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NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Cebu City fetes Cimatú for help in Covid-19 response

By Carlo Lorenciana June 15, 2021, 4:39 pm



ORDER OF RAJAH HUMABON. Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu (left) has been conferred with the Order of Rajah Humabon for his role in the fight against Covid-19 at the height of the pandemic in Cebu City last year. Mayor Edgardo Labella (right) on Tuesday (June 15, 2021) expressed gratitude to Cimatu for his leadership in helping the city deal with the Covid-19 crisis through the establishment of an emergency operations center. *(File photos)*

CEBU CITY – The city government here has conferred Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu with the Order of Rajah Humabon for his role in bringing down the cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) at the height of the pandemic last year.

In a statement on Tuesday, Mayor Edgardo Labella expressed the city government's gratitude to Cimatu for his leadership in helping the city deal with the health crisis.

“Cebu City is proud of you because you have been instrumental in helping us deal with the Covid-19 situation last year,” Labella said in a mix of Cebuano and English.

The mayor also acknowledged the valuable efforts of Inter-Agency Task Force-Visayas deputy chief implementer Ret. Gen. Melquiades Feliciano, his wife Mia Fe, Cebu City Emergency Operations Center (EOC) deputy chief implementer Councilor Joel Garganera, and other stakeholders who “have been dedicated to curbing the pandemic”.

“We thank your efforts so we can recover from the Covid-19 crisis,” Labella said.

Acting Mayor Michael Rama led the conferment of the award to Cimatu during the city's 123rd Philippine Independence Day celebration at Citadines Hotel here last Saturday.

Last year, Cimatu was sent by President Rodrigo Duterte to Cebu province, particularly to this capital city, to oversee the situation of Covid-19 after being tagged as the epicenter of the viral outbreak in the country.

The environment chief was able to put things in order here particularly on how to address the coronavirus crisis with the support of Feliciano.

Last year, Feliciano led the setting up of the EOC to harmonize the response efforts here, a system which was later applied and implemented in other cities in Cebu and the Visayas. **(PNA)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1143755>



Not just dolomite: DENR to spruce up Manila Bay with coconut trees, too

Published June 15, 2021, 6:17 PM

by [Ellson Quismorio](#)

Who says the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is solely relying on white-colored dolomite “sand” to rehabilitate and beautify Manila Bay?



Coconut trees (Photo by Madib Zikri / Unsplash)

Apparently, the agency also wants to use the natural beauty of coconut trees to give Manila Bay more visual appeal.

On Wednesday, June 16, DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu will lead a planting activity with coconut trees along the baywalk area in Roxas Boulevard, Manila.

“The activity is in relation to the continuing activities and efforts of the department for the clean-up and rehabilitation of Manila Bay,” read an advisory sent to reporters Tuesday, June 15.

AREA PLAN FOR THE COCONUT PLANTING ACTIVITY





Perhaps the most famous—or infamous—component of the rehab efforts is the artificial beach along the baywalk. Crushed dolomite rocks are being used to approximate the appearance of white sand for this beach.

There has been a public outcry against the continued dumping of dolomite—which the DENR obviously had to procure—amid the country’s continuing fight against the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

Critics have said that the money used to buy dolomite should have instead been funneled to the national government’s funds for social amelioration for poor families affected by the lockdowns.

The DENR’s rehabilitation of Manila Bay began in 2020 with a budget of P389 million. The funds were allocated back in 2019, or the year before the emergence of the pandemic.

Officials from the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), Department of Tourism (DOT), Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), and Manila City government are expected to grace the coconut tree planting activity.

The officials will deliver “messages of support” during the event, the advisory read.

Coconut trees and palm trees have been used by resorts the world over to give a certain “paradise feel” to the tourist destinations.



DENR partners with local fishermen to clear Laguna Lake's water hyacinths

JUN 15, 2021, 10:46 AM

Santiago Celario

Writer

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources is confident that since the success of the Boracay rehabilitation, the move to address the water hyacinth pollution in Laguna Lake will be easier.

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) renewed its collaboration with fishermen along the shores of Laguna Lake to remove water hyacinths in the lake.

DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns and head of the Manila Bay Anti-Pollution Task Force Benny Antiporda, said that the DENR will continue its project, which started in October 2020, to tap local fishermen in addressing the proliferation of water hyacinths in the famous lake.

"The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has a project where we commission the labor or assistance of our local fishermen to harvest the water hyacinths in polluted waterbodies," Antiporda said during a cleanup drive initiated by Rotary Club of Binangonan, Rizal last June 11.

He added that the project provides livelihood to the fisherfolk and at the same time "gives life to the Bay."

Antiporda, who also committed to supervise the project, was confident that since the success of the Boracay rehabilitation, the feat to address the water hyacinth pollution in Laguna Lake will not be of a big task.

"I personally commit that in the coming weeks or so, we will be here in this lake to clean up all the water hyacinth and make sure that we will prevent incidents in the previous years where this lake is all covered with water lilies," he pointed out.

"We have rehabilitated Boracay. We are cleaning up the Manila Bay. Laguna Lake is relatively not that big. Why not, we clean this up, too?" he added.

Water lilies can be a nuisance because these allow disease-spreading vector species of mosquitoes to breed freely in the static waters.



Their decomposition results in an obnoxious smell, decreases the clarity of water and depletes the level of dissolved oxygen making it unsuitable for human use.

The pilot testing for the project was introduced to the local government of Taytay, Rizal.

DENR officials also met with members of the Samahan ng Mangingisda sa Lawa ng Taytay (SMALT). (SC)



#EagleNews

Isang NGO, nagsagawa ng clean-up drive sa 3 barangay sa Binangonan, Rizal

15 views · Jun 15, 2021

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CHR pinapurihan ni DENR Usec. Benny Antiporda



June 15, 2021 @ 7:20 PM 11 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines – Habang abala ang national at local government sa panahon ng pandemya at kalakhan nito ay naka sentro sa pangangalaga sa kabuhayan ang ekonomiya, para sa management of waste ay mahalaga para malimita ang pangmatagalang peligro para sa human and environmental health.

Sa press statement ng Commission on Human Rights (CHR) sinabi ni Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia sa pagdiriwang ng Philippine Environment Month ngayong Hunyo ang Commission on Human Rights pinapurihan nito ang pagsisikap ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) para sa kumpletong pagsasara ng 335 open dumpsites sa buong bansa at ang patuloy na commitment nito para mahigpit na ipatupad ang Republic Act (RA) No. 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

Ayon sa CHR nakalantad tayo sa environmental degradation araw araw ng ating buhay na seryosong nagpapatuloy sa paglabag sa human rights. People's health, food and water safety, housing, and overall well-being na nagatibong nakaka apekto sa hindi tamang pagtatapon ng waste and hazardous materials.

Sinabi pa ng CHR ilan sa mga health and environmental risk ng illegal dumpsites kabilang ang kontaminasyon ng soil at water ay mataas ang risk ng natural disasters and health issues and disruption ng wild life. Hindi katulad ng sanitary landfills, illegal dumpsites ay hindi nagtatayo ng built-in system and constant monitoring para sa environmental safety.

Ang RA No. 9003 partikular sa bans ng paggamit ng open dumpsites para sa solid waste ng kahit ano mang tao kabilang ang local government unit (LGUs). Inirerekomenda nila ang naangkop na kaso na isasampa ng DENR laban sa mga public officials na hindi nagpapatupad at sumusunod sa batas sa kanilang kapasidad bilang pinuno ng LGUs.

Idinagdag pa ng CHR na ang waste management kinakailangan ng integrated assessment at holistic approaches para sa solusyon. Habang sinusupportahan ang matagumpay ng pagsisikapng LGUs sa kanilang pagsisikap at pagpapatupad ng kanilang sariling local solid waste management plan, pagdedetalye ng kanilang sariling framework para sa reusing, recycling, at composting waste sa kanilang jurisdiction, binigyang diin ang waste disposal system para sa simple at accessible para sa pangkaraniwang tao para sa kanilang trabaho.

Kaugnay nito pinapurihan naman ni DENR Usec. Benny Antiporda ang statement ng CHR hinggil sa programa ng gobyerno para sa waste management program sa bansa.

Sa naturang hakbang ang Commission ay nananawagan ng mahigpit na monitoring sa mga LGUs para sa pagpapatupad ng National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) Resolution No. 1364 series of 2020 o ang Interim Guidelines on the Management of Covid-19 Related Health Care Waste, lalo na mataas na medical at personal protective equipment wastes. *Santi Celario*

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/chr-pinapurihan-ni-denr-usec-benny-antiporda/>



JUNE 15, 2021

Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the government's programs that improve waste management in the country

While national and local interventions during the pandemic are largely focused on protecting lives and economies, management of waste is also essential to minimise long-term risks to human and environmental health.

In line with the celebration of the Philippine Environment Month this June, the Commission on Human Rights lauds the effort of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in completing the closure of the 335 open dumpsites all over the country, and on its continued commitment to strictly enforce Republic Act (RA) No. 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

The environmental degradation we are exposed to in our daily lives can lead to very serious and continuing violations of our human rights. People's health, food and water safety, housing, and overall well-being can be negatively affected by improper disposal of waste and hazardous materials.

Some of the health and environmental risks of illegal dumpsites include the contamination of soil and water; increased risks of natural disasters and health issues; and disruption of wild life. Unlike sanitary landfills, illegal dumpsites do not have built-in systems and constant monitoring for environmental safety.

RA No. 9003 specifically bans the use of open dumpsites for solid waste by any person including local government units (LGUs). We commend that appropriate cases have been filed by the DENR against public officials who have not fully complied with the law in their capacity as heads of LGUs.

Waste management requires integrated assessments and holistic approaches for its solution. While we support the successful efforts of LGUs in their crafting and implementation of their own local solid waste management plan, detailing their framework for reusing, recycling, and composting waste in their jurisdiction, we emphasise that waste disposal system has to be simple and accessible for common people for it to work.

Due to the pandemic, the collection of waste from certain locations such as quarantine facilities, lockdown areas, and isolation centers pose a different set of hazards to local communities since they may be potentially infected with the coronavirus. In this view, the Commission calls for the stricter monitoring of LGU's compliance with the National Solid Waste Management Commission's (NSWMC) Resolution No. 1364 series of 2020 or the Interim Guidelines on the Management of Covid-19 Related Health Care Waste, especially that there is a notable increase in medical and personal protective equipment wastes.

With or without the pandemic, the CHR underscores that from national to household levels, there is an urgent call for waste management to be treated as essential public service. This will not only improve environmental sustainability and health outcomes but will surely contribute to the full enjoyment of our basic human rights. ###

Source: <https://chr.gov.ph/statement-of-chr-spokesperson-atty-jacqueline-ann-de-guia-on-the-governments-programs-that-improve-waste-management-in-the-country/?fbclid=IwAR3gDRsHzkHJu91RGmYiBREGVIlZJy6VHw-QPtmWIO0khdImotRTgjhB8g>



Environmental degradation leads to human rights violations – CHR

Published June 15, 2021, 4:40 PM

by [Czarina Nicole Ong Ki](#)



Commission on Human Rights

The Commission on Human Rights (CHR) warned that environmental degradation can lead to very serious violations of human rights.

In a statement, the CHR said the violations, caused by improper disposal of waste and hazardous materials, will negatively impact the health, food and water safety, housing, and overall wellbeing of Filipinos.

In line with the observance of the Philippine Environment Month this June, the CHR highlights the government's programs that improve waste management in the country.

It cited the complete closure of 335 open dumpsites all over the country by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

It said the closure shows the commitment of the DENR to strictly enforce Republic Act No. 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

"RA 9003 specifically bans the use of open dumpsites for solid waste by any person, including local government units (LGUs)," the CHR said through Spokesperson Jacqueline Ann de Guia.

"We commend the appropriate cases that have been filed by the DENR against public officials who have not fully complied with the law in their capacity as heads of LGUs," De Guia said.

She cited some of the health and environmental risks of illegal dumpsites such as contamination of soil and water, increased risks of natural disasters and health issues, as well as the disruption of wildlife.

"Unlike sanitary landfills, illegal dumpsites do not have built-in systems and constant monitoring for environmental safety," she said.

For effective waste management, the CHR said that LGUs need to develop holistic approaches for reusing, recycling, and composting waste within their areas of jurisdiction.

De Guia pointed out that the current health crisis has made it more difficult for local communities to adhere to proper waste management.



She said the collection of waste from certain locations such as quarantine facilities, lockdown areas, and isolation centers pose a different set of hazards since they may be potentially infected with COVID-19.

To cope with these challenges, the CHR said that LGUs need stricter compliance with the National Solid Waste Management Commission's (NSWMC) Resolution No. 1364 series of 2020 or the Interim Guidelines on the Management of COVID-19 Related Health Care Waste.

This is especially crucial since there is a notable increase in medical and personal protective equipment being thrown away, it stressed.

De Guia also said: "With or without the pandemic, the CHR underscores that from national to household levels, there is an urgent call for waste management to be treated as essential public service. This will not only improve environmental sustainability and health outcomes but will surely contribute to the full enjoyment of our basic human rights."



Waste management part of basic human rights protection

By Lade Jean Kabagani **June 15, 2021, 7:10 pm**



SHUTDOWN. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources stops the operation of an estimated four-hectare open dumpsite of the municipal government of Sta. Ana in Pampanga on Feb. 5, 2021. The Commission on Human Rights said on Tuesday (June 15) such moves show the country values human rights to a clean environment. *(Photo courtesy of DENR)*

MANILA – Waste management shows how a country values human dignity as the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) on Tuesday recognized improved efforts in time for the observance of Philippine Environment Month in July.

The CHR likewise lauded the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) order to close down some 335 open dumpsites nationwide.

In a statement, CHR spokesperson Jacqueline de Guia said waste management efforts will not only improve environmental sustainability and health outcomes but will surely contribute to the full enjoyment of basic human rights.

"While national and local interventions during the pandemic are largely focused on protecting lives and economies, management of waste is also essential to minimize long-term risks to human and environmental health," she said.

In shutting down open dumpsites, the DENR enforced Republic Act (RA) No. 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, which provides the necessary policy framework, institutional mechanisms, and mandate for local government units (LGUs) to achieve 25-percent waste reduction through the establishment of an integrated solid waste management plans based on 3Rs (reduce, reuse and recycling).

De Guia said environmental degradation can lead to "very serious and continuing violations of our human rights".

"People's health, food and water safety, housing, and overall well-being can be negatively affected by improper disposal of waste and hazardous materials," she added.

Hazardous dumpsites

Among the health and environmental risks of illegal dumpsites are the contamination of soil and water, increased risks of natural disasters and health issues, and disruption of wildlife, the CHR said.

"Unlike sanitary landfills, illegal dumpsites do not have built-in systems and constant monitoring



RA No. 9003 specifically bans the use of open dumpsites for solid waste by any person, including LGUs.

"We commend that appropriate cases have been filed by the DENR against public officials who have not fully complied with the law in their capacity as heads of LGUs," de Guia said.

Waste management requires integrated assessments and holistic approaches for its solution, she added.

"While we support the successful efforts of LGUs in their crafting and implementation of their own local solid waste management plan, detailing their framework for reusing, recycling, and composting waste in their jurisdiction, we emphasize that waste disposal system has to be simple and accessible for common people for it to work," de Guia said.

The CHR likewise called for stricter monitoring of LGUs' compliance with the National Solid Waste Management Commission's Resolution No. 1364 or the Interim Guidelines on the Management of Covid-19 Related Health Care Waste, noting an increase in medical and personal protective equipment wastes.

"Due to the pandemic, the collection of waste from certain locations such as quarantine facilities, lockdown areas, and isolation centers pose a different set of hazards to local communities since they may be potentially infected with the coronavirus," de Guia said.

"With or without the pandemic, the CHR underscores that from national to household levels, there is an urgent call for waste management to be treated as essential public service," she added. (PNA)



CHR urges monitoring of LGUs' compliance with waste disposal rules amid pandemic

By: [Gabriel Pabico Lalu](#) - Reporter / [@GabrielLaluINO](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 10:42 PM June 15, 2021



ENHANCED EXPOSURE A garbage collector does a balancing act while stacking up bags of trash on a moving dump truck en route to a waste transfer station in Barangay Santo Niño, Marikina City, in this photo taken on April 11, 2021. With their job made more hazardous by the coronavirus outbreak, trash collectors deserve more than just a pat on the back these days, according to the environment watchdog EcoWaste Coalition. (File photo by LYN RILLON / Philippine Daily Inquirer)

MANILA, Philippines — Local government units should enforce stricter waste disposal rules, especially with hazardous waste coming from facilities used by COVID-19 patients, the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) said in a statement issued on Tuesday to mark the celebration of the Philippine Environment Month.

In line with this, the CHR urged the national government to be stricter in monitoring LGUs in their compliance with the Interim Guidelines on the Management of Covid-19 Related Health Care Waste that was issued by the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC).

“Due to the pandemic, the collection of waste from certain locations such as quarantine facilities, lockdown areas, and isolation centers pose a different set of hazards to local communities since they may be potentially infected with the coronavirus,” CHR spokesperson Jacqueline de Guia said.

“The environmental degradation we are exposed to in our daily lives can lead to very serious and continuing violations of our human rights,” De Guia said. “People’s health, food and water safety, housing, and overall well-being can be negatively affected by improper disposal of waste and hazardous materials.”

“Some of the health and environmental risks of illegal dumpsites include the contamination of soil and water; increased risks of natural disasters and health issues; and disruption of wildlife. Unlike sanitary landfills, illegal dumpsites do not have built-in systems and constant monitoring for environmental safety,” she explained.

In this context, the CHR praised the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for doing its part in curbing dangerous waste disposal practices, such as the use of open dumpsites.

Last January, DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu ordered the closure of some 200 remaining open dumpsites nationwide by March in compliance with the solid waste management law.



Cimatu urged local officials to strictly enforce the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, which took effect in February 2001.

CHR hopes that the closure of open dumpsites would make people more aware of proper waste disposal.

“With or without the pandemic, the CHR underscores that from national to household levels, there is an urgent call for waste management to be treated as essential public service,” De Guia noted.

“This will not only improve environmental sustainability and health outcomes but will surely contribute to the full enjoyment of our basic human rights,” she added.



MAGTATAGUMPAY ANG PROYEKTO SA PAMPANGA RIVER BASIN KUNG MAY SUPORTA NG LGU



June 14, 2021 @ 11:45 PM 1 day ago

SANG-AYON ang inyong Agarang Serbisyo Lady sa sinabi ni DENR Undersecretary Rodolfo Garcia, magtatagumpay ang programa kung may suporta ng local government unit at ng mga apektadong komunidad, kaya ang hamon sa National Water Resources Board ay maipaalam sa ordinaryong mamamayan ang kahalagahan ng proyekto lalo pa't napakateknikal nito para makuha ang kanilang tulong.

Sa panig naman ng KOICA, sinabi ni Hwang Jaesang, country director sa Pilipinas, na malaki ang paniniwala nila sa programa para maging “most economically advanced river basin” ang Pampanga River Basin (PRB) na malaki ang maitutulong sa kabuhayan at kalikasan ng mga lalawigan nakapalibot dito.

Pampanga River Basin – kadalasan itong tinatawag na Rio Grande de Pampanga ay may habang 261 kilometers mula sa Caraballo mountains sa Aurora at Nueva Vizcaya at nagtatapos sa Labangan channel patungong Manila Bay. May lawak naman itong 10,434 km² nakakabit ang Guagua River, Pe aranda at Coronel Santos river, Rio Chico river, Angat river, Bagbag river, Mount Arayat, Candaba swamp at ang Cabiao floodway.

Ang PRB ang siyang ikalawang pinakamalaking ilog sa buong Luzon island at pang-lima sa buong bansa. May kakayahan itong humawak ng 100 hanggang 300 millimeters of 24-hour rainfall water.

Ang pinakamalalang pagbaha ng PRB ay naitala noong 1972 na nagpalubog sa labing-apat na lalawigan sa northern at central Luzon, maging ang Metro Manila at ilang bahagi ng Southern Tagalog.

Ipinaliwanag ni Deuk Koo Koh, ang project manager, mula sa Dongbu Engineering, kung ano ang mangyayari at tatahakin ng proyekto mula 2021 hanggang 2025. Si Dr. Koh ay may doctorate degree sa water resources engineering mula sa Seoul National University at nagtrabaho sa Korea Water Resources Corporation (K-water) at maging sa K-water Institute, at nagsilbing secretary general ng Korean Water Forum kaugnay sa paghahanda sa 7th World Water Fourm sa Deagu, Korea noong 2015.

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/magtatagumpay-ang-proyekto-sa-pampanga-river-basin-kung-may-suporta-ng-lgu/>



DENR distributes land titles

BY JONAS REYES

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Region 3 on Tuesday announced that 2,240 residential and agricultural patents or land titles that cover 47 hectares of land were distributed to more than 11,200 farmers and residents of this region in 2020.

DENR Region 3 executive director Paquito Moreno Jr. said that the distribution of land titles is part of the agency's thrust to address social equity and poverty in rural areas.

The project – dubbed as the Handog Titulo program – is part of the improved land administration and management program, which was among the major thrusts of Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu.

“Our land titles or patents provide protection on our property rights and guarantee security to the land we occupy,” Moreno said.

He also cited the agency's critical role in alleviating poverty in the region while providing economic development in Central Luzon.

Patents and Deeds Division (LPDD) Licenses Regional Office 3 chief Ricky Hernandez, on the other hand, said that aside from the agricultural and residential patents, a total of 407 miscellaneous patents for commercial and industrial purposes were distributed by the DENR.

Hernandez revealed that 22 special patents were already issued for public schools, local government offices and quasi-public use and noted that upholding land rights and distributing free patents that provide security of tenure enable residents of Central Luzon to improve their lives.

“With effective land administration system, land can serve as an important asset for poverty reduction and economic development. Our patent is an absolute proof of one's ownership of land. Let us make our lands more productive to maximize the benefits offered in the free patents,” Hernandez said.

Since 2011, the land distribution program of DENR aided around 320,000 landless farmers and their families from the issuances of 66,959 land titles covering 20,899 hectares in the region.



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel Nos. (632) 929-88-26 to 29 - (632) 929-82-52
Website: <http://www.denr.gov.ph> / E-mail: web@denr.gov.ph

APR 28, 2021

**DENR ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
NO. 2021-07**

SUBJECT : GUIDELINES ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF LEGAL EASEMENTS ALONG THE SEAS, RIVERS, LAKES, ESTEROS, AND CREEKS

Pursuant to the provisions of Articles 634 and 638 of the Civil Code of the Philippines, Article 51 of Presidential Decree (P.D.) 1067 or the Water Code of the Philippines, P.D. 705 or the Revised Forestry Code, as amended, Commonwealth Act (CA.) 141 or the Public Land Act, as amended, Executive Order (E.O.) 192 or the Reorganization Act of the DENR, Republic Act (RA.) 7586, as amended by R.A. 11038 otherwise known as the ENIPAS Act, DENR Administrative Order (DAO) No. 99-21, DAO No. 2007-29 or the Revised Regulations on Land Surveys, and DENR Memorandum Circular (DMC) No. 2010-13 or the Manual on Land Survey Procedures, the following guidelines is hereby issued for the guidance of all concerned:

SECTION 1. Basic Policy. It is the policy of the State to ensure that the country's environment and natural resources are conserved, managed, developed and properly used including the protection of the people. As such, the State shall establish safeguard measures on the establishment of salvage zones and legal easements along seas, rivers, lakes, esteros, creeks, and other wetland areas.

SECTION 2. Objective. This Order aims to provide guidelines on the establishment of legal easement for public use in the interest of recreation, navigation, floatage, fishing and salvage in accordance with the existing laws and regulations.

SECTION 3. Scope and Coverage. This Order shall apply to all lands adjoining seas, rivers, lakes, creeks, esteros and other wetland areas.

SECTION 4. Definition of Terms. As used in this Order, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

- 4.1 **Creek** - a stream of water longer than a brook or small stream that empties into the rivers.
- 4.2 **Estero** - any bed or channel through which stagnant, dirty or salt water flows under the influence of the tide.
- 4.3 **Lake** - an expanded part of a river or an inland body of standing water.
- 4.4 **Legal Easement** - an easement by necessity constituted by law which has for its object either for public use or the interest of private persons.
- 4.5 **Mean high water level** - the average of all the high-water levels at a given location over a period of years.
- 4.6 **National Park** - lands of the public domain classified as such in the Constitution which includes all areas under the NIPAS pursuant to R.A. 11038, primarily designated for the conservation of plants and animals, their associated habitats and cultural diversity.
- 4.7 **Protected Area** - identified portions of land and/or water set aside by reason of their unique physical and biological significance, managed to enhance biological diversity and protected against destructive human exploitation.
- 4.8 **Reclaimed areas** - land that was under the sea or was in a very poor condition, but has been improved so that it can be used for farming or building on.
- 4.9 **River** - any wide natural bed or channel through which water flows continuously or intermittently throughout the year.
- 4.10 **Rural areas** - areas not identified as urban as defined in this Order.
- 4.11 **Salvage Zone** - lands measuring twenty (20) meters measured landward from the interior limit of the shoreline for easement purposes.
- 4.12 **Urban areas** - all cities regardless of their population density and municipalities with a population density of at least five hundred (500) persons per square kilometer pursuant to R.A. 7279 or the Urban Development and Housing Act of 1992, regardless of the declaration of Local Government Units (LGUs) except in Metro cities.
- 4.13 **Wetland** - a wide variety of inland habitats such as marshes, peatlands, floodplains, rivers and lakes, and coastal areas such as saltmarshes, mangroves, intertidal mudflats and seagrass beds, and also coral reefs and other marine areas no deeper than six (6) meters at low tide, as well as human-made wetlands such as dams, reservoirs, rice paddies and wastewater treatment ponds and lagoons.

SECTION 5. Determination of the Required Legal Easement. The following rules shall be applied in determining legal easements.

- 5.1 **For Urban Areas**
All cities and urban municipalities shall adopt a 3-meter easement zone over those areas classified as agricultural lands. Forest lands shall adopt a 40-meter easement zone, even if it is part of an urban area.
- 5.2 **For Rural Areas**
Rural municipalities shall adopt a 20-meter easement zone for agricultural lands, and 40-meter easement zone on forest lands.

In cases where rural municipalities are upgraded into urban, their easements shall be adjusted consistent with Section 5.1 of this Order upon approval of their new Comprehensive Land Use Plans (CLUPs). The existing easements as reflected in the old DENR Cadastral Map shall likewise be updated.

- 5.3 **For National Parks/Protected Areas**
All National Parks/Protected Areas, whether in urban or rural areas, shall adopt a 40-meter easement zone, taking into consideration the provisions of Section 18 (v) of R.A. 11038 or the ENIPAS Law, and Section 24.4 of DAO No. 2019-05.
- 5.4 **In case of Reclaimed Areas**
All reclamation projects, whether in urban or rural areas, shall adopt a 40-meter easement zone. The easement shall be measured from the banks or the edge of the reclaimed portion.

If warranted under the circumstances and in order to safeguard and conserve land, the LGU, through an ordinance may impose a wider easement subject to the rights of private persons owning a titled land, who may be affected by the imposition of wider easements under Article II, Section 9 of the 1987 Constitution.

SECTION 6. Measurement of Legal Easement. For the purpose of measuring or establishing the salvage zone and legal easements, the following rules shall be applied:

- 6.1 Lands bordering the seas, gulfs, bays or ports shall be subjected to easement of salvage zone of twenty (20) meters in agricultural lands and forty (40) meters in forest lands measured landward from the Mean High Water line or interior limit of the shoreline.
- 6.2 Banks of rivers and streams with channels at least five (5) meters wide or continuously flowing rivers and streams even with less than five (5) meters width, creeks, arroyos or esteros shall be subjected to legal easement of three (3) meters in urban areas, twenty (20) meters in agricultural lands and forty (40) meters in forest lands, measured landward from the edge of the normal high waterline.
- 6.3 Lands along the shore of lakes shall also be subjected to the same legal easement in Section 6.2 above, measured from the edge of the normal high water marks made at the lake's greatest water depth, except those under the jurisdiction of the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) and other government agencies.

The measurement of easement along seas and coastal areas shall be based on the mean high-water level with reference to the tide table as published by the NAMRIA.

The provisions of Section 2 of DAO No. 99-21 and Section 64 of DMC No. 2010-13 on the survey of legal easements shall be followed. All existing easements as identified in the old Cadastral Survey and those within forest lands and National Parks/Protected Areas shall be updated every ten (10) years and reflected or indicated in the corresponding map through dotted lines.

The lands formed from the forces of nature resulting in recession of the water level shall be preserved as easement and shall not be subjected to disposition until it is classified. On the other hand, lands submerged as a result of the sea level rise or subject of erosion shall be accordingly reduced in the map. If a private or titled land is affected, no new easement shall be required.

SECTION 7. Monitoring. The DENR Regional Offices, through their Enforcement Division shall monitor the establishment of easements in accordance with the provisions of this Order. In case the area concerned is within a National Park/Protected Areas, the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) shall be included in the monitoring.

A database of shape files of all the established easements shall be created in the Regional Office. This shall be maintained and updated from time to time or when necessary.

SECTION 8. Enforcement. All individuals or group entities owning or managing the establishments and structures which are found to be in violation of the rules on the establishment of salvage zones and legal easements, whether private or owned by the government, shall be subjected to possible relocation and demolition, if warranted.

All violators shall be notified by the Region to comply with the rules. Those individuals or group entities that are subject to relocation but with existing Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) shall be required to apply for a new one since the previously issued Certificate is based on the impact areas identified in their earlier submitted Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) studies.

The enforcement of legal easements within Protected Areas shall be guided by the provisions of Section 24 of DAO No. 2019-05.

SECTION 9. Separability Clause. If any provision of this Order shall be held invalid or unconstitutional, the other portions or provisions hereof which are not affected shall continue in full force and effect.

SECTION 10. Repealing Clause. All Orders and other similar issuances inconsistent herewith are hereby revoked, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 11. Effectivity Clause. This Order shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation and upon acknowledgment of the receipt of the copy thereof by the Office of the National Administrative Register (ONAR).

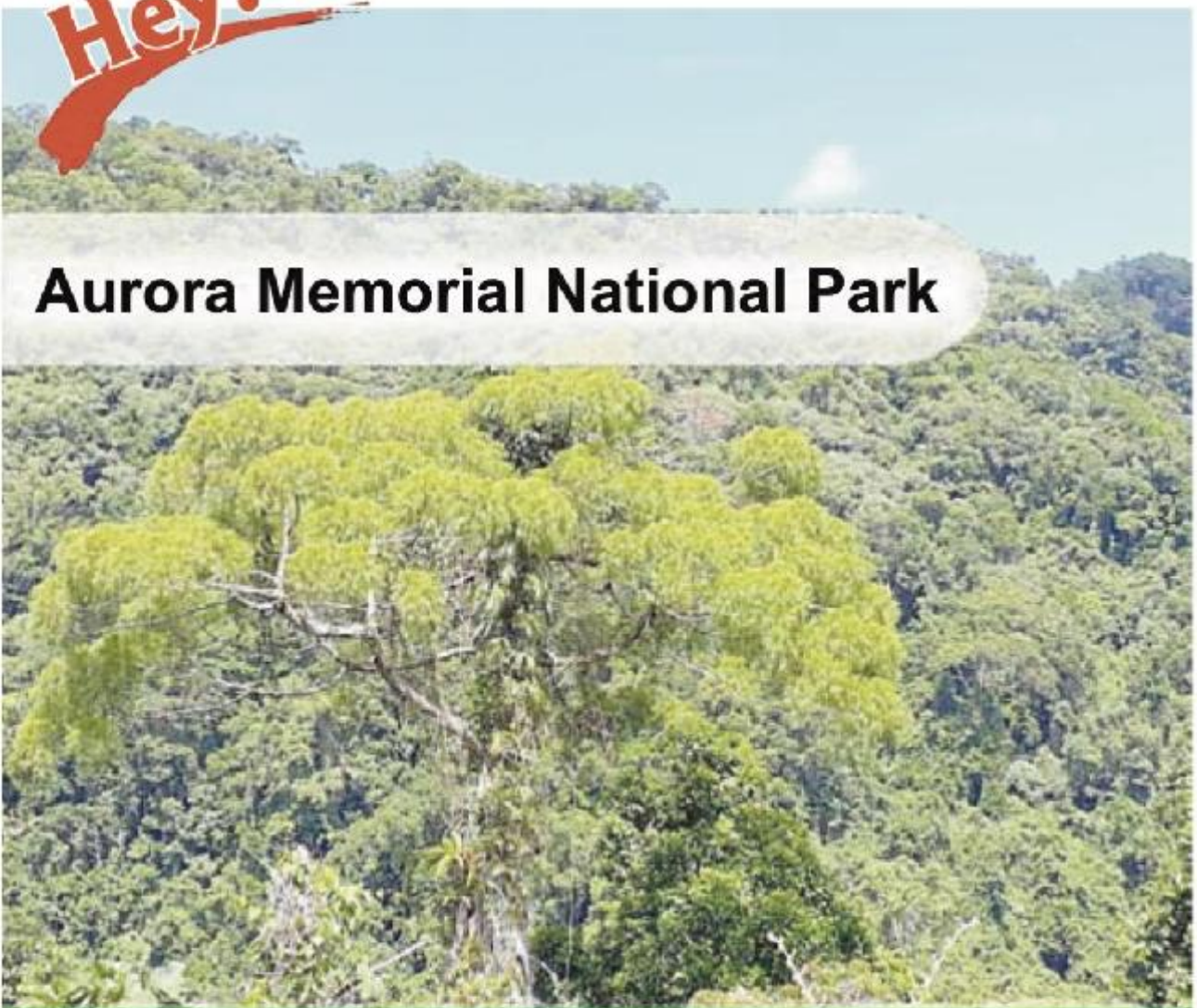
ROY A. CIMATU
Secretary





Hey!

Aurora Memorial National Park



**WILD
AND
ALIVE**

#TayoAngKalikasan

REPORT ANY ILLEGAL FOREST ACTIVITIES
TO @DENR3OFFICIAL OR 0945-368-5303.



Pasig River makes international waves despite being dead

By: [Cristina Eloisa Baclig](#) - Content Researcher/Writer / [@CeBacligINO](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 04:12 PM June 15, 2021



The Binondo-Intramuros Bridge may be completed by September 2021 as it is now 50 percent complete the DPWH said in a statement. The bridge will link the old walled city and Manila's business district which is separated by the Pasig River. -INQUIRER/GRIG C. MONTEGRANDE

MANILA, Philippines—The Philippines earned an unflattering distinction recently for having the most polluting body of water and leading source of plastic wastes in the ocean—Pasig River.

The main waterway that snakes itself through Metro Manila, the Philippines' industrial and commercial nerve center, had been found to be more pollutive than several other notorious rivers in the world, notably the Ganges River in India where millions bathe yearly for one of the world's biggest religious festivals, Khumb Mela.

That Pasig River's condition has drawn international attention is not a surprise and is presented in a study of rivers worldwide published last April in the Science Advances, a peer-reviewed journal by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) had provided details.

The study delved into where most of the plastics now floating and swimming in the oceans originate and found that among 20 countries that had been tagged as major contributors of plastic wastes, the Philippines was numero uno.

[More than 1000 rivers account for 80% of global riverine plastic emissions into the ocean](#)

Of 1,656 rivers in the Philippines that were found to contribute plastic wastes to the oceans, Pasig River topped the list.

The river, which directly connects to the country's main port for maritime trade and travel, and two key freshwater lakes in the Philippines—Manila Bay and Laguna de Bay—stretch for 27 kilometers with an average width of 91 meters and an average depth of 1.3 meters.

It was classified by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) as a Class C river in terms of usefulness. A Class C river can be useful for growing fish and other marine resources. Yes, grow fish.

A Class C river is also ideal for boating and other recreational activities. Yes, recreation.



It also, however, may be tapped to supply industrial water for manufacturing. Here, Pasig River is doing more than it can.

No fish growth, no recreational activities plus a lot of industries would, in 1990, lead to a declaration by ecologists of Pasig River as biologically dead and incapable of sustaining marine life.

How did Pasig River, object of folklore and stories about swimming in its nearly crystal clear water, end up dead?

Location is key

Pasig River is right smack in the middle of Metro Manila's heaviest industries in the cities of Taguig, Pasig, Makati, Mandaluyong and Manila plus the municipality of Taytay.

Its location made it ideal as a path for major means of transport, water sources for domestic and industrial sources, a place for recreation and habitat for aquatic life. It was able to support transport and as water supply for domestic and industrial needs. Forget about it being a habitat for aquatic life or as a place of recreation.

LOCATION IS KEY

Metro Manila's main waterway winds its way through some of the capital's most industry-heavy areas.



INFOGRAPHICS BY ED LUSTAN

Pasig River's major tributaries include:

- San Juan River (6.2 kilometers)
- Taguig-Pateros River (11.5 kilometers)
- Marikina River (19.3 kilometers)
- Napindan River (8.4 kilometers)
-

Additionally, it has 43 minor tributaries, mostly located in Manila.

While Pasig River's location was considered by many as "strategic," population growth, infrastructure development, and increased economic activities in surrounding cities led to its deterioration.

Plastic emission

According to a separate 2010 study by experts Joan Gorme, Marla Maniquiz, Pum Song, and Lee-Hyung Kim, domestic waste accounts for 60 percent of the total pollution in Pasig River.



At least 33 percent were from industrial wastes from manufacturing facilities like tanneries, textile mills, food processing plants, distilleries, and chemical and metal plants.

At least seven percent is highly visible—solid wastes dumped straight into the river.

WHAT'S EATING UP PASIG RIVER?

2010 study finds households to be the biggest source of pollution in the river.



INQ

INFOGRAPHICS BY ED LUSTAN

According to the Water Pollution Control handbook by the United Nations (UN) Environment Programme and World Health Organization (WHO), the river has become “a dumping ground of informal settlers living along the banks of the river and its tributaries as well as surrounding establishments.”

“Due to the continuous dumping of wastes, the river bed has become more and more silted with organic matter and non-biodegradable garbage,” said Gorme et al.

The DENR-NSWMC (National Solid Waste Management Commission) in 2012 revealed that solid waste generation in Metro Manila is around 8,200 tons per day.

In 2019, around 7.17 percent of mismanaged plastic waste, or plastic that is wantonly thrown away, went to the ocean.

The study published in AAAS also showed that Pasig River, as the top polluter of the world’s oceans, dumps an estimated 38,000 tons of plastics into the oceans every year.

It is at least 6.43 percent of the global ocean plastic pollution.

UNFLATTERING RECORD

Pasig River brings to light the ecological challenges confronting the Philippines.



6.43% Share of Pasig River in global plastic pollution.

INQ

INFOGRAPHICS BY ED LUSTAN



“It is important to mention that the Pasig River is a very poor and degraded water body that is unable to cope and balance with the rapid urban growth,” said the report by Gorme et al.

“The water is stagnant, black, and stinking, and the bed seems to be devoid of any slope,” the report said.

“The drainage system in the river tributaries has been choked due to high siltation and dumping of garbage including non-biodegradable wastes,” the report added, noting that slums along the river banks and wastes from dwellers are worsening the river’s already worst condition.

What is in the waters?

Water quality of Class C rivers is measured following the set criteria under the DENR Administrative Order No. 34 issued in 1990.

Table 1. DENR Standards

Color	No abnormal discoloration from unnatural causes.
Temperature	Max 3 °C rise over the ambient temp for each month based on the max daily readings over a period of one year.
pH	6.5 to 8.5
DO, min % saturation or mg/L	60.0% 5.0
5-day BOD, mg/L.	7 (10)
Total Suspended solids (TSS), mg/l.	Not more than 30 mg/L increase over the average monthly readings recorded over a one-month period.
Oil & Grease, mg/L	2.0
NO ₃ -N, mg/L	10
PO ₄ -P, mg/L	0.4
Phenols, mg/L	0.02
Chloride as Cl, mg/l.	350
Copper, (dissolved copper), mg/L	0.05

The criteria detail the acceptable color, temperature, pH level, solid waste, and other parameters for Pasig River.

But the 2010 analysis by Gorme et al. showed that from 1999 to 2009, the water quality of Pasig River was toxic and failed to meet the standard clean level of 5 and 7 milligrams per liter (mgL) dissolved oxygen and biochemical oxygen demand, or BOD.

Dissolved oxygen (DO) content is a very useful parameter to show the ecological health of any body of water.

At least 295 tons of BOD has been discharged by Pasig River every day in 1990, the researchers found. At least 44 percent of it was domestic, 45 percent household and 11 percent was solid waste.

In 2000, the total BOD load went down to 240 metric tons per day, “but the [decreasing] trend continued to deteriorate over the subsequent years.”



3.1. Water Quality Characteristics and Pollution Sources

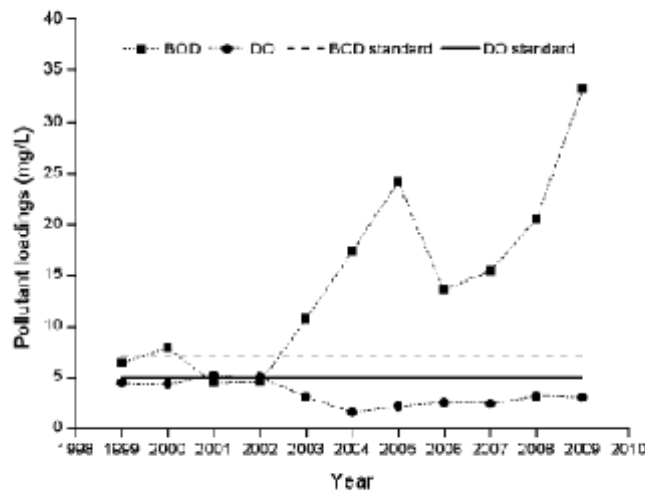


Fig. 2. Water quality of the Pasig River from 1999 to 2009. DO: dissolved oxygen, BOD: biochemical oxygen demand.

SCREEN SHOT FROM THE WATER QUALITY OF PASIG RIVER IN THE CITY OF MANILA, PHILIPPINES: CURRENT STATUS, MANAGEMENT AND FUTURE RECOVERY BY GORME ET. AL.

High levels of dissolved oxygen, or DO, had been attributed to domestic and industrial waste around the river with about 58 percent (192,999 tons) generated by domestic waste and 43 percent (138,000) tons from industries.

Measuring the DO as a basis for calculating the oxygen deficit of the water and BOD to determine the oxygen loss rates is a simple model to determine the river's water quality.

The amount of total suspended solids, or TSS, in Pasig River in the first quarter of 2009 was also high. Most solid particles found in water samples from the river were silt, decaying plants, animal matter and domestic and industrial wastes.

According to the study, volume of phosphate, oil and grease was also very high.

The researchers said at least 4.4 million people lived in the Pasig River catchment area but only 600,000, or 12 percent, are "serviced by the sewerage system that treats domestic waste water before their discharge."

"Untreated waste waters from the remaining 88 percent of the population flow through canals into viaducts leading into the river," they added.

A separate study by Parnoda et al. in 2019 explained that varying seasons and astronomical tides affect river flow pattern and heavy metals concentrations in Pasig River.

The paper found that a low flow rate during the dry season can cause heavy metals, like lead, copper, nickel, and cadmium, to settle in the sludge of rivers.

This could result in the clouding of the water and coating of the riverbed.

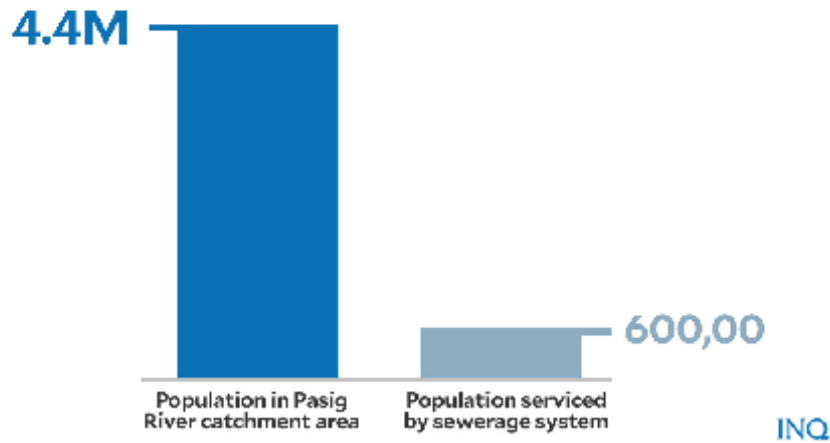
"Inorganic wastes can smother the riverbed in a blanket of toxic residue and cloud the water," the study said.

"This clouding blocks the penetration of sunlight into the water and therefore obstructs photosynthesis and inhibits plant growth, similar to what can be observed during eutrophication," it added. Eutrophication is excessive amounts of nutrients in a body of water.



A BIG SEPTIC TANK

Pasig River brings to light the ecological challenges confronting the Philippines.



INFOGRAPHICS BY ED LUSTAN

The wet season causes a distinct flow pattern in four different sampling sites – Delpan, Lambingan, Guadalupe, and Kalawaan sampling stations.

During a high flow rate, contaminants in the river will be washed out to Manila Bay.

Table 5. Heavy metals concentrations during dry season at different tide levels.

Dry Season	Lead (mg/L)	Copper (mg/L)	Nickel (mg/L)	Cadmium (mg/L)
HIGH TIDE				
Delpan	0.628 ±0.003	0.063 ±0.000	0.249 ±0.007	0.051 ±0.001
Lambingan	0.537 ±0.016	0.056 ±0.000	0.191 ±0.009	0.041 ±0.000
Guadalupe	0.545 ±0.053	0.053 ±0.004	0.164 ±0.002	0.038 ±0.001
Kalawaan	0.465 ±0.001	0.044 ±0.002	0.148 ±0.011	0.034 ±0.000
LOW TIDE				
Delpan	0.420 ±0.006	0.038 ±0.001	0.095 ±0.034	0.028 ±0.000
Lambingan	0.397 ±0.009	0.035 ±0.003	0.092 ±0.037	0.027 ±0.000
Guadalupe	0.330 ±0.019	0.032 ±0.004	0.063 ±0.049	0.022 ±0.001
Kalawaan	0.278 ±0.018	0.032 ±0.002	0.088 ±0.011	0.018 ±0.000

Table 6. Heavy metals concentrations during wet season at different tide levels.

Wet Season	Lead (mg/L)	Copper (mg/L)	Nickel (mg/L)	Cadmium (mg/L)
High Tide				
Delpan	0.312 ±0.031	0.038 ±0.003	0.105 ±0.000	0.030 ±0.000
Lambingan	0.264 ±0.023	0.034 ±0.007	0.080 ±0.022	0.026 ±0.000
Guadalupe	0.233 ±0.034	0.043 ±0.013	0.059 ±0.016	0.021 ±0.001
Kalawaan	0.209 ±0.017	0.026 ±0.003	0.039 ±0.009	0.019 ±0.001
Low Tide				
Delpan	BDL	0.003 ±0.004	BDL	BDL
Lambingan	BDL	0.032 ±0.025	BDL	BDL
Guadalupe	BDL	BDL	BDL	BDL
Kalawaan	BDL	BDL	BDL	BDL

BDL: Below the Detection Limit



It should also be noted that results from the study showed that in both seasons and flow patterns, the level of copper was above the standard number set by DENR.

Government intervention

In past years, the government has made an effort to rehabilitate the river by clearing piles of plastic wastes. It started in 1973 through the Pasig River Development Council (PRDC) and the implementation of the Pasig River Development Program (PRDP).

“These were mainly concerned with the relocation of informal families and dredging of the silted portions of the river, relocation of two large sewers in Manila Bay and the construction of concrete railings along its banks,” Gorme et al. explained.

Unfortunately, both PRDC and PRDP were abolished in 1987 due to lack of support.

The government again tried to revive the Pasig River in 1999 through the creation of the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC). Its main goal was to supervise, monitor plans, programs, projects and activities, and enforce rules and regulations for the rehabilitation of the river.

Among activities implemented by the PRRC to improve the river’s water quality were:

- Mandatory localized sewage treatment.
- Sanitation projects for secondary sewage households.
- Expansion of community-based solid waste management.

The commission had a successful run in 2018 and was given the first Asia River Prize Award by the International River Foundation.

But in September 2020, [President Rodrigo Duterte declared Pasig River to be “uncleanable.”](#) A couple of months later, he ordered the abolition of PRRC, calling it a waste of time and money.

The commission’s powers and functions, listed by Executive Order No. 93, was then transferred to other government agencies and offices like Manila Bay Task Force, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) and the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA).

According to Gorme et al., failure to achieve the target water quality for Class C rivers, like Pasig River, was due to insufficient government funding aside from lack of support from Metro Manila residents and natural disasters.

“The lack of monetary resources had resulted in the weak implementation of government projects,” the study said.

“The government has not been able to provide enough wastewater facilities to treat huge discharges coming from domestic, industrial and solid wastes, with the majority of these wastes being discharged directly into the river without proper treatment,” it added.

Limited scope

Rankings of rivers in the study published in the Science Advances, however, focused only on the volume of plastics each river spits into the oceans.

For instance, the Ganges River or river Ganga in India was ranked only eighth on the list and had a 0.63 percent share of ocean plastics.

However, in 2019, India’s Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) found that the river’s fecal coliform bacteria, like E coli, is three to 12 times higher than the permissible limit.



The CPCB said that fecal coliform in the Ganges was at the highest level at 30,000 most probable number (MPL) per milliliter (ml).

This is 12 times the permissible limit—2,500—and 60 times more than the desirable limit—500. According to the CPCB, these dangerous levels of fecal coliform—usually from excreta transferred through untreated sewage—increases the risk of contaminating diseases.

What now?

To address plastic waste management in the Philippines, World Bank recommended the following:

- Raise sorting efficiency
- Set recycled content goals for all major end-use applications
- Require “design for recycling” standards for plastics
- Enjoin more chemical and mechanical recycling capacities
- Create industry-specific requirements to collect post-use plastics
- Restrict plastics disposal.

Last February, the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) approved a draft resolution to list plastic straws and coffee stirrers as non-environmentally approved products, or NEAP.

[The DENR has vowed to eliminate the use of plastic straws and plastic coffee stirrers in the country](#), saying “this is long overdue and we need to catch up with the demand of solid waste management in our country.”

RELATED STORY: [PH rivers yield bulk of Asia’s marine plastic wastes](#)

TSB



Illegal logging in Philippines' Palawan stokes fears of a mining resurgence

by [Keith Anthony Fabro](#) on 15 June 2021



- *Since November 2020, Indigenous people have observed trees that have been illegally felled within a mining concession in southern Palawan, an island in the western Philippines.*
- *The forests are sacred to the Indigenous Pala'wan people, who have for decades fought against plans to mine the area.*
- *Against the backdrop of loosening restrictions on mining both nationally and locally, Pala'wan leaders and local NGOs say the logging could be a precursor for a resurgence of mining.*
- *The concession holder has denied any link to the illegal activity, while the government's mining agency has said it wasn't done at the company's initiative.*

Pala'wan indigenous community leader Simpjo Mata trudges through the natural forest of Mount Domadoway, in the southern part of the Philippines' Palawan province, at least twice a month. He does this primarily to check on the presence of towering trees the Pala'wan consider sacred homes for *tau't kekeywan* (forest spirits). Recently, the 42-year-old Mata says he has been aghast to see felled trees.

According to Mata, local people are alarmed not just by the illegal logging, but also by what they fear the activity might signal: a resurgence of plans to mine the area, which the Pala'wan have been [fighting against for decades](#).

The forest degradation is particularly apparent in Abukayan village in the town of Sofronio Espanola. This is where the limestone quarrying firm Pyramid Hill Mining and Industrial Corporation wants to operate after obtaining a [mineral production sharing agreement](#) with the government in 2001 despite fierce community resistance. The 25-year agreement covers a 5,149-hectare (12,723-acre) contract area rich in limestone and shale, but extraction plans were suspended after a [mining ban](#) was imposed in 2012.

The government's Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) confirmed to Mongabay that illegal tree cutting has occurred within Pyramid Hill's contract area, saying it was first reported by its field office as early as November 2020. "The forestland clearing ... is not government approved or Pyramid's Initiative," said MGB regional director Glenn Marcelo Noble. He added that the bureau has already formally reminded the mining firm of its responsibility to police its concession area.



“We are saddened by the report of illegal activities which may have harmed our environment,” Pyramid Hill’s parent company, investment holding company Premiere Horizon Alliance, said in a statement to Mongabay. “Rest assured that the Company will fully cooperate and give assistance in the prosecution of all involved once our permits to operate in the area are completed.”

Activists, however, are suspicious about the timing and location of the tree-felling. They note that the deforestation is concentrated within the mining concession, and comes at a time when the prospects for mining in Palawan look brighter than they have in years, largely due to deregulation efforts that officials are touting to revive the country’s economy after its battering by the COVID-19 pandemic. Provincial authorities are considering modifying guidelines about where in Palawan mining is permitted, and President Rodrigo Duterte in April [lifted a nine-year nationwide moratorium on new mining permit issuances](#).



An environmental para-enforcer inspects an illegally felled tree in the Pyramid Hills mining concession. Image courtesy of Teofilo Tredez/PNNI.

While there’s no evidence linking the deforestation to Pyramid Hill, Mata says that clearing the forest could ease the way for the stalled mining operation to finally push through.

“Once the forest is totally cleared, it could embolden the mining company to tell us, ‘what are you opposing for when there are no longer trees standing there?’” Mata told Mongabay.

The [Palawan NGO Network](#) (PNNI) expressed the same concerns, saying that illegal logging could be a prelude to extraction activities. Under Pyramid Hill’s contract, the company is prohibited to undertake mineral extraction in old-growth forests and other ecologically important areas currently closed to mining under Palawan’s laws. However, PNNI executive director Robert Chan told Mongabay that, “by showing that it is not a forested area anymore ... it will be easier to get permits” from the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD) and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Mata says the loss of the forest would be a disaster for the community.

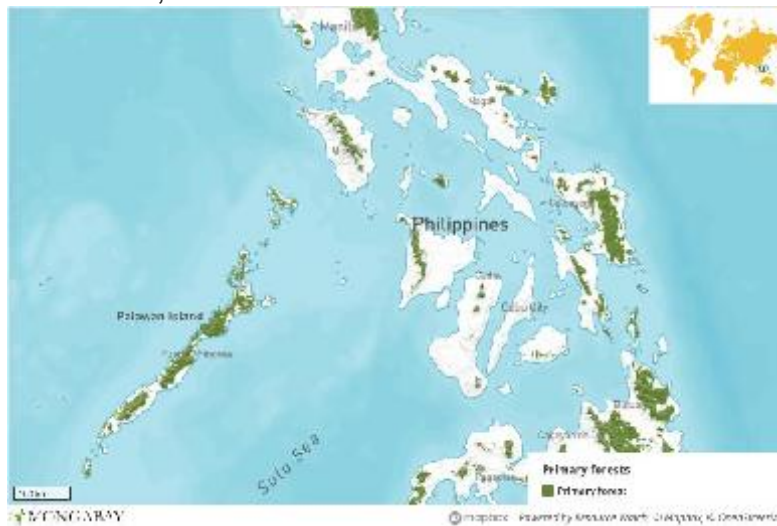
The area around Mt. Domadoway is home to around 2,500 Pala’wan people from 12 *rurunganen* (villages). The Pala’wan community revere Domadoway so much so that they prohibit people from defecating or urinating anywhere on the mountain, particularly in a cave system they call Sambanon. “Doing so can get you into trouble with the tau’t kekeywan,” he said.

Protected under the [Philippine caves law](#), Sambanon is where the Pala’wan take refuge when it rains while they’re foraging for edible wild plants. “So, when you go there, your motive should be pure; otherwise, the unseen people would know and punish you with sickness,” Mata said.

For them, Domadoway is a gift from the ancestors that keeps on giving, as besides wild food, [medicinal herbs](#) and water, they also rely on it for subsistence crops grown through swidden farming.



“If mining intrudes into our ancestral forestland, it can affect everything we value, especially our cultural traditions and customs,” Mata said.



Palawan and its surrounding islands are among the most forested and biodiverse parts of the Philippines.

Protected forests

From 1979 to 1984, Palawan lost its forests at a rate of 19,000 hectares (46,950 acres) per year, [government data](#) show. To reverse this trend, the [Strategic Environmental Plan for Palawan \(SEP\) Act](#) was introduced in 1992, when the province’s total forest cover stood at 789,488 hectares (1.95 million acres), down from 1.3 million hectares (3.2 million acres) in 1970.

The SEP imposed a province-wide commercial logging ban and designates natural forests, high-elevation areas, habitats of endangered species and other ecologically significant zones as “areas of maximum protection” or “core zones” in which all but traditional tribal activities are barred.

The SEP reduced but did not stop timber poaching, bringing the province’s annual deforestation rate down to 5,500 hectares (13,590 acres) starting from its passage up to 2010. As of 2015, the most recent year for which official figures are available, the province had just [694,000 hectares \(1.7 million acres\) of remaining forest cover](#).

Recently, the PCSD, the provincial environmental regulator, [announced plans](#) to review the criteria by which core and restricted zones are designated. The PCSD says the amendment aims to “reduce the restraints on many industries from operating in Palawan,” which [activists view as a move to accommodate more mining projects](#).

“The spirit with which the SEP law was instituted is one of conservation and not utilization,” said the PNNI’s Chan, an environmental lawyer. “That is why its goal was to establish a total logging ban in Palawan. When this goal is not realized by the projects presently being pursued by the government, then something is amiss. Palawan is primarily an agricultural and tribal community, to transform it to a tourist and mining industry is to go against its culture and known heritage.”

PCSD executive director Teodoro Matta, however, says plans to update zoning are backed by evidence showing changes in Palawan’s environment.

Policy loophole

In 2008, the Palawan provincial government passed a 25-year moratorium on endorsement issuances for new mining applications. But it only covers small-scale mining firms, hence large-scale ones continue to operate.

Currently, more than 28,000 hectares (69,000 acres), or 1.89% of Palawan's 1.5-million-hectare. (3.7-million-acre) total land area, are covered by [mining tenements](#).

Existing mines have resulted in [environmental damages](#) that have [impacted communities](#). The rampant law violations and the murder of a local broadcaster fueled a nationwide clamor to spare Palawan from mining, with the petition garnering 10 million signatures.

Some civil society observers say the end of the nationwide moratorium could put pressure on the provincial government to rescind its own mining moratorium.

Should the provincial government do so, mining would remain barred in primary forests, in accordance with a suite of laws including the [Mining Act](#), [Expanded National Integrated Protected Area Systems Act](#) and [Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act](#). Duterte's decision to repeal the mining moratorium does not supersede other environmental acts, notes Grizelda Mayo-Anda, an environmental law professor at Palawan State University and executive director of the nonprofit [Environmental Legal Assistance Center](#).

According to the PCSD's Matta, however, mining is permitted in areas designated as "controlled use zones," which form the outer buffer for maximally protected areas; in cases where such zones may overlap with critical resources like intact forests or significant wildlife habitats, the PCSD's decisions on allowable activities will rest on validation and data collection.



Aerial view of a kayak floating down a forested river in Palawan. Dubbed the "Last Frontier" of the Philippines, Palawan is at a crossroads as tourism and extractive industries edge out traditional economic activities like fishing and agriculture. Image by [Marco Verch](#) ([CC BY 2.0](#)).

People and forests

The Philippine government's pivot toward allowing more mining will undermine Indigenous peoples' rights and increase the marginalization of some of the country's most effective guardians of biodiversity, says University of Melbourne geographer and anthropologist [Wolfram Dressler](#).

For centuries, Indigenous peoples have proactively and sustainably managed forests and lands, scientists say. "It's no coincidence that Indigenous territory overlaps with the most biodiverse forest areas in the Philippines," Dressler, who has conducted ethnographic studies on Pala'wan group, told Mongabay.

The same areas, however, are a magnet for the extractive industries. "Without protecting Indigenous rights to land and forests, there's little hope for a sustainable, inclusive future. As COVID-19 has shown, the neoliberal growth paradigm that feeds mining ... is highly flawed," Dressler said.



“The outcome of Indigenous peoples on Palawan not being able to defend their ancestral lands from mining activities, whether small or large in scale, would be catastrophic for Indigenous rights and conserving forests across the island,” he added.

While the animistic Pala’wan believe that the tau’t kekeywan are powerful spirits that can guard Domadoway from external forces, Mata says times are changing and they will not leave the matter to fate. Determined to stand on their own, he said the Pala’wan will continue their struggle against mining.

“The thought that our mountain would be destroyed and our children couldn’t inherit it worries us,” said the Pala’wan leader, a father of two. “If only I could take the law into my hands, I would do that to stop it.”

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AMTC renews pledge to plant 1-million trees in 2021

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA JUNE 15, 2021



In this file photo: A gardener at the Las Piñas Nursery and Botanical Garden prepares to plant a tree a day before the celebration of Earth Day (April 22). Earth Day 2021's theme is Restore Our Earth, which focuses on natural processes, emerging green technologies, and innovative thinking that can restore the world's ecosystem. Planting trees means sinking natural carbon and reducing greenhouse gasses.

STAKEHOLDERS of the Annual Million Trees Challenge (AMTC) affirmed their commitment to plant a million trees this year to meet its 5-million trees goal in 5 years.

The group issued a statement as the country marks the Philippine Environment Month.

Launched four years ago in February 2017 by Manila Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) Chairman and Acting Administrator Reynaldo V. Velasco, the AMTC appears to be on the right track.

Over 4 million trees have been planted in the identified denuded areas of the watersheds. About 9,509.375 hectares of watersheds in Angat, Ipo, Kaliwa, La Mesa, Laguna Lake, Umiray, and Upper Marikina, including Manila Bay have been reforested based on an audit report by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

“One of the remarkable accomplishments of AMTC is increasing the forest cover of Ipo Watershed from 43 percent in 2017 to 81 percent in 2020,” Velasco said in a news statement, adding that “sustainable nurturing of sapling trees planted take three years to maintain and sustain.”

For this year, the following AMTC partner stakeholders have pledged to plant more than one million trees namely: MWSS (140,000); MWSS-Regulatory Office (23,000); Manila Water (70,000); Maynilad (20,000); Bulacan Bulk Water (20,000); DENR 3 (43,000); DENR 4A-Rizal (350,000); Laguna Lake Development Authority (100,000); Camp Nakar local government unit (50,000); ALKFI-BL (40,000); WWF Philippines (60,000); Boy Scout of the Philippines (50,000); Bambuhay- Anak ni Inang Daigdig (60,000); JCI Senate Philippines (2,000); and, Rotary International District 3780 (5,000).

The AMTC is a five-year watershed rehabilitation program of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) to restore the health of seven critical watersheds that are crucial in supplying water to Metro Manila and neighboring provinces. It also supports the National Greening Program of the government under the DENR.

Image courtesy of Nonie Reyes

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/06/15/amtc-renews-pledge-to-plant-1-million-trees-in-2021/>



'Declare Marinduque as mine-free zone'

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA JUNE 15, 2021



A local nongovernment organization (NGO) based in Marinduque is appealing to President Duterte to deny all mining applications in the island province.

The Marinduque Council for Environmental Concerns, Inc. (MACEC) based in Boac, Marinduque is a support group for plaintiffs in a case filed against Barrick Gold, Marcopper Mining Corp., and Placer Dome Inc.

Marcopper and Placer Dome, Inc. are based in Canada. The company figured in the 1996 toxic spillage when the drainage tunnels of its open-pit mines broke causing about 2 to 3 million tons of toxic mine tailings.

To support its appeal to Duterte, the group has forwarded resolutions and statements to the Regional Office of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) for MIMAROPA, including an appeal from Former Associate of the Supreme Court and now Marinduque Governor Presbitero Velasco Jr. to the president to deny all mining applications in Marinduque.

In the document submitted to the office of NEDA OIC-Director Augustin Mendoza, the group stated that 41 resolutions and statements from the provincial government of Marinduque and civil society organizations are urging the national government to deny mining applications in the province. The provincial government, academe and civil society groups also want to delist Marinduque in the mining tenement area and to declare the province a mining-free zone in response to the lifting of the mining moratorium under Executive Order (EO) 130 issued by Malacañang.

"The petition filed by the people of the Province of Marinduque contained an overwhelming evidence and reasons against allowing corporations to mine the island," Yoly Esguerra, National Coordinator Church-based NGO Partnership Mission for People's Initiatives, said in a statement.

The groups also appealed for the revocation of Duterte's EO 130.



Aeta folk face road bumps on way back to tribal land

By: [Tonette Orejas](#) - [@ttorejasINO](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 04:58 AM June 15, 2021



TIGHT COMMUNITY Aeta elders in Zambales are crucial in keeping their tribal communities intact since their displacement from their ancestral domain on Mt. Pinatubo. —MARIANNE BERMUDEZ

(Last of three parts)

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga, Philippines — No return to homeland in sight.

Many Aeta folk remain in this fix in the town of Botolan, Zambales province, as well as those in Tarlac and Pampanga provinces, after leaving their dwellings on the slopes of Mt. Pinatubo to escape the volcano's eruption on June 15, 1991.

A total of 31,120 tribal members from 7,840 families were then counted by the Office of Northern Cultural Communities (ONCC), now a defunct agency, as having been displaced by the eruption. But the number could be higher, as an ONCC officer in Zambales reported having evacuated over 7,000 families in Botolan alone in April 1991.

In 2015, a Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) census showed 57,707 Aeta people in Central Luzon, mostly living in resettlement sites on the Zambales side of Pinatubo.

A recent count made by Chito Balintay, a former representative of indigenous peoples (IPs) in the Zambales provincial board, estimates the Aeta population in Botolan to have grown to 12,000 to 15,000 families, with nearly a third choosing to return to 11 villages on Pinatubo's upper slopes. The rest are still staying in upland resettlement communities close to the town center.

Eleven other similar resettlement sites are in Pampanga, Tarlac and Zambales. Their exact total population has yet to be known in the absence of a survey update of the 2015 PSA census. The presence of these enclaves indicates that the government has not funded or facilitated the return of displaced Aeta folk to their ancestral lands.

The National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) has been slow in recognizing the Aeta people's right to their ancestral domain. It has so far registered only three certificates of ancestral domain title (CADTs) around Pinatubo. Six other tribes are awaiting their documents.

The CADTs for nine Aeta tribes in the three provinces cover 82,816 hectares, according to NCIP records.



Not policy

Based on existing laws and guidelines, bringing back the Aeta people to their ancestral domain was not a government policy from the start or even considered an unfinished task.

Republic Act No. 7637, which created the Mount Pinatubo Commission in 1992, set up a P10-billion fund to provide them with “aid, relief, resettlement, rehabilitation and livelihood services as well as infrastructure support” at the resettlement sites.

It aimed at “restoring their living condition” to their “productive pre-eruption conditions” and “with the settlement being chosen according to its suitability as permanent upland abodes thereby ensuring the improvement of these communities.”

Never was it meant to prepare the Aeta tribes for their eventual homecoming.

Executive Order No. 552, issued by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, was concerned with the administration of lowland resettlement sites.

New laws and guidelines would have worked to the Aeta people’s favor, but their members, even those assisted by nongovernment groups, have not been able to take complete possession and control of their lands.

Anthropologist Jean-Christophe Gaillard pointed out in a 2003 study: “At the time of the 1991 Mt. Pinatubo eruption, there were no specific governmental guidelines to protect and defend ethnic minority rights in the Philippines. Hence, it was most unlikely that the Philippine government had appropriate measures for the preservation of the Aeta culture at this time.”

The National Integrated Protected Areas System Act in 1992 and Indigenous Peoples’ Rights Act (Ipra) in 1997 recognize tribal territories. There was also EO 263 in 1995 that set community-based management of forests in indigenous peoples areas as a national strategy to ensure the sustainable development of the country’s forest lands resources.

The reality is that the CADTs—even if approved by the NCIP or in the process of registration at the Land Registration Authority (LRA)—are challenged or delayed by land disputes, questions on the authenticity of surveys, patents and titles, mining projects, tourism activities, segregation of private lands or intertribal conflicts, an Inquirer review showed.

Native titles

Like other ethnocultural groups, the Aeta people in the eruption-hit provinces have been asserting ancestral domain claims by securing CADTs. Since Ipra was passed into law in 1997, however, the NCIP approved only three CADTs in the three provinces between 2004 and 2008, and registered these with the LRA in 2009.

One of the titled domain, referred to as Sacobia, is embroiled in a leadership squabble among four Aeta groups in Mabalacat City, Pampanga, and in Bamban town, Tarlac. The row stalled the 2007 joint management agreement signed with the state-owned Clark Development Corp., including the distribution of 20-percent Aeta share from investments made in Sacobia.

Tribal leaders partly blamed the NCIP because it took time to decide which leaders to recognize.

The NCIP also confirmed the illegal selling of land but did not say who were doing it.

According to Inquirer sources, retired military officers, elected officials and businessmen are among those who have allegedly cornered lots in Sacobia. The NCIP is seen to be taking more time, admitting that it still has to finish three plans with the stakeholders.



Politicians are known to be among owners of lands in properties segregated for Aeta tribes.

Tribal members in the villages of Belbel, Burgos, Moraza and Villar in Botolan town obtained the first CADT (RO3-BOT-0708-073) in Zambales. But the Samahan ng Katutubong Aeta ng Burgos alleged land-grabbing by a family of businessmen in 1983 and nondistribution of 1,000 ha in 1996.

The Department of Agrarian Reform has reported the release of the Botolan CADT as an accomplishment.

Ladie de Leon, the indigenous peoples' representative in the Botolan municipal council, said she had filed a proposed ordinance that would ban Aeta members from selling ancestral lands to individuals and companies.

Tribal leaders of land covered by the Botolan CADT have demanded an accounting of supposed P17 million in proceeds from the P1,500 fee collected by the local government from tourists passing through a route in Tarlac. The NCIP claims the Aeta issued a certification precondition to the local government, but Balintay asserts four village chiefs signed it without the approval of the tribes.

Land feuds

Those who are in the process of registering their CADTs have to deal with disputes.

Tribal members in Cabangan town, also in Zambales, were the first in the country to get a certificate of ancestral domain claim (CADC) from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in March 1996, but they are on their 25th year of waiting for their CADT (RO3-CAB-0110-151) to be registered with the LRA.

The heirs of Jose Pidenes in Cabangan are claiming parts of the 5,430-ha domain, with the NCIP saying the "vested rights of Pidenes heirs overlap portion of community residences which IPs do not recognize."

Aeta people in the villages of Poonbato and Owaog-Nebloc in Botolan discovered in 2019 the ownership claims of the heirs of Leonardo Dayap over 192 ha through 45 patents issued by the DENR in their land covered by CADT (RO3-BOT-0216-205), according to the Samahan ng Katutubo ng Poonbato headed by Elsa Novo.

Those who hold a CADT in Cabatuan village, Botolan, are also in danger of losing parts of their land because of a pending application by a company for an Integrated Forest Management Agreement over 909 ha in the village, a DENR document showed.

Novo also cites the case of the Capas-Botolan Road of the Department of Public Works and Highways, which cuts through their domain without compensating the Aeta community for right-of-way and damaged trees.

In many of the disputes, the NCIP only says the segregation of titled properties is ongoing and that it has asked the Register of Deeds in Zambales to give copies of titles for plotting and lot identification.

The still-to-be-registered CADT (RO3-BAM-1215-195) in Barangay Anupul in Bamban town and Barangays Sta. Juliana and Maruglo in Capas town, both in Tarlac, overlap with the areas of the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) and Col. Ernesto Ravina Air Base of the Philippine Air Force, the NCIP says. Aeta residents want Sta. Juliana for its tourism potential as it is the easiest route to Pinatubo's crater.



Another Aeta claim in Porac (RO3-POR-0709-123) overlaps with 5,000 ha of BCDA areas while those in San Jose, Tarlac (RO3-0110-148) and in Subic, Zambales (RO3-SUB-0116-199) have been delayed due to segregation of private properties and agrarian reform areas.

Since 2008, five mining projects have been given certification precondition by the Aeta tribes in the three provinces, according to the NCIP. The Mines and Geosciences Bureau has not replied to the Inquirer's request for information.

Aeta elder Ben Jugatan says the NCIP must live up to its mandate by immediately registering the domain titles around Pinatubo and by helping his people get farm production support.

The ancestral domain in Botolan is so vast that those living there can qualify to have an autonomous authority that will allow them to resolve tribal problems and issues, says Balintay.

"I want to instill to the younger generations of Aeta the values and indigenous knowledge and practices that our ancestors have passed on to us while we await word on whether to return to Baytan or stay in the resettlements," says Aeta leader Lito "Tubag" Jugatan. INQ

DoF warns climate change could wipe out PHL economic gains

June 15, 2021 | 9:23 pm



THE climate change crisis, if unaddressed, holds the potential to wipe out the economic gains made by the Philippines in recent years, the Department of Finance (DoF) said Tuesday.

“People do not realize it, but climate change will hit us like a tsunami if we continue to do nothing about this worsening crisis. It could wipe away all our economic gains in one go if we fail to mitigate it,” Finance Secretary Carlos G. Dominguez III said at a virtual event, *Sulong Pilipinas 2021: Climate Change and the New Normal with the Youth Sector*.

“As bearers of the future, the youth — who will have to live through 2030 and beyond — have the greatest stake in overcoming this crisis... We need (their) determination to build a greener, healthier, and climate-resilient future,” he said.

The Philippines accounts for 0.3% of global carbon emissions, yet is highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, particularly typhoons, according to Finance Assistant Secretary Paola Sherina A. Alvarez.

During the briefing, she said successive typhoons had an impact on inflation starting January after disrupting the harvest in late 2020.

“In January 2021, the general price level clocked a higher rate of year-on-year growth of 4.2%. Because we had back-to-back super-typhoons at the end of November, the prices of vegetables and rice went up,” Ms. Alvarez said.

Vegetable prices rose 21.2%, while rice recorded a 0.10% increase.

Ms. Alvarez said the Philippines is expected to incur P177 billion worth of losses to its public and private assets due to typhoons and earthquakes each year.

“In the next 50 years... the country has a 40% chance of experiencing a loss exceeding P989 billion and a 20% chance of experiencing a loss exceeding P1.5 trillion,” she said.

She said the estimate for implementing climate change mitigation measures in the energy, forestry, industry, transport sectors is about \$4.12 billion between 2015 and 2030.

In 2019, the World Bank issued two tranches of catastrophe bonds to insure the Philippines against losses due to earthquakes and storms for three years. The insurance cover was valued at \$225 million. — **Angelica Y. Yang**

Source: <https://www.bworldonline.com/dof-warns-climate-change-could-wipe-out-phl-economic-gains/>



Youths' crucial role in global drive vs. climate change cited

June 15, 2021, 8:29 pm



Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III

MANILA – Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III underscored Tuesday the importance for young Filipinos to be at the forefront of national efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change, as they have the biggest stake in saving the planet from the environmental crisis that will "hit us like a tsunami" unless its "destructive course" is halted.

Youths who will have to face the worst effects of climate change as these intensify over time comprise the last generation that can end the planet's environmental destruction, he said.

"Climate change is happening. It is real. We see its effects in our daily lives. People do not realize it, but climate change will hit us like a tsunami if we continue to do nothing about this worsening crisis. It could wipe away all our economic gains in one go if we fail to mitigate it," Dominguez said at the opening this morning of Sulong Pilipinas 2021: Climate Change and the New Normal with the Youth Sector.

Dominguez told over 500 leaders and members of various youth organizations gathered virtually for the event that the participation of today's young generation is critical in achieving the country's climate ambition and in building "a greener, healthier, and climate-resilient future" for the planet.

"As bearers of the future, the youth--who will have to live through 2030 and beyond--have the greatest stake in overcoming this crisis. It is therefore very important that you understand this issue and take the lead in reversing this destructive course," said Dominguez, who is concurrent chairman-designate of the Climate Change Commission (CCC).

He said the greatest defense that can be mounted in this battle is climate literacy, which is why the government is utilizing the Sulong Pilipinas forum to raise public awareness and spur climate action, especially among the youth.

"Today, we recognize and celebrate the crucial role of the youth in our society. You are the last generation that can end the climate crisis," he said.

The next period following the end of the Covid-19 emergency will be "one of multifold challenges," as "we have a country to redeem from the ravages of the pandemic," "an economy to rebuild," and "a planet to save from the carelessness of past generations," he added.



Dominguez told the participants that their fresh insights and perspectives will prove valuable in forming the government's climate policies that will help shape the course of their future.

He called on the youth to "reimagine everything" in crafting solutions to the climate crisis.

"You are capable of coming up with ambitious, creative and doable ideas that can make a lasting difference," Dominguez said. "We need your determination to build a greener, healthier and climate-resilient future. We want you to use your talents, knowledge, and passion to achieve our climate ambition." (PR)



In this picture taken on Oct. 9, 2020, Catholic faithful sit outside the Quiapo church in Manila, as health protocols imposed by authorities limit church goes inside the church to filling only 10 percent of their seating capacity. After months of livestreaming mass to millions of faithful from behind closed doors, churches in the Catholic-majority Philippines are beginning to reopen.

AFP/Ted Aljibe

Plastic fiesta decor at odds with bishops' stance for environment, Quiapo Church reminded

(Philstar.com) - June 15, 2021 - 11:51am

MANILA, Philippines — An environmental health group on Tuesday took the Quiapo Church to task for decorating its plaza with disposable plastic banderitas.

In a statement, the EcoWaste Coalition expressed concern after it reported plastic “labo” buntings at the church ahead of the feast day of St. John the Baptist on June 24.

The coalition said this came as a result of its monitoring of wasteful plastic banderitas in community festivities, noting the need for concerted action to stop plastic pollution from all sources.

“Plastic ‘labo,’ a small and super thin plastic commonly used as packaging for food, is among the most ubiquitous plastic garbage found on land and in the rivers and oceans,” the coalition said.

“The use of throw-away fiesta buntings is not in tune with the call for ecological conversion made by the Catholic bishops in the midst of climate emergency facing our nation and planet Earth,” Jove Benosa, zero waste campaigner at the EcoWaste Coalition also said.

The group in its statement reminded the church of the 2019 pastoral statement by the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of the Philippines pushing for “continuing ecological conversion” and for “ecological actions,” including “eliminating single-use plastics,” to help address the “ecological crisis.”

Earlier in February, 188 groups in a position paper presented at the UN Environment Assembly said that single-use products are a key contributor to the two billion tons of waste that humans produce annually. The figure is projected to increase by 70% by 2050.

Even the United Nations has spoken in favor of phasing out or banning thin film single-use plastic bags to arrest the growing problem with marine litter

“We urge our churches to design single-use plastic out of our faith-inspired celebrations,” said Benosa. “It’s time to say good riddance to disposable plastic buntings that only turn into residual garbage, which is dumped or burned somewhere or gets spilled into the oceans.”



The group is hopeful that more dioceses and parishes in the country will roll out policies and campaigns to reduce plastic consumption and disposal, especially of single-use plastics.

“As wasteful plastic banderitas play no role in the successful conduct of any religious activity, we appeal to our community and church leaders to junk the outmoded practice of hanging fiesta buntings in the streets and plazas,” the coalition said.

“The true essence of our faith-stirred celebrations is not measured by the length and color of plastic buntings crisscrossing our streets, but on how we care for one another and for our Mother Earth, especially in times of difficulties such as during the COVID-19 pandemic.”

— with a report from **Gaea Katreena Cabico**



Environmental group slams Quiapo Church's use of plastic 'banderitas'

Published June 15, 2021, 10:27 AM by [Ellson Quismorio](#)

Quiapo Church's use of "banderitas" made out of single-use plastic has rubbed an environmental group the wrong way.



These trinkets made out of thin-film plastic have made the EcoWaste Coalition unhappy. (Photo from EcoWaste Coalition)

EcoWaste Coalition has called out the Quiapo Church for decorating the plaza where the bronze statue of San Juan Bautista stands with plastic "labo" buntings ahead of the feast day of St. John the Baptist on June 24.

Thin-film plastic bags or "labo" is among the most ubiquitous plastic garbage found on land as well as in rivers and oceans, the group said in a statement Tuesday, June 15. It is commonly used as packaging for food.

"The use of throw-away fiesta buntings is not in tune with the call for ecological conversion made by the Catholic bishops [amid the] climate emergency facing our nation and planet Earth," said Jove Benosa, Zero Waste Campaigner, EcoWaste Coalition.

The group recalled the pastoral statement released in 2019 by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) appealing for "continuing ecological conversion" and for "ecological actions", including "eliminating single-use plastics" to help address the "ecological crisis".

"It's time to say good riddance to disposable plastic buntings that only turn into residual garbage, which is dumped or burned somewhere or gets spilled into the oceans," Benosa said.

"As wasteful plastic banderitas play no role in the successful conduct of any religious activity, we appeal to our community and church leaders to junk the outmoded practice of hanging fiesta buntings in the streets and plazas," the group said.

"The true essence of our faith-stirred celebrations is not measured by the length and color of plastic buntings crisscrossing our streets, but on how we care for one another and for our Mother Earth, especially in times of difficulties such as during the COVID-19 (coronavirus disease) pandemic," it added.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/06/15/environmental-group-slams-quiapo-churchs-use-of-plastic-banderitas/>



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#KauntingKaalaman: Nangunguna ang Pilipinas sa pinakamaraming basurang plastik na napupunta sa karagatan.

BASAHIN DITO ang buong ulat: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/.../philippines-global-plastic...>



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Atmospheric physicist and leader of the MOSAiC expedition Markus Rex delivers a press conference presenting the initial results of the MOSAiC expedition, the largest scientific undertaking in the polar region to date, in Berlin on June 15, 2021. The researchers' observations have been backed up by US satellite images showing that in 2020, sea ice in the Arctic reached its second-lowest summer minimum on record, after 2012. The Polarstern mission, dubbed MOSAIC, spent 389 days collecting data on the atmosphere, ocean, sea ice and ecosystems to help assess the impact of climate change on the region and the world.

AFP/Pool/John MacDougall

Irreversible warming tipping point possibly triggered: Arctic mission chief

[Hui Min Neo](#) (Agence France-Presse) - June 15, 2021 - 9:50pm

BERLIN, Germany — The tipping point for irreversible global warming may have already been triggered, the scientist who led the biggest-ever expedition to the Arctic warned Tuesday.

"The disappearance of summer sea ice in the Arctic is one of the first landmines in this minefield, one of the tipping points that we set off first when we push warming too far," said Markus Rex.

"And one can essentially ask if we haven't already stepped on this mine and already set off the beginning of the explosion."

Rex led the world's biggest mission to the North Pole, an expedition involving 300 scientists from 20 countries.

The expedition returned to Germany in October after 389 days drifting through the Arctic, bringing home devastating proof of a dying Arctic Ocean and warnings of ice-free summers in just decades.

The 140-million-euro (\$165-million) expedition also brought back 150 terabytes of data and more than 1,000 ice samples.

Presenting their first findings, Rex said scientists found that the Arctic sea ice had retreated "faster in the spring of 2020 than since the beginning of records" and that "the spread of the sea ice in the summer was only half as large as decades ago".

The ice was only half as thick and temperatures measured 10 degrees higher than during the Fram expedition undertaken by explorers and scientists Fridtjof Nansen and Hjalmar Johansen in the 1890s.

Because of the smaller sea ice surface, the ocean was able to absorb more heat in the summer, in turn meaning that ice sheet formation in the autumn was slower than usual.



'Painful'

"Only evaluation in the coming years will allow us to determine if we can still save the year-round Arctic sea ice through forceful climate protection or whether we have already passed this important tipping point in the climate system," Rex added, urging rapid action to halt warming.

Stefanie Arndt, who specialises in sea ice physics, said it was "painful to know that we are possibly the last generation who can experience an Arctic which still has a sea ice cover in the summer".

"This sea ice cover is gradually shrinking and it is an important living space for polar bears," said Arndt, recalling observations of seals and other animals in the polar habitat.

The data collecting during the expedition included readings on the atmosphere, ocean, sea ice and ecosystems.

To carry out the research, four observational sites were set up on the sea ice in a radius of up to 40 kilometres (25 miles) around the mission's Polarstern ship.

Among data collected were water samples from beneath the ice to study plant plankton and bacteria and better understand how the marine ecosystem functions under extreme conditions.

More than 100 parameters were measured almost continuously throughout the year.

The abundance of information will feed into the development of models to help predict what heatwaves, heavy rains or storms could look like in 20, 50 or 100 years.



Pangolins are the 'world's most trafficked mammal.' This man wants to save them

By Nadia Leigh-Hewitson, CNN

Updated 0732 GMT (1532 HKT) June 15, 2021



(CNN)Pangolins -- four-legged mammals with sloth-like claws, anteater-like snouts, and armour of diamond-shaped scales -- are thought to be [the most trafficked mammal in the world](#). Some species are on the brink of extinction.

They are elusive and solitary animals and population studies have not been able to estimate how many pangolins are left in the wild. They are also extremely difficult to care for in captivity, often dying with no clear cause.

Eight species are found across Africa and Asia, categorized from vulnerable to critically endangered. In Southeast Asia -- where Chinese and Sunda pangolins, two of the most threatened species, can be found -- the biggest threat is poaching. They are sought after for their meat and also for use in traditional medicine; their scales are thought, without evidence, to improve circulation and reduce inflammation.

In 2019, [an estimated 195,000 pangolins](#) were trafficked worldwide for their scales, according to the WWF. According to non-profit Wildlife Justice Commission, their scales can sell for up to [\\$740 per kilogram](#) in some Asian countries.



A pangolin emerging from an underground tunnel at a center run by Save Vietnam's Wildlife, on September 14, 2020.

Today, Thai Van Nguyen, a Vietnamese conservationist, was awarded the Goldman Environmental Prize, for his work to protect the animals. The annual award is given to six pioneering environmentalists, each working in a different continent.

In 2014, Nguyen founded NGO [Save Vietnam's Wildlife](#), headquartered in the Cuc Phuong National Park in Vietnam's North Central Coast region. He has since established two pangolin rehabilitation centers, in Cuc Phuong and Pu Mat National Parks, and an anti-poaching unit, where he trains government rangers in wildlife conservation, animal identification, GPS skills, and drone technology.



The unit busts big trafficking operations, rescuing as many as 160 animals in one raid. Nguyen says Save Vietnam's Wildlife has liberated almost 2,000 pangolins in total, and was instrumental in lobbying the Vietnamese government to remove pangolins from the list of approved traditional medicines. He estimates that it has educated over 11,000 people about the importance of the animals, and helped bring about an 80% decrease in poaching.

'Losing the pangolin means losing a part of the ecosystem'

Nguyen, 39, says he grew up in the Vietnamese forest. He fell in love with pangolins when he was eight years old, as he watched poachers removing them from their burrows. "I saw a mum (pangolin), rolling into a ball to protect her baby," he tells CNN. He resolved to make the protection of these strange animals his life's work.

"The pangolin is the only scaly mammal in the world," explains Nguyen. "Losing the pangolin means losing a part of the ecosystem, making it unbalanced."

Nguyen's team carefully monitors the animals to develop a knowledge base for their care. Some of the data comes from poachers, and his organization hosts workshops that bring together poachers, government officials and law enforcement to facilitate communication and prevent conflict.

"We invite them to the workshop, to tell them, 'we know you are a poacher, but we want to work together and change,'" says Nguyen.



A Save Vietnam's Wildlife keeper holding a pangolin inside its enclosure, September 2020.

Save Vietnam's Wildlife says that within three years of the anti-poaching team being established in Pu Mat National Park, an estimated 10,000 snare traps have been destroyed, 90 guns confiscated, 800 cages removed, and 600 poachers and traffickers arrested. At the rehabilitation centers, rescued pangolins are cared for and after they are released, their activity is observed using radio tagging and drone tracking.

Pangolins grabbed headlines last year after [researchers at Duke University](#) and South China Agricultural University said that they could be an intermediary host for the novel coronavirus. Nguyen says that this link has helped conservation efforts.

In 2020, motivated by efforts to avoid future pandemics, the Prime Minister of Vietnam issued a directive to address the illegal wildlife trade in the country. Also in 2020, in an effort to both protect the depleted pangolin population and reduce the risk to human health, the Chinese government [removed pangolin scales from the list of ingredients approved for use in traditional Chinese medicine](#).

A local solution

The Goldman Environmental Prize describes Nguyen's work as "filling a crucial space for understanding and protecting this critically endangered animal."

Dan Challender, an expert on pangolins and wildlife trade policy at Oxford University, says that Nguyen and Save Vietnam's Wildlife have played an enormous role in generating knowledge on the care of injured pangolins.



"What's impressive about what he's done is that he hasn't just focused on rehabilitation and release," says Challender, adding that conserving key areas for pangolins requires local solutions, like Nguyen's.

Challender says pangolins play a vital role in their environment, by controlling insect populations and with their burrows providing shelter for creatures including bats, snakes and mongoose. "If we lost them (pangolins), then that could have untold cascading effects on the ecosystems in which they live," he says.

Nguyen is optimistic about the future of pangolins, as people learn more about their plight. "I see a change in young people, they are much more active," he says.

"We hope people will learn about the pangolin; how lovely they are, what challenges they face," he says. "One person or one organization cannot change everything, cannot save the pangolin, but if everyone takes action together, we can save the species from extinction."



Scientists convert used plastic bottles into vanilla flavouring

Production of chemical could help make recycling more attractive and tackle global plastic pollution



A worker sorts used plastic bottles in a recycling factory in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Currently plastics lose about 95% of their value as a material after a single use. Photograph: Munir Uz Zaman/AFP/Getty Images

[Damian Carrington](#) *Environment editor*

[@dpcarrington](#)

Tue 15 Jun 2021 07.00 BST

Plastic bottles have been converted into vanilla flavouring using genetically engineered bacteria, the first time a valuable chemical has been brewed from waste plastic.

Upcycling plastic bottles into more lucrative materials could make the recycling process far more attractive and effective. Currently plastics lose about 95% of their value as a material after a single use. Encouraging better collection and use of such waste is key to tackling the [global plastic pollution problem](#).

Researchers have already developed [mutant enzymes to break down](#) the polyethylene terephthalate polymer used for drinks bottles into its basic units, terephthalic acid (TA). Scientists have now used bugs to convert TA into vanillin.

Vanillin is used widely in the food and cosmetics industries and is an important bulk chemical used to make pharmaceuticals, cleaning products and herbicides. Global demand is growing and in 2018 was 37,000 tonnes, far exceeding the supply from natural vanilla beans. About 85% of vanillin is currently synthesised from chemicals derived from fossil fuels.

Joanna Sadler, of the University of Edinburgh, who conducted the new work, said: "This is the first example of using a biological system to upcycle plastic waste into a valuable industrial chemical and it has very exciting implications for the circular economy."

Stephen Wallace, also of the University of Edinburgh, said: "Our work challenges the perception of plastic being a problematic waste and instead demonstrates its use as a new carbon resource from which high value products can be made."

About [1m plastic bottles are sold every minute](#) around the world and just [14% are recycled](#). Currently even those bottles that are recycled can only be turned into opaque fibres for clothing or carpets.

The research, [published in the journal Green Chemistry](#), used engineered E coli bacteria to transform TA into vanillin. The scientists warmed a microbial broth to 37C for a day, the same conditions as for brewing beer, Wallace said. This converted 79% of the TA into vanillin.



Next the scientists will further tweak the bacteria to increase the conversion rate further, he said: “We think we can do that pretty quickly. We have an amazing roboticised DNA assembly facility here.” They will also work on scaling up the process to convert larger amounts of plastic. Other valuable molecules could also be brewed from TA, such as some used in perfumes.

Ellis Crawford, of the Royal Society of [Chemistry](#), said: “This is a really interesting use of microbial science to improve sustainability. Using microbes to turn waste plastics, which are harmful to the environment, into an important commodity is a beautiful demonstration of green chemistry.”

Recent research showed [bottles are the second most common type of plastic pollution](#) in the oceans, after plastic bags. In 2018, scientists accidentally created a mutant enzyme that breaks down plastic bottles, and subsequent work produced a [super-enzyme that eats plastic bottles even faster](#).

16 JUNE 2021, WEDNESDAY



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COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



5,389 new COVID-19 infections in PH bring active cases to 58,063

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Jun 15, 2021 4:28:25 PM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, June 15) — The Department of Health on Tuesday reported 5,389 more people tested positive for COVID-19, pushing the country's official count to 1,327,431.

Its latest bulletin showed active cases make up 58,063 or 4.4% of the cumulative tally.

Around 91.8% of these currently ill patients exhibit mild symptoms, while 3.8% are asymptomatic, 1.3% are tagged as moderate, 1.8% are severe, and 1.3% are critical.

The number of new cases is the lowest in the past week, but the DOH said 16 testing laboratories have yet to submit their latest reports. Its data over the past two weeks show these 16 laboratories contribute around 5.5% of all samples tested and 7.1% of positive individuals.

The DOH also confirmed 118 more fatalities, as the death toll reached 22,963, or 1.73% of the total cases.

Another 6,667, on the other hand, were cleared of the infection, with the survivor count rising to 1,246,405. This accounts for 93.9% of all those infected.



Kaso ng COVID-19 umakyat ng 15% sa nakalipas na 2 linggo

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



Sinabi ni Dr. Alethea de Guzman, chief epidemiologist ng DOH, na ang 15% case growth rate mula Mayo 30 hanggang Hunyo 12 ay mataas kumpara sa naitalang -13% mula Mayo 16 hanggang Mayo 29.

The STAR/Michael Varcas

MANILA, Philippines — Umakyat ang bilang ng kaso ng COVID-19 sa buong bansa ng 15% sa nakalipas na dalawang linggo sa kabila ng pagpatag ng mga kaso noong nakaraang Mayo.

Sinabi ni Dr. Alethea de Guzman, chief epidemiologist ng DOH, na ang 15% case growth rate mula Mayo 30 hanggang Hunyo 12 ay mataas kumpara sa naitalang -13% mula Mayo 16 hanggang Mayo 29.

Unti-unti ring umaakyat ngayon ang average daily cases na naitala sa 6,609 kada araw mula Hunyo 7-13 kumpara sa 6,558 arawang kaso mula Mayo 31-Hunyo 6.

Sa kabila ng bahagyang pagtaas sa mga kaso, nananatiling nasa 'moderate risk' ang buong Pilipinas habang nasa 'safe zone' naman ang 'utilization rate' ng mga healthcare facilities.

Bukod dito, bumaba rin ang bilang ng mga namamatay dahil sa COVID-19 nitong Hunyo. Ayon kay de Guzman, mula Hunyo 1-14 ay nakapagtala ng kabuuang 720 deaths na may daily average na 51.

Mas mababa ito sa 3,000 kabuuang indibidwal na nasawi noong buong Mayo na may daily average na 97 deaths.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2021/06/16/2105768/kaso-ng-covid-19-umakyat-ng-15-sa-nakalipas-na-2-linggo/amp/>



7 milyong Pinoy na ang bakunado

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



Ayon kay vaccine czar Secretary Carlito Galvez Jr., sa pagdingig ng Committee of the Whole (COW) sa Senado na 7,045,380 dose ang naibigay mula Marso 1 hanggang Hunyo 14.

MANILA, Philippines — Mahigit sa 7 milyon na ang nakatanggap ng bakuna kontra sa COVID-19 sa bansa.

Ayon kay vaccine czar Secretary Carlito Galvez Jr., sa pagdingig ng Committee of the Whole (COW) sa Senado na 7,045,380 dose ang naibigay mula Marso 1 hanggang Hunyo 14.

Habang nakumpleto ang dalawang dose ng bakuna ng 980,471 medical frontliners, 486,945 senior citizens, 429,301 person with comorbidities at 7,067 essential workers.

Mayroon namang 5,141,596 ang nakatanggap ng unang dose at sa kasalukuyan ay mayroong 3,944 vaccination sites sa bansa.

Nakapamahagi na rin umano sa mga vaccination site ang 10,374,850 COVID vaccine dose mula sa 12,705,870 suplay nito.

Sinabi rin ni Galvez na lampas na rin ng isang milyon kada linggo ang nababakunahang Filipino sa dalawang magkasunod na linggo.

Ngayong buwan ay inaasahang makakatanggap ng 6.4 milyong dose ng bakuna ang bansa.



In an interview with “The Chiefs” on One News/TV5 on Monday night, Philippine College of Physicians vice president Maricar Limpin said intensive care unit (ICU) beds in NCR are full, contrary to the pronouncement of the Department of Health.

STAR/File

NCR critical cases rising, ICU beds occupied – doctors

[Sheila Crisostomo](#) (The Philippine Star) - June 16, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — While the number of COVID-19 cases in the National Capital Region (NCR) is on a downward trend, a group of doctors observed an increase in severe and critical patients, overwhelming the capacity of hospitals in the NCR.

In an interview with “The Chiefs” on One News/TV5 on Monday night, Philippine College of Physicians (PCP) vice president Maricar Limpin said intensive care unit (ICU) beds in NCR are full, contrary to the pronouncement of the Department of Health (DOH).

“The DOH is saying there are still available beds. But we are the ones who know that there are many severe and critical COVID patients now,” Limpin said. “It’s a cause for alarm that COVID patients are increasing.”

She said COVID-19 patients in ICU wards need to stay for a longer period of time to recover.

“Usually for more than three weeks so the turn around of patients is slow,” Limpin said.

She said most of the patients have developed pneumonia while the critical ones were intubated or placed on oxygen support.

Limpin said the utilization rate for ICU beds in Metro Manila was 50 percent but it went up to 70 percent two weeks ago.

“A week ago or at least last week, it was 80 percent. Now we are 100 percent full,” she said.

Limpin said she believes the rise in severe and critical COVID cases could be attributed to the presence of COVID-19 variants, particularly the United Kingdom and South African variants.

“These variants increased transmissibility and they are known to cause more severe cases,” she said.

In the Visayas and Mindanao where COVID-19 cases are increasing, Limpin said doctors are asking for help because the ICU beds in hospitals are fully occupied.

COVID cases up

The number of COVID-19 cases nationwide increased by 15 percent in the past two weeks, the DOH reported yesterday.

According to DOH chief epidemiologist Alethea de Guzman, the overall growth rate of COVID-19 cases was at 15 percent from May 30 to June 12. The figure was slightly higher from May 16 to May 19 at 13 percent.



According to DOH chief epidemiologist Alethea de Guzman, the overall growth rate of COVID-19 cases was at 15 percent from May 30 to June 12. The figure was slightly higher from May 16 to May 19 at 13 percent.

Despite of this, De Guzman said the entire country is considered “moderate risk” for COVID-19.

De Guzman reported that between June 7 and 13, the average daily COVID-19 cases increased to 6,609 from 6,558 from May 31 to June 6 and 6,278 cases from May 24 to 30. The DOH recorded 5,343 cases from May 17 to 23.

The figures are below the April 9 to 15 tally when the average daily cases reached 10,845. In the NCR, De Guzman said there is a slow decline in COVID cases and the region had improved from being a high risk to moderate risk.

Metro Manila registered a 16-percent drop in COVID cases in the past two weeks.

De Guzman noted that the pattern of COVID cases in the provinces of Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna, Rizal is “inconsistent.”

“There are times it’s going up and then it will go down. So it is not steady as we are seeing in the NCR,” she said.

The DOH is also monitoring three regions for being “high risk.” These are Region 2, Caraga and Region 6.

Data showed that these regions are in the “red” for having an average daily attack rate of 8.11 to 10.36.

De Guzman said there are 36 priority areas based on health care utilization (HCU) rate and usage of ICU beds. The provinces of La Union, Tarlac, Rizal, Cavite, Benguet and Agusan del Sur have been “flagged” for having “high to critical HCU or ICU utilization.”

Palace defends Galvez

Meanwhile, Malacañang defended the National Task Force against COVID-19 after lawmakers accused NTF chairman Carlito Galvez Jr. of neglecting Mindanao in the vaccine distribution program.

“That’s not true,” said presidential spokesman Harry Roque Jr.

Roque dismissed the statement of House Deputy Speaker Rufus Rodriguez that many people died of COVID-19 in Mindanao due to Galvez’s inaction.

Roque said the surge of new infections in Mindanao could be attributed to the failure of local governments to strictly enforce the minimum health standards.

“They did not impose ECQ and MECQ,” he said, referring to enhanced community quarantine and modified ECQ.

Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles said the government would prioritized areas under MECQ in the COVID-19 vaccination drive.

According to Nograles, President Duterte authorized the deployment of more vaccines to areas with high COVID cases. – **Christina Mendez**

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/06/16/2105790/ncr-critical-cases-rising-icu-beds-occupied-doctors>



INDIA VARIANT MAY BLOOD CLOT, KUMAKAIN NG LAMAN



June 15, 2021 @ 6:36 PM 12 hours ago

KUNG may bakuna nang laban sa coronavirus disease-19 o COVID-19 sa ating lugar at nakalista na tayo sa tuturuan sa araw na nakatakda, magpabakuna na tayo.

Bukod kasi sa South Africa, Brazil at United Kingdom variants at orig na virus, kumakalat na sa buong mundo ang pinakadelikadong variant, ang India variant, at narito na mismo sa Pilipinas.

Huwag magpatumpik-tumpik, huwag maging choosy kundi pumila at magpabakuna na para hindi tayo abutan ng COVID-19, lalo na ang India variant.

Magtiwala tayo na ang ituturok sa atin na bakuna ay ligtas at epektibo.

Daraan ka naman sa pagsusuri muna at kung minsan, may dalang dalawang uri ng bakuna ang mga nag-iiniksyon, at sila ang magtatakda kung ano ang bagay sa iyo.

ANG INDIA VARIANT

Kung bakit kinakailangan natin ang magpabakuna na ay dahil sa pagdating ng pinakadelikado sa lahat ng uri ng virus ng pandemya, ang India variant.

Gaya ng alam na nating lahat, pumapatay ito sa India ng marami kada araw gaya ng nangyari nitong Hunyo 9 na may 6,255 biktima at Hunyo 11 na may 6,071.

Higit na nakahawawa ito kumpara sa iba ng 40-60 porsyento at pami-pamilya pa.

Heto pa ang nakatatakot: Gumagawa ng blood clot ito hanggang sa maging gangrene ang inaatakeng parte ng katawan ng tao at may mga pinagpuputulan na ng mga daliri at paa sa India.

Heto ang mga sintomas: Pananakit ng tiyan, pagkahilo, pagsusuka, kawalan ng ganang kumain, pagkabingi at pananakit ng mga kasukasan.

At kung tinamaan ka, napakabilis dahil sa loob lang ng 3-4 araw, severe o critical ka na.

Dito nag-iiskrambol ang mga doktor o kamag-anak natin paghahanap ng mga gamot, oxygen at iba pang gagamitin para lang maligtas tayo sa putulan ng daliri o paa o kamatayan.

MERON NA, MAY DARATING PA

Meron na sa Pinas ang India variant at unang natagpuan ito sa dalawang overseas Filipino worker na galing sa Oman at United Arab Emirates.



Nagdala rin ang 10 tripulante ng barko na MV Athens Bridge na dumaong sa Manila Bay at isa rito ang namatay.

At may anim na galing mismo sa India na dumating sa bansa bago may balitang may India variant.

Hindi tayo ligtas mula sa India variant kahit may mahigpit na border kontrol tayo sa ibang bansang meron nito.

Sapagkat kumalat na ang India variant sa mahigit 100 bansa at sa United Kingdom, 90% ang India variant sa mga may COVID-19 at 6% naman sa US.

Gaano karami ang 90% sa araw-araw na 7,000-8,000 biktima sa UK, gayundin ang 6% araw-araw na 10,000-20,000 biktima sa US?

Paano kung may dalang variant ang pumaparoon at pumaparito dahil sa trabaho at turismo? Baka magulat na lang tayo na kumakalat na pala ang variant na ito nang hindi nakakapa ng Philippine Genome Center na nagsusuri sa mga uri ng virus.

MGA BAKUNA MAHINA VS INDIAN VARIANT

Ayon sa US Health Department, nasa 33% lang ang epekto ng unang dose ng Pfizer laban sa India variant at hanggang 88% lang din ang sa ikalawang shot at malayo ang bisa ng Pfizer na nasa 95% laban sa orig na virus.

Natataranta rin ang Northern Ireland kaya ginawa nang 8 linggo lang sa halip na 10-12 linggo ang pagitan ng pagbabakuna nila ng AstraZeneca at Pfizer dahil lumalabas na niyayari ng India variant ang anti-bodies na likha ng unang dose.

AGAPAN ANG INDIA VARIANT

Kung darami ang India variant sa Pilipinas dahil sa bukas na biyahe natin sa higit na maraming bansa kaysa sa mga sinarhan natin ng biyahe kamakailan na India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka, paano natin lalabananan ito?

Ang pagbabakuna nang maaga ang isang mabisang remedyo.

‘Yun bang === bago pa tayo tamaan ng COVID-19, partikular ang India variant, mayroon na tayong proteksyon.

Naniniwala tayong lahat ng bakuna ay may bisa laban sa India variant kahit magkakaiba ang bisa ng mga ito.

Kaya ang pagpapabakuna ang isa sa dapat na unang gawin nating kung may available nang bakuna sa ating harapan.

Pero, huwag kalilimutan ang pagsunod sa mga health protocol gaya ng pagsusuot ng face mask, face shield, paghuhugas lagi ng kamay, social distancing at iba pang inilalatag ng Inter-Agency Task Force gaya ng mga border control at pagdadala ng genuine at hindi pekeng mga COVID-test result at vaccine card.



#OneDENR

**Covid-19
Situation and Response**

IMPORTANT REMINDERS AFTER GETTING COVID-19 VACCINATION



COVID-19 vaccine helps to protect you from severe COVID-19 infections. Even if you've already received your first dose/second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, you can still get infected but only with mild symptoms.

Help prevent the spread of the virus to your family and community through the following:



1

Stay at home unless travel is essential

2

Open windows and ensure proper ventilation and air circulation at home or your place of work

3

Maintain a balanced and healthy diet, exercise, and avoid smoking and alcohol

4

Monitor your health and call your Barangay Health Emergency Response Team if you have symptoms AND POSSIBLE EXPOSURE TO THE VIRUS.

5

Remember, vaccines only add to the protection provided by the BIDA behaviors (**B**-awal walang mask, **I**-sanitize ang mga kamay, **D**-umistansya ng isang metro, **A**-lamin ang tamang impormasyon) and minimum public health standards.

Prepared by



GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Source:



<https://doh.gov.ph/Vaccines/What-you-can-safely-do-after-receiving-the-COVID-19-vaccine>

MAY BAKUNA NA? APAT DAPAT PA RIN!!



Air Circulation

Pakikipagkita sa mga lugar na bukas o patuloy ang daloy ng hangin.



Physical Distancing

Panatiliin ang distansya sa bawat isa.



Always wear MASK & SHIELD PROPERLY

Palaging isuot nang wasto ang face mask at face shield.



Thirty minutes or less

Pakikisalamuha sa iba ng mas mababa sa tatlungping minuto.

KAHIT SAAN KA PUMUNTA, APAT DAPAT!



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Source:



<https://doh.gov.ph/Vaccines/What-you-can-safely-do-after-receiving-the-COVID-19-vaccine>

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