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DENR

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR chief naalarma sa natagpuang face masks sa Anilao reef



March 15, 2021 @ 1:07 PM 15 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines – Ikinaalarma ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang ulat na pagbababoy sa karagatan at yamang-dagat sa bansa dahil sa pagtatapon ng mga healthcare waste dito.

“The recent discovery of disposable face masks, plastic face shields, and other household healthcare wastes in our reefs is alarming. These wastes will harm both marine life and divers,” ani Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu ukol sa nag-viral na nakitang mga face mask sa coral reefs sa Anilao, Batangas.

Iginiit ng Environmental chief na kahit sobrang mahalaga ang apgsunod sa minimum public health protocols tulad ng pagsusuot ng face mask at face shields para mapigilan ang pagkalat ng COVID-19, ay kasing importante rin nito ang pangangalaga sa kapaligiran.

Agad namang umaksyon ang DENR ukol sa isyu at pinaghigpit ang pagbabantay sa karagatan sa tulong na rin ng PCG.

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

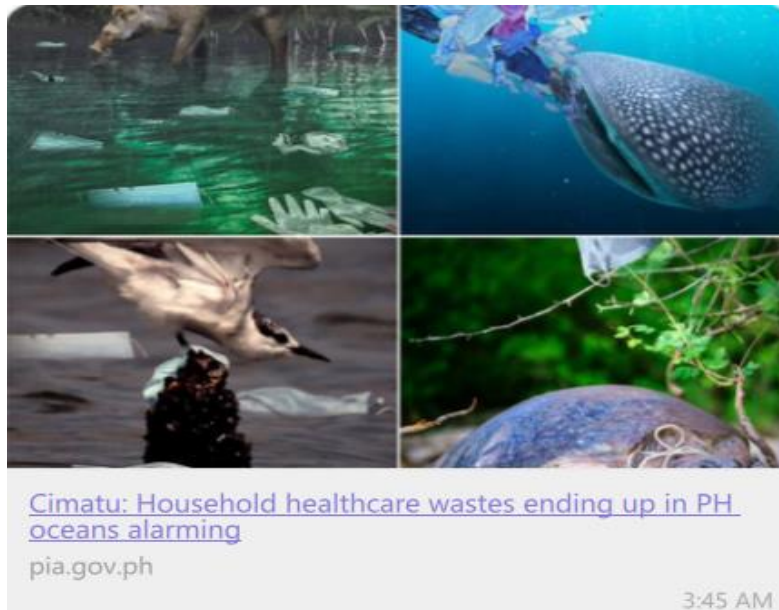
Tuloy rin ang pakikipag-ugnayan ng DENR sa Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) na ang-aatas sa local government units (LGUs) ukol sa tamang pagtatapon ng household healthcare waste. **RNT**

Source: https://www.remate.ph/denr-chief-naalarma-sa-natagpuang-face-masks-sa-anilao-reef/?fbclid=IwAR2Ied1QyDqtwxlpUGUgO8oPON6K_jemJIVR_JecmHXDkLavRAP3ZIUqywm



Cimatu: Household healthcare wastes ending up in PH oceans alarming

By DENR Published on March 16, 2021



QUEZON CITY, Mar. 16 -- Following the recent discovery of single-use face masks entangled in the coral reefs of Anilao, Batangas, Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said the increasing amount of improperly discarded household healthcare wastes during the pandemic has become a serious cause for concern.

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

He stressed that while it is vital to follow minimum public health protocols to curb the spread of coronavirus, it is as important to be aware of each person's responsibilities to the environment.

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

In this way, Antiporda added that solid waste ending up in our waterways especially the oceans will be avoided.

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



Cimatu: Household healthcare wastes ending up in PH oceans alarming

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

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

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

However, he emphasized that strict compliance with waste segregation at source is still the best way to manage solid waste.

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

He echoed Cimatu's reminder to the LGUs to prioritize the handling of pandemic-related wastes by imposing strict segregation of wastes in households, implementing effective collection system, and providing yellow bins for potentially infectious wastes or personal protective equipment.

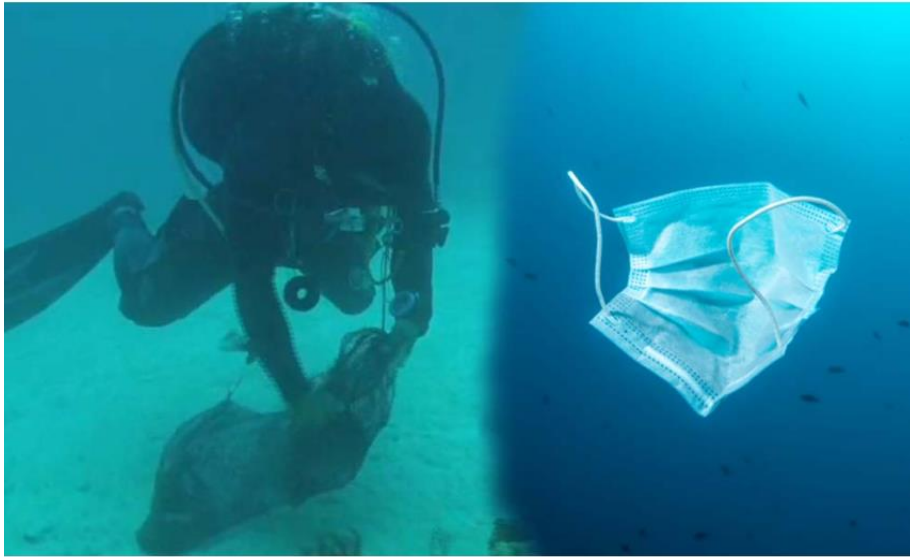
The DENR has already distributed yellow bins to the city government of Manila in November 2020, and is set to distribute in other LGUs in the coming months. (DENR)



Gamit na face mask nakuha sa Anilao beach

By Abante News Online — Last updated Mar 15, 2021

NEWS



2 0

Ito'y matapos na makakita ng face mask na nakapulupot sa coral reef sa Anilao, Batangas.

Labis na nababahala ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa pagdami ng insidente ng hindi tamang pagtatapon ng mga household healthcare waste ngayong pandemya.

Ayon kay DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu, makasisira sa karagatan ang mga nakikita nilang face mask, face shield at iba pang household healthcare waste.

Dagdag pa ni Cimatu, mahalaga na magkaroon ng responsibilidad sa kapaligiran ang bawat mamamayan. (Riz Dominguez)

Source: <https://www.abante.com.ph/gamit-na-face-mask-nakuha-sa-anilao-beach/>



BASURA NAGLUTANGAN SA BATANGAS CORAL REEFS

[9 hours ago jake](#)



HINILING ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa mga pamahalaang lokal na tiyaking naitatapon nang maayos ang mga basurang ginamit laban sa coronavirus disease-2019 (COVID-19).

Partikular na binanggit ni DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu ang lokal na pamahalaan sa ilang bayan sa Batangas na nakitaan ng naglulutangang basura sa coral reefs ng Anilao, Batangas.

Idiniin ni Cimatu na: “The recent discovery of disposable face masks, plastic face shields, and other household healthcare wastes in our reefs is alarming. These wastes will harm both marine life and divers”.

Nakipag-ugnayan na rin ang opisyal sa Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) ukol sa problema.

Ipararating na rin ni DENR Undersecretary for solid waste management and LGU concerns Benny Antiporda sa Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) ang isyu upang pakilusin ng huli ang mga opisyal sa Batangas, partikular sa mga lokalidad kung saan nakita ang lumulutang na mga basura. (NELSON S. BADILLA)

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/107427980954216/posts/277319337298412/?app=fbl>



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ISANG ordinansa na nag-aatas sa mga barangay na ipatupad ang waste segregation ang iminungkahing ipasa ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa local government units (LGUs).

Sinabi ni DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and LGUs

Concerns Benny D. Antiporda, dapat na tutukan ng mga lungsod at munisipalidad sa buong bansa ang waste segregation mula sa pinanggalingan nito o waste segregation at source para maging epektibo ang pagkolekta at pagtapon sa mga basura.

Muling nanawagan si Antiporda na maging epek-

tibo ang pangangasiwa sa solid waste sa ginanap na dialogue sa Cavite provincial, city, at municipal environment officers na inorganisa ng grupong Eco-Waste Coalition noong Marso 3.

“Propose to your local council to create an ordinance that will act on those who do not practice segregation in their barangays,” sabi ni Antiporda.

“It is already stated in RA (Republic Act) 9003 (Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000), but let us strengthen it with

the help of your council,” dagdag pa nito.

Inirekomenda rin ni Antiporda na siya ring alternate chair ng National Solid Waste Management Commission, na bumuo ng inter-barangay enforcement group o magtalaga ng “environmental marshals” sa bawat barangay ng lungsod at munisipalidad upang mag-monitor sa solid waste management practices ng katabing barangay.

Hinikayat din nito ang Cavite LGU representatives na talakayin sa kanilang local chief executives

na maglaan ng pondo upang mabigyan ng solusyon ang problema sa paghakat ng biodegradable at residual waste.

“Kindly tell your mayors to allocate funds for biodegradable and residual wastes,” saad pa ni Antiporda.

Batay sa data ng Provincial Government – Environment and Natural Resources Office ng Cavite, 58.78% ng mga nakukuhang basura sa probinsiya ay biodegradable habang ang 28.19% naman ay residual wastes.

WASTE SEGREGATION DAPAT IPATUPAD NG LGU'S



More sightings of pilot whales reported in Sarangani Bay

By Allen Estabillo March 15, 2021, 6:47 pm



PILOT WHALES. Photo shows some of the short-finned pilot whales (*Globicephala macrorhynchus*) spotted by environment personnel in portions of the Sarangani Bay in a series of monitoring activities from March 8 to 12, 2021. The marine mammal monitoring and biodiversity assessment covered nine identified “strict protection zones” and marine sanctuaries in the coastal waters of Maasim, Kiamba, and Maitum towns in Sarangani province. (Photo courtesy of DENR-12)

GENERAL SANTOS CITY – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Region 12 has recorded fresh sightings of pilot whales in portions of the Sarangani Bay, confirming reports of more thriving habitats of the marine mammal in the area.

Joy Oloquin, area superintendent of the Sarangani Bay Protected Seascape (SBPS), said Monday the short-finned pilot whales (*Globicephala macrorhynchus*) were spotted in the seas off the municipalities of Maasim, Kiamba, and Maitum in Sarangani.

She said at least 30 whales were specifically found by a joint team that conducted a series of monitoring in various sites from March 8 to 12.

The monitoring team was composed of marine biologists and divers from the SBPS-Protected Area Management Office, DENR-12’s Conservation and Development Division and General Santos City Environment and Natural Resources Office.

“The whales were frequently sighted in the bay hunting for food and nursing their calves,” Oloquin said in a report.

The official said the marine mammal monitoring and biodiversity assessment covered nine identified “strict protection zones (SPZ)” and marine sanctuaries in the coastal waters of Maasim, Kiambam and Maitum towns.

These are the Kamanga Marine Sanctuary and the Colon and Malbang SPZs in Maasim; Tuka Marine Park and the Tambilil, Lagundi and Lomuyon SPZs in Kiamba; and, the Pinol and Mabay SPZs in Maitum.



More sightings of pilot whales reported in Sarangani Bay

Oloquin said they have stepped up their monitoring activities in the SBPS to endure the protection and conservation of its “abundant biodiversity”.

From the previous quarterly schedule, she said they are now conducting their monitoring every month.

Last month, the agency reported sightings around 300 whales and dolphins in a series of monitoring in the coastal waters of Glan and Malapatan towns, the biggest in the Sarangani Bay.

The team specifically spotted 20 to 30 short-finned pilot whales, eight Risso's dolphins, 80 to 100 Spinner dolphins, and 150 to 200 Fraser's dolphins.

In August 2019, its monitoring team spotted around 270 marine mammals in different sites of the bay. (*PNA*)



Biodiverse Mt. Balatukan also home to PH Eagle

By Ercel Maandig March 15, 2021, 6:22 pm



BIODIVERSE. The Mount Balatukan range, as seen from Claveria, Misamis Oriental. Considered as the 'last frontier' of Misamis Oriental, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources confirms on Monday (March 15, 2021) the sightings of Philippine Eagles and eight other Philippine endemic species in the area, emphasizing the need to protect the mountain range. *(File photo by Ercel Maandig)*

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY -- The Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Region 10 (DENR-10) on Monday confirmed that Misamis Oriental province's Mount Balatukan range remains the home of at least eight wildlife species, including the Philippine Eagle.

DENR-10 Executive Director Arleigh J. Adorable said the 228,680 hectares Mount Balatukan Range is now identified as one of the key biodiversity areas in the country with a "very high conservation category".

Adorable said the Philippine Eagle can be seen in the area with eight wildlife species such as the Philippine civet cat, "apo muna", coletto, Philippine warty pig, sunbird, mountain white eye, Mindanao lorikeet, and the Philippine long-tailed macaque.

The mountain range is also home to various flora species such as white and red lauan, nato, tangile, narig, kalingag, apitong, mayapis, malatibig, almon, bagtikan, dao, he said, adding more are going to be identified soon.

Now that the mountain range is part of the Convergence Area Development Plan (CADP), Adorable said stricter environmental rules would be observed.

He noted that despite the peace and order situation in the area owing to the presence of communist rebels, Mount Balatukan's biodiversity remains intact.



Biodiverse Mt. Balatukan also home to PH Eagle

However, Adorable said wildlife hunting and rattan gathering activities "were also observed, and it's a major concern."

Meanwhile, Misamis Oriental Gov. Yevgeny Vincente Emano said the CADP seeks to improve, conserve, protect, and rehabilitate natural resources through environment-friendly enterprises and livelihood opportunities.

Launched in 2011, Emano said the initiative aims to "take bold and transformative steps urgently needed to shift economies relying on natural resources into a sustainable and resilient path." (PNA)



Protection of biodiversity urged

posted March 15, 2021 at 11:10 pm

by [Macon Ramos-Araneta](#)

Stressing that the Philippines is biodiversity-rich but also among the world's biodiversity hotspots or those areas experiencing high rates of habitat loss, Senator Cynthia Villar urged the public to be more vigilant against biodiversity loss, wildlife protection, and conservation of their habitats.

“What makes the issue even more important to our country is the fact that the Philippines is one of the world's 17 megadiverse or biodiversity-rich countries, which hosts two-thirds of the Earth's biodiversity,” said Villar in her privilege speech in observance of the World Wildlife Day celebration on March 8.

The biodiversity-rich countries, Villar says, contain about 70 to 80 percent of the world's plant and animal species.

Due to this, the Senate chairperson of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources underscored the need to create awareness on biological diversity and take action about its protection.

She warned that any damage or loss would cost too much for the country and more here chronic disease transmission. She said researches indicated that the constant exploitation of wild fauna and their habitats had raised the risk of zoonotic disease transmission or the transmission of disease from animals to humans.

Furthermore, she says, the need to protect the Philippines' wildlife resources finds critical relevance now as we continue to battle the ill-effects of the COVID-19 virus.

As a legislator and environmentalist, Villar says, she has been pursuing various programs and legislations to conserve and protect places like rivers and wetlands.

She pushed for the amendment of Republic Act 7586 or the National Integrated Protected Areas System Act, which was passed into law in 1992. The Act provides the legal framework for the establishment and management of protected areas in the country.

She also opposed the planned reclamation of a critical habitat in her home city of Las Piñas—LPPCHEA or the Las Piñas-Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area, also known as Las Piñas-Parañaque Wetland Park.

“We share the habitat of wildlife, thus we are both sustained by them, too. Destruction of those habitats translate to loss of livelihood and economic opportunities for people,” said Villar as she noted that was one of the points she insisted in objecting to the planned reclamation.

She said the reclamation would disrupt the livelihood of thousands fisherfolks and urban poor who depend on the wetland for their daily sustenance.



Protection of biodiversity urged

Just last week, Villar said, she filed Senate Bill 2078 or the “Revised Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2021,” amending the 20-year-old RA No. 9147.

The bill seeks to strengthen the wildlife conservation and protection mechanism in our country as the incidence of wildlife crimes has evolved and grown, violators have become more equipped, organized and syndicated or with international connections.



PAGKILALA AT CASH PRIZE SA MGA NANALO SA DIGITAL POSTER MAKING



March 16, 2021 @ 12:20 AM 4 hours ago

SA mga lumahok sa Digital Poster Making Contest ng National Water Resources Board (NWRB) na may temang, Valuing Water: “#Water2Me”, kung saan ipinakita ang kahalagahan ng tubig at para mapalaganap sa isipan ng bawat isa, ang responsableng paggamit ng tubig sa ating pang-araw-araw na buhay.

Ang nilalaman ng inyong Digital Poster ay nagpapakita ng mga sumusunod:

Ang tubig ay nangangahulugan ng iba’t ibang bagay sa iba’t ibang tao.

Ito ay tungkol sa anong paraan ng tubig sa inyo.

Kung paano at bakit mahalaga ang tubig sa iyong bahay (home) at sa buhay pamilya (family life), inyong pang araw-araw na buhay (livelihood), inyong nakasanayan kultural gawain (cultural practices), inyong pamamaraan (well being), at sa inyong local environment.

Sa pamamagitan ng pagtatala at pagdiriwang ng lahat ng iba’t ibang mga paraan na nagpapakita na tayo ay nakikinabang sa tubig sa ating buhay, maaari nating pahalagahan nang maayos ang paggamit ng tubig at mapanatili itong mabisa para sa lahat

Mga Kriterya sa paggawa ng Digital Poster

30% – may kaugnayan sa tema ng Valuing Water: “#Water2Me”

30% – orihinalidad at pagiging natatangi

25% – Aesthetic appeal

10% – may pinakamaraming “Likes” sa NWRB FB page

5% – paglalarawan sa ginawang Digital Poster

Total rating – 100%



PAGKILALA AT CASH PRIZE SA MGA NANALO SA DIGITAL POSTER MAKING

1. Ang mga kalahok sa digital poster na nakakuha ng pinakamataas na average rating ay isinama sa mga pipilin ng mga hurado.
2. Ang mga hurado / judge ay pipili ng tatlong nanalo mula sa lahat ng mga naisumite na entries at bibigyan ng pagkilala at mga premyo.
3. Ang mga mananalo ay makatatanggap ng gantimpalang salapi at Certificate of Appreciation

Unang gantimpala P5,000.00

Pangalawang gantimpala P3,000.00

Pangatlong gantimpala P2,000.00

Ang mga nagwagi na kalahok ay aabisuhan ng NWRB sa pamamagitan ng email o magpapadala ng text message sa kanilang mobile number at ipo-post ng NWRB sa kanilang website at facebook page.

Lahat ng mga kwalipikadong kalahok ay bibigyan ng Certificate of Appreciation. Sa mga nanalong kalahok, ipadadala ng NWRB ang mga premyo sa mga kalahok pagkatapos ng masusing pag-verify.

Abangan sa susunod na kolum ng inyong lingkod, kung sino-sino ang nagwagi sa Digital Making Contest. Congratulations sa mga winner!



Nickel Asia companies are environmental champions for 2020



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



The PMIEA trophy depicts environmental excellence in every stage of mining operations. It speaks of pro-people and pro-environment characteristics of the mining industry in sustaining wealth creation and improving the quality of life

THE awarding of the prestigious Presidential Mineral Industry Environmental Award (PMIEA) to two mining companies under the umbrella of Nickel Asia Corp. (NAC), is regarded as doubly special as it was conferred during the pandemic year.

Cagdianao Mining Corp. (CMC), based in Valencia, in Dinagat Islands, and Rio Tuba Nickel Mining Corp. (RTNMC), based in Bataraza in Palawan, are this year's proud PMIEA honorees presented with the "Presidential trophy" for outstanding initiatives in the pursuit of excellence in environmental management. CMC and RTNMC are subsidiaries of NAC, the country's largest nickel supplier.

According to the Mines and Geoscience Bureau (MGB), an agency of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the award is given to operating mines that have shown exemplary performance in the area of environmental enhancement and protection; safety and health; social development; and corporate social responsibility.



Nickel Asia companies are environmental champions for 2020

“The award for 2020 is made more significant because of the unprecedented challenges posted by Covid-19. Our employees had to exert double efforts and had to sacrifice personal time in order to achieve our goals, to ensure 100 percent implementation of our commitments to all our stakeholders in the mining communities” explains Engr. Arnilo Milaor, resident mine manager at CMC.

This is a back-to-back win for the Dinagat-based mining company which also collected the Presidential Award last year.

“The improved living conditions in the mining areas are proof of our commitment to the communities. One outstanding CMC project for example is the 19.2-kilometer farm-to-market road worth P12 million, connecting five barangays from two municipalities to the main provincial road, effectively providing the residents access to basic services like the hospital, and, most importantly, efficient access to trade and commerce,” says Engr. Aloysius Diaz, NAC VP for Operations.

Rio Tuba Nickel, which has won this most-coveted “Presidential Award” for four times — 2002, 2015, 2018, and 2020 — never stopped operations and continuously implemented essential programs on environment protection, community development, and safety and health, despite the pandemic and expended a whopping P66.5 million for AEPEP and P36.2 million for SDMP in 2020.



CDC calls for sustainable wastewater treatment

March 15, 2021

CLARK FREEPORT -- The Clark Development Corporation (CDC) underscored the need for a new and inexpensive technology in meeting the requirements of wastewater treatment set by the government.

In a virtual town hall meeting Saturday, March 13, CDC has laid out feasible and cost-effective methods that are modern, compliant, and inexpensive that make business climate for Clark locators and investors more sustainable.

The technology also addresses standards set by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The video conference was attended by officers and members of Clark Investors and Locators Association (Cila) and officials from Clark Water Corporation (CWC).

This aims to provide updates and developments with regard to the various steps taken by the state-owned firm in guiding CWC for its compliance to the Department Administrative Order (DAO) 2016-08, issued by the DENR.

CWC, as the water and wastewater concessionaire of the Freeport, is required to comply with the DAO 2016-08 or the Water Quality Guidelines (WQG) and General Effluent Standards (GES).

During the meeting, CDC presented to Cila and CWC a possible alternative and a cost-efficient technology, which is a hybrid wastewater treatment that incorporates Bio Remediation and Reed Bed technology.

The Bio-remediation System will only require P300 million capital expense while the Reed Bed will only entail P80 million capital expenses. Incorporating these systems would mean that capital expense is at P380 Million.

This alternative technology model is an environmentally friendly, low maintenance cost, and green approach guaranteed to meet the DENR parameters. It would not require major construction works and estimated to only take 4-months project timeline. It is a modular and portable design and Environmental Technology verified by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST). This is also being used in various countries such as US, China, Indonesia, Europe, Japan, Australia, Canada, and Korea among others.

Jeannie Ng, president of Cila, cited CDC's efforts in presenting an alternative solution that is business operation-friendly and at the same time, amenable with DENR's guidelines.

"On behalf of Cila, we would like to thank CDC for finding this technology, the BioCleaner technology that will benefit the locator and would translate to lower tariffs than the original one being sourced out by CWC. We really hope that CWC and Biotechnology will work together. With this Biocleaner technology, I think when you present it to them (DENR-EMB-Central Luzon) they will see that CDC and CWC are moving forward in trying to comply with DAO 2016," she added.



CDC calls for sustainable wastewater treatment

For his part, CDC president Manuel Gaerlan said the state-owned firm will continuously exert its efforts to guide CWC and to arrive at a favorable solution that is business and environmentally-friendly that is likewise beneficial for all stakeholders.

“We would like to assure the DENR family that CDC and Clark Water are partners in complying as far as the DAO 2016-08 is concerned,” he said.

The DAO 2016-08 stipulates that water effluent or sewage discharge should be improved and be in accordance to certain standards. This would mean that nutrients in the water discharge should meet a required level. Failure to meet such standards will lead to violation and penalty.

Under the provision of the said order, CWC was also compelled to prepare a Compliance Action Plan (CAP) which they directly submitted to DENR- Environmental Management Bureau (EMB)- Central Luzon and had it approved. The CAP, upon its implementation, should be able to meet the deadline for 2021.

As part of the CAP prepared by CWC, they proposed the construction of a wastewater treatment technology called Modified Sequence Batch Reactor (MSBR) which would entail P1.078 billion capital expenses, P5.022 operating expenses per cubic meter leading to P8.17 additional water tariff rate per cubic meter. This would also translate to P11.44 additional water and wastewater tariff rate per cubic meter.

An increase in the water tariff would have an adverse impact to this Freeport’s locators especially on their operations -- considering that the pandemic also brought about far-reaching effect to industries here. Cost competitiveness in doing business here will also be affected.

CWC president Virgilio Rivera Jr. said they will look into the presented alternative technology.

“We are here to cooperate and collaborate with CDC. I will assure you that if we find the technology credible and will meet the requirements under our CAP, we will support it, that is why I will ask the team (CWC) to already sit down with Mr. Tee (representative from BioCleaner) and his technical team to already get very busy and make sure to come up with a report and recommendation as soon as possible,” Rivera said.



Clear skies no more: pro-clean energy group says PH air quality back to pre-COVID state

Published March 15, 2021, 3:01 PM
by [Ellson Quismorio](#)

Remember last year when clearer skies and lessened air pollution resulting from the strict lockdown in Metro Manila made headlines? Sustainability think-tank Center for Energy, Ecology, and Development (CEED) suggests that this is no longer the case as the “alarming lack of measures to address air pollution has allowed air quality to spike back to pre-COVID (coronavirus disease) levels.”



(MANILA BULLETIN FILE PHOTO)

“COVID-19 appeared to have given nature a break from decades of greenhouse gas emissions, and we hoped that the improvement in air quality during the first few weeks of lockdown had shown the government how desperate Filipinos are for cleaner air. However, all we’re seeing a year later is a return to normal,” said Avril De Torres, CEED’s Research, Policy, and Law Program Head.

March 15 marked the first anniversary of the imposition of the enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) in the metropolis.

CEED said the slow-down of economic activities especially in urban centers resulted in the improvement of air quality, something that Filipinos noticed as photos of clearer skies in cities and previously unseen views in Metro Manila of landscapes like the Sierra Madre went viral.

“We and many others cautioned that the cleaner air in the middle of a global crisis is merely a glimpse. We urged the DENR (Department of Environment and National Resources) to use it as an opportunity to ensure air quality monitoring systems are calibrated and well-functioning, and raise our air quality and emission standards, which are one of the lowest in the world,” De Torres said.

“We also called on the DOE (Department of Energy) to learn from the troubles encountered with coal and other fossil fuels during ECQ and fast-track the advancement of renewable technologies



Clear skies no more: pro-clean energy group says PH air quality back to pre-COVID state

instead. These having been unheeded, we are concerned but not surprised that air quality in the country is seriously deteriorating,” she said.

According to CEED, environmental groups were already warning the Philippine government about the decrease in air quality following the easing of quarantine restrictions mid last year.

By March 2021, the International Energy Agency (IEA) reported that global CO₂ pollution has returned to pre-pandemic levels and threatens to surpass them due to the rush for economic recovery.

“The coal and other fossil fuels industries remain the biggest culprit in polluting the air we breathe and spewing greenhouse gas emissions that contribute further to the climate crisis. The lack of a clear policy against coal plants allows for thousands of premature deaths each year in the country. Meanwhile, the absence of a just transition framework in the transport sector hinders the shift to cleaner and democratic transportation systems that commuters and transport workers alike are able to support,” said De Torres.



Navotas City cited for Manila Bay rehab



By [Arlie O. Calalo](#)
March 15, 2021

NAVOTAS City was named top performer in the implementation of the Manila Bay Clean up, Rehabilitation and Preservation Program (MBCRPP).

“In the past years, Navotas scored low in the MBCRPP. We strived to rework our priorities, strengthen our partnership with environmental organizations and agencies, and establish institutional changes to ensure that we will not just be compliant but committed in the rehabilitation of Manila Bay,” Navotas Mayor Tobias Tiangco said.

Navotas, whose livelihood is dependent on the sea, had partnered with the Mother Earth Foundation to establish a phased, low-cost and community-centered zero-waste program.

The city also institutionalized bottom-up documentation and reporting, as well as top-down monitoring and feedback of environmental issues.

“Helping on-ground implementers see the positive impact of their labor made them realize the importance of what they do. This, in turn, inspired them to work harder not just to fulfill their duties but also to become part of the change they want to see in Manila Bay,” Tiangco said.

Previously, Navotas’ entry Bangkulasi River placed third in the Gawad Taga-Ilog: Search for the Most Improved Estero in Metro Manila.



Parañaque rakes in accolades for Manila Bay clean-up efforts

Published March 15, 2021, 1:16 PM

by [Dhel Nazario](#)

Several awards and recognition were personally received by Parañaque City Mayor Edwin Olivarez on Monday, March 15, from the Department of Interior and Local Government – National Capital Region (DILG-NCR) from the recently-concluded Manila Bay Clean-up Rehabilitation and Preservation (MBCRP) Program.



PHOTO FROM MAYOR EDWIN OLIVAREZ FACEBOOK PAGE/ MANILA BULLETIN

Olivarez received from the DILG-NCR a Plaque of Recognition which was conferred to the city for being one of the Local Government Units (LGUs) with the highest compliance rate in implementing the Supreme Court Mandamus attaining a score of 95.40 percent in the 2020 Assesment of LGUs' Compliance with MBCRP Program.

The city also received a Plaque of Recognition for its “exemplary performance” in the indicators under the Solid Waste Management Cluster in the 2020 Assessment of LGUs' Compliance with MBCRP Program.

A Special Citation was also given to the city for the improvement of the Estero de Sto. Niño through the adoption of digital monitoring innovations along the waterway from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The DENR said the local action “strongly contributes” to the rehabilitation of Manila Bay through this kind of effort.

Parañaque’s Manila Bay Task Force also received a Certificate of Appreciation from the DILG-NCR for its “unwavering commitment” and support to the endeavors of the MBCRP.



Bulacan government backs SMC airport project

By [LORENZ S. MARASIGAN](#)
MARCH 16, 2021



This BusinessMirror file photo shows an artist's sketch of how the New Manila International Airport in Bulacan will look like.

The local government of Bulacan and its stakeholders are fully supportive of the immediate construction of the New Manila International Airport (NMIA) in Bulacan, Bulacan, saying that this multibillion-peso project has the potential to bring economic benefits to the province.

Bulacan Governor Daniel Fernando said in a public hearing conducted by the Environment Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) that the project will help provide jobs to residents and other Filipinos amid the pandemic, which caused the unemployment rate to rise.

“This project will bring development and can increase our way of living,” he said, noting that with the airport built, the province could become a “global destination for tourism.”

For Bulacan Mayor Vergel Meneses, aside from providing a boost for the town, the P740-billion project could also address the perennial congestion in the country’s current gateway.

“The municipal government of Bulacan supports this project. We want to start this project as soon as possible because we know the huge opportunities that this will open for our town,” he said.

To be built on a 2,400-hectare property in Bulacan, Bulacan, just north of Metro Manila, the \$15-billion airport complex will have four runways, eight taxiways, and three passenger terminals. It also has provisions for future expansion to sport six runways and to accommodate 200 million passengers per year.

It is expected to help raise tourism levels to 30 million annually, generate over a million direct and indirect jobs, and to contribute roughly P900 billion annually to GDP by 2025.



Bulacan government backs SMC airport project

The project is being undertaken by San Miguel Corp. (SMC), which has so far provided cash assistance to a total of 364 beneficiaries who were relocated for the construction of the project.

The diversified conglomerate has also partnered with the Technical Education Skills Development Authority to train 58 former Taliptip coastal residents in different courses geared towards employment during airport construction and full operations, and to open businesses that will cater to the airport and the surrounding communities.



Airport sa Bulacan, suportado ng LGUs, residents

(Pilipino Star Ngayon)

- March 16, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Sinuportahan kahapon ng mga local officials, residents at stakeholders ang agarang pagpapagawa ng Manila International Airport sa Barangay Taliptip, Bulakan, Bulacan.

Ito aniya ay isang game-changing project na itatayo ng San Miguel Corporation at magpapakita sa economic potential ng Bulacan province na magbibigay ng trabaho sa mga Pinoy para makabangon sa COVID-19 pandemic.

Nagkaisa sina Bulacan governor Daniel Fernando, Bulacan town mayor Vergel Meneses at mga opisyal at residente ng Barangay Taliptip at Barangay Bambang na suportahan ang P740 billion project sa idinaos na public hearing na pinamunuan ng Environment Management Bureau of the Department of Environment at Natural Resources (DENR).

“Ang proyektong ito ay maghahatid ng ibayong kaunlaran at mataas naantas ng pamumuhay, “ ani Gov. Fernando na idinagdag na maaaring maging isang global destination para sa turismo ang probinsya ukol sa itatayong airport.

Kabuuang 364 relocated residents ang binigyan ng SMC ng cash assistance para sa pagtatayo ng Manila International Airport sa Barangay Taliptip, Bulakan, Bulacan.



Banning single-use plastics to solve PH pollution problem

By Catherine Teves March 15, 2021, 5:26 pm



MANILA – Climate Change Commission (CCC) Commissioner Rachel Anne Herrera sees the need to harmonize parameters for banning single-use plastics (SUPs) nationwide to better address pollution linked to these disposable items.

"I think it's urgent there should be a national policy on this," she said.

She said some 489 cities, municipalities and provinces in the country already have respective SUP-related ordinances.

Such ordinances, however, may be covering different kinds of SUPs so what is banned in some areas might not be prohibited in others, she noted.

That makes it difficult to address pollution particularly as SUPs may end up in waterways that usually traverse to different LGUs -- transporting such items possibly to where these are banned, she continued.

"There should be uniform, unified, collaborative approach so everyone gets benefits of the plastics regulation or ban," she said.

She urged LGUs to continue addressing the SUP problem in respective areas of jurisdiction while awaiting the national policy on these.

Tackling Plastic Pollution' is the theme of this year's World Consumer Rights Day (WCRD), an annual President John F. Kennedy-inspired observance that puts the spotlight on consumers' power, rights and needs.



Banning single-use plastics to solve PH pollution problem

This year's WCRD observance on March 15 aims to help raise awareness about plastic pollution and engage the world's consumers on adopting and promoting sustainable practices to help address such problem, noted Consumers International (CI), the global consumer group membership organization that announced such theme.

"Plastic pollution is one of the most pressing issues facing our planet," CI Director General Helena Leurent said in her 2021 WCRD message.

Among common SUPs are plastic grocery bags, bottles, straws, containers, cups, cutlery as well as packaging for food and other merchandise.

Some 95 percent to 99 percent of plastics used are made of petrochemicals, noted Herrera.

Continuously producing plastics won't help the country reduce its emission of greenhouse gases (GHGs), she said.

Experts said GHG emissions accumulate in the atmosphere and trap heat, raising global temperature that changes climate.

Increasing frequency of extreme weather events as well as rising sea level and temperature are climate change's impacts on the Philippines, they said.

Studies show sachet packages are among the top SUPs polluting the Philippines.

Herrera noted in 2019 alone, the country used and disposed about 164 million sachets.

"It's really a big problem," she said.

Aside from polluting the environment, she said plastics threaten health as well.

Plastics break down into microplastics or fragments of plastic which fish and other aquatic species can ingest, said experts.

They warned humans in turn ingest such microplastics by eating fish contaminated with these fragments.

Chemicals in microplastics can harm health, they noted.

Citing data in the "Breaking the Plastic Wave" report released last year, CI earlier said flow of plastics into oceans will triple by 2040 if there won't be major changes in relevant policies, innovation and behavior.



Banning single-use plastics to solve PH pollution problem

Studies also show by 2050, there may be more plastics than fish in oceans already, noted CI.

Some eight million tons of plastics reach oceans annually, CI continued.

"Tackling plastic pollution is a global challenge which requires coordinated, international solutions," CI said.

According to CI, President Kennedy's March 15, 1962 special message to the US Congress inspired annual observance of WCRD.

CI said in that message, Mr. Kennedy addressed the issue of consumer rights.

"He was the first world leader to do so," CI noted.

The consumer movement in 1983 first marked the date when President Kennedy delivered his special consumer rights-related message, CI said.

Mr. Kennedy served as US President from 1961 until his assassination in 1963. (*PNA*)



NegOcc's 'Farmville' to become haven of PH native trees

By Nanette Guadalquiver March 15, 2021, 7:53 pm



HAVEN OF NATIVE TREES. The Farmville de Bago located in Barangay Atipuluan in Bago City, Negros Occidental. Geothermal producer Energy Development Corp. (EDC) has partnered with Farmville de Bago to plant premium endemic species. *(Photo courtesy of Farmville de Bago Facebook page)*

BACOLOD CITY – The Farmville de Bago in Negros Occidental will soon become a haven of Philippine native trees after it partnered with geothermal producer Energy Development Corp. (EDC) to plant premium endemic species.

The partnership is being implemented under BINHI, EDC's flagship environmental program, focusing on research and rescue of threatened species of trees in Philippine forests and on bringing back their abundance.

Norreen Bautista, EDC corporate social responsibility head of Negros, said the partnership with Farmville de Bago is celebrated as they move together beyond sustainability and promote regenerative stewardship of the environment.

"For every arboretum established, we are ensuring the verdant legacy of our Philippine native trees," she said in a statement on Monday.

The EDC formalized its collaboration with Farmville de Bago owners, lawyer Henry Sy-Yap and family, for the establishment of the firm's 24th arboretum in a virtual signing of a memorandum of agreement held on March 12.

Farmville de Bago, a 16.68-hectare farm complex located in Barangay Atipuluan in Bago City, offers guests and visitors opportunities to interact with different farm animals and enjoy the beauty of nature.

This is not the first time that Sy-Yap and his family have collaborated with EDC as the farm owners have also been contributing to the company's 10 Million Trees in 10 Years (10M in 10) for a Greener Negros Movement campaign by planting more than 10,000 trees since 2017.



NegOcc's 'Farmville' to become haven of PH native trees

“(All the) more reason to have the resolve (for) me and my kids, up to my grandchildren, to do the right thing. I think we need to do this to save our planet. As I’ve said earlier, who else would (do it), but us,” Sy-Yap said.

Through the BINHI search and rescue program, the EDC has prioritized 96 threatened native tree species.

Among those planted include Yakal-saplungan, Yakal-malibato, Malabayabas, Betis, Apunan, Pianga, Kamagong, Kamagong ponce, Ipil, Tindalo, and Supa. **(PNA)**



DOH: 5,404 new COVID-19 cases naitala; total cases 626K

By [Bombo Christian Yosores](#)

-March 15, 2021 | 6:19 PM



MANILA – Patuloy pang tumaas ang dagdag na bilang ng mga bagong kaso ng COVID-19 matapos mag-ulat ang Department of Health (DOH) ng 5,404 new cases ngayong araw.

Ito na ang itinuturing na ikaapat sa pinakamataas na bagong kaso ng coronavirus na naitala mula nang mag-umpisa ang pandemya sa Pilipinas.

Batay sa datos ng DOH, pinakamataas ang higit 5,400 na naitala ngayong araw mula noong August 14, 2020 kung saan nag-ulat ang ahensya ng 6,216 na bagong kaso ng sakit.

Sa ngayon pumapalo na sa 626,893 ang kabuuang bilang ng COVID-19 cases sa bansa.

“5 labs were not able to submit their data to the COVID-19 Document Repository System (CDRS) on March 14, 2021.”

Muli namang sumirit sa 53,479 ang bilang ng active cases o mga nagpapagaling.

Sa ilalim ng bilang, 92.4% ang mild cases; 4% asymptomatic; 1.4% ang severe at critical; habang 0.73% ang moderate cases.

Nadagdagan ng 71 ang bilang ng mga gumaling, na ngayon ay nasa 560,577 na.

Habang walo ang bagong naitalang namatay para sa 12,837 na total deaths.

“9 duplicates were removed from the total case count. Of these, 3 are recoveries.”

“Moreover, 3 cases that were previously tagged as recoveries were reclassified as deaths after final validation.”

Source: <https://www.bomboradyo.com/doh-5404-new-covid-19-cases-naitala-total-cases-626k/>



Workplaces among common virus sources: QC government

By Marita Moaje March 15, 2021, 6:38 pm



LOCKDOWN. Barangay officials remind residents of the ongoing general community quarantine (GCQ) on Monday (March 15, 2021) along 14th Ave., Barangay Socorro in Cubao, Quezon City. The GCQ that will last until March 31 also imposed liquor ban. (PNA photo by Robert Oswald P. Alfiler)

MANILA – Workplaces are among the most common sources of coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) infections in Quezon City, according to their Epidemiology and Disease Surveillance Unit (CESU).

CESU reported on Monday that of the 722 positive cases from Feb. 28 to March 13, 2021, 104 cases or 14 percent occurred in workplaces, and brought home, infecting members of the household.

The household became the most common exposure setting, where 256 cases or 35 percent occurred.

“Reports showed that household transmission stems from one member of the household acquiring the virus from his workplace,” Mayor Joy Belmonte said online.

As such, business establishments were ordered to create a workplace Covid-19 Task Force that will implement prevention, detection, contact tracing, isolation, and management strategies of the company, office, or store.

Emergency measures and stricter protocols were included in the supplemental General Community Quarantine (GCQ) guidelines issued by the local government on Sunday to mitigate the spread of cases in the country’s largest city in terms of population size.

The guidelines that took effect on Monday shall be effective until March 31. It covers workplaces, public areas, and business establishments.



Workplaces among common virus sources: QC government

By Marita Moaje March 15, 2021, 6:38 pm

With the unified curfew in Metro Manila, public safety hours shall be from 10 p.m. until 5 a.m.

“During public safety hours, all persons should be at home, except for persons (i) still out for purposes of work, or on the way home from work, as shown by company ID, APOR (Authorized Person Outside Residence) ID, or other official ID; (ii) dealing with emergencies; or (iii) traveling for purposes of air/sea travel as shown by pre-booked tickets,” the guidelines reminiscent of the early Covid-19 detection in the country read.

Employees’ welfare

The QC government said employees should be provided with an alternative mode of transportation to reduce their exposure to other people on their daily commute.

An alternative work schedule was also recommended to reduce the number of employees inside an establishment at any given time.

The city government likewise mandated business owners and managers to use the KyusiPass Contact Tracing for their employees and customers.

Other businesses such as *sari-sari* (retail) stores were ordered closed by 10 p.m. while the operation of gyms, spas, and internet cafés are suspended until the end of the month.

Implementation of the ordinance banning drinking of liquors in public places will also be intensified.

“All retail sales of alcoholic beverages are hereby suspended for the duration of these guidelines,” the guideline read. **(PNA)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1133683>



PASASALAMAT SA MALASAKIT CENTER



March 15, 2021 @ 3:00 PM 13 hours ago

ANG laking pasasalamat ng pamilya ng namatay na dating overseas Filipino worker sa tulong ng Malasakit Center na itinatag ng administrasyong Duterte sa tulong ni Senador Bong Go, partikular na sa Rizal Medical Center sa Pasig City.

Nagpapasalamat sila dahil ang bigat ng gastusin nila sa pagpapaospital kay Randy Francisco, 47, ng Guyong, Sta. Maria, Bulacan na mahigit sa P144,000 subalit nang sila'y magbayad na ay NO BILLING BALANCE na sila.

Kwento ng panganay na anak ni Randy na si Ara, dumaan muna sila, kasama ang kapatid ng yumao na sina Raul, Agnes, at Alona, sa isang interview at inilahad nilang bukod sa OFW, isa na ring person with disability ang namatay nang maputulan ito ng paa dahil sa sakit na nakuha nito sa South Korea.

Nagbunga ang pagiging PWD ni Randy ng kawalan ng kakayahang maghanapbuhay nang normal at naging indigent.

Pasimula na rin iyon ng pagbagsak ng kalusugan nito hanggang sa matagpuan na lang ng mga doktor na may cancer na sa atay, sakit sa bato, pneumonia at hepatitis b na ikinamatay na nito kamakalawa.

Ayon kay Ara, nag-promissory note sila sa RMC na hindi naman nag-atubili na tumanggap nito bago nila naiwi ang bangkay ni Randy.

Nagbalik sila kahapon na baon ang naipon nilang P50,000 pambayad dahil alam nilang magkakaroon ng diskwento subalit nagulat at nagpasalamat sila nang buo nang sagutin ng Malasakit Center ang lahat ng dapat nilang bayaran.



PASASALAMAT SA MALASAKIT CENTER

P200K SA PRIBADONG OSPITAL

Ang malaking pabigat sa gastusin na nakadagan sa dibdib ng pamilya ay biglang naglaho at ngayo'y magaan nilang dinadala ang hagupit ng tadhana.

Una nang gumastos ang pamilya Francisco ng P200,000 sa pagkakaospital ni Randy sa isang pribadong ospital sa Bulacan sa loob ng dalawang linggo at inilipat nila siya sa RMC na roon na siya nalagutan ng hininga makaraan din ng dalawang linggo.

Bago nito, gumastos din sila nang malaki sa pagdadala kay Randy sa iba't ibang ospital upang magamot ang kanyang paa na pinasok nang hindi malaman kung bakteryang o virus.

Nang lalamunin na pataas ang kanyang paa ng sakit na nagmula sa dalampasigan ng South Korea, doon na nila napagdesisyunang ipaputol na lang iyon at dito na nagsimula ang pagbagsak ng kabuhayan ng kanyang pamilya at kalusugan ni Randy.

PANINIRA AT MABABANG PAGTANGGAP NG BAKUNA

Noong una, inatake kaagad ng mga kritiko ang administrasyong Duterte nang ilan sa mga opisyal nito ang nagsabing sana'y huwag maging choosy o mapili ang mga mamamayan sa bakuna laban sa coronavirus disease o COVID-19.

Kabilang sa mga umatake ang mariing nagsasabing dapat dumaan muna sa Health Technology Assessment Council (HTAC), lalo na ang bakunang gawang China na Coronavac o Sinovac, bago ito gamitin.

Hindi alam ng umaatakeng ito na isa lang advisory at recommendatory sa Department of Health at Food and Drugs Administration ang trabaho ng HTAC at pupwedeng tanggapin o balewalain ng DOH at FDA ang mga advice at rekomendasyon nito, ayon na rin kay Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte.

Ang gawa ng nasabing kritiko at iba pang mga kritiko na paninira sa mga bakunang hindi gawa ng mga Amerikano at Europeo ang isang malaking dahilan kung bakit naging mababa ang acceptance rating o pagtanggap sa mga bakunang hindi stateside at European.

Dahilan pa ng mga kritiko, mababa ang epekto ng Sinovac dahil 50.4 porsyento lang umano sa Brazil ngunit hindi nila matanggap na sa ibang mga bansa, gaya ng Turkey at Indonesia, may epekto ito na 91% at 65% ayon sa pagkakasunod.

Bukod dito, pilit nilang minamaliit ang sinasabi mismo ng World Health Organization at mismong United States Centers of Disease Control na ang 50% bisa ng isang bakuna, gaya ng bakuna sa trangkaso, ay makapagliligtas na ng milyon-milyong tao sa pagkakaospital at kamatayan.

Lumikha lahat ito ng pagiging "choosy" ng mga Pinoy sa bakuna at nagpapabagal nang husto sa programang pagbabakuna.

NATATARANTA NGUNIT NANINIRA PA RIN

Ngayong may nagaganap na paglala sa kalagayan natin sa COVID-19 dala ng pagdating ng mga variant o ibang anyo ng virus mula sa iba't ibang bansa at nanganak na rin mismo ng Pinoy o Philippine variant, tarantang-taranta na ang mga kritiko.



PASASALAMAT SA MALASAKIT CENTER

Muli, ang pamahalaan ang kanilang binabaterya sa napakabagal umanong pagpapabakuna nito at ginawa na nga nilang isang dahilan ito ng paglobo umano ng pandemya sa bansa at paglaganap ng COVID variants.

Hindi matanggap ng mga anak ng tokwang kritikong ito na sila ang isa sa mga pangunahing lumikha ng pagdududa sa mga bakunang dumating sa bansa na nagbubunga ng hindi madaling pagtanggap ng mga mamamayan o target ng pagbabakuna kaya mabagal ang programa.

Hindi rin maintindihan ng mga ito na kinokorner ng mayayamang bansa, kasama ang United States, Europa, United Kingdom at mismong India, ang bulto ng mga bakuna palibhasa sa kanila ginagawa ang mga ito.

Itong vaccine nationalism kung tawagin ng United Nations at World Health Organization ay ang pangunahing dahilan kung bakit hirap makarating sa bansa ang mga bakuna kahit may pambili na tayo.

Kasama rin sa mga paninira nila noong una ang napakamahal umanong Sinovac sa presyong P1,600 at mahigit pa bawat dose pero natameme sila nang lumitaw na P700 lang pala ito.

MAGANDANG BALITA SA SINOVAC

Sa kabila ng mga paninira ng mga kritiko, mismong mga hanay na rin ng natuturuan ng Sinovac, health worker at miyembro ng PNP, ang nangungumbinse sa kapwa nila na magpabakuna na.

Mula mismo kay Baguio City Mayor Benjamin Magalong, lumitaw sa sarbey na may ospital sa kanyang lungsod ang umayaw sa Sinovac at iisa lang na health worker ang pumayag na maturukan.

Pagkatapos na maturukan ang iba, bumaligtad ang sitwasyon.

‘Yun bang === ang 373 na health worker ay gusto nang magpabakuna at iisa na lang ang ayaw sa Sinovac.

Lumaki na rin ang bilang ng mga gustong magpabakuna ng Sinovac sa Philippine General Hospital sa 25% mula sa 8% lang noong una.

Lumalabas na nag-obserba muna ang mga health worker at nang walang gaanong naospital at namatay sa libo-libo nang naturukan ng Sinovac, hayun, nagbago na sila ng isip.

Magandang balita ito para bumilis ang pagbabakuna sa mahal kong Pinas.

MASAMANG BALITA SA ASTRAZENECA

Kung gaano kaganda ang mga balita sa Sinovac, hinahaluan naman ito ng hindi magandang balita.

Nagkakaloko-loko ang AstraZeneca na gawang UK na choice ng mga “choosy” dahil sa ibinubunga nitong blood clot o pagbabara ng mga ugat sa buong katawan at nakamamatay sa Europa.

Dahil dito, pinatigil na ng dumaraming bansa sa Europa ang paggamit ng AstraZeneca gaya ng Denmark, Austria, Italy, Ireland, Iceland, Bulgaria, Estonia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Latvia at The Netherlands at Thailand.



PASASALAMAT SA MALASAKIT CENTER

Nauna rito, pinatigil ang paggamit ng AstraZeneca sa South Africa makaraan itong hindi tumalab laban sa South Africa variant at ngayo'y ibinibigay na ng nasabing bansa ang bakuna sa mga bansa sa Africa na walang South African variant.

Hanggang ngayon naman, hindi pa kinikilala ng US ang AstraZeneca na mabisa at ligtas na bakuna.

Sa parte naman ng Pilipinas na meron nang mahigit 450,00 dosage ng AstraZeneca, paano kaya ito madaling tanggapin ng mga health worker at iba pang benepisyaryo nito ang masamang balita?

Sana naman, ang bulto na nakarating sa Pinas hindi kasama sa bultong isang milyon na naideliber sa Europa na pinaniniwalaang lumilikha ng pagbabara ng mga ugat na nakamamatay.

Ito'y para magamit ito sa mga Filipino at makatulong sa mas mabilis na pag-usad ng programa sa pagbabakuna.

BEST VACCINE ANG AVAILABLE VACCINE

Ang kampanya ngayon, anoman ang mga nagaganap sa dalawang hawak na nating bakuna, ay magpabakuna ang mga dapat na mabakunahan.

Hindi na lang ang mga doktor at health worker na nabakunahan ang nagsasabing “pinakamabisang bakuna ang nasa kamay na natin at hindi ang mga hindi bakunang hindi malaman kung darating o hindi.”

‘Yun bang === Sinovac at AstraZeneca ang available vaccine kaya da bes sila ngayon.

Para sa mga edad 19 hanggang 59, pwede sila sa Sinovac bagama't sa ibang bansa, gaya nina Hong Kong head Carrie Lam, 63, at Turkey President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, 67, ay nagpabakuna rito.

Sa AstraZeneca, pwede ang 19 hanggang sa mga senior citizen, bagama't daraan sa masusing pagsusuri muna ang mga matatanda.

Kasama rin sa naniniwala sa “the available vaccine is the best vaccine” ang mga namumuno ng Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines na binubuo ng Cardinal at Obispo ng Simbahang Katolika.

Ito rin ang mariing paniniwala na pinalalaganap ng pamahalaang Duterte, kasama na ang mga lokal na opisyal gaya ni Mayor Magalong at iba pang mga gobernador at mayor sa iba pang lugar sa Pilipinas na pinadalhan ng mga bakuna.

Ngayon naman, ginagawan na ng paraan ang 1M dosage ng Sinovac para makarating sa Pinas sa susunod na linggo, maging ang karagdagang AstraZeneca.

HAMON SA MGA KRITIKO

Ano kaya ang maitutulong na mismo, maging ang mga kritiko, para sa mas mabilis na pagbabakuna para mapigilan kahit papaano ang paglaganap at pagdami ng biktima ng COVID-19 at mga variant nito na mas mas mabagsik kaysa sa orig na COVI-19?



PASASALAMAT SA MALASAKIT CENTER

Paano makatutulong ang mga kritiko para makamit natin ang herd immunity na 60-70 milyong nabakunahan upang hindi na sila mahawa at makahawa ng iba at makapagsimula na tayong mamuhay nang normal at makakalas na sa sobrang kahirapan at kagipitan?

O mas gusto ng mga kritiko ang manood lang at maninira nang maninira sa pamahalaang Duterte habang nakatitig sa halalang 2022?

O kaya'y para masiraan ng loob ang Pangulo at maagaw na nila ang kapangyarihan anomang araw mula ngayon?



Over 200 volcanic quakes recorded in Taal Volcano; Alert Level 2 remains

Published March 15, 2021 9:50am

More than 200 volcanic earthquakes were recorded in Taal Volcano in Batangas in the past 24 hours, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) said on Monday.

Alert Level 2 remains in effect over the volcano.

Of the 252 total number of volcanic earthquakes, 17 tremors lasted from one to four minutes.

Five hybrid events were also observed.

The number of quakes was higher than the previous day's [74 total volcanic earthquakes](#) reported.

PHIVOLCS also said moderate emission of steam-laden plumes were seen at the main crater, reaching up as high as 10 meters.

“An upwelling of high temperature volcanic gases at the lake’s surface was observed last night from 6:30 PM to 8:45 PM,” it also added.

PHIVOLCS said the sulfur dioxide emitted averaged 518 tonnes/day on Sunday.

The last time the temperature in the main crater lake was taken was on March 4. During this time, the highest temperature recorded was 71.8 degrees Celsius.

The pH level meanwhile was last recorded on Feb. 12, when it registered 1.59.

PHIVOLCS said Taal Volcano’s landscape has been changing since it erupted in January 2020 since instrument readings showed “very slow and steady inflation and expansion.”

“These parameters may indicate increased magmatic activity at shallow depths beneath the edifice,” it said.

PHIVOLCS reminded the public that under Alert Level 2, it is possible for the volcano to have sudden steam-driven or phreatic explosions, as well as volcanic earthquakes, minor ash fall, and accumulations or expulsions of volcanic gas which could be lethal.

Taal Volcano Island is a permanent danger zone, thus should be off limits, it added.

PHIVOLCS also urged local governments to ensure adequate preparations are in place should the volcano show more renewed unrest.

It also said pilots must avoid flying close to Taal Volcano as ash and ballistic fragments from sudden explosions may be hazardous to aircraft. —KG, GMA News

Tags: [taal volcano](#), [Scitech](#), [Phivolcs](#)

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/scitech/science/779667/over-200-volcanic-quakes-recorded-in-taal-volcano-alert-level-2-remains/story/>



House panel approves P20 tax on plastic bags

March 15, 2021 | 8:02 pm



PHILSTAR

THE House Committee on Ways and Means approved a measure that will impose a P20 tax on plastic carrier bags by weight, with the measure estimated to be capable of generating up to P4 billion in taxes annually if enacted.

In a hearing Monday, the House tax panel approved the unnumbered substitute bill that will levy and collect a P20 excise tax per kilogram of plastic carrier bags removed from the place of production or the customs house.

An earlier version of the bill, House Bill (HB) 178, was approved by the House Committee on Appropriations last week. HB 178 proposed a P10 excise tax on single-use plastic carriers.

The panel's chairman, Representative Jose Ma. Clemente S. Salceda, said the tax estimate was based on a Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives finding that the Philippines disposes of 93 million plastic bags daily.

The substitute bill directs 100% of the revenue collected to solid waste management programs of local government units as authorized by the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act.

Advertisement

Nueva Ecija 1st District Estrellita B. Suansing, author of HB 178, has said that taxing plastic bags will reduce usage and promote environmentally-friendly alternatives. Improperly disposed plastic carriers are linked to clogged waterways that put cities at risk of flooding. — **Gillian M. Cortez**

Source: <https://www.bworldonline.com/house-panel-approves-p20-tax-on-plastic-bags/>



Bamboo seen as ideal building material for sustainable homes

March 16, 2021 | 12:08 am



BASE BAHAY Foundation, Inc. in January launched the Base Innovation Center in Makati City. — COMPANY HANDOUT

By **Cathy Rose A. Garcia**, *Managing Editor*

BAMBOO isn't often used to build homes in the Philippines, as many consider this as "a poor man's material."

Base Bahay Foundation, Inc. is hoping to change this perception, as it pushes for the use of bamboo as an alternative building technology for socialized housing in the country.

"What we want to change with this misconception is that bamboo, just like any other material, can be used just as well for strong structures when used properly and with the sufficient technology," Maricen Jalandoni, president of Base Bahay Foundation, Inc. said in an e-mail interview with *BusinessWorld*.

She said a German engineer named Corina Salzer wrote her master's thesis in 2012 on the use of bamboo for affordable homes in Asia and Pacific countries that face natural disasters every year.

"The Philippines has both the bamboo — a resource that grows incredibly fast and is freely available — and the complexities of a developing country with challenges on housing and natural disasters. This makes bamboo an ideal building material for sustainable housing in the country; especially for the many people living in informal settlements, vulnerable to disasters," she said.

Base Bahay, together with non-governmental organizations and Hilti Foundation, pioneered the research and development of new bamboo building techniques.

Luis Lopez, head of technology at Base Bahay Foundation, Inc. said they developed the cement bamboo frame technology (CBFT), a prefabricated frame system that uses load-bearing bamboo with metal connections and mortar cement plaster.



Bamboo seen as ideal building material for sustainable homes

“The raw materials and connections are tested to ensure a durable and reliable load transfer that will allow for a structural design that will match the intended resistance of the system. This system is also tested for resistance to earthquakes, typhoons, fires, and insect infestation,” Mr. Lopez said.

To address concerns over “*bokbok*” termite infestation in bamboo homes, Base has also developed a treatment process that eliminates bamboo starch and introduced solutions to protect it from termites.

In January, Base Bahay Foundation, Inc. launched the Base Innovation Center (BIC), considered the “first research and testing facility for sustainable and disaster-resilient construction technologies” in the Philippines.

“BIC is a venue for research and testing programs, as well as continuing professional education and training. We had built this with the goal of advancing bamboo-based technology and other alternative building technologies in mind — towards creation of a better sustainable future,” Dr. Pablo Jorillo, general manager of Base Bahay Foundation, Inc. said.

The center has a universal testing machine, a bamboo wall panel reaction frame, fabrication tables, and a model house, where new materials and building techniques are tested.

MORE COST-EFFICIENT

Base is hoping to widen the acceptance of cement-bamboo frame houses in the country.

Mr. Lopez said cement-bamboo frame houses are “more cost-efficient by 15 to 20%, compared to a conventional house of the same quality.”

“For our projects, we make sure to build houses that are no less than 25 square meters to ensure a comfortable and decent space for the families to live in... With bamboo and cement plaster as its main components, the CBFT-produced homes and structures have also been thoroughly tested and proven to be disaster-resilient, insect-resilient. Apart from being more affordable, it is also able to provide a more comfortable indoor temperature than conventional cement houses,” he said.

A cement-bamboo frame house also has 74% less environmental impact compared to conventional concrete house, Mr. Lopez noted.

“In absolute terms, this relates to a reduction of 9.3 tons of carbon monoxide CO₂ equivalents over a service life of 25 years,” he said.

A cement-bamboo frame house typically costs around P8,500-P9,500 per sq.m. with an average of P225,000 for a 25 sq.m. house, Mr. Jorillo said.

“The total cost will ultimately also depend on the location and wind zone of the area. The house includes the space for a common area, a kitchen, a bathroom, and a bedroom which can further be divided into two rooms,” he said.



Bamboo seen as ideal building material for sustainable homes

MORE HOMES

Base has already helped build over 800 homes, when the Hilti Foundation teamed up with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to build homes using sustainable materials in Estancia, Iloilo after super typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan) devastated the area.

“Since then, Base has helped build over 800 homes while providing livelihood to farmers and treatment workers within the value chain; from bamboo harvesting, treatment, to house construction — Base’s supply partners harvest, treat, and conduct quality-controls of more than 100,000 full culm bamboos annually,” Ms. Jalandoni said.

She said the foundation is aiming to build 10,000 cement-bamboo frame houses in Negros Occidental, with partners, Habitat for Humanity and HILTI Foundation in line with the Negros Occidental Impact Coalition.

“By using bamboo, Base also supports the livelihood of bamboo farmers and workers in the supply and treatment process, creating a green value chain from bamboo harvesting, treatment, and finally construction of the houses. In this way, we are not only helping the beneficiaries of our socialized homes, but also those who contribute to the success of our construction projects,” Mr. Lopez said.

16 MARCH 2021, Tuesday



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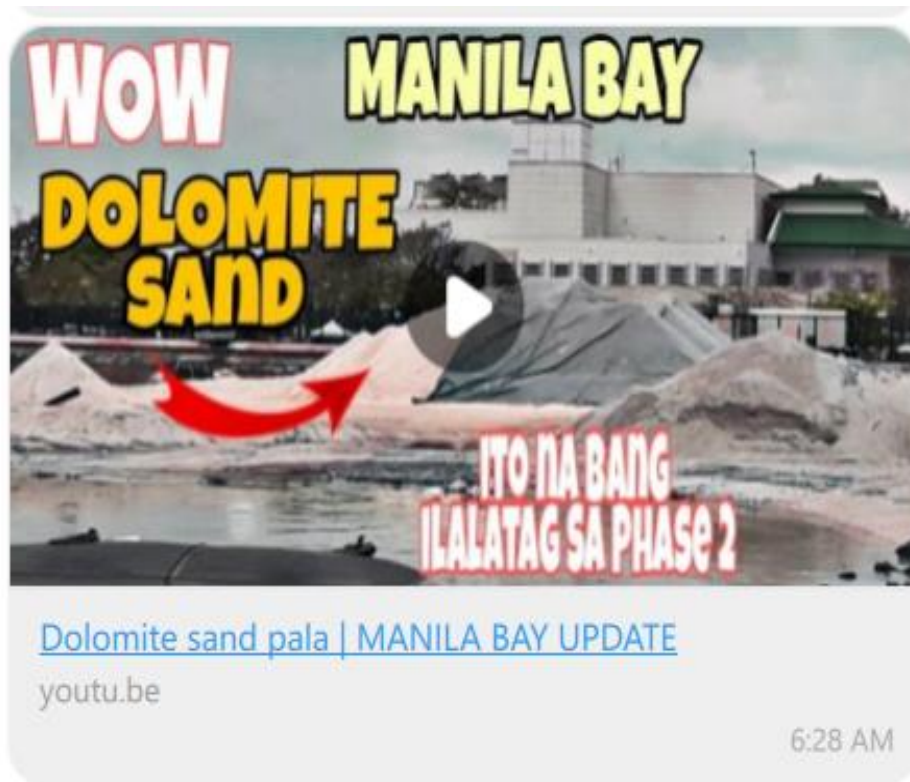
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