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DENR

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Boracay rehabilitation continues

Established in 2018, the task force was ordered to facilitate Boracay's rehabilitation efforts and ensure its ecological sustainability as one of the top tourist destinations in the country.

Published 5 hours ago on September 16, 2021 12:30 AM

By [MJ Blancaflor](#) @tribunephil_MJB



President Rodrigo Duterte has extended the term of the inter-agency task force leading the rehabilitation of Boracay island until June 2022, citing the need to continue its programs which have been delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Duterte on Tuesday signed Executive Order (EO) 147 which stated that the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF) would be deemed dissolved next year unless extended or sooner terminated by the President.

"The Covid-19 pandemic and the imposition of community quarantine measures have resulted in unprecedented delays and massive disruptions on the implementation of critical programs and projects, based on the key thematic areas of the Boracay Action Plan," Duterte wrote in his EO.

Extending the BIATF's term would ensure the completion of the "remaining milestones" of the Boracay Action Plan until 2022, the President added.

The Chief Executive's latest order amended EO 115 which stated that the group would last only until 8 May 2021.

Established in 2018, the task force was ordered to facilitate Boracay's rehabilitation efforts and ensure its ecological sustainability as one of the top tourist destinations in the country.

It was also expected to enforce laws and control pollution in Boracay to safeguard the island famous for its long coast of white sand.

The task force is chaired by Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu and counts the secretaries of Justice, Public Works, Social Welfare, Labor, and Trade departments as its members.

The chiefs of the Philippine National Police and the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority, as well as the governor of Aklan and the mayor of the municipality of Malay, are also part of the BIATF.

Achievements

Duterte, in his EO 147, cited the task force's accomplishments to "reverse" Boracay's ecological degradation.



All beaches in the island, except the Tulubhan outfall, were now “suitable for recreational activities,” the President wrote in his order, quoting the group’s report.

About 80 percent of Boracay establishments were now compliant with beach easement rules as of April, he added.

The task force, Duterte said, has also filed 160 cases against illegal occupants of Boracay forestlands and 262 cases against establishments for pollution.

Two of nine wetlands in the island have been “fully recovered” from illegal settlers, he also noted.

Boracay’s waste management plan, cave management plan, and drainage improvement project were also ongoing, the President said.

The famous destination was closed to travelers in 2018 as the government launched a six-month cleanup drive in a bid to restore its condition after years of environmental degradation due to the steady flow of tourists.



More works to be done; Boracay task force's term extended until June 2022

SEP 15, 2021, 2:15 PM

Opinyon News Team
News Reporter

While the Covid-19 pandemic has delayed progress in the national government's rehabilitation of Boracay Island, the task force handling the rehabilitation said it has made various accomplishments to reverse Boracay's ecological degradation.

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte on Tuesday signed an executive order (EO) extending again the term of the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF) until June next year.

Under EO 147, the BIATF will be deemed dissolved on June 30, 2022, "unless extended or sooner terminated by the President."

The BIATF, created by virtue of EO 53 signed by Duterte on May 18, 2018, was tasked to facilitate the rehabilitation and ensure the ecological sustainability of the famous island of Boracay.

The task force's term was supposed to end two years after its creation, but it was extended until May 8, 2021 through EO 115.

Duterte extended anew the BIATF's term for one more year upon the task force's recommendation to "ensure completion of the remaining milestones of the Boracay Action Plan until 2022."

"The Covid-19 pandemic and the imposition of community quarantine measures have resulted in unprecedented delays and massive disruptions on the implementation of critical programs and projects based on the key thematic areas of the Boracay Action Plan," EO 147 read.

Boracay was closed to tourists from April to Sept. 2018 to pave the way for a massive rehabilitation of the island.

The BIATF has issued laws and local ordinances to address the environmental problems that have long been plaguing the island.

Since the creation of the task force, it has made various accomplishments to reverse Boracay's ecological degradation, according to EO 147.

Based on the new EO, around 80 percent or 271 out of 339 establishments in Boracay are now compliant with the "25 + five-meter beach easement," while 83 percent or 1,017 of 1,230 total structures are now compliant with the "12-meter road easement."



The Department of Environment and Natural Resources, EO 147 said, has also prepared 163 cases against illegal occupants of forestlands. Fifty-four of the 163 cases have been filed in court by the Department of Justice and the National Bureau of Investigation, and one by the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office of Aklan and Community Environment and Natural Resources Office of Boracay.

According to the EO, the Environmental Management Bureau has also filed a total of 262 cases before the Pollution Adjudication Board, 160 of which have already resulted in settlement of fines.

The ambient water quality monitoring has also found that all beaches, except at the Tulubhan outfall, are now "Class SB-compliant," which means that they are suitable for recreational activities.

"Ninety-six percent of accommodation establishments adjacent to the White beach with 40 rooms and above, and 95 percent of accommodation establishments outside the White beach with rooms 50 and above, have satisfactorily constructed their individual Sewerage Treatment Plants," the order read.

EO 147 added that two wetlands in Boracay have been fully recovered from illegal settlers, as part of the ongoing rehabilitation of all the nine wetlands of the island.

The 10-year Solid Waste Management Plan and Cave Management Plan have likewise been approved and their implementation is continuously being monitored.

Phases 1 and 2 of the rehabilitation and improvement of the Boracay Circumferential Road have also been completed in 2020, while Phase 3 is ongoing, and Phase 4 is planned to be implemented in 2022, the EO said.

"Fifty-seven percent of Phase 2 of the Boracay Drainage Improvement Project, under the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority, has been completed," it added.

(With report from PNA)



HINIHINGING BUDGET NG DENR, GAGAMITIN SA REHAB NG WATER WAYS

September 15, 2021 Admin



HINDI pa kabilang sa hinihinging P1.6-B para sa Manila Bay rehabilitation project sa 2022 ang pondo para sa paglalagay ng dolomite dito.

Sa halip, sinabi ni Environment Undersecretary Jonas Leones na ang nasabing pondo ay para sa rehabilitasyon ng waterways patungong Manila Bay at paglilinis sa mga estero at sapa.

Ayon pa kay Leones, gagamitin din ang bahagi ng nasabing pondo para sa konstruksiyon ng water treatment plants na sasala sa mga kontaminado at maruming tubig na inaasahang dadaan pa-Manila Bay.

Naibigay na aniya sa kanila ang pondo para sa dolomite noong 2019 at 2020 budget ng DENR. **DWIZ882**



DENR exec: Request for add'l budget is for Manila Bay cleanup not for dolomite

Published September 15, 2021, 6:01 PM

by [Joseph Pedrajas](#)

An official from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) clarified Wednesday, Sep. 15, that an additional budget requested by the department before lawmakers will be used for efforts to clean up the tributaries connected to Manila Bay.

Amid criticisms that millions of money are going into waste because of the purchase of the supposedly eroding dolomite sand, DENR Usec. Jonas Leones said the P1.6 billion requested fund will no longer be allocated for the purchase of more controversial sand, but for equipment necessary for the cleanup of at least 200 contaminated rivers and creeks connected to Manila Bay.

“We’re expanding the beach area. We will be rehabilitating the area near the yacht club. [We also plan] to establish the beach viewing area and fish area. These are the activities in the pipeline,” Leones said in an ANC interview.

He also said that the fund will be used to address the problem of water hyacinths that come from Rizal and Laguna provinces and go and get stuck in the waters of Manila Bay.

On Monday, House Deputy Speaker Lito Atienza threatened to block the approval of the budget of the DENR after he was unable to ask questions during the Lower House’s briefings on the proposed P5.024-trillion national budget for 2022.

Atienza said he wanted to ask DENR why the Laguna de Bay is still filled with fish pens and fish cages despite President Duterte’s pronouncement in his first State of the Nation Address that he would clear it of all obstruction, as well as why the department has spent hundreds of millions for the Dolomite beach when it has nothing to do with cleaning up the area.

“This negates any effort to clean the Bay, and is a clear waste of money,” he said.



No funds for dolomite beach under proposed Manila Bay rehab budget — DENR

Philstar.com September 15, 2021 | 6:13pm



Families flock at the "dolomite beach" at Manila Bay, which was opened to the public on July 18, 2021. Visitors are asked to observe strict health protocols.

The STAR / Edd Gumban

MANILA, Philippines — The proposed budget for the rehabilitation of Manila Bay did not include funds for the artificial white sand beach made from crushed dolomite rocks, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources said on Wednesday.

The P1.6 billion proposed budget for the rehabilitation program will be used to clean rivers and esteros, construct treatment plants and remove water hyacinths in Laguna and Rizal provinces, DENR Undersecretary Jonas Leones said in an interview with ABS-CBN News Channel.

“The P1.6 billion will comprise not for the dolomite, because the budget for dolomite was already given to us during 2020 and 2019,” Leones said.

The use of pulverized dolomite in the DENR’s beach nourishment project was met with criticism, with scientists and groups saying that the project is a costly and temporary effort that will not address the bay’s problems.

In a statement on Tuesday, fishers’ group Pamalakaya said the DENR “doesn’t deserve a single centavo for its Manila Bay rehabilitation program.”

Leones also claimed that the beach nourishment area will remain intact even if there is a strong typhoon.

“I think with the geointerventions we have installed in the area, we are confident that even during strong typhoons and strong waves, I think they cannot move the beach nourishment area or they cannot be eroded,” he said.

During his final State of the Nation Address, President Rodrigo Duterte said the dolomite beach area needs regular replenishment until the government thinks of a better solution to Manila Bay’s environmental problems.

The DENR is seeking a P25.29-billion budget for 2022 to finance programs that seek to steer the government’s agenda toward “green growth” for a more equitable and sustainable future.

It said that P9.7 billion of the proposed budget will be allocated to the department’s priority programs which include the Enhanced National Greening Program, enhanced biodiversity conservation, Manila Bay rehabilitation and solid waste management, among others. — **Gaea Katreena Cabico**

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/09/15/2127342/no-funds-dolomite-beach-under-proposed-manila-bay-rehab-budget-denr>



2022 budget for Manila Bay rehab won't include dolomite: DENR

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Sep 15 2021 11:01 AM

MANILA – The P1.6 billion proposed budget for the Manila Bay Rehabilitation Project in 2022 won't include funds for placing dolomite on its shores, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said.

Instead, the budget will focus on rehabilitating waterways that lead to the bay, Undersecretary Jonas Leones said.

"The P1.6 billion will comprise not for the dolomite, because budget for dolomite was already given to us during 2020 and 2019. But the P1.6 billion we are asking for Congress, will comprise, one, the rehabilitation of the river, the different river systems connected to the Manila Bay."

"Second, this will be used for the cleanup of creeks and esteros," he said on ANC's "Rundown."

Leones noted that the DENR has cleaned up 36 creeks and esteros connected to the different river systems that end up in Manila Bay. But he stressed that more needs to be done.

"There's still a lot of creeks, totaling 200+ creeks and rivers that we need to undertake the cleanup," he said.

He said the P1.6 billion will also help fund the construction of water treatment plants that will address the problem of contaminated and polluted water entering the bay.

Leones added that the P1.6 billion will also help solve Manila Bay's water hyacinth problem.

"If you will notice, one of the major problems we are encountering in the rehabilitation of the Manila Bay is a lot of water hyacinth coming from Rizal and Laguna are ending up in Manila Bay," he said.

"So we will be constructing a facility wherein we can control and remove the water hyacinth, and eventually we are looking at some research on how we can take advantage of this water hyacinth."

Leones said the shores of Manila Bay do not need a fresh coat of dolomite.

"We have been observing, we have been monitoring the movement of the dolomite and I think based on our experience during the Ulysses typhoon and other typhoons, there's no change in the beach nourishment area. Maybe people are noticing that we are grading the dolomite, then they thought that we are adding some dolomite. But the truth there is, we are just fixing, we are just cleaning up the beach nourishment area," he explained.

"But I think with the geointerventions we have installed in the area, we are confident that even during strong typhoons and strong waves, I think they cannot move the beach nourishment area or they cannot be eroded," he said.

"It can't be eroded because prior to our project implementation, we have already studied it and we have an expert in doing these nourishment areas. The (Department of Public Works and Highways) has really studied the water current there and I think with the installation of geotubes and some geo interventions, we are confident that the beach nourishment will not be affected by strong typhoons."



Leones explained that they only place sandbags in the area to protect it while they complete their work.

He said these will be removed once important pipes are installed there.

“We are not yet complete with our work. What I’m saying is that once we have completed the work in the Baywalk, once we have already completed the installation of the HDPE pipes in the outfall in Faura and Remedios, those sandbags will be removed,” he said.

“The sandbag is not a permanent structure there. So we will remove it, it’s just a temporary infrastructure,” he added.



DENR: No more funds for 'dolomite beach' under proposed 2022 Manila Bay rehab budget

Published September 15, 2021 3:31pm

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) did not include the so-called dolomite beach project in its 2022 budget proposal for Manila Bay's rehabilitation, an official said Wednesday.

Interviewed on ANC, DENR Undersecretary Jonas Leones said the P1.6 billion proposed funds for the rehabilitation program will go to the rehabilitation of different river systems connected to Manila Bay.

"The P1.6 billion will comprise not for the dolomite, because budget for dolomite was already given to us during 2020 and 2019," he said.

Leones said the funds will also be used for the cleanup of creeks and esteros.

Critics have slammed the government for constructing the P389-million dolomite artificial beach amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Environmentalists said covering the area with crushed dolomite to give it a "white sand" appearance would [pose a health hazard](#) and would not actually rehabilitate Manila Bay.

Greenpeace Southeast Asia campaigner Sonny Batungbacal pointed out that pouring white sand does not resolve the pollution in the bay.

Fisherfolk groups' alliance PAMALAKAYA called the project an "artificial rehabilitation" that focused on aesthetics rather than addressing the environmental degradation problems in the area.

Ocean conservation organization Oceana Philippines vice president Gloria Estenzo Ramos asked the Biodiversity Management Bureau of the DENR to step in to the project.

The DENR said the project was approved by Congress in 2019 and went through competitive bidding.

It added that dolomite is "not detrimental to the ecosystems of Manila Bay." It also said Crushed dolomite "does not pose a threat to human health because it is not inhalable." —**Joviland Rita/KBK, GMA News**

Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/803392/denr-no-more-funds-for-dolomite-beach-under-proposed-2022-manila-bay-rehab-budget/story/?utm_source=GMANews&utm_medium=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR0YtIiigjqBtxgH076KMyDBk70oAYpLeiV_seMoEh-sa25JfdpZoq1aYA



NO NEED | Dolomite fund not included in P1.6B request for Manila Bay next year, says DENR

September 15, 2021 , 03:17 PM
By Beatrice Puente

(September 15, 2021) – None of the P1.6 billion requested fund for the Manila Bay rehabilitation would go to the dolomite beach nourishment project, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said on Wednesday.

DENR undersecretary Jonas Leones stressed that the total budget would be allocated to the rehabilitation of river systems connected to Manila Bay. According to Leones, the funding for the dolomite beach was already given in 2019 and 2020.

“The P1.6 billion we are asking from Congress will comprise the rehabilitation of the river and the different river systems connected to the Manila Bay. This will be used for the cleanup of creeks and esteros,” said Leones on ABS-CBN News Channel’s Rundown.

DENR was given P25.29 billion under the National Expenditure Program but this could still change depending on lawmakers’ deliberations. It’s 6.7% higher than the P23.59 billion appropriation it obtained for the current year.

Manila Bay’s rehabilitation will remain among the top priority projects of DENR. Leones said they also plan to build a facility to control and remove the water hyacinths as part of their efforts to clean up the waterways.

He also continued to defend the dolomite beach even if scientists and environmentalists have repeatedly pointed out the grave impacts of its erosion into the waters. Leones, however, insisted that the dolomite beach remains “intact” but its area appears to sink when the water rises.

“There’s no change in the beach nourishment area. Maybe people are noticing that we are grading the dolomite, then they thought that we are adding some dolomite. But the truth there is, we are just fixing, we are just cleaning up the beach nourishment area,” claimed Leones.

DENR spent P28 million for dumping artificial white sand on Manila Bay’s shores to “beautify” the area. It ignored the studies of experts from the Marine Science Institute of the University of the Philippines who warned against its drastic impact on biodiversity.

Oceana’s Gloria Estenzo-Ramos, an environmental lawyer, described the project as “a waste of people’s money” especially since it’s made amid the COVID-19 pandemic, with many poor Filipinos pleading for more financial assistance.

Despite this, DENR and even President Rodrigo Duterte stood by the project which he described as “beautiful,” while his spokesperson Harry Roque even claimed that it’s good for mental health.

Leones remained confident that the “geo-interventions” they put are enough to avoid erosion even with the arrival of strong typhoons.



“It can’t be eroded because prior to our project implementation, we have already studied it,” said Leones.

Last July, the dolomite beach became filled with garbage once again as heavy monsoon rains hit Metro Manila.

(PM)

Source: https://news.tv5.com.ph/breaking/read/no-need-dolomite-fund-not-included-in-p1-6b-request-for-manila-bay-next-year-says-denr?fbclid=IwAR0MkGsK-Pjbkod6duU_OmiAcRoq0OiVal_e_FKcj-IPzmVwBydvANvbang



Pondo para sa 'dolomite beach', hindi na kasama sa panukalang pondo ng DENR

By RadyoMaN Manila - Sep. 16, 2021 at 4:23am



Hindi na isinama ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa kanilang 2022 budget ang pondo para sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay para sa 'dolomite beach' project.

Ayon kay DENR Undersecretary Jonas Leones, ilalaan na lamang ang P1.6 bilyong panukalang pondo sa rehabilitation program ng mga ilog na konektado sa Manila Bay.

Habang gagamitin din ito sa paglilinis ng mga creek at estero.

Una nang nakatanggap ng kritisismo ang gobyerno sa pagpapagawa ng dolomite artificial beach na nagkakahalaga ng P389-million sa gitna ng COVID-19 pandemic.

Source: <https://rmn.ph/pondo-para-sa-dolomite-beach-hindi-na-kasama-sa-panukalang-pondo-ng-denr/?fbclid=IwAR2g1NAB48KjwW7HCjIDh93hPK9peIpqt8j008euErSJJUWYzZRYM-oLwRs>



DENR official rejects observations of 2 marine science institutions on dolomite erosion

Published September 15, 2021, 11:16 AM

by [Joseph Pedrajas](#)

Who says the dolomite beach at the Manila Bay is eroding?

For Environment Undersecretary Jonas Leones, the dolomite sand are still there and the only reason why they appear missing is that the seawater is rising up.

Leones practically rejected the observations made by Oceana and the University of the Philippines (UP) Marine Science Institute, two institutions in marine science, that the multi-million dolomite beach in a small portion of the Manila Bay has been eroding.

“With due respect to them, maybe UP marine science has shown us a figure, wherein [they] based on their satellite,” said Leones in an ANC interview.

“They thought that the dolomite area is sinking. But the truth there is that, the dolomite is still there, the water is just rising up,” he added.

Both the Oceana, an ocean conservation and advocacy organization, and the UP Marine Science Institute said the Dolomite beach had been submerging and eroding by hundreds of meters overtime.

But Leones maintained that while some of the portion of the “beach nourishment” submerges whenever the water level is rising, the dolomite beach remains once the seawater subsides.

“With the interventions we have installed in that area, we’re confident that even during strong typhoons and strong waves, I think they cannot move the beach nourishment area or it cannot be eroded,” Leones said.

“With the installation of the geo tubes and some geo interventions, I’m confident that the beach nourishment will not be affected by the strong typhoons. And we respect the findings of the non-government organizations,” he added.

Leones also clarified that the sandbags and rocks placed on top of the Dolomite beach are only temporary “to protect the beach area” pending installation of permanent structures, such as tubes and textiles, there.

“Once we complete the work there, the sandbag will be removed there,” he said.





If people also see them graving the controversial sand, Leones clarified, they are not adding dolomite sand in the beach area but are only “fixing” and “cleaning up.”



Source: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NIIbQKpPdh0&ab_channel=PTV

DENR, ibinida ang mga programa sa ilalim ng Duterte administration

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Bamboo to help boost climate change mitigation in PH

By Catherine Teves [September 15, 2021, 1:42 pm](#)



MANILA – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is promoting bamboo-planting as a climate change mitigation strategy.

Bamboo not only thrives in the country and is among the government's priority reforestation species but this grass is also good in sequestering or absorbing carbon dioxide (CO₂) which is among greenhouse gases (GHGs) driving climate change, noted DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu.

"It's not just economics that makes bamboo attractive for reforestation -- bamboo is also ideal for climate change mitigation," he said during the virtual summit on re-imagining, developing and sustaining mining communities with bamboo on Sept. 10.

Studies show bamboo can sequester more than 5.0 tons of CO₂ per hectare annually, he noted. "That's quite a big reduction in our CO₂ emissions."

Human activities like fossil fuel-based power generation are among sources of such emissions.

Experts said emissions of CO₂ and other GHGs accumulate in the atmosphere and trap heat there so global temperature rises, changing climate.

The Philippines accounts for less than 1.0 percent of global GHG emissions but is among countries most at risk for and vulnerable to climate change's impacts, they noted.

Such impacts are increasing the onslaught of extreme weather events as well as sea level and temperature rise, they said.

Despite not being a major emitter, the country still aims to achieve a mitigation target of 75 percent GHG emission reduction and avoidance by 2030.

According to DENR's Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB), the Bamboo Plantation Development Project of the expanded National Greening Program (NGP) aims to use bamboo in rehabilitating - from 2017 to 2022 - one million hectares of denuded uplands inside the country's critical watersheds.

Such rehabilitation targets to help alleviate poverty while promoting food security, environmental stability, biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation, noted ERDB.



"The areas to be developed and rehabilitated include critical watersheds, marginal areas, creek lines, riverbanks and areas prone to erosion in order to improve and enhance the natural defenses and resilience of those areas and its adjacent sites against the impacts of climate change," ERDB said.

Launched in 2011, NGP is the government's most ambitious reforestation bid so far as it aims to green denuded and degraded land nationwide using billions of various seedlings.

NGP's original run ended in 2016 but EO 193 series of 2015 extended this program's implementation to 2028 to cover all remaining unproductive, denuded and degraded forestland in the country.

Areas where DENR is spearheading bamboo-planting include banks of Cagayan, Bicol and Marikina rivers.

Planting bamboo will help prevent river banks there from eroding, noted Cimatú.

"Bamboo is also protection against soil erosion," he said.

The government is rehabilitating Cagayan, Bicol and Marikina rivers to help improve water flow and carrying capacity there, he continued.

Data he presented during the government's "Pamana ng Pagbabago" forum earlier this year showed workers already removed almost 414,000 cubic meters of dredged materials from such rivers.

Workers were also able to plant there nearly 255,000 bamboo culms and other species, he added. **(PNA)**



DENR Central Luzon bans single-use plastics

By [Jerry M. Hernandez](#)

September 15, 2021

THE Central [Luzon](#) regional office of the [Department of Environment and Natural Resources](#) (DENR) has banned single-use plastics in its office and premises to help reduce waste generation and protect river systems from plastic pollution.

DENR [Regional Executive Director Paquito Moreno Jr.](#) issued a memorandum stating employees and food service providers would be strictly prohibited from using plastic bottles, cups, straws, cutlery, thin-filmed sando bags, polystyrene foam and plastic takeout containers.

"We consider this initiative as a big leap in our fight against plastic pollution, which poses danger to the environment and hampers the fulfillment of cleaning our water bodies, specifically those that drain the [Manila Bay](#)," Moreno said.

A "no baonan, no food" policy shall be imposed in the DENR regional office, where bringing individual food containers and eco-bags will be mandatory among employees before buying food and goods from the canteen.

Moreno, during in-house meetings and training in the regional office, said participants would be required to bring their own tumblers, while caterers would be advised to provide water dispensers and drinking glasses.

"We hope this practice would be adopted by all regional agencies here in the government center including the local government units to create a big impact in saving our environment," he added.

Studies show about 2.7 million tons of plastic waste are generated in the [Philippines](#) each year wherein 20 percent is estimated to end up in the ocean.

In Central Luzon, a large volume of collected wastes from cleanup activities were made up of single-use plastics such as bags, bottles, straws and food wrappers.



DENR imposes 'No lunchbox, no food' policy

Published 4 hours ago on September 16, 2021 02:30 AM

By [Mar T. Supnad](#)



CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Regional Office 3 announced that it is imposing a “no lunchbox, no food” policy to prevent littering in the agency.

It also prohibited single-used plastics within its premises to reduce waste generation and protect river systems against plastic pollution.

DENR regional executive director Paquito Moreno Jr. said that employees and food service providers would be strictly prohibited from using plastic bottles, cups, straws, cutlery, thin-filmed sando bags, styrofoam and plastic take-out containers.

“We consider this initiative as a big leap in our fight against plastic pollution, which poses danger to the environment and hampers the fulfillment of cleaning our water bodies, specifically those that drain to Manila Bay,” Moreno said.

A “no lunchbox, no food” policy would be likewise imposed in the DENR regional office, where bringing of individual food containers and eco-bags would be mandatory among employees before buying food and goods from the canteen.

During in-house meetings and trainings in the regional office, participants would also be required to bring their own tumblers, while caterers would be advised to provide water dispenser and drinking glasses.

“We hope that this practice would be adopted by all regional agencies here in the government center including the local government units to create a big impact in saving our environment,” Moreno said.

Studies show that about 2.7 million tons of plastic waste is generated in the Philippines each year wherein 20 percent is estimated to end up in the ocean.



No assessment request yet on Dumaguete reclamation project: DENR

By Mary Judaline Partlow [September 15, 2021, 7:45 pm](#)



PROTEST ACTION. Fisherfolk protest the proposed P23-billion offshore reclamation project in Dumaguete City in this file photo. On Sunday (Sept. 12, 2021), they held a fluvial protest parade that ended at the Rizal Boulevard in the Negros Oriental capital. *(PNA photo by Judy Flores Partlow)*

DUMAGUETE CITY – The Community Environment and Natural Resources Office II (CENRO II) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) here on Wednesday clarified that it has not yet received any application or other forms of communication from the Dumaguete City government regarding the proposed 174-hectare offshore reclamation in this capital.

CENRO II officer-in-charge Viernov Grefalde, in an interview with the Philippine News Agency, said they cannot comment on it yet until such time that they receive a word from the city government or other entities regarding the project.

“There is nothing to talk about as yet and we do not want to issue any statements on this project which is ‘controversial’ until the DENR/CENRO II becomes officially involved,” he said in mixed English and Cebuano dialect. “We do not want to preempt anything as we do not have first-hand information yet regarding the reclamation project.”

Grefalde, however, said his office issued a letter early this month in response to a query from Dr. Janet Estacion, director of the Silliman University’s Institute of Environment and Marine Sciences (SU-IEMS) regarding the purported survey and dive activities in the marine protected areas (MPAs) along the city’s coastline.

The marine survey was to be conducted by divers and marine biologists of the Cebu-based EnviComm Corporation from Aug. 14-21 to determine the extent of the marine life in the Dumaguete coastline. No one from those opposing the project joined the activity, citing that they were not informed about it early on.

City Mayor Felipe Antonio Remollo recently said the results of the marine survey would be disclosed to the public in due time.

Grefalde, in his letter-response to SU-IEMS, said they did not have prior knowledge about the marine survey and had even received a letter from the DENR-Region 7 (Central Visayas) to investigate the matter.



Further, he said CENRO II has not received any application from EnviComm Corporation or another individual or entity for an Environmental Impact Assessment.

Grefalde pointed out that his office remains “neutral” in the controversial proposed reclamation project and shall therefore refrain from making any comments until “the agency shall play an important role in the evaluation of the project leading to its approval or disapproval”.

The PHP23-billion unsolicited project by E.M. Cuerpo, Inc., which has ties with Chinese firm Poly Changda Engineering, Co. Ltd., has been the bone of contention between the mayor and some councilors who are backing it, and those opposing it.

The oppositors include National Scientist Dr. Angel Alcala, Dumaguete Bishop Julito Cortes, marine biologists and other scientists, environmental advocates and groups here and abroad, and fisherfolk along the coastal barangays that stand to be affected by the project.

They have been holding various protest activities over the past two months, noting alleged irregularities in certain procedures involving the proposal, and citing moral and legal reasons. **(PNA)**



PNP to coordinate with DENR, AFP for forest rangers protection

Published September 15, 2021, 5:07 PM

by [Aaron Recuenco](#)

Gen. Guillermo Lorenzo Eleazar, chief of the Philippine National Police (PNP), assured the public of their support for environment protection and enforcers of environmental laws after the Philippines was tagged as among the countries in the world land and environmental defenders.

Eleazar said the PNP would continue to strictly enforce environmental laws that will protect, not just the country's natural resources, but also individuals and groups who are in the frontline of preserving the environment.

He cited an instance wherein the police immediately acted on the attack perpetrated against two forest rangers in Rizal province.

"In fact, we deployed our Special Action Force at the Masungi Georeserve in Rizal after two of its forest rangers were attacked two months ago and our SAF men are just waiting for the deputization order from the DENR (Department of Environment and Natural Resources)," Eleazar said.

Eleazar said the PNP would continue its coordination with the DENR as well as with the Armed Forces of the Philippines, as part of manifesting support to the country's land protectors.

He said the organization is considering to have talks with the DENR to discuss concrete plans in protecting forest rangers, such as providing training for them.

"The Philippine National Police will continuously coordinate with the DENR and the AFP for all forms of assistance that we could extend to empower our forest rangers in protecting our forests but in doing so, we also ask for the help of other kababayan and other stakeholders in achieving this goal," Eleazar said.



PNP committed to enforce environmental laws

By Christopher Lloyd Caliwan [September 15, 2021, 4:22 pm](#)



(File photo)

MANILA – The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Wednesday committed to continue protecting the country's vast and diversified environment.

PNP chief, Gen. Guillermo Eleazar, made this comment after Global Witness listed the Philippines as one of the deadliest countries for land and environmental defenders in the world in 2020.

Eleazar said the PNP would continue to strictly enforce environmental laws that will protect, not just the country's natural resources, but also individuals and groups who are in the frontline of preserving the environment.

“The PNP stands with our *kababayan* (compatriots) in pushing for the protection of our environment through the enforcement of related laws as part of our *makakalikasan* (eco-friendly) commitment,” Eleazar said in a statement.

He cited an instance wherein the police immediately acted on the attack perpetrated against two forest rangers in Rizal province.

“In fact, we deployed our Special Action Force at the Masungi Georeserve in Rizal after two of its forest rangers were attacked two months ago and our SAF men are just waiting for the deputization order from the DENR,” Eleazar said.

Eleazar said the PNP would continue its coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), as part of manifesting support to the country's land and environment protectors.

The PNP, he added, is considering having talks with the DENR to discuss concrete plans in protecting forest rangers, such as providing training.

“The PNP will continuously coordinate with the DENR and the AFP for all forms of assistance that we could extend to empower our forest rangers in protecting our forests but in doing so, we also ask for the help of other *kababayan* and other stakeholders in achieving this goal,” Eleazar said.



According to the 2021 report of the Global Witness, the Philippines ranked third in the world list with 29 recorded killings of “people defending their homes, land and livelihoods, and ecosystems”, behind Colombia which was named the worst country with 65 deaths followed by Mexico with 30 killed land defenders last year.

Global Witness is non-governmental organization that focuses on holding companies and governments accountable for the destruction of the environment. **(with reports from Priam Nepomuceno/PNA)**



PNP chief says cops to support efforts protecting environment, its defenders

[Gaea Katreena Cabico](#) - Philstar.com September 15, 2021 | 2:51pm



Elite policemen patrol a market while people shop during a government imposed enhanced quarantine as a preventive measure against the COVID-19 novel coronavirus in Manila on April 21, 2020.

AFP / Maria Tan

MANILA, Philippines — The chief of the Philippine National Police said on Wednesday that cops will continue to enforce environmental laws that protect not only the nature but also its defenders after the country was once again identified as the deadliest place in Asia for land activists.

In a statement, PNP chief Police General Guillermo Eleazar said the organization will continue to support moves to protect the country's natural resources and those on the frontlines of preserving the environment.

"The Philippine National Police will continuously coordinate with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Armed Forces of the Philippines for all forms of assistance that we could extend to empower our forest rangers in protecting our forests but in doing so, we also ask for the help of other kababayan and other stakeholders in achieving this goal," he said.

In the Philippines, the poor enforcement of environmental laws, lack of resources and neglect are enabling illegal activities to flourish and allowing impunity to prevail.

Crackdowns from authorities

In an attempt to highlight the police's support to environmental defenders, Eleazar cited the PNP's response to the shooting of two forest rangers of Masungi Georeserve Foundation in Rizal.

He said that Special Action Force personnel were deployed in the area following the attack in July and are now waiting for the deputization order from the DENR.

Masungi workers have repeatedly asked for additional security assistance so forest rangers can plant trees and maintain them in peace.

In a report released on Monday by conflict and corruption watchdog Global Witness, the Philippines ranked third in the list of most dangerous countries in for environmental defenders, with 29 documented killings in 2020.

In Asia, it remained the worst place for protectors of nature for eight years in a row.



Global Witness said that opposition to destructive mining, logging and dam projects in the country is “often met with violent crackdowns from the police and military.”

The UK-based organization also mentioned the killing of nine indigenous Tumandok leaders during combined police and military operations on Panay island late last year.

The community opposed the construction of Jalaur mega-dam project, which is feared to submerge their ancestral lands. The government tagged the leaders as supporters and members of the communist rebel group, an allegation denied by human rights groups.

Global Witness also said that the Duterte administration used the COVID-19 pandemic to further the crackdown on dissent and fasttrack the passage of the Anti-Terrorism Law, which could aggravate the attacks experienced by Filipino environmentalists.



Groups call for ‘urgent’ need to protect environment defenders in PH

Job Manahan, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Sep 15 2021 08:23 PM | Updated as of Sep 15 2021 08:33 PM



Manila Police District personnel disperse members of the Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment (Kalikasan PNE) during a protest in Mendiola, Manila on July 22, 2021. *George Calvelo, ABS-CBN News*

MANILA - Environmental groups called on the government to work harder to protect the country's land and environment defenders, after the Philippines ranked as among the deadliest even amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

In a statement, Greenpeace Philippines said firms, as well as the government, should be held accountable for atrocities against environment workers for the sake of “profits.”

“The continued killings and persecution of environmental activists, even during the time of pandemic shows distorted priorities that put profit and the gain of a few over the welfare of communities and the environment we depend on,” said Greenpeace Philippines Country Director Lea Guerrero.

Guerrero stressed that companies and the government should be prevented from imposing “misguided policies” which could destroy the environment and the climate.

“We demand justice and peace for activists of all causes, and call for urgent and effective protection mechanisms, and an enabling environment, for those who are peacefully defending people and the planet.”

The Global Witness report, released on Monday, said 29 Filipino environment defenders were killed last year. A record-high 227 environmental activists globally died defending their land, homes, environment, and important ecosystems, with the actual figure believed to be higher due to unreported cases.

“The lethal attacks were directly linked to defenders’ opposition to mining, logging, and dam projects... Opposition to damaging industries is often met with violent crackdowns from the police and military,” the report read.

The Masungi Georeserve in Rizal, in a separate statement, said they need help and assistance from the public and authorities in protecting pristine areas.

Two of the award-winning nature reserve’s park rangers survived a shooting incident in late July during their rounds at the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape, a portion of which they are managing for their restoration project.



Before the attack, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) have issued cease and desist orders against establishments encroaching the watershed.

“It is important more than ever to take the situation seriously and demand for stronger protections for our rangers and defenders who protect us all,” Masungi Georeserve said, noting that illegal



SMC sets a higher target for Tullahan River cleanup; project breaches 400k MT of solid wastes removed

September 15, 2021 5 min read

MANILA — San Miguel Corporation (SMC)'s massive environment sustainability and flood mitigation initiative to clean up the 27-kilometer Tullahan River system, is shifting to higher gear come December, as the company is set to acquire additional new equipment to double its solid waste extraction capacity to 5,000 metric tons per day.

SMC president Ramon S. Ang said that the company's commitment to clean up the Tullahan river system—ranked no. 4 in the list of the world's top 10 plastic-emitting rivers responsible for global ocean plastic pollution, according to a 2021 report by research website Ourworldindata.org—is stronger than ever, as SMC has made the cleanup of major rivers, one of its foremost sustainability priorities.

“In just over a year, we've made significant progress with our Tullahan River cleanup project. Recently, we reached an important milestone: 414,000 metric tons of solid wastes removed from the river, as of Sept. 11. By December 1, we're aiming to double our extraction capacity from the current 2,300 to 2,500 MT per day, to 5,000 MT per day. We are acquiring six sets of new equipment to do this,” said SMC president Ramon S. Ang.

Ang said the company's river cleanup teams have not let up on work to dredge the 27-kilometer tributary—a P1 billion undertaking fully funded by SMC—as anticipated typhoons are expected to bring heavy rains and, consequently, floods to many parts of Metro Manila.

“Our people continue to work diligently to do cover as much ground as they can, especially since the typhoons are setting in. We continuously fine-tune our dredging strategy and in the next couple of weeks, I think we will check and prioritize critical areas that need dredging to minimize flooding,” Ang said.

“Aside from removing silt and solid wastes, which have accumulated at the bottom of the river for years, we also have to increase depth to a maximum of five meters, particularly in areas where heavy flooding still occurs. There are still many areas that have become too shallow because of wastes dumped in the river, with only a meter or two of depth remaining,” Ang said.

The total 414,000 metric tons of solid waste removed to date, were mostly from the project's Sectors 4 and 5 in Malabon and Valenzuela, which is part of the project's initial 11.5-kilometer coverage from the mouth of Manila Bay in Navotas to Valenzuela. Last August, dredging operations also commenced at the Tinajeros area in Malabon



“Our target output for these sectors is over 1 million metric tons and we expect to reach 600,000 metric tons before the year ends. From this project, we also continue to gather data and gain experience which can be used for our other major river projects, including the clean-up and rehabilitation of the Pasig River and major Bulacan rivers and tributaries,” Ang said.

According to Ang, SMC is waiting for the formal go-ahead from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the approval of the dredging plan by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), for its P2-billion Pasig River Cleanup project.

For the five-year Pasig River project, SMC aims to extract 50,000 metric tons of silt and solid waste per month, or a yearly output of 600,000 metric tons. Overall, its goal is to remove 3 million metric tons of solid waste from the Pasig River.

Trial dredging was conducted from July to August and more than 20,000 metric tons of dredged material were removed from the Malacanang and Pandacan areas of the river.

In the said report by research website Ourworldindata.org, Pasig River ranked first in the list of seven Philippine rivers in the world’s top 10 plastic emitting rivers include Tullahan River, Meycauayan River, Pampanga River, Libmanan River, Rio Grande de Mindanao, and Agno River.

For its P740 billion New Manila International Airport (NMIA) project in the town of Bulakan, the company will initiate a river channel enhancement program for the tributaries belonging to the Marilao-Meycauayan-Obando River System (MMORS) in Bulacan province.

In preparation for the Bulacan river cleanup, company volunteers and former residents of Barangay Taliptip, where the airport will be built, recently conducted cleanup activities for the town’s coastal areas.

Together with the local government of Bulakan, the company is also maintaining the 24.5-hectare Bulakan Mangrove Ecopark in Barangay Taliptip, and is in the process of developing a plan for the first 20-hectares of its planned San Miguel-Paombong Mangrove Plantation & Sanctuary in Paombong, Bulacan.

“In Bulacan province, where we committed to the people that we will address their problem with perennial flooding, we will employ a combination of approaches. These include river dredging, regular coastal cleanups, emphasis on proper waste disposal, and massive mangrove reforestation,” Ang said.

SMC’s Bulacan Bulk Water Supply project is also among its solutions to address flooding in the province. Designed to provide reliable, safe, and affordable potable water supply to all 24 Bulacan water districts, the facility also eliminates the need for residents to tap into groundwater sources for their supply of water.

Experts have identified the excessive extraction of groundwater as a contributor to land subsidence in the province, which exacerbates flooding.

With Stages 1 and 2 of BBWSP covering 13 water districts having starting commercial operations is January 2019, SMC recently formalized agreements with an additional seven towns, namely Norzagaray, Hagonoy, Pandi, Baliwag, San Rafael, San Miguel, and San Ildefonso. (ai/mtvn)

Source: <https://maharlika.tv/2021/09/15/smc-sets-a-higher-target-for-tullahan-river-cleanup-project-breaches-400k-mt-of-solid-wastes-removed/?fbclid=IwAR01PSZWn6z7iMza9vu8KbZeO70PCnkoG-zC86sw3kR5O-KUVGDbicdYits>



Gov't urged to mandate plastic reduction as part of urgent climate action

By [Gaea Katreena Cabico](#)(Philstar.com) - September 15, 2021 - 12:01pm



Undated file photo shows people cleaning up a waterway in the Philippines.
The STAR / Edd Gumban

MANILA, Philippines — Environmental group Greenpeace Philippines on Wednesday called on the authorities to regulate plastic production and enact a strong legislation banning the use of single-use plastics as part of the government's climate action.

In a statement, Greenpeace said the government needs to “mandate plastic reduction and reuse systems in the consumer goods industry to prevent further global heating.”

It urged senators to pass a more stringent and comprehensive bill that will prohibit the production and use of single-use plastic products and packaging, noting that the version passed by the House of Representatives “supports false solution.”

The group issued the call following the release of a Greenpeace report, which found that consumer goods companies such as Nestlé, Coca-Cola and Unilever are driving the expansion of plastic production and contributing to climate change with their greenhouse gas emissions.

Without immediate action, plastic production could triple by 2050, according to industry estimates. This projected growth in plastic production would increase global emissions from the plastic life cycle to an equivalent of 300 coal power plants by 2030.

The report also identified the links between the world's largest brands and fossil fuel companies.

“These big brands often promote their climate commitments to much fanfare, but in reality, they are actively contributing to the climate crisis and its impacts, such as worsening typhoons, flooding, food insecurity, loss of livelihoods, and loss of life for Filipinos,” Greenpeace zero waste campaigner Marian Ledesma said.

Greenpeace called on companies to move toward systems of reuse and package-free products. “If they genuinely care about their impact on the environment and people, they would sever their ties with fossil fuels and make urgent commitments to phase out disposable plastic packaging and transition to reusable and packaging-free systems,” Ledesma said.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/09/15/2127300/govt-urged-mandate-plastic-reduction-part-urgent-climate-action/amp/>

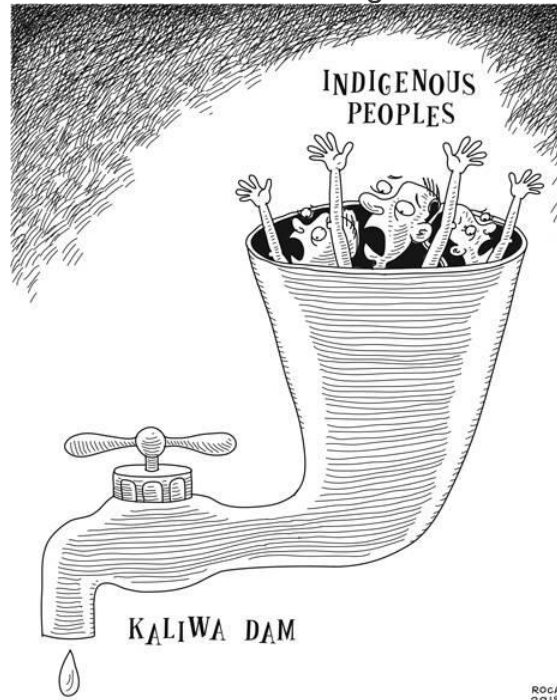


COA asks MWSS to comply with ECC conditions on Kaliwa dam project

Published September 15, 2021, 5:36 PM

by [Ben Rosario](#)

The Commission on Audit (COA) has disclosed that the Metropolitan Waterworks Sewerage System is pushing through with the implementation of the highly controversial New Centennial Water Source Kaliwa Dam Project (NCWS KDP) without completing its application for necessary permits from concerned government organizations.



Kaliwa dam

In the 2020 Annual Audit Report (AAR) for MWSS, COA warned the possibility of the cancellation of the Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) issued by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for the project.

In its audit examination of the project that promises to bring an additional 600 million liters of water per day to Metro Manila, COA noted that the DENR-issued ECC allows MWSS to proceed with the project implementation only after it has secured “necessary permits from other pertinent Government agencies.”

The contract for the P12.2 billion project has been awarded to the China Energy Engineering Corp. (CEEC) that has reportedly started initial phase of the construction notwithstanding complaints from indigenous people who will be displaced as a result of the construction of the Kaliwa Dam.

State auditors said the environmental management conditions that MWSS and its contractor must comply include compliance to the requirements of the National Integrated Protected Areas Systems Act or Republic Act 11038; necessary certifications from the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples and the identification of disposal sites of excavated materials, among others.

“The ECC is a conditional certificate, where MWSS needs to comply 21 conditions and 4 restrictions that are subject to the approval/evaluation of DENR,” COA stated.

The audit agency warned: “The possible cancellation of the ECC, if violations thereof are with merit, will affect the effectivity of the Loan Agreement with China Eximbank and the commercial Contract with CEEC.”



“We recommended that Engineering and Technical Group secure the necessary permits as required by the DENR for the implementation of the NCWS KDP and the submission of the Compliance Monitoring ‘Report together with the supporting documents,” COA stated.

Government secured US\$283.2 million loan with the Chinese bank to put up the Kaliwa dam, a flagship project of President Rodrigo Duterte’s “Build, Build, Build” infrastructure program.

IPs composed largely of Dumagat-Remontado tribes in Rizal and Quezon have strongly opposed the project.

Joan Jaime of the Kalipunan ng mga Katutubong Mamamayan ng Pilipinas said in a media interview that the dam will destroy the way of life of indigenous peoples whose ancestral domain was designated as the site of the dam project:

“All things are given a monetary value and profited from. This is contrary to the needs of the people, the needs of the indigenous communities, and the idea that land should be used for the common good,” Jaime said.



MWSS yet to acquire documents for Kaliwa dam project

By [Ma. Reina Leanne Tolentino](#)

September 15, 2021

The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) on Wednesday admitted that it has yet to acquire documents needed for the Kaliwa Dam project to proceed.

MWSS Chairman and OIC Administrator [Reynaldo Velasco](#) said that the agency has yet to be issued the Special Use Agreement in Protected Areas (SAPA) and the Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) for the project.

The SAPA will be issued by the [Department of Environment and Natural Resources](#) (DENR) while the FPIC will come from the [National Commission](#) on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP).

"Hopefully, in due time, makukuha na rin namin (we will get these papers)," Velasco said in a phone interview.

He confirmed that without these documents, the huge project will not push through.

Earlier this month, the MWSS said it has yet to start the dam's construction.

Velasco also said that the cutting of trees is inevitable.

"Hindi pa kami nagka-cut, nagtatanim na kami para i-account na nila iyan na pambayad namin doon sa puputulin naming (we have not cut a single tree but we have started planting trees as payment for those that will be cut). I think last year, we already planted about 200,000 trees," he told The [Manila Times](#).

The dam will be constructed in the provinces of Rizal and Quezon.

The Commission on Audit earlier flagged the MWSS for its failure to present proof of compliance with environmental prerequisites and permits.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources had directed the MWSS to submit approved reforestation program, [waste management](#) plan, integrated watershed management plan, comprehensive social development program, ancestral domain and cultural heritage sustainable development plan, and cultural heritage protection plan.

Several indigenous groups have opposed the project.

[Joan Jaime](#) of the Kalipunan ng mga Katutubong Mamamayan ng Pilipinas said that the dam will destroy the way of life of indigenous peoples whose ancestral domain will be taken in the construction of the dam.

[Haribon Foundation](#) has proposed that instead of building a dam, the government should conserve watershed areas.

It said that the restoration and conservation of watershed areas will ensure continuous water supply for [Metro](#) Manila and nearby provinces.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/09/15/news/mwss-yet-to-acquire-documents-for-kaliwa-dam-project/1814843>



Kaliwa dam project flagged, COA wants it reviewed for irregularities

posted September 15, 2021 at 02:55 pm

by [Manila Standard](#)

The Commission on Audit (COA) wants a review of the China-funded Kaliwa Dam project due to lack of proof that its implementation will not harm the environment.

The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) is the government agency in charge of the dam project, while the Kaliwa Dam is part of the New Centennial Water Source program that promises to deliver 600 million liters of water per day to Metro Manila.

COA is mandated to audit the government's financial transactions.

Last week, COA called out the MWSS for proceeding with the implementation of the P12.2-billion Kaliwa Dam project in Infanta, Quezon without proof of compliance with environmental prerequisites and submission of necessary permits.

In its 2020 annual audit report, the COA noted the MWSS entered into a contract agreement and issued a notice to China Energy Engineering Corp. Ltd. to proceed with the project on Nov. 13, 2019.

The COA noted that based on the MWSS' 2020 report on projects, programs and activities, the detailed engineering and design phase of the dam project was 92.67 percent complete at the end of the year.

The audit body said this was despite the MWSS' failure to show proof that the preconditions set by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) under an environmental compliance certificate issued on Oct. 11, 2019 have been complied with.

In 2019, the government secured a US\$283.2 million loan deal from China to build the Kaliwa Dam, a flagship project of President Rodrigo Duterte's "Build, Build, Build" infrastructure program.

China Energy Engineering Corporation Limited, a Chinese contractor, was selected to build the dam. Its participation in the project has been criticized as a violation of Philippine procurement laws and the Constitution that mandates a preference for Filipino contractors and workers who are equally if not more than qualified.

A BRI primer released by the Chinese Embassy in the Philippines said China's participation in the project reflects the Chinese government's commitment to support Duterte's infrastructure program through the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

But China's investments have attracted suspicion from many sectors because of its military buildup in the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea). China-funded projects like the Kaliwa Dam are tagged for potentially undermining the country's sovereignty. The COA report has revived controversies surrounding the dam project.

The dam was widely opposed as it would displace an estimated 1,465 families of the Dumagat-Remontado indigenous peoples (IPs) in Rizal and Quezon.

When the contract documents about the dam were released in 2019, civil society groups warned they contained provisions that favor China.

A provision states that Chinese laws will be used to resolve potential disputes that may arise regarding the dam project. A former legislator also criticized that a Chinese contractor was hired for the project.



Numerous Catholic bishops in the Philippines issued a statement expressing concern that the project will mainly benefit Chinese investors instead of the common good.

Joan Jaime of the Kalipunan ng mga Katutubong Mamamayan ng Pilipinas said in a media interview that the dam will destroy the way of life of indigenous peoples whose ancestral domain was designated as the site of the dam project.

"All things are given a monetary value and profited from. This is contrary to the needs of the people, the needs of the indigenous communities, and the idea that land should be used for the common good," Jaime said.

President Rodrigo Duterte acknowledged the right of IPs to protest although he said he is ready to use the "extraordinary powers" of his office to complete the project.

Environment group Haribon offered an alternative instead of building the controversial dam.

"The restoration and conservation of forests in existing watersheds like Angat and La Mesa is not only more cost-effective but will ensure continued water supply for Metro Manila and nearby provinces for years to come," Haribon said.

The group also urged the government to rehabilitate existing water reservoirs and strengthen the implementation of efficient water distribution systems and facilities.

The government has defended the Kaliwa Dam by describing it as the solution to Metro Manila's looming water crisis. MWSS insisted that the dam's environmental impact is only minimal.

The China Embassy said the project "is one of the great achievements in helping the Philippines with more livelihood projects through China-Philippines mutually beneficial infrastructure cooperation within the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative and the Build, Build, Build plan."

In the spirit of mutual trust and cooperation, China and the Philippines agreed that the project would be funded by preferential loans from the Export-Import Bank of China.

In a separate interview, Chinese Ambassador Huang Xilian said the BRI project in the Philippines has become a key "cargo lifeline" and "bond of solidarity" during the pandemic.

Despite the controversies, the dam project continues and is expected to be completed in 2023.



VCG/PEOPLE'S DAILY

NEARLY 1,500 white-sided dolphins were slaughtered off the Faroe Islands in Denmark during an annual hunting event considered a tradition by the Nordic country. The sea mammals were driven into shallow water where they were killed for their meat and blubber, sparking outrage among animal activists worldwide.

16 SEPTEMBER 2021, THURSDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Local COVID-19 cases sumipa sa 2.28-M sa pagkakadagdag ng 16,989 pasyente

(Philstar.com) - September 15, 2021 - 4:00pm



Residents in a compound in Brgy. Pinyahan, Quezon City which was placed under special concern lockdown due to COVID-19 cases receive food aid on Sept. 15, 2021.

The STAR/Michael Varcas

MANILA, Philippines — Nakapagtala ang Department of Health (DOH) ng 16,989 bagong infection ng coronavirus disease (COVID-19), Miyerkules, kung kaya't nasa 2,283,011 na sumatutal ang nahahawaan nito sa bansa.

Batay sa mga bagong nakalap na datos ng Kagawaran ng Kalusugan, narito ang bagong mga pasok na datos para araw na ito:

- Lahat ng kaso: 2,283,011
- Nagpapagaling pa: 170,446, o 7.5% ng total infections
- Kagagaling lang: 24,123, dahilan para maging 2,076,823 na lahat ng gumagaling
- Kamamatay lang: 214, na siyang nag-aakyat sa total local death toll sa 35,742

New COVID-19 cases sa NCR Plus nasa iilang baranggay lang

- Sa pag-aaral ng DOH ngayong araw, lumalabas na 80% ng bagong COVID-19 cases sa NCR Plus at Metro Manila ay nanggaling lang sa 11-30% ng mga baranggay nito, bagay na sumusuporta raw sa bagong sistema ng granular lockdowns.
- Kaugnay ng napipintong pagpapatupad ng mas mahihigpit na granular lockdowns at bagong "alert systems" sa pilot implementation nito sa Kamaynilaan bukas, sinabi ng Philippine National Police na naghahanda na ito sa pagtulong sa pagpapatulad nito kontra COVID-19.
- Kaugnay pa rin ng COVID-19 pandemic, kinumpirma naman ng Department of Education na nakabalik na sa mahigit 26 milyon, gaya noong 2020, ang enrolment sa mga K-12 schools. Gayunpaman, hindi pa rin ito nakakaabot sa pre-pandemic levels.
- Bubuksan naman na uli ang Rizal Park sa mga bisita mula sa kahit na anong edad sa gitna ng COVID-19 pandemic, ayon sa Department of Tourism. Gayunpaman, mula 5 a.m. hanggang 9 a.m. lang ito para sa maximum 500 visitors.
- Kahit na nasa gitna ng COVID-19 pandemic ang bansa, napagdesisyunan ng Commission on Elections na ilipat sa Sofitel tent sa Pasay City ang filing ng certificates of candidacy para sa mga national positions sa 2022 elections. Matatandaang una nang sinopla ng Comelec ang panawagang magsagawa ng online filing para maiwasan ang COVID-19 infections.
- Umabot na sa 225.02 milyon ang tinatamaan ng COVID-19 sa buong daigdig, ayon sa huling datos ng World Health Organization. Sa bilang na 'yan, patay na ang 4.63 milyong katao.

—James Relativo

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2021/09/15/2127317/local-covid-19-cases-sumipa-sa-228-m-sa-pagkakadagdag-ng-16989-pasyente/amp/>



COVID death rate higher in 2020 – DOH

By **Gerard Naval** -September 16, 2021

THE Department of Health yesterday said the death rate of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in 2020 was higher compared to the 2021 case fatality rate (CFR) even if reported cases are higher this year.

The DOH said the CFR this year as of September 8 has so far been at 1.49 percent of the total cases, which is lower compared to the 2.47 percent recorded from March to December 2020.

But the DOH said that in actual numbers, though, the number of deaths is higher in 2021 with 23,064 dying from COVID-19.

On the other hand, the DOH logged 11,607 COVID-19 patients who succumbed to the virus in 2020.

According to the DOH, the lower death rate for this year can be attributed to different factors, among them vaccination efforts, upgrades in health and critical care capacity, referral systems, and clinical management.

Various brands of COVID-19 vaccines started arriving in the country only in March this year.

To back its statement, the health department cited as example Metro Manila, where 5.8 million people (59.76 percent of the region's population) are already fully vaccinated, which it said has the lowest CFR among all regions at 0.94 percent, down from the 2.31 percent mortality rate in 2020.

"For NCR (National Capital Region), the lower CFR was multi-factorial, which includes its high vaccination coverage and increases in its health and critical care capacity," the DOH said.

The DOH said the country's death rate was highest during the first two months of the pandemic last year – 18.6 in March and 9.8 percent in April.

Since July 2020, the CFRs per month did not go higher than 2.66.

The DOH said that since February 2021, the country has never reached the two (2) percent CFR.



More Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines arrive in PH

September 15, 2021



Some 650,520 doses of government-procured Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine arrived at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport on Sept. 15, 2021. (Screengrab from PTV live video)

Some 753,000 doses of government-procured Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines arrived in the Philippines on Wednesday (Sept. 15).

Of this, 650,520 vaccine doses arrived at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport and will be transported to the cold storage facility of Pharmaserv Express in Marikina City.

The other 51,480 vaccine doses arrived in Cebu earlier at 6:35 PM.

Similar to Cebu, some 51,480 doses are allocated to Davao and will be delivered tomorrow (Sept. 16).

Based on the latest data on Sept. 13, about 56,794,130 COVID-19 vaccine doses have been delivered to the Philippines since February this year. – **Report from Rod Lagusad / CF – bny**



Decision on booster shots out soon

I think the Department of Health will come up with a position within this week.

Published 4 hours ago on September 16, 2021 02:30 AM

By [Jom Garner](#)



The Department of Health (DoH) is expected to announce its decision on the third dose or booster shots within this week, Food and Drug Administration Director General Eric Domingo said Wednesday.

“The All Expert Group (AEG) has a meeting today to discuss its possible recommendation particularly for health workers who are highly vulnerable and has high exposure to Covid,” Domingo said.

“I think the DoH will come up with a position within this week,” he added.

Last Friday, the DoH issued a statement that opposed presidential spokesperson Harry Roque’s statement that the country’s vaccine experts had already recommended booster shots for health workers.

Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said the National Immunization Technical Advisory Group, AEG and the DoH are still deliberating the issue carefully.

However, she said only the Vaccine Experts Panel had recommended the use of booster shots on health workers.

Earlier, World Health Organization (WHO) country representative Dr. Rabindra Abeyasinghe called for a moratorium on administering booster shots even for medical frontliners.

Abeyasinghe cited “huge vaccine inequity issue globally” as the reason why the WHO called for the extension of moratorium on booster shots through the end of the year.

However, he said, there is an exception for “immunocompromised individuals” who may be required to get another dose of Covid-19 vaccine.

Earlier this month, vaccine czar Carlito Galvez Jr. said the government is already in negotiation with vaccine manufacturers that could supply booster shots.

Galvez also said that Sinovac BioNTech is willing to donate 500,000 doses of booster shots for healthcare workers.

Since the start of the pandemic in March last year, a total of 104 healthcare workers have succumbed to the dreaded respiratory disease.

Source: https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2021/09/16/decision-on-booster-shots-out-soon/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=decision-on-booster-shots-out-soon



EDUKASYON NGAYONG TAON SUPORTAHAN NANG BUO



September 15, 2021 @ 8:33 AM 23 hours ago

NAGSIMULA na ang pag-aaral para sa taong 2021-2022 kamakalawa.

Magandang balita mula sa Department of Education ang halos magkapantay na bilang ng mga nag-enrol nitong nakaraang taon at ngayong taon.

Nasa 24.6 milyon lahat mula kindergarten hanggang sa senior high school.

Makatitiyak tayo ng edukadong mga mamamayan para sa mga darating na bukas.

Medyo nakalulungkot lang isipin na bago dumating ang pandemya, nasa 27 milyon ang nag-enrol kumpara sa 24.6 milyong enrollees ngayon.

Nasaan kaya 'yung mahigit 2 milyon na bata?

NAKARARAMI PASADO

Ayon sa DepEd, mula sa 24.7M na nag-enrol nitong nakaraang taon, may 98.13 porsyento sa Grade 6 ang nakatapos; 96.7% sa Grade 10; at 97.2% sa Grade 11.

Maganda na ring tingnan ito na rekord kahit merong hindi pasado, kahit anong gawin nina ma'am at sir na pagtuturo.

Saludo tayo sa mga guro na inabot ng mga katakot-takot na paghihirap sa pagtuturo sa labis na kakulangan sa mga kagamitan, kasama ang mga gadget, ngunit nairaos nila ang pag-akyat ng mga bata sa bawat hakbang ng edukasyon pataas.

Sana, maulit sa school year 2021-2022 ang tagumpay nitong nakaraang taon.

MGA PROBLEMA

Noong una, katakot-takot na problema ang naranasan, lalo na sa parte ng mga guro, maging sa hanay ng mga estudyante.

Nariryan ang paggastos ng mga guro ng sarili nilang sahod sa pagpaparami ng mga kopya ng aralin sa blended learning, pagbili ng mga papel at piyesa ng nasisirang copying machines at bigay sa mga technician sa mga repair at marami pang iba.

Sinasabayan pa ito ng kanilang reklamo na sobrang nakapapagod ang mga patawag at pamiting ng mga nakatataas na utos umano ng mga nasa DepEd Central Office.

Nariryan din ang kakapusan sa laptop at iba pang gadget at kawalan ng wifi at internet na kung meron man, mahinang-mahina naman.



May mga nagkaka-COVID-19 din at walang gaanong suporta ang gobyerno sa kanilang pagkakaospital kundi karamihan gastos nila lahat, kasama na ang pagpapalibing o cremation kung talagang minamalas sila.

MGA KASAGUTAN SA MGA PROBLEMA

Hindi naman matatawaran ang galing ng mga local government unit sa pag-ayuda sa mga kinakapos bilang dagdag sa mga suporta ng pambansang nasyunal.

Halimbawa na lang ang Makati City na nag-aarkila ng mga jeepney para lang kabitan ng wifi at internet ang mga mag-aaral habang may klase.

Nariryan din ang mga LGU na nagpundar ng mga copying machines, papel at iba pa saka ipinamigay sa mga guro at eskwela.

Ang mga naipamigay na gadget, copying machines at iba na noong una na kulang na kulang, nadaragdagan ngayon at kahit papaano, nabawasan ang gastos ng mga guro mula sa sarili nilang bulsa.

Marami ring civic o humanitarian organization gaya ng Lions Clubs International ang namigay ng ilang kailangan ng mga guro, estudyante at iskul gaya ng wifi, tablet, cellphone at iba pa.

Ngayon, higit nang naiporma rin ang ibang mga anyo o paraan ng pag-aaral gaya ng paggamit ng mga radio, telebisyon at iba pa.

Nakatutulong na rin ang paglakas at paglawak ng koneksyon ng internet nang maging tatlo na ang malalaking internet provider at hindi tulad noong una na dadalawa lang at 'yung kumita ang higit na inaatupag kaysa pagpapabuti ng kanilang serbisyo.

Kahit papaano, nakapagpundar na rin ang maraming pamilya ng kanilang mga kagamitan sa sarili nilang pagsisikap o sa tulong ng iba.

At ang mga guro, kasali na rin sila sa mga binabakunahan laban sa nakamamatay na COVID-19.

SINGIT NA MAHALAGA

Habang nag-aaral ang mga bata, magandang maisingit ang kahalagahan ng giyera laban sa COVID-19.

Maging bahagi sana ng aralin, halimbawa, ang halaga ng pagsusuot ng face mask, lalo't kung tumama ang COVID-19 na may Delta variant ay pami-pamilya na ang mga biktima.

Alam nating magastos ang pagbili ng face mask pero pwede namang gumawa nito mula sa mga tela na luma o bago o bumili sa mga sari-sari store ng P10 bawat piraso at pwedeng labhan at isuot muli.

Ang kalinisan ay isa ring health protocol at magandang maitanim sa isipan at maging kaugalian ng mga bata.

Maganda ring pag-usapan ang pagpapabakuna ng lahat ng miyembro ng pamilya lalo't malapit nang maganap ang malawakang pagbabakuna sa inaasahan nating pagdagsa ng mga bakuna mula sa buwang ito hanggang Kapaskuhan.

Sana walang maging bulilyaso sa suplay ng bakuna.

Ang tamang pagtatapon ng mga basurang gamit laban sa COVID-19 ay maisingit din sana bilang pamigil sa pagkalat nito.

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/edukasyon-ngayong-taon-suportahan-nang-buo/>



#OneDENR

**Covid-19
Situation and Response**



DOH COVID-19 CASE BULLETIN # 550

SETEYEMBRE 15, 2021

Para sa kumpletong detalye at impormasyon, bisitahin lamang ang aming pampublikong site: <https://ncovtracker.doh.gov.ph/>

PORSYENTO NG AKTIBONG KASO

7.5%

TOTAL NG AKTIBONG KASO
170,446

PORSYENTO NG GUMALING

91.0%

TOTAL NG GUMALING
2,076,823

PORSYENTO NG NAMATAY

1.57%

TOTAL NG NAMATAY
35,742

MGA BAGONG KASO **16,989**

MGA BAGONG GUMALING **24,123**

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY **214**

KABUANG BILANG NG KASO **2,283,011**

MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING SETEYEMBRE 13
DATOS NGAYONG SETEYEMBRE 15
AYON SA REPORTS NOONG SETEYEMBRE 13

25.9%

PORSYENTO NG MGA
NAGPOSITIBO

57,034

BILANG NG
TINEST

HALOS
95.1%
ANG MILD AT
ASYMPTOMATIC
NA KASO!



KABUANG PILIPINAS
PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

ICU BEDS (4.2K TOTAL BEDS) **77%** Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (20.8K TOTAL BEDS) **69%** Utilized

WARD BEDS (16.0K TOTAL BEDS) **73%** Utilized

VENTILATORS (3.3K TOTAL VENTILATORS) **57%** Utilized

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION
PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

ICU BEDS (1.4K TOTAL BEDS) **79%** Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (4.6K TOTAL BEDS) **66%** Utilized

WARD BEDS (4.4K TOTAL BEDS) **73%** Utilized

VENTILATORS (1.1K TOTAL VENTILATORS) **61%** Utilized

KALAGAYAN NG MGA
AKTIBONG KASO

Mild 85.4%

9.8% Asymptomatic

0.7% Critical

1.4% Severe

2.77% Moderate



UPDATE AND MESSAGE OF THE DAY

Harangan natin ang higit pang pagkalat ng COVID-19 sa pamamagitan ng masusing pagsund sa ating **Minimum Public Health Standards**. Proteksyunan din natin ang ating mga tahanan, at agad na makipag-ugnayan sa **BHERTS** o sa **One COVID Referral Center** sa oras na makaramdam ng anumang sintomas. Maabot ang One COVID Referral Center sa **1555, (02)886-505-00, 0915-777-7777, o sa 0919-977-3333**.

Para sa iba pang pangangailangang medikal, puntahan ang <http://bit.ly/DOHTelemedicine> upang malaman kung papaano maabot ang serbisyo ng ating **Telemedicine Service Providers**, at ang <http://bit.ly/DOHHospitalHotlines> para maabot ang ating mga ospital sa lalong mabilis na panahon.



Ihahanap ka namin ng lugar para mag-isolate o magpagamot, tumawag lang sa sumusunod:

SMART: 0919 977 3333
GLOBE: 0915 777 7777
TEL NO: (02) 886 505 00



May tanong ukol sa COVID-19?

I-chat na si KIRA!

VIBER: Kira Kontra COVID by DOH

MESSANGER: Department of Health PH

KONTRACOVID PH: kontracovid.ph



Manatiling ligtas!

I-download ang StaySafe App

O Gamiting ang WEBAPP

at pumunta sa Staysafe.ph

MAYROON PANG KATANUNGAN? SUMANGGUNI LAMANG SA SUMUSUNOD:

OfficialDOHgov

@DOHgovph

doh.gov.ph

(02) 894-COVID / 1555

16 SEPTEMBER 2021, THURSDAY



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



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


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



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