmental enforcement, he said.

He said EPEB's creation will also pave the way for fully capacitating DENR enforcers so the department can better build up cases even against high-profile parties engaged in environmental violations like wildlife and timber trafficking and "hopefully take down syndicates involved in these crimes."

He noted President Duterte received DENR's request for him to certify as urgent the bill creating EPEB.

Tamera said several legislators in the Senate and House of Representatives filed similar bills on the matter.

They are Senators Nancy Binay and Bong Revilla aside from Antique Lone District Rep. Loren Legarda, Ilocos Norte 2nd District Rep. Angelo Marcos Barba, South Cotabato 2nd District Rep. Ferdinand Hernandez and Camarines Sur 2nd District Rep. Luis Raymund Villafuerte.

Tamera said the legislators filed Senate Bills 1878 and 1959 as well as House Bills 6973, 7670, 7873 and 8028, respectively. Discussions on EPEB's creation has begun in Congress.

The DENR is looking forward to both Houses of Congress agreeing soon on the EPEB bill that will be presented to President Duterte for his approval and signing into law, he added. (**PNA**)

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1147137>

DENR to put up 2nd treatment facility for electronic waste

posted July 15, 2021 at 07:20 pm

by [Manila Standard](#)

A second treatment storage disposal (TSD) facility for electronic wastes will be put up by the government in Brgy. Dampalit, Malabon City as part of its commitment to the Stockholm convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) to control these health and environment-hazard materials.



The TSD facility in Malabon will be supplementing the handling of electronic (E) wastes that is now being done in Bagong Silang, Caloocan City.

The two will be the only Materials Recovery Facility upgraded to TSD facilities in the Philippines that have the capability and permit to treat electronic (e) waste.

Electronic wastes-- also called waste from electric and electronic equipment (WEEE)-- such as used computers, television (TV) sets, refrigerators, cell phones were found to contain toxic metals such as lead, cadmium, mercury, and hexavalent chromium.

Also included in the waste group are persistent organic pollutants (POP) flame retardants like polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDE) found in plastic casings.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) held last June 29 a ceremonial signing for the upgrading of the existing MRF to a TSD facility in Malabon City.

The agreement was signed with UNIDO ((United Nations Industrial Development Organization), Malabon City Local Government Unit, and the Integrated Recycling Industries Inc. (IRI), a Laguna-based company specializing in the reclamation and recycling of useful materials from WEEE, EcoWaste Coalition, DENR-EMB and Globe Telecom, Inc. UNIDO is the implementing agency of the project entitled

“Implementation of PCB Management Programs for Electric Cooperatives and Safe e-wastes Management” funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

DENR-EMB recognized the role of the informal sector in the proper handling and disposal of WEEE.

Globe Telecom Inc. will also provide co-financing for the operations of the MRF/TSD facility.

“With the upgrading of the MRF (material recovery facility) of Bagong Silang, Caloocan City to a TSD facility for e-wastes, members of the informal sector had been employed in the TSD facility for e-wastes,” said EMB Director William P. Cunado.



The DENR trains its informal sector-partners on proper dismantling of e-waste and proper management of residuals.

As such, exposure to humans and the environment is controlled as these wastes have been linked with cancer, damage in human nervous system, liver, and reproductive system, and other health ills.

The UNIDO-supported project's target is to collect at least 50,000 cathode ray tubes (CRTs) (which generate POP polybrominated diphenyl ethers) from televisions or computers. At least 26,000 CRTs have been collected as of May 31, 2021.

There is also a target to treat 600 metric tons of PCB (polychlorinated biphenyls) oil and PCB contaminated equipment from at least 23 Electric Cooperatives nationwide.



“The CRTs are coming from households collected by the informal sector (i.e. Samahan ng Mangangalakal and EcoWaste Coalition,” according to an EMB report.

Collected e-wastes are transferred for proper dismantling and recycling at IRI's Laguna facility.

Recognized for such proper e-waste dismantling and disposal are the leaders of Barangay Bagong Silang and Camarin, Caloocan City; Barangay Longos, Malabon; Barangay Capulong, Tondo; and Bagong Silang Junkshop.

During the ceremonial signing, DENR-EMB also recognized electric cooperatives that agreed to ensure WEEE are properly disposed, treated, and recycled.

These are Central Pangasinan Electric Cooperative (CENPELCO), Tarlac Cooperative Inc. (TARELCO), La Union Electric Cooperative (LUELCO), Pangasinan Electric Cooperative (PANELCO), Pampanga Electric Cooperative (PELCO), Ilocos Sur Electric Cooperative, Camarines Norte Electric Cooperative (CANORECO), MERALCO, and National Grid Corp. of the Philippines (NGCP).

Eight cooperatives from Regions 1, 3, and 5 have already signed contracts with NRDC for the disposal of waste to the TSD facility.



IPM Holdings unit opens sanitary landfill in Iloilo

BYVG CABUAG JULY 14, 2021



Publicly-listed IPM Holdings Inc. on Wednesday said its unit, Basic Environmental Systems and Technologies Inc. (BEST), has opened the first of several engineered sanitary landfills in the country.

The 10-hectare sanitary landfill in Passi City is capable of handling solid waste from 28 local government units (LGUs) in the third, fourth and fifth districts of Iloilo Province. The facility also accepts solid waste from other LGUs within the province.

The company has set its sights on becoming the country's leading local designer, builder and operator of integrated waste management facilities, BEST President and CEO Isabelita Paredes Mercado said.

The facility using the public-private partnership (PPP) model may address major concerns shared by many LGUs in the country, she said.

"For one, a sanitary landfill helps safeguard the environment from pollution due to mismanaged wastes; second, it helps LGUs who lack finances and technical expertise to build and operate landfills that are fully compliant with RA [Republic Act] 9003; and, finally, it can help relieve pressures against closure of open dumpsites and residuals containment areas including possible prosecution of violators," Mercado said.

The Passi Integrated Waste Management Facility is estimated to reach full capacity by 2030 based on the volume of waste generated by its LGU clients.

The facility is designed, built and operated by BEST in partnership with Passi City government, whose officials led by Passi City Mayor Stephen Palmares and Vice Mayor Jesry Palmares welcomed the facility's opening as it will allow them to comply with the strict requirements of RA 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

Apart from Iloilo, BEST is pursuing similar sanitary landfill projects using the PPP modality in strategic areas in the Philippines.

Palmares said the city's landfill is expected to generate environmental, health, economic, and social benefits for city residents.

"Neighboring municipalities will also have an environment-friendly disposal area thereby complying with the strict requirements of RA 9003. The clustered SLF [sanitary landfill] will redound to improved public health, sanitation, and overall well-being of Iloilo residents," he said.

Passi City adopted its PPP framework in 2014. After a competitive challenge process, Passi selected BEST to be the private sector proponent to undertake the design, construction, operation and maintenance of the city's engineered sanitary landfill facility under a joint venture agreement.



“The birth of PPPs in waste management recognized the significant role of the private sector as a partner in implementing environmental and solid waste management programs as well as accelerating the country’s infrastructure development and sustained economic growth,” the company said.

BEST was incorporated in the Philippines on September 15, 1999. The primary purpose of the corporation is to engage in contracting and consulting for waste management related business including waste collection, transport and disposal; waste management facilities infrastructure; public cleansing and general hygiene; provision of waste management technology; operations and maintenance of environment and waste management related facilities including transfer stations, landfills, and other facilities, waste water treatment plant, recycling and resource recovery facilities.

BEST said its primary mission is to “provide avenues such as services and facilities for comprehensive waste disposal systems, public cleansing, general hygiene and material recovery that promote and implement sustainable development through proper solid waste disposal and resource conservation in the environmental and social spheres of urban and rural areas.”



DENR-8 steps up watch vs. poachers, wild plant collectors

By Sarwell Meniano July 15, 2021, 1:41 pm



WILD PLANTS. Some of the plants naturally growing at the Mahagnaon Volcano Natural Park in Burauen, Leyte. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources is heightening its watch against the poaching of wild plants as more people are allowed to access eco-tourism sites due to more relaxed movement restrictions. *(Photo courtesy of Burauen tourism office)*

TACLOBAN CITY – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Eastern Visayas (DENR-8) is heightening its watch against poaching of wild plants as more people are allowed to access eco-tourism sites due to more relaxed movement restrictions.

Although the indoor gardening fever has slowed down this year compared to last year, the collection of wild plants is still rampant in many parts of Eastern Visayas, said Gimelina Parnis, zoology technician of the DENR-8 conservation and development division in an interview Thursday.

"It's really prohibited to collect plants from the wild. Violators will be penalized as stated in the Wildlife Act. The penalty depends not only on the act committed but also on the conservation status of the wildlife," Parnis said.

For hunting and trading, the penalty ranges from two to four years of imprisonment and/or fine of PHP30,000 to PHP300,000 for hunting and PHP5,000 to PHP300,000 for the trading of wildlife. For the mere transport of wildlife, the penalty is six months to one year imprisonment and/or PHP50,000 to PHP100,000 fine.

The DENR asked its officials assigned in protected areas to step up their enforcement of the law securing wildlife.

The increasing number of visitors to eco-tourism sites due to the lifting of enhanced and general community quarantine in the region may encourage villagers to poach wild plants as an alternative source of income and have them sold to interested visitors.

"There will be no balance in our ecosystem if people will take these wild plants from their natural habitat," she added.

The Wildlife Act has listed at least 984 wild plants classified as "critically endangered, endangered and threatened".

The DENR is still surveying how many of these species are found in the region's forest.



Meryln Barte, protected area superintendents of Lake Danao Natural Park in Ormoc City, said they have deployed more personnel to monitor activities within the 2,244-hectare protected area. The management also sought support from the people's organization.

"All visitors are oriented that they are prohibited to cut, collect, and gather wild plants from the protected area. We have been helping villagers to find alternative livelihood so they would not engage in trading wild plants," Barte said in a separate interview.

Since the park's reopening on July 1, they have been receiving an average of 200 visitors daily.

DENR also asked the public to report incidents of poaching and illegal commercialization of wild plants and animals.

The region has seven protected areas. These are the Samar Island Natural Park in Samar, Biri Larosa Protected Seascape and Landscape in Northern Samar, Calbayog Pan-as Hayiban Protected Landscape in Samar, Guaian Marine Resource Protected Landscape and Seascape in Eastern Samar, Mahagnao Volcanic Natural Park in Leyte, Cuatro Islas Protected Landscape and Seascape, and Lake Danao Natural Park, both in Leyte. *(PNA)*



DENR-8 steps up watch vs. poachers, wild plant collectors

July 15, 2021 3 min read

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Climb and grind

Published 8 hours ago on July 16, 2021 12:15 AM

By [WJG](#)



Gardening and planting are helpful stress-relievers amid the pandemic, not only to hobbyists but also to those grounded in the house due to quarantine or lockdown restrictions. Aside from easing boredom and inactivity, the pastime is also beneficial to plant sellers as they profit from the trend.

One type of plant that seems to have caught the fancy of plantitos and plantitas is the exotic and endangered carnivorous plant that eats insects. Species like *Drosera*, *Nepenthes*, *Dionaea*, *Sarracenia*, *Pinguicula* and *Cephalotus* are being imported from the Netherlands.

Last week, 276 of such plants were found in parcels checked by agents of the Bureau of Customs and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at the warehouse holding imported goods entering through the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Pasay City.

The estimated value of the carnivorous plants was P150,000 which means its Dutch sellers earned the equivalent of \$3,000. Too bad, the plants were considered smuggled goods for lacking import clearance and permit from the DENR.

Local horticulturist and plant trader Ken Adrian de la Cruz of Quezon City is another proof of the growing popularity of planting among Filipinos. It was reported that De la Cruz sells 200 kinds of ornamental plants and recently saved P100,000 in earnings from the business, an indication of a robust market. He used the money to pay the college tuition of his elder sister.

The young plant entrepreneur started as a bougainvillea hobbyist at age seven. At only 13 today, De la Cruz is reaping success from the seeds he sows. Helping the boy's business grow is his hands-on approach, from propagation to delivery and inventory, according to his mom. Moreover, he has diversified into selling pots. Incredibly, the boy still manages to be a consistent honor student despite his preoccupation with the plant business.

In terms of solo proprietorship, Gloria Gillado can give De la Cruz a run for his money. She turns bamboo into native baskets and sells the hand-made products at the Miag-ao Public Market in Iloilo.

Gillado has been in the bamboo basket business since she was 10. She treks solo to the mountain armed with a bolo which she uses to gather raw materials from wild bamboos. It's her usual morning routine including carrying home loads of cut bamboo branches before the hot noon sun makes it hard for her to work.

At home, the widow strips the bamboos into fiber that she then weaves into utility baskets with help from her 18-year-old granddaughter, Jennifer. Sometimes, all her baskets priced at P120 for the biggest size get sold in a day and she takes home around P750 in earnings.



On days when buyers are scarce. she only earns P50. But Gillado continues her work. What sets her apart from other plant traders like De la Cruz is not her skill in basket weaving but the risky way she sources raw materials.

Without any helper and safety harness, Gillado climbs 30-foot-high bamboos in the mountain and, while precariously perched at the top, cuts young bamboo stems with her bolo. She had hurt herself before but she doesn't mind the danger and still does her sustainable livelihood at the tender age of 83.

That, alone, is priceless.



Wood processing project to create export-oriented industries, jobs

posted July 15, 2021 at 07:15 pm

by [Manila Standard](#)

A wood processing project is seen to create jobs and new export-oriented industries producing furniture and veneer that will tap unused wood from a 2,115 hectare community forest in Agusan del Sur and 1,932 hectares in Negros Oriental.



More than 600 hectares of Falcata plantation will be the raw material source for a veneer wood processing plant

The pilot “vertical integration” project is envisioned to be replicated in logging areas all over the country once proven successful under a project of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

It is funded for \$1.118 million by the South Korea-based Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO).

Participating farmer groups are the Nalundan United Farmers’ Association (NUFAI) in Brgy. Nalundan, Bindoy, Negros Oriental and Mindanao Timberland Farmers Multipurpose Cooperative (MATILFAMCO) in Brgy. Mabuhay, Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur.

DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said the project with AFoCO will be the start of a sustainable forest management project in the two provinces.

Cimatu stressed that the wood processing plants to be put up will tap raw materials from CBFM areas (community-based forest management).

It will raise the income and livelihood levels of POs (people’s organizations) in the grassroots. “The Philippines needs five million cubic meters of wood or lumber per year. Only one million is from the Philippines. The rest is imported.

Those that come from the Philippines are from private forests, not CBFM,” Cimatu said during a project launch.

At present, NUFAI and MATILFAMCO only earn from round timber (lumber of *Acacia mangium* and of *Falcata*) since they do not yet have wood processing plants.

Lumber of *Acacia mangium* only sells at P7 per board feet or P84 per 12-foot length, according to Richard Fabre, city environment and natural resources officer (CENRO) in Bindoy, Negros Oriental.



Given the presence of a factory, NUFAl expects its farmers to become traders themselves of their own value-added products.

“With the wood processing plant from the AFOCO project, we will be able to produce furniture. PO members will go through training under TESDA (Technical Education and Skills development Authority) and DTI (Department of Trade and Industry),” said Fabre.

Despite their small earnings from logs, it is just good that through DENR’s initiative NUFAl (with 160 beneficiaries) was supported by the Department of Agriculture with another livelihood source, a 200-head cattle inventory.

“This is the reason why NUFAl was chosen in the AFOCO project—because they have been successful in using the CBFM area government gave them,” said Fabre.

MATILFAMCO has a CBFM contract over a total of 2,115 hectares in Agusan del Sur and NUFAl, 1,932 hectares in Negros Oriental. NUFAl presently has a harvestable *Acacia mangium* area of 300 hectares.

But only 75 hectares has a cutting permit.

In Agusan del Sur, MATILFAMCO farmers look forward to producing finished product veneer wood from *Falcata* trees, according to Forester Leonito Ramos of DENR-Caraga.



Nalundan CBFM area of 1,932 hectares in Bindoy, Negros Oriental

Veneer is an engineered wood where thinly sliced wood is bonded with a substrate to produce higher-end solid wood used in interiors or as construction material. Raw materials for veneer wood will come from *Falcata* trees currently planted on 680 hectares in Brgy Mabuhay, Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur.

“The farmers will enjoy a 60% increase in their net income once the wood processing plant is constructed,” said Ramos. “Right now, 40% of their income from selling logs goes to traders.”

At present, MATILFAMCO sells their raw logs (26 centimeter diameter), called “export”, at P150,000 to P180,000 per 30 to 35 cubic meter-truck. The *Falcata* logs called “pulp” (24 centimeter diameter and below) sell at P80,000 to P100,000 per 30 to 35 cubic meter truck.

The MATILFAMCO farmers also earn from growing rubber, corn, and saba or lakatan banana.

However, with the wood processing plant, the farmers will be able to enjoy additional income from tapping a separate 100-hectare *Falcata* plantation. This new area was planted with assistance from the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA).



“They wanted to harvest this 100-hectare Falcata area as early as in 2019. But we told them to wait for the wood processing plant of the AFOCO project so they will earn higher,” said Ramos. With the wood factory, MATILFAMCO farmers (with 84 beneficiaries) will be able to also produce packaging boxes for bananas and other fruit-vegetable products from the scrap.

Cimatu expressed satisfaction that after a two-year delay due to the Covid 19 pandemic, the project will now start. It will be implemented over five years until 2026,

Moreover, it is in partnership with AFoCO which is based in South Korea, a leader in reforestation. It was noted that Korea once had very low forest cover due to a civil war. But it bounced back as one of the countries in Asia with the highest forest cover due to its aggressive reforestation that the Philippines can emulate.

In the implementation of the AFoCO project, there will also be collaboration with other national government agencies like the DOST-Forest Products Research and Development Institute (FPRDI) and Local Government Units (LGUs).

The POs will undergo capacity building on product’s value-addition.

They are provided with access to machineries and equipment for the wood processing plant. They will be assisted in establishing links with potential wood product buyers/traders in the domestic market.

In relation to the DENR’s intention to strengthen forest management, Cimatu said that the DENR will also push for the legislation of a forest law enforcement arm. DENR will create at least a 2,000-strong forest guard workforce. Similar to Korea where illegal loggers are automatically driven away by the presence of forest guards in uniform, the Philippines will employ this practice.

That will be along with other practices in South Korea that may be somewhat difficult to emulate, such as its robust aviation force patrolling forests, but not impossible.

For one, the Philippines employs high-technology forest monitoring devices in what is called the LAWIN. It is an innovative forest monitoring technology capable of geo-spatial analysis of collected data indicating forests’ condition and threats to trees and wildlife.

Most barangays in Soccsksargen prone to flooding, landslides

By Allen Estabillo July 15, 2021, 6:13 pm



GENERAL SANTOS CITY – The majority of the 1,195 barangays in Region 12 (Soccsksargen) are considered highly prone to flooding and even landslides based on the assessment of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB).

Ariel Austin Acosta, MGB-Region 12 supervising geologist, said Thursday the concerned barangays were identified in the updated geohazard maps released by the agency to local government units (LGUs) in the region.

In terms of flooding, he said 1,005 or 84.1 percent of the 1,195 barangays in the region's 49 localities, including Cotabato City, are classified as high and very highly susceptible.

North Cotabato posted the most number of flood-prone barangays with 503, followed by South Cotabato with 167, Sultan Kudarat with 152, Sarangani with 139, Cotabato City with 27, and this city with 17.

Acosta said severe flooding could occur after hours of heavy rains, especially in areas traversed by major rivers and tributaries.

"It does not mean that the entire barangays are flood-prone but only some portions of their *sitios* and *puroks* are exposed to that risk," he said in a presentation during the 2021 National Disaster Resilience Month virtual caravan.

For landslides, Acosta said some 730 or 61.09 percent of the 1,195 barangays are considered as highly susceptible.

This covers 330 in North Cotabato, 131 in Sultan Kudarat, 118 each in Sarangani and South Cotabato, 18 in this city, and one in Cotabato City.

Acosta said all concerned LGUs had been alerted and informed of these risks through the geohazard maps.

He said some localities have already included the results of the assessment in their disaster risk reduction and management plans.

Aside from the flooding and landslide threats, Acosta said the agency is currently conducting an assessment of the karst subsidence vulnerability of the region's localities.

Karst subsidence is characterized by sinkholes that usually occur in areas underlain by limestone, he said.



Since the initiative started in 2017, he said they already completed the mapping of three municipalities – Lake Sebu in South Cotabato, Lebak in Sultan Kudarat, and Maasim in Sarangani.

He said they started this year the assessment and mapping of susceptible areas in Alabel, Sarangani, and are targeting to expand it to three other municipalities next year.

“The assessment has been slow since we were mandated by our central office to only cover one LGU per year but we’re already working on expanding it. This is a long endeavor and it could stretch up to 2030 or 2035,” Acosta said. **(PNA)**



This 2019 photo shows a scene at OceanaGold's Didipio mine.
OceanaGold

OceanaGold wins new permit for Philippine mine despite protests

(Agence France-Presse) - July 15, 2021 - 7:31pm

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines defended Thursday its decision to allow a foreign miner to restart operations at a controversial gold and copper project that has been blockaded by protesters over alleged environmental violations.

OceanaGold -- which is listed in Australia and Canada -- has been given a new 25-year licence for the Didipio mine in the northern province of Nueva Vizcaya, President Rodrigo Duterte's government said. The previous agreement expired in 2019.

Didipio had been one of the largest operating mines in the Philippines, where authorities are trying to revive the stagnant industry to boost state revenues and create jobs in a coronavirus-devastated economy.

"This decision recognises that we need to have more jobs for our fellow countrymen in the time of the pandemic," Duterte's spokesman Harry Roque told reporters, vowing regulators will "ensure there is responsible mining".

Duterte -- who had previously threatened to shut down the mining sector completely -- has faced growing criticism over his handling of the pandemic that has thrown millions out of work.

Earlier this year he lifted a ban on new mining projects that had been imposed by his predecessor, Benigno Aquino, following public backlash over a series of devastating accidents.

The Nueva Vizcaya government initiated a blockade around the Didipio mine in 2019 to prevent OceanaGold operating the site without a licence, disrupting maintenance work and sparking a still unresolved court battle.

Environmental group Kalikasan condemned the permit renewal and vowed to continue the blockade.

"Why should we retreat?" said Leon Dulce, national coordinator for Kalikasan, accusing the company of failing to restore the "damaged ecosystem" before the previous contract ended.

OceanaGold said Wednesday it planned to rehire its Filipino workforce and "as soon as possible" start milling some of the 19 million tonnes of ore it had stockpiled.



It expected to reach full production within 12 months, with monthly output of 10,000 ounces of gold and 1,000 tonnes of copper.

Provincial governor Carlos Padilla told AFP via email that Nueva Vizcaya officials were "deeply disheartened" over the grant of the new permit.

"We are now consulting with our partners... to decide which options to take in order to prevent (OceanaGold) from further destroying our environment," he said, adding going to court could be an option.



Palace confirms OceanaGold mine contract renewal

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jul 15 2021 07:30 PM



Indigenous Filipinos hold a protest on August 9, 2019 in front of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources calling for the non-renewal of the large-scale gold and copper mining concession of Australian-Canadian owned Oceanagold in Nueva Vizcaya. *Maria Tan, ABS-CBN News/File*

MANILA — The Philippine government has renewed Australian-listed OceanaGold Corp's contract for its Didipio gold and copper mine, Malacañang confirmed on Thursday, despite earlier concerns from provincial officials.

"Kinukumpirma ko po na napirmahan na po 'yong MPSA (mineral production and sharing agreement) ng ating Executive Secretary at ito po'y papunta na sa DENR (Department of Environment and Natural Resources)," said Palace spokesman Harry Roque.

(I confirm that the MPSA has been signed by our Executive Secretary, and it would go to the DENR.)

Reuters reported that OceanaGold requested for the renewal of its operating license in 2018, but it was blocked by the local government because of environmental concerns.

The Mines and Geosciences Bureau has described Didipio as a mine that "can be a game changer to the country's overall standing as copper producer and exporter".

The three following changes in the contract will benefit residents in Nueva Vizcaya and Quirino provinces, Roque said.

- The revenue allotment for the social development fund of the provinces will be doubled to 3 percent from 1.5
- The firm will be required to list at the Philippine Stock Exchange, to allow higher Filipinos ownership
- Mandatory transfer of local office, which will result in more business taxes

"Ang sinasabi lang po natin, merong such a thing as responsible mining. At 'yan po ngayon ang paghahamon sa ating regulatory agency," he said in a press briefing.

(What we are saying is there is such a thing as responsible mining. And that is the challenge now to our regulator agency.)

The mining industry did not close even when the Philippines imposed the toughest of 4 lockdown levels to arrest the spread of COVID-19, said Roque.



"Itong desisyon pong ito ay pagkilala na kailangan magkaroon pa ng mas maraming trabaho ang ating mga kababayan sa panahon ng pandemya," he said. "Pero hindi po natin papayagan na masira ang inang kalikasan natin."

(This decision is an acknowledgement that our compatriots should have more jobs during the pandemic. But we will not allow nature to be ruined.)

Kalikasan-People's Network for Environment said the fresh license for OceanaGold "has condemned the people of Nueva Vizcaya to 25 more years of water depletion, agricultural losses, and human rights violations."

It said environmental groups would challenge this in court.

The Supreme Court had recently denied OceanaGold's motion for reconsideration against the restraining order imposed by Nueva Vizcaya Governor Carlos Padilla on the mine. This restraining order was upheld previously by the regional trial court in Cagayan Valley, Kalikasan noted.

"We call on our fellow Filipino people and the international community to demand an immediate moratorium on OceanaGold's operations," the group said in a statement.

"Together, let us demand President Rodrigo Duterte to instead support the just recovery and rehabilitation of Nueva Vizcaya's agriculture and nature-based economy, especially in these times of hunger and pandemic."

Duterte in April lifted a nearly 9-year moratorium on new mining agreements, in a move that he said could support economic growth and the administration's multi-billion peso infrastructure drive.

Mining remains a controversial issue in the country due to past examples of environmental mismanagement, and only 3 percent of 9 million hectares identified by the state as having high mineral reserves is mined.

Duterte has repeatedly criticized miners for polluting rivers and destroying forests.

But a government panel in 2018 said 23 out of 27 mines have passed an initial review for compliance with state regulations.

The Philippines is the second biggest supplier of nickel ore to top buyer China, after Indonesia, where it is used to produce stainless steel.

— **With a report from Reuters**

Source: https://news.abs-cbn.com/business/07/15/21/duterte-mining-oceanagold?fbclid=IwAR0VqYnA0Zj1cMOyo1FT3siRp9b1zuz-CViBnLfWqgUDRAHcJpp1WC_lupQ



Green groups ask SC to junk DENR order allowing Waste-to-Energy facilities

(Philstar.com) - July 15, 2021 - 7:39pm



Environment groups, people's organizations, and concerned individuals file a petition before the Supreme Court on July 15, 2021 against DENR's waste-to-energy guidelines.

MANILA, Philippines — Environmental advocates on Thursday filed a petition before the Supreme Court to void an environment department order allowing the use of Waste to Energy facilities, saying these do not offer a solution to managing waste and puts people at risk from toxic emissions.

[Department of Environment and Natural Resources Department Administrative Order 2019-21](#) provides guidelines on the facilities, which burn waste or fuel derived from waste to produce energy.

Petitioners, represented by lawyers from the Philippine Earth Justice Center said the order is invalid and "will result in grave violations of the people's Right to Health and the Right to a Balanced and Healthful Ecology under the Constitution."

Coleen Salamat, an environmental advocate and a petitioner, said in a release that Waste to Energy facilities "are false solutions" that she said justify the production of more plastics instead of reducing and eliminating their use.

"In the middle of a global pandemic, this will just add to the persistent health and climate crisis we are facing," she said. In an online exchange with **Philstar.com**, she said that the Clean Air Act bans the use of incinerators to burn trash but that is also what WtE facilities do.

"WtE facilities merely transform the waste into other harmful substances, such as dioxins and furans. Dioxins and furans are highly toxic substances that cause cancer, diabetes, and chloracne," Rei Panaligan of Plastic-Free Pilipinas Project said in the same release.

"Also, WtE facilities emit high volumes of greenhouse gasses that accelerate climate change. This is why we really need to immediately stop the implementation of the DENR's WtE Guidelines."

DAO 2019-21 includes guidelines on processing biodegradable and residual waste for use in the WtE facilities as well as on storage of wastes and by-products. It also requires regular monitoring of emissions and effluents.



In the same release, lawyer Lievj Alimangohan, senior policy officer of the Ecowaste Coalition, said petitioners went to the Supreme Court to stop the implementation of the department order.

"It is an invalid administrative order and, more importantly, its implementation will cause irreparable harm to human health and the environment," he said.

Petitioners also said DENR violated the Public Trust Doctrine in issuing DAO 2019-21. Under that doctrine, the environment department — as trustee of the country's natural resources — is obligated to preserve and conserve natural resources and to protect the environment from activities that will cause irreversible damage, they said.

They said allowing the use of Waste to Energy facilities that produce harmful emissions violates the DENR's obligation to the public.

The DENR has not responded to requests for comment on the petition.

The Philippines is among the countries most at risk from the climate crisis, with some areas of the country vulnerable to extreme weather events and from rising seas. Advocates in the country and abroad have been calling for drastic action like lowering carbon emissions and reducing waste to help address these risks. — **Jonathan de Santos**



EcoWaste Coalition challenges the validity of DENR's AO allowing operation of WTE facilities

July 15, 2021 1 min read

As scheduled, environmental groups trooped to the Supreme Court Thursday and challenged a 2019 DENR order that sets the rules on the establishment and operation of waste-to-energy (WTE) facilities for the treatment of municipal solid waste (MSW) in the country.

EcoWaste Coalition spearheaded the mass action that included Interfacing Development Interventions for Sustainability, concerned individuals, and communities affected by WTE Incineration projects.

The coalition challenged the validity of DENR's Administrative Order (DAO) No.2019-21 for, among other things, 1) being improperly issued, 2) violating the law and 1987 Constitution, and 3) violating the right to health and the right to a balanced and healthful ecology. (Jhun Mabanag/BENJAMIN CUARESMA/AI/MTVN)

Source: https://maharika.tv/2021/07/15/ecowaste-coalition-challenges-the-validity-of-densr-ao-allowing-operation-of-wte-facilities/?fbclid=IwAR244iEDYAUuOU9KcxouMZvQ8jRSr107IvxwhEZhgM_7py8-z0NZKPs28Ac



Environmental groups raise concern on DENR's Waste-to-Energy guidelines

Jonathan Cellona, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jul 15 2021 03:05 PM



Environmental groups troop to the Supreme Court along Padre Faura St. in Manila City on Thursday, calling for the nullification of the Environment department's Administrative Order No. 2019-21 ("DAO 2019-21"), known as the "Guidelines Governing Waste To Energy (WtE) Facilities for the Integrated Management of Municipal Solid Waste." They raised concern on the possible health and environmental impacts of waste-to-energy facilities, which according to them would transform waste to harmful substances like dioxins and furans.

Source: https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/multimedia/photo/07/15/21/environmental-groups-raise-concern-on-densrs-waste-to-energy-guidelines?fbclid=IwAR08K3zJrK4TfiEXxkbrtRr_6_YY3KY25TD-ntXGynkCu4aRjiDizMMI3i4



Mayor says nat'l agencies have final say on Dumaguete reclamation project

Published July 15, 2021, 2:00 PM by [Philippine News Agency](#)

DUMAGUETE CITY – Dumaguete City Mayor Felipe Antonio Remollo on Wednesday said national agencies such as the Philippine Retirement Authority (PRA) and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) have the “final say” in the proposed PHP23.35-billion reclamation project fronting the coastline here.

Remollo, in a press briefing at a local hotel, explained the processes which the “unsolicited project” proposed by a Quezon City-based firm has to go through, noting that it would take years before this could be realized if approved by the PRA and other agencies.

The mayor and majority of the city councilors who approved a resolution granting him authority to enter into a joint venture agreement (JVA) with the proponent drew flak from the public including residents, environmental advocacy groups, church leaders, and members of the academe.

He confirmed that the scheduled signing of the JVA between the city, represented by him, and the investor, EM Cuerpo, Inc. last Monday did not materialize because he asked the city council to have it amended into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with suggested inclusions as well as changes in some provisions.

Remollo’s letter to the city council said he wanted to allow the people to have a better understanding of the reclamation project, which would be implemented at no cost to the city under a public-private partnership (PPP).

In the meantime, he appealed to his constituents to listen to his plan and give his administration a chance to submit to the national government the proposal on the said project dubbed “Smart City”.

It covers 174 hectares of reclaimed land and involves the building of two islands about 30 meters away from the city’s coastline.

Remollo promised that “dili ta padayon kung walay blessing (we will not push ahead without the blessing) of concerned agencies.”

The project aims to uplift the lives of the people in Dumaguete, create more jobs, bring more investors in, and hopefully upgrade its status from currently being a third class city, he said.

He also thanked the different opposition groups for their inputs and criticisms while appealing to them to not turn down something that has not yet even been finalized.

Various sectors, including National Scientist of the Philippines, Dr. Angel Alcala, had issued separate statements of opposition to the project in the past days, with a common call for public consultation.

However, Remollo said there is no need for that as yet. “Right now, there is nothing that I can present to the public and in fact, we don’t even have a design yet,” he said in mixed English and Cebuano dialect.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/07/15/mayor-says-natl-agencies-have-final-say-on-dumaguete-reclamation-project/>



DILG seeks raps vs establishments, local officials in Rizal town amid encroachment in Marikina Watershed

Job Manahan, ABS-CBN News
Posted at Jul 14 2021 06:35 PM



Photo from the Masungi Georeserve Foundation

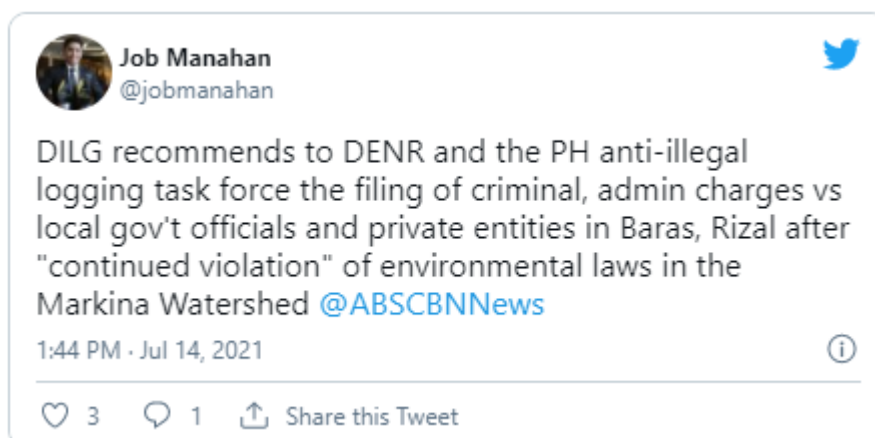
MANILA - The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) on Wednesday recommended the filing of criminal and administrative charges against several local officials and establishments in Baras, Rizal for over the supposed encroachment at the Upper Marikina Watershed.

Interior Undersecretary Jonathan Malaya said his agency found out "large-scale cutting of trees and kaingin activities" in some 16 hectares of land in the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape, especially in the area located on Baras.

The Rizal watershed gives "ecosystem services" to the localities of Antipolo City, Baras, General Nakar, Rodriguez, San Mateo, and Tanay. It also regulates water flow, as well as prevents floods and landslides in downstream cities like Marikina, conservationists said.

But some structures at the watershed were seen "where the trees were burned" during the DILG and DENR's site inspection, according to Malaya.

"A portion of the site of burned trees is presently occupied by private entities which have even installed armed guards in the area without any legal authority," the statement read.



"Despite repeated warnings from the government, these establishments continue to build infrastructure in the area. This is detrimental to the country's environmental preservation initiatives, not to mention our COVID-19 response," the official was quoted as saying.



He said he already filed the recommendation to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the anti-illegal logging task force, which he is a part of.

Several private establishments and unnamed local officials would face charges due to allegedly violating the following:

- Upper Marikina Protected Landscape Declaration
- National Integrated and Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act or RA No. 7586
- Revised Forestry Code (PD 705)
- Water Code of the Philippines
- Masungi Strict Nature Reserve & Wildlife Sanctuary or DENR Administrative Order No. 1993-33

GSB resort owner Arnel Olitoquit, who received a show-cause order, earlier denied the allegations.

"Ako po ay isang 4Ps member. Kami po ay mahirap na pamilya, at hindi po kami yung ine-expect ng iba na malaking kapitalista na nakapagpagawa ng resort. Munting paliguan lang po yan," Olitoquit told ABS-CBN News in a phone interview on June 9.

(I am a 4Ps member. We are just a poor family and we are not big capitalists. This is just a small resort.)

In early June, DENR Calabarzon Executive Director Nilo Tamera told ABS-CBN News that as of June 7, of the [80 show-cause orders](#), 40 are considered "pending for the issuance of cease and desist orders" related to the incursions and environmental law violations in the Upper Marikina Watershed.

Those who received the orders included piggeries, resorts, retreat centers, houses, swimming pool owners, gamefowl farms, among others.

Malaya earlier sought investigation on the matter, following the reports submitted by the Masungi Georeserve Foundation.

The nature reserve protects and maintains some parts of the watershed in Rizal, which is considered a "priority" area to protect in Luzon.

"The country is already embattled with the COVID-19 pandemic, 'wag na po natin dagdagan ng pagsira sa ating kalikasan. We should protect our remaining watersheds just like those in Rizal," he said.

FIGHT WILL CONTINUE

Billie Dumaliang, an advocacy officer at the nature reserve, said they would continue waiting for the developments until the charges are filed.

She also hoped that the government's monitoring of illegal activities in the area would continue. The watershed has a total land area of 26,128 hectares.

"Sana seryosohin na ng lahat ang pangangalaga sa ating watershed, dahil tayo-tayo rin naman ang magdurusa kung papabayaang lang natin ito. Sana matuto na rin ang iba pang nagbabalak na pasukin o sirain ang watershed," Dumaliang said in a statement sent to ABS-CBN News.

(I hope caring for the watershed would be taken seriously because the burden falls on us when we neglect it. I hope that the people would know what would happen if they encroach or destroy parts of the watershed)



"Ito ang isa sa pinaka-importante at pinakamalapit na protected area sa Maynila kaya tingin ko dapat talaga priority ito. I am hoping this pronouncement and succeeding actions will also help protect our rangers on the ground who are always at risk of retaliation and harassment from violators."

(This is the most important and nearest protected area in Manila which is why we consider this a priority)

She also hoped that the promise of Environment Sec. Roy Cimatu of doubling the presence of law enforcement authorities in the area would push through.

The Upper Marikina Water Basin is in its last stages of "forest death" due to continued illegal activities, the conservationist had said.

Source: https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/07/14/21/dilg-recommends-charges-local-officials-establishments-upper-marikina-watershed?fbclid=IwAR15jBWnB0LJaJiwd0VKE0-xFiFq5X9r05ae149wOyWjkvEIN-gixIIjI_w



Pena: DENR reacts on river plastic pollution

[ROX PENA](#) July 15, 2021

MY COLUMN last June 25 was about the study entitled “Where does the plastics in our ocean come from,” which claims that more than one-third of the global plastic waste in the ocean comes from the Philippines. The study was published online at ourworldindata.org/ocean-plastics. It also mentioned that seven of the world’s top 10 polluting rivers are from the Philippines.

Reacting to this study, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary Benny D. Antiporda said that the study, which used a probabilistic approach and was based on secondary studies, did not reflect the actual condition of the rivers. Whether true or not, it gives the Philippines a very bad image as the world’s top plastic polluter of oceans.

Usec. Antiporda said the agency has long been undertaking preventive measures and rehabilitation efforts in the different river systems in the country, including the Pasig River. The Pasig River was listed in the study as the top plastic polluter of oceans. Even prior to the publication of the said study, the DENR has already launched various efforts on environmental protection and conservation under Secretary Roy Cimatu's leadership, Usec. Antiporda added.

The Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, or RA 9003 was supposed to address the proper management of garbage. Was it properly implemented or enforced? House Deputy Speaker Loren Legarda wants to know. She filed a resolution to investigate and audit the National Solid Waste Management Commission's (NSWMC) and relevant government agencies on the implementation of RA 9003.

Specifically, Rep. Legarda wants to know why in spite of its big budget, the commission has unjustifiably failed to act on its ministerial function of preparing the list of NEAPP (non-environmentally acceptable products and packaging) in the last 20 years.

Under Sections 29 and 30 of RA 9003, the NSWMC is tasked with preparing a list of NEAPP a year after the law’s effectivity and to review and update this list annually. It should also determine a period to phase out these products. In February this year, the commission approved the first two NEAPP - plastic soft drink straws and plastic coffee stirrers.

The alleged failure to perform this mandate is also the reason why the conservation group Oceana Philippines and environmental law groups want to sue the NSWMC and representatives of its member-agencies for “gross and persistent negligence.”

As early as 2006, the NSWMC has already created a technical working committee for the phasing out of NEAP, but the commission has taken 20 years before it could even identify only two products. Furthermore, resolution is said to be replete with deficiencies. The products will phased out a year from the publication of the official resolution. Oceana, however, said that upon checking with the University of the Philippines Law Center, no such resolution has yet been filed.

Aside from filing civil, administrative and criminal cases before the courts, the groups were exploring other legal remedies, such as the writ of kalikasan and writ of continuing mandamus.

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1900846>



From left: Plastics by Manila Automat collects plastic waste – from bottles to sachets, and turns them into practical, usable and creative materials for consumers to purchase; Ipanema is overjoyed to release its first pair of flipflops 100% made of recycled materials.

Photo release

Make profit, not pollution: How businesses turn trash into cash

[Kathleen A. Llemit](#) (Philstar.com) - July 15, 2021 - 10:03pm

MANILA, Philippines — Did you know that a single plastic bottle could take up to 450 years to fully decompose?

A lifetime of indiscriminate disposal of plastics can be detrimental to the ocean, marine life and landfills that could leak toxic pollutants to food and water systems.

Sustainable living might be costly, for now, but it pays to pay it forward. There are ways to mitigate the irreversible effects of plastic pollution, and several organizations have partnered to make it easier for the public to contribute to proper plastic disposal.

From waste to life-savers

Beauty brand Garnier, retail chain Watsons and The Plastic Flamingo launched its first ever Plastics Collection Program. The program accepts plastic donations that will be turned into eco-planks and will be used to build emergency shelters for the less fortunate.

The Plastic Flamingo is a social company based in Manila that collect and recycles plastic waste.

“We are one in pursuing our shared vision of responsible stewardship of our planet and clean beauty accessible to all. It starts with us, and it takes a global brand like Garnier and a retail giant like Watsons to get things started and take the leap towards sustainability. By partnering with The Plastic Flamingo, we are able to leverage their expertise on innovative and relevant ways of reusing plastics – like building infrastructure for emergency shelters. There’s a lot more to be done and the sustainability journey is far from over, but with these steps, we are paving the way to a brighter future” said Josteen Vega, Garnier Marketing Manager.

The brand partnered with e-commerce site Shopee with the Green Parcel partnership. The beauty brand also got its global accreditation from Cruelty Free International under the Leaping Bunny Program. The program is a globally-recognized standard for cruelty-free products in terms of cosmetics, personal care and household care.

Step into 100% recycled sole mates

Ipanema and Rider, two of the most sought-after Brazilian casual footwear brands, recently launch new products that allow you to revel in the experience of wearing everyday-appropriate footwear.



Nowadays, flip-flops and slip-ons have become the most convenient footwear choice: comfortable enough for essential outdoor runs and stylish enough for most outfits, not only are these pairs the easiest kind of footwear to disinfect, but they are also just as good to wear while staying at home.

This month, the duo releases respective collections that help the environment and allow you to be your most authentic self. Aptly named Confetti, Ipanema is overjoyed to release its first pair of flipflops 100% made of recycled materials. The Brazilian brand has always been at the forefront of promoting sustainable manufacturing in the fashion industry, creating footwear with no components of animal origin, 100% recyclable, and contains up to 30% pre-consumer recyclable materials for years—but it's the first time they have been able to develop a product that is not only 100% recyclable, but made of 100% recyclable materials as well.

The Confetti is a thong-style flat sandal with a rounded toe, textured sole and adjustable ankle straps. A pair that comes in a gorgeous sand color with contrasting black straps, it proudly bears the brand's signature at the bottom, with a mark that says "100% recycled."

The company believes that fashion brands have the ability to create beautiful, wearable and durable products that are produced ethically, with a reduced impact on the environment and a lasting contribution to the welfare of their employees and the communities within which they belong.

Now available in the brand's stores as well as online and in Bambu, The SM Store, Sports Central and Robinsons Department Stores, Confetti is just the beginning of a groundbreaking movement within the brand to create more 100% recycled and recyclable footwear in the years to come.

'May pera sa basura': The circular economy of plastics

The phrase "May pera sa basura" has long been heard in the Philippines. Newspaper drives and glass bottle collection initiatives are common measures to recycle. The same process can apply to plastic packaging. The concept of the "circular economy of plastics" means that plastic is viewed as a material that can be reused, to avoid depleting natural resources. This is a concept and economic model that Mondelez Philippines supports, in line with its goals towards zero waste to nature by 2030.

According to the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, the "circular economy of plastics" means "A system in which materials are designed to be used, not used up." The foundation works at promoting and developing this economic model. Think about it, our economy today continuously churns packaging material using irreplaceable natural resources like fuel, with the intent of making them single use. But they don't have to be used just once. Plastic packaging can and should be recycled to avoid them becoming waste or polluting marine life. In fact, using plastic as a resource that can be recycled continuously is giving rise to industries that make a profit while preventing waste.

One such organization is Plastics by Manila Automat, a collaborative design and production studio aimed at renewing the value of recycled plastic waste by encouraging people to become modern-day recyclers. The group collects plastic waste – from bottles to sachets, and turns them into practical, usable, and creative materials for consumers to purchase. There is a business that literally runs on waste.

"We started our Company based on a belief that plastic should be reused and is a valuable material," shared Mica Agregado, Head of Designs. "Since 2019 we have sold 436 pieces of our home and fashion pieces and in the process, recycled 327 kg of plastic packaging."



Another organization that uses waste as a resource is Green Antz Builders, an innovative product and technology development company that creates Eco-bricks and construction materials made with recycled plastic. A pioneer in the Philippines on circular economy, Green Antz has carved a niche as a green construction materials company but at the same time, are strong advocates on the use of green materials and technologies.

The company builds and runs Green Antz Eco-Hubs which are like modern Materials Recovery Facilities (MRFs) in communities. These Eco-Hubs function as plastic collection points, recycling facilities, and manufacturing hubs with a socially-inclusive model. Green Antz collaborates with surrounding communities and partner organizations in collecting plastic and running educational workshops or seminars in the communities on proper waste segregation at source. The Eco-Bricks, Eco-Casts, and Eco-Pavers produced in these facilities, coming from the plastic waste collected, are tangible outputs that the circular economy works and creates shared value across its stakeholders.

“Our Eco Products not only divert tons of plastic waste away from oceans and landfills, and repurposing them into green materials used in the construction industry, they are also uniquely designed and engineered stronger than regular hollow blocks and use less water to build into structures,” shared Rommel Benig, Founder and CEO.

“Green Antz has created a trailblazing platform for Environmental, Social, Governance (ESG) initiatives. We have built our entire business on the idea that plastic waste is a resource as valuable as paper or glass, and can be reused.” In 2020 alone, Green Antz collected and diverted close to 100,000 kgs of plastics away from landfills or oceans.

Plastics by Manila Automat and Green Antz are two of the organizations snacks company Mondelez Philippines is working with to help promote and strengthen the plastics recycling industry in the Philippines. As a member of the Ellen MacArthur Foundation’s New Plastics Economy Global Commitment, the Company globally supports the New Plastics Economy Initiative.

“We want to contribute to a circular economy where packaging material is recycled or reused, while minimizing food waste and the overall environmental impact of packaging, including on climate change,” explains Atty. Joseph Fabul, Country Manager for Corporate and Government Affairs of Mondelez Philippines. “To help achieve this, we are working to find solutions to the shared problem of packaging waste – fixing broken processes, policies and perception. These include making all our packaging recycle-ready and labelled with recycling information for consumers by 2025. We also committed to invest in waste management projects where we are present and ensure that by 2025, 5% of our plastic packaging is from recycled content.” “The next time you hear the phrase “May pera sa basura,” think of the circular economy of plastics and how recycling can indeed change a problem into an opportunity,” ended Atty. Fabul.

Offsetting plastic footprints by going cashless

Plastic Credit Exchange (PCX), the first global non-profit plastic offset program, recently partnered with Microsoft to develop a blockchain-protected credit registry. The revamped credit registry will ensure the public and relevant stakeholders that all transactions within the Exchange are secure, transparent and reliable.

Established in 2019, PCX partners with sustainably conscious businesses worldwide to responsibly offset their plastic footprints. PCX has built a wide ecosystem of partners to facilitate the recovery, transport, and processing of post-consumer plastic waste, seeking out the most environmentally sound solutions. Company pledges undergo verification via a third-party audit and are made transparent through the PCX public registry.



Founder and Chairwoman Nanette Medved-Po shared, "It is important that the credit registry is trustworthy and available to the public. By using blockchain technology to not only protect the ledger, but provide transparency around additionality and protect against double counting, stakeholders will know where and how they positively impact the environment."

Blockchain technology has the potential to extend digital transformation beyond any organization's boundaries and into the processes it shares with suppliers, customers and partners. At its core it is a shared, distributed, secured, immutable ledger which is connected in a peer-to-peer network.

PCX sought Microsoft as a global technology partner for a Microsoft Azure-based blockchain solution. Microsoft prototyped a blockchain-protected ledger through its Microsoft Technology Center (MTC) to provide confidence, traceability and transparency within the PCX ecosystem.

To lay the foundation for the solution, MTC configured PCX's existing credit registry and infrastructure with Quorum Blockchain deployment on Azure by setting up permissions and providing identified user access to ledger through secure API. Improving upon PCX's existing workflow, MTC iterated blockchain-based solution scenarios. This prototype incorporates PCX's current processes via web application enabling the blockchain to integrate into their operations. Because the app is API-enabled, PCX can seamlessly extend their credit registry to more partners in the future.

"Our decision to partner with Microsoft went beyond finding a technology partner. We found a business partner whose sustainability goals aligned with ours and whose priorities are on finding innovative ways to tackle the plastic pollution crisis today," said Medved-Po.

MTCs are designed to help drive business transformation by providing customers with a personalized and hands-on approach to innovation. Through MTC, customers, like PCX, are empowered to co-develop and envision solutions through proof-of-concept workshops, architectural design sessions, and exclusive access to partner technologies, among others.

"The PCX engagement with the Microsoft Technology Center (MTC) is a great example of how MTC can conduct a joint rapid prototype that helps accelerate the PCX vision to reality in a matter of weeks. This collaboration ensures the right architecture and technology are put in place to provide a solid foundation for the system," said David Chandra, Senior Director at APAC Microsoft Technology Center.

Microsoft Philippines Country Manager Andres Ortola said, "Sustainability and humanity's response to it is one of the greatest challenges of our lifetime -- a planet-sized challenge that requires a planet-sized response. Technology can -- and must -- accelerate that response. Wherever it can apply our strengths as an innovation company, we are committed to bringing the full weight of our platform and technology forward. At Microsoft, we exist to empower every person and organization on the planet to achieve more -- including the planet itself."

To date, PCX has enabled the removal of more than 18 million kilograms of plastic waste from the environment. Companies such as PepsiCo Snacks, Wyeth Nutrition, Century Pacific Food, Colgate-Palmolive and NutriAsia have pursued Plastic Neutrality in the Philippines, while Nestle Philippines, PepsiCo Vietnam, Unilever Philippines, and Mayora Vuono Trade and Marketing Services Corporation have purchased plastic offsets from PCX. In addition to addressing the environmental goals of programs, PCX also focuses on socio economic benefits of interventions on communities. Livelihood development, infrastructure support, behavioral change and empowering women help to support a global movement away from waste and into a more circular economy.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/lifestyle/business-life/2021/07/15/2112872/make-profit-not-pollution-how-businesses-turn-trash-cash>



Some commodity trading companies are becoming environmentally responsible due to public pressure

Published July 15, 2021, 10:30 AM

by [Vina Medenilla](#)

Seven major commodities that are responsible for deforestation are timber, palm oil, soy, cattle, rubber, cocoa, and coffee.

A study by an international non-profit environmental organization reveals that among these major drivers of deforestation, palm oil firms are leading in terms of mitigating their environmental impact due to public pressure.

The study measured the environmental threats and impact of over 10,000 companies producing the aforementioned commodities.



Image by tk tan from Pixabay.

The responses of over 550 leading firms from the sector showed that almost all of those who produce or use palm oil are abiding by at least one industry-accepted practice to combat deforestation. In contrast, rubber companies are seen to perform the least, alongside coffee and cattle-producing ventures that carry out poor executions.

The study also shared its limitations. Only one-third of the companies agreed to disclose information for the study. This indicates that there's still a need to close the gap in the sector's transparency, particularly when discussing plans to solve or minimize deforestation.

Deforestation is a primary contributor to climate change. One of the efficient methods to combat this crisis is preserving the forests since trees naturally absorb carbon dioxide, the main greenhouse gas that contributes to global warming.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/07/15/some-commodity-trading-companies-are-becoming-environmentally-responsible-due-to-public-pressure/>



July 20 declared regular holiday in observance of Eid'l Adha

By Azer Parrocha July 15, 2021, 7:21 pm



(File photo)

MANILA – President Rodrigo Duterte has declared July 20, 2021 a regular holiday throughout the country in observance of Eid'l Adha or the Feast of Sacrifice.

Proclamation No. 1189, signed by Duterte on Thursday, allows Filipino Muslims to observe Eid'l Adha "subject to existing community quarantine and social distancing measures."

This is the second time Eid'l Adha will be observed amid the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) pandemic in the country.

The National Commission on Muslim Filipinos earlier recommended that July 20 be declared as a national holiday in observance of Eid'l Adha.

Eid'l Adha is one of the two greatest feasts of Islam, the other being Eid'l Fitr.

Republic Act No. 9649 provides that Eid'l Adha shall be observed as a regular holiday.

Eid'l Adha marks the culmination of the hajj (pilgrimage) rites at Min , Saudi Arabia, near Mecca, but is celebrated by Muslims throughout the world.

Like Eid'l Fitr, it is distinguished by the performance of communal prayer at daybreak on its first day.

The festival is celebrated on the 10th day of the last month of the Islamic calendar and continues for an additional three days.

It commemorates the willingness of Abraham to sacrifice his son as an act of obedience to God's command. **(PNA)**



MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

PROCLAMATION NO. 1189

DECLARING TUESDAY, 20 JULY 2021, A REGULAR HOLIDAY THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, IN OBSERVANCE OF *EID'L ADHA* (FEAST OF SACRIFICE)

WHEREAS, *Eid'l Adha* or Feast of Sacrifice is one of the two greatest feasts of Islam;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 9849 provides that *Eid'l Adha* shall be observed as a regular holiday;

WHEREAS, the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos has recommended that 20 July 2021, Tuesday, be declared a national holiday, in observance of *Eid'l Adha*; and

WHEREAS, the observance of *Eid'l Adha* shall be subject to existing community quarantine and social distancing measures;

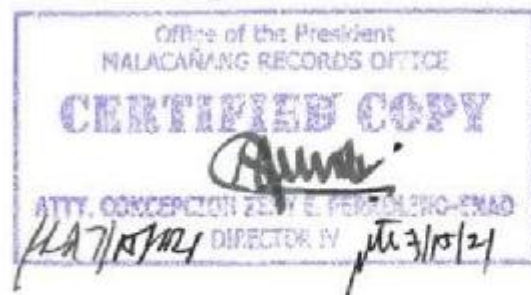
NOW, THEREFORE, I, RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby declare Tuesday, 20 July 2021, a regular holiday throughout the country, in observance of *Eid'l Adha*.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Republic of the Philippines to be affixed.

Done in the City of Manila, this 15th day of July, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty One.

By the President:


SALVADOR C. MEDIALDEA
Executive Secretary



THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

16 JULY 2021, FRIDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



PH Covid-19 recovery tally now 1.4M with 4K new survivors

By Filane Mikee Cervantes July 15, 2021, 5:47 pm



MANILA – The nation's total number of recovered coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) cases has reached 1,418,856, after 4,147 new survivors were reported on Thursday.

In its latest case bulletin, the Department of Health (DOH) said recoveries account for 95.2 percent of the Philippines' total caseload which has reached 1,490,665, after 5,221 new Covid-19 cases were logged.

These new infections brought the number of active coronavirus cases in the country to 45,495.

About 91.4 percent of these active cases are mild, 2.1 percent are asymptomatic, 1.7 percent are critical, 2.8 percent are severe, and 1.96 percent are moderate.

Some 82 new deaths were also reported, pushing the country's total number of Covid-19 fatalities to 26,314.

The DOH noted that four laboratories were not able to submit their data to the Covid-19 Document Repository System.

Thirteen duplicate cases were also removed from the total case count, including 10 recoveries.

Around 52 cases previously classified as recoveries were reclassified as active cases, and 46 recoveries were tagged as deaths after final validation.

To date, 56 percent of 3,500 intensive care unit beds, 46 percent of 19,600 isolation beds, 42 percent of 12,100 ward beds, and 39 percent of 2,800 ventilators dedicated to patients with Covid-19 are in use nationwide.

In Metro Manila, 42 percent of 1,100 intensive care unit beds, 39 percent of 4,700 isolation beds, 33 percent of 3,400 ward beds, and 35 percent of 1,000 ventilators dedicated to patients with Covid-19 are being used. **(PNA)**



GCQ pa rin sa NCR hanggang Hulyo 31

By [Malou Escudero](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon) - July 16, 2021 - 12:00am



Inilagay din sa GCQ pero may "heightened restrictions" mula Hulyo 16 hanggang Hulyo 31, 2021 ang Cagayan sa Region 2; Laguna at Lucena City sa Region 4-A; Naga City sa Region 5; Negros Oriental sa Region 7; Zamboanga del Sur sa Region 9; at Davao City sa Region 11.

AFP/Ted Aljibe

MANILA, Philippines — Inaprubahan ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang pagpapalawig ng General Community Quarantine (GCQ) sa National Capital Region mula Hulyo 16 hanggang Hulyo 31.

liral din ang GCQ sa Baguio City at Apayao sa Cordillera Administrative Region; Santiago City, Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya at Quirino sa Region 2; Bulacan sa Region 3; Cavite, Rizal, Quezon at Batangas sa Region 4-A; Puerto Princesa sa Region 4-B; Guimaras at Negros Occidental sa Region 6; Zamboanga Sibugay, Zamboanga City at Zamboanga del Norte sa Region 9; Davao Oriental sa Region 11; General Santos City, Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani, Cotabato at South Cotabato sa Region 12; Agusan del Norte, Surigao del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Dinagat Islands, at Surigao del Sur sa CARAGA; at Cotabato City sa BARMM.

Inilagay din sa GCQ pero may "heightened restrictions" mula Hulyo 16 hanggang Hulyo 31, 2021 ang Cagayan sa Region 2; Laguna at Lucena City sa Region 4-A; Naga City sa Region 5; Negros Oriental sa Region 7; Zamboanga del Sur sa Region 9; at Davao City sa Region 11.

Ang Aklan, Bacolod City, Antique, at Capiz sa Region 6 ay nasa ilalim din ng GCQ na may "heightened restrictions" mula Hulyo 16 hanggang Hulyo 22, 2021.

Samantala, ang Bataan sa Region 3; Cagayan de Oro City sa Region 10; Davao Occidental, Davao de Oro, Davao del Sur, at Davao del Norte sa Region 11; at Butuan City sa CARAGA ay nasa ilalim ng Modified Enhanced Community Quarantine (MECQ) mula Hulyo 16-31, 2021. Ang Iloilo City at Iloilo sa Region 6 ay MECQ pero hanggang Hulyo 22, 2021 lamang.

Lahat ng mga lugar sa bansa maliban sa mga nabanggit ay inilagay sa ilalim ng Modified General Community Quarantine (MGCCQ) mula Hulyo 16, 2021 hanggang Hulyo 31, 2021.



Metro Manila mayors nagkasundo, magpapasa ng ordinansa sa pagpapalabas sa mga bata

By [Danilo Garcia](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon) - July 16, 2021 - 12:00am



Sa inilabas na Resolution No. 21-11 Series of 2021, hinihikayat ang mga lokal na pamahalaan ng Metro Manila na maglabas ng 'executive order' o ordinansa para maglabas ng listahan ng mga outdoor areas o parke na maaaring puntahan ng mga bata.

AFP/Ted Aljibe, File

MANILA, Philippines — Nagkasundo na ang mga alkalde na mga miyembro ng Metro Manila Council (MMC) na magpasa ng ordinansa sa kani-kanilang siyudad para isulong ang bagong labas na polisiya ng pamahalaan sa pagpapalabas na sa mga bata sa kanilang tahanan.

Sa inilabas na Resolution No. 21-11 Series of 2021, hinihikayat ang mga lokal na pamahalaan ng Metro Manila na maglabas ng 'executive order' o ordinansa para maglabas ng listahan ng mga outdoor areas o parke na maaaring puntahan ng mga bata.

Kasama rin dito ang paglilinaw mabuti sa ibig sabihin ng 'parks' na maaaring maging mga open areas sa tabi ng mga establisimyento o malls; pagtatakda sa 50% kapasidad sa mga outdoor areas; pagtatalaga ng mga marshalls na maninita sa mga lumalabag; pagtatakda na palaging may kasamang adult ang isang bata; at iba pa.

"These are the conditions that Metro Manila mayors could adopt in issuing executive orders or crafting their respective ordinances in their localities," paliwanag ni Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chairman Benhur Abalos.

Nitong Hulyo 8, naglabas ang Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF) ng Resolution No. 125 na pinapayagan ang mga bata na may edad 5 taon pataas na makalabas ng bahay at magtungo sa mga outdoor areas sa mga lugar na nasa ilalim ng 'modified general community quarantine at general community quarantine'.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/metro/2021/07/16/2112850/metro-manila-mayors-nagkasundo-magpapasa-ng-ordinansa-sa-pagpapalabas-sa-mga-bata/amp/>



Higit 4 milyong Pinoy ‘fully vaccinated’ na vs COVID-19

By [Malou Escudero](#)(Pilipino Star Ngayon) - July 16, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Lumampas na sa 4 milyon ang bilang ng mga mamamayan na kumpleto na ang bakuna laban sa COVID-19.

Inanunsiyo ni Presidential spokesperson Harry Roque na nasa 10,026,722 na ang nakatanggap ng unang dose habang 4,047,792 ang naturukan na ng second dose base sa date noong Hulyo 14, 2021.

“Meron na tayong labing apat na milyon o 14,074,514 total doses na na-administer,” ani Roque. Ayon sa National Task Force laban sa COVID-19 simula noon Pebrero ay nasa 20.7 milyon COVID-19 vaccine na ang dumating sa bansa.

Sa nasabing bilang, 10.6 milyon ang binili ng gobyerno, 900,000 ang binili ng pribadong sektor at ng iba’t ibang lokal na pamahalaan samantalang 2.1 milyon



Vax for kids: A need to know

Parents always want the best for their kids. And when it comes to kids' health, parents are selective and meticulous. There are various opinions and ideas regarding the safety and effectivity of vaccines, especially for children.

The proliferation of fake news and unverified information from social media also contribute to lack of confidence with the government's vaccination programs.

Vaccines protect children from life-threatening diseases such as tuberculosis, hepatitis B, polio, diphtheria, pertussis, rotavirus, measles, mumps, rubella, pneumonia and human papilloma virus (HPV).

Vaccine confidence in the Philippines significantly dropped in the last few years.

Vaccination is one of the most cost-effective public health strategies adapted by modern medicine. During a public health crisis like Covid-19, immunization becomes more important because it can cover a wider scope of population.

In light of the pandemic, MSD in the Philippines once again emphasizes this year that parents can take charge of their children's wellbeing by Calling The Shots on their Babies' Health.

And while Covid-19 vaccine recommendations for children are still underway, routine vaccinations are available to provide the needed protection for kids for other vaccine-preventable diseases that continue to be prevalent.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF MSD
DR. Jaime Santos, former president and life fellow of Pediatric Infectious Disease Society of the Philippines.

Vaccines will only be effective if administered and when parents agree to get their children vaccinated, they help protect the life of their children. Open communication with parents to address their concerns is a big step to achieve a successful vaccination rollout.

Years of practice gave Dr. Jaime Santos, former president and life fellow of Pediatric Infectious Disease Society of the Philippines, valuable insights to help parents understand the role of vaccines in the health, safety and well-being of their kids.

Parents often take into consideration three things when it comes to vaccines – purpose, safety and cost. Parents need to understand what type of vaccine is given to their child and what

type of disease it can prevent. Access to the right information is critical.

"Pediatricians and those who care for children are already aware of the value of vaccination. The health care provider must be well-informed and knowledgeable on vaccination, and must know how to give the vaccines properly," Santos said.

"It may take several sessions for some parents to be convinced. Citing important data from good studies can also help. Most importantly, public information campaigns with the help of media can go a long way to clear misconceptions on vaccination," he added.

Safety is a paramount consideration. "In the last few years, vaccine hesitancy has cropped up especially in the public program. The controversy on dengue vaccine has impacted the vaccination program," recalled Santos. "Fear and distrust together with misinformation breed hesitancy and rejection."

Vaccine confidence in the Philippines significantly dropped in the last few years, and it affected the coverage of established routine vaccines for polio, measles, rubella, diphtheria, hepatitis, rotavirus and pneumonia.

Amid the pandemic, the lack of public transportation made it more difficult for parents to travel from their homes to healthcare facilities where routine vaccinations are being offered. Also, parents fear that bringing their children out and mingling with other patients in clinics and hospitals might expose them to infection.



BATAS SA MEDICAL OXYGEN GAWIN NA



July 15, 2021 @ 7:28 PM 12 hours ago

NGAYON pa lang, dapat nang gumawa ang pamahalaan ng karampatang batas ukol sa medical oxygen na gamit laban sa coronavirus disease-19 o COVID-19.

Hindi dapat magpakampante ang lahat, lalo na ang pamahalaan, ukol sa suplay ng oxygen at oxygen tank, ligtas na paggamit nito, taong mamamahala, distribusyon, presyo at iba pa.

KULANG NA SUPLAY NAKAMAMATAY

Sa bansang India nakita kung gaano namamatay ang daan-daan o libong tinamaan sa COVID-19 dahil sa kawalan o labis na kakapusan ng medical oxygen, lalo na nitong nakaraang Abril at Mayo.

Ngayon naman, nararanasan ito sa Indonesia at may mga namamatay na rin mismo sa mga ospital, gaya ng nangyari sa 33 pasyente sa Yogyakarta.

Ang mga bansa sa Africa, gaya ng Somalia, namamatayan ng 25 araw-araw sa kakulangan din nito.

Tatandaan na mahigit 600,000 bata na edad-5 namamatay dahil sa kawalan ng oxygen sa kanilang pneumonia at kaagaw na ngayon sila sa suplay ng mga nagkakasakit sa COVID-19.

Nito lang buwan ng Hunyo 2021 naging matagumpay ang pagkilos ng World Health Organization para ipunin ang halos lahat ng suplayer para maglaan para sa COVID-19 patients sa buong mundo.

Hindi lang sa bagsik ng virus ng pandemya kundi mismo sa kawalan ng suplay ng oxygen namamatay ang mga tao sa pandemya.

DELTA VARIANT

Ang pagdating ng Delta o India variant na napakabilis manghawa at nahihinog sa 3-5 araw para maging serious o critical ang nahawa ang dapat na isipin.

Nakakalat na ito sa nasa 100 bansa, kasama na ang Pilipinas, at sa kawalan ng border control natin sa mahigit 90 bansa, ang katanungan na lang ay kung kailan kumalat at manalasa gaya ng nagaganap sa India, Indonesia at Africa.

Alalahaning hindi iniinda ng variant na ito maging ang malalakas na bakunang Pfizer na hanggang 64 porsyento lang nito mapigilan ang hawaan at malabanan ang tinamaan.

Ang AstraZeneca, hanggang 60% lang din ang bisanito laban sa Delta variant.

Kung unang dose ang pag-uusapan, hanggang 33% lang ang bisa ng Pfizer at AstraZeneca.

Kaya naman, dapat na tayong maghanda rito.



Alalahaning may United Kingdom variant at South Africa variant na kasama ng orig na virus ng COVID-19 na nananalasa sa Pinas ngayon.

Kapag nakalusot nang husto papasok sa bansa ang Delta variant, magdasal-dasal na rin tayo.

Isipin pa ito, higit na marama sa mahigit 400 doktor namatay sa India ang tinamaan ng Delta variant kaysa orig at ibang variant at karamihan din sa nasa 14 doktor sa Indonesia ang namatay sa Delta variant din.

Ayaw nating mangyari ang lahat ng ito sa Pinas.

MGA GINAGAWA NG IBA

Nitong kasagsagan ng kakapusan ng oxygen sa India at ngayon sa Indonesia, kabilang sa mga ginawa o ginagawa ng pamahalaan nila ang pagpapatigil o pagbabawas ng suplay ng oxygen sa mga industriya.

Gamit ang oxygen sa paggawa ng tela, plastic, sasakyan, bakal, pagrerepina ng langis, iba't ibang kemikal at iba pa.

Hiniling o inutusan ang mga oxygen manufacturer na ilaan ang malaking bolyum nito para sa pangangailangan ng mga ospital at mamamayang hindi matanggap sa mga ospital umaapaw na ng pasyente.

Ang WHO, gaya ng nabanggit na sa itaas, kumikilos na rin para sa pagdadala ng suplay sa mga nangangailangan.

Ngayon naman, gaano karami ang medical oxygen sa mahal kong Pinas at gaano karami ang mga tangke at aparato na gagamitin para sa mga pasyente...kung saka-sakali?

BITAY SA MAGSASAMANTALA

Sa India nakita ang matinding mga pagsasamantala mula sa overpricing hanggang sa hoarding at panghaharang mga suplay, bukod sa mga nakawan at hindi pagsasauli ng mga pahiram ng mga ospital.

Kaya naman, nakikialam na maging ang mga huwes sa pagsasabing hahatulan nila ng bitay ang mga magsasamantala.

Dahil sa krisis oxygen sa India, nakita ang maramihang kamatayan at kung saan-saan na lang inililibing ang mga bangkay, kasama ang paghahagis ng mga ito sa ilog.

Isa ang Indonesia sa nagbibigay ng suplay ng oxygen at oxygen tank sa India pero itinigil na ito dahil sa COVID surge nito.

Batay sa mga karanasang ito, panukala nating gumawa na ang Pilipinas ng batas na dapat masunod kaugnay ng medical oxygen at sari-saring bagay kaugnay nito.

Dapat kasama rin sa batas ang ligtas na paggamit ng mga tangke upang hindi natin maranasan ang mga sumasabog at nagiging sanhi ng mga sunog sa mga ospital na ikinamamatay ng marami gaya sa India, Iraq at iba pa.



#OneDENR

**Covid-19
Situation and Response**

DENR-CO COVID-19 Monitoring



Data on COVID-19 include reported cases of DENR employees (Permanent, Contract of Service/Job Order, Support Staff (Triumph/Security)) as collected by the Contact Tracing Team of DENR Central Office.

Total
100

Last update: a few seconds ago

Active
2

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Recovered
98

Last update: a few seconds ago

Deaths
0

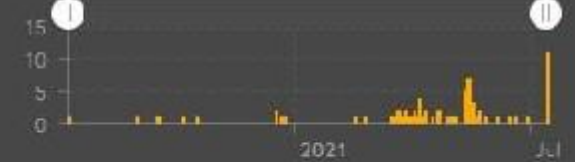
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% COVID-19 Confirmed Cases in DENR-CO



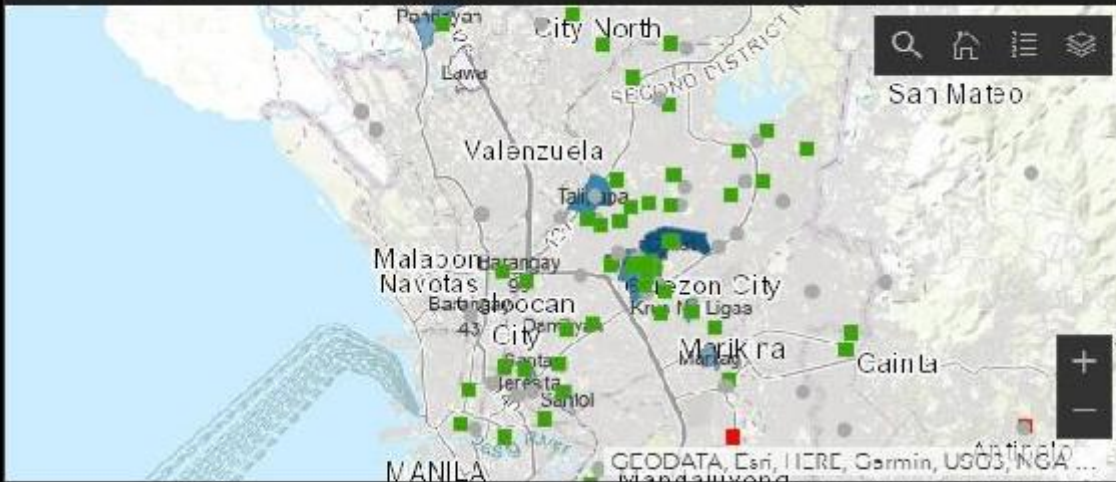
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Daily Confirmed Cases



Last update: a few seconds ago

Residence of affected personnel



Please note that representative dots were randomly assigned within the barangay residence of the affected personnel and do not necessarily provide exact location/ addresses of the cases.

Map

Map Legend

Age Group



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Age Group by Sex



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Health Status



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Comorbidity



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Sex



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Developed by the DENR Statistics and Data Resource Management Division (SDRMD) - Knowledge Information Systems Service. To report data



VACCINE DOSE INTERVALS

GAMALEYA SPUTNIK V

2 doses,
3 weeks apart [A]

PFIZER BIONTECH

2 doses,
21 days apart [A]

ASTRAZENECA

2 doses,
4-12 weeks apart [A]

SINOVAC

2 doses,
28 days apart [A]

JANSSEN

1 dose [A]

BHARAT BIOTECH

2 doses,
14 days apart [A]

NOVAVAX

2 doses,
21 days apart [C]

Alam mo ba?

Depende sa
brand ng bakuna ang
pagitan ng first dose
sa second dose.

HAGING MAALAMI!

MODERNA

2 doses,
28 days apart [B]

<https://doh.gov.ph/vaccines/know-your-vaccines>

Prepared by:



GENDER
AND
DEVELOPMENT OFFICE



16 JULY 2021, FRIDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

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