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**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**





## PH vows to cut gas emissions by 75 percent

By: [Krissy Aguilar](#) - Reporter / [@KAguilarINQ](#)  
[INQUIRER.net](#) / 04:36 PM April 16, 2021



Screengrab from RTVM's Facebook page

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines has committed to the United Nations its target to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 75 percent between 2020 and 2030.

The Philippines submitted its first Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on April 15, as seen on the latter's website.

“The Philippines commits to a projected GHG emissions reduction and avoidance of 75%, of which 2.71% is unconditional and 72.29% is conditional, representing the country's ambition for GHG mitigation for the period 2020 to 2030 for the sectors of agriculture, wastes, industry, transport, and energy,” the country's NDC stated.

The unconditional target of 2.71 percent means the government is undertaking this “using nationally mobilized resources” while the remaining 72.29 percent conditional target relies on support from the international community.

“The Philippines shall undertake adaptation measures across but not limited to, the sectors of agriculture, forestry, coastal and marine ecosystems, and biodiversity, health, and human security, to preempt, reduce and address residual loss and damage,” the NDC read.

The UNFCCC said 192 of 16 parties to the Paris Agreement have submitted their first NDCs while eight countries already submitted their second NDCs.

The Climate Reality Project Philippines lauded the country's move to finally submit its first NDC while noting that “this is just the first step toward ensuring the country's just transition to a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy.”

“Now that the country's first NDC has been officially submitted to the UNFCCC, it is time for the Climate Change Commission to facilitate a whole-of-government-and-society approach to the development of a comprehensive NDC Roadmap,” the organization's manager Nazrin Castro said in a statement.



## PH vows to cut gas emissions by 75 percent

“This roadmap should hammer out the sectoral policies and measures that will deliver our NDC targets and will spell out detailed plans and timetables for the transition of sectors into a low-carbon economy in line with our aspiration to peak our emissions by 2030,” she added.

In his debut speech before the UN last year, President Rodrigo Duterte said [climate change must be addressed](#) as urgently as the COVID-19 pandemic.

The President appealed to parties of the Paris Agreement to comply with its terms as developing countries like the Philippines suffer the effects of climate change the most.

The Paris Agreement aims to strengthen global response by keeping the global average temperature this century to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

Read more: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1420004/ph-vows-to-cut-gas-emissions-by-75-percent#ixzz6sEryyKlw>

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## Duterte OKs 75% emissions reduction PH commitment by 2030

April 16, 2021, 8:33 pm



Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III

**MANILA** – President Rodrigo Duterte has approved the country’s first Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), which sets a 75-percent greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction and avoidance by 2030, as part of the Philippines’ commitment to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

The NDC represents the country’s goal of modernizing and pursuing low carbon and resilient development for the agriculture, waste, industry, transport and energy sectors over the 2020-2030 period.

This target is based on the country’s projected business-as-usual cumulative economy-wide emission of 3,340.3 metric tons (MT) of carbon dioxide equivalent (MtCO<sub>2e</sub>) for the same period.

“The Philippines is submitting an ambitious NDC target of 75-percent reduction of GHG emissions by 2030 in the name of climate justice. The NDC will be our tool to upgrade our economy by adopting modern and low carbon technologies and approaches that would help mitigate the climate crisis and make our economy more resilient and our growth sustainable,” Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III, chairman-designate to the Climate Change Commission (CCC) which facilitated the NDC formulation process, said in a statement Friday.



## Duterte OKs 75% emissions reduction PH commitment by 2030

Of the 75-percent target, 72.29 percent is “conditional” or contingent upon the support of climate finance, technologies and capacity development, which shall be provided by developed countries, as prescribed by the Paris Agreement.

The remaining 2.71 percent is “unconditional” or shall be implemented mainly through domestic resources.

Compared to the Philippines’ Intended NDC that was submitted in 2015, which conveyed a conditional 70 percent GHG reduction target, this first official NDC conveys a higher target and includes an unconditional commitment of climate action.

Dominguez expressed appreciation to the lead agencies --the Departments of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), of Agriculture (DA), of Transportation (DOTr) and of Energy (DOE); of Foreign Affairs (DFA); and the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA)-- for working on the NDC despite the pandemic and the successive storms and typhoons that further delayed the process late last year.

Dominguez also thanked industry representatives along with leaders of the academe and civil society organizations for their valuable inputs and support for the government’s vision of a transformational NDC.

He likewise called on the international community to work together to strengthen global efforts for climate change mitigation and adaptation during this critical decade.

“We expect that developed nations, which historically caused the global climate crisis, will deliver their commitments to the Paris Agreement with the right speed and scale to keep global average temperature from breaching the 1.5 degrees Celsius survival threshold. The critical time between now and 2030 gives us a window of opportunity for transformative climate action to ensure planetary well-being before it is too late,” Dominguez added.

NDCs are pledges submitted by countries to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as their contributions to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement, particularly in limiting global warming to well below two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels or further to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

The formulation of the Philippine NDC followed a rigorous process, which included economic modeling analyses, expert reviews and consultations with various stakeholders from the public, private and civil society sectors. **(PR)**





## DENR wants updated solid waste management law to better address PH garbage problem

By [Pilar Manuel, CNN Philippines](#)

Published Apr 16, 2021 8:25:28 PM



**Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, April 16)** — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources wants the law on solid waste management amended to keep up with the times, an agency official says.

“Actually, the [Ecological] Solid Waste Management Act, *yung* [the] RA 9003, is a good law. But of course like other laws, we need to update also this law,” DENR Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs Jonas Leones told CNN Philippines’ The Exchange on Friday. “This was passed in 2000 and a lot of things happened, there are already new technologies on how to dispose this kind of waste.”

Among these technologies are waste-to-energy projects, which Leones said are in place in other countries. However, such technology has yet to be allowed in the Philippines, which he says has been facing an alarming surge in garbage generation during the raging health crisis as medical wastes in particular pile up steadily.

“If we can amend or revise some provisions of RA 9003 to include the waste-to-energy projects, I think we can adequately address this problem,” he added.

The utilization of waste-to-energy facilities in the country’s waste management efforts has been forwarded by lawmakers like [Sen. Sherwin “Win” Gatchalian](#). He is among the authors of Senate Bill No. 1789, or the proposed “Waste-to-Energy Act,” which aims to hit two birds with one stone: beef up the country’s waste treatment and disposal, and generate sustainable energy.

Given that current environmental laws ban technologies using incineration, Leones said authorities have found an avenue for adopting waste-to-energy projects by allowing certain industries to non-burn technology in addressing their garbage woes.



## DENR wants updated solid waste management law to better address PH garbage problem

For now, the DENR is in close coordination with hospitals, which generate massive amounts of medical waste amid the health crisis, along with local governments, as they are in charge of managing households' medical garbage like face masks and shields.

Local governments likewise observe protocols set by the agency in the disposal of such wastes.

“We have a special crew dressed in PPE, special trucks that collect these infectious wastes. Then these are subjected to the different guidelines that are mandated by the DENR before they go to the landfill,” said Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte about how her locality handles medical waste especially those hailing from areas under special concern lockdown due to clustering of COVID-19 cases.

Meanwhile for hospitals, Leones said hospitals register their waste to the agency, which in turn grants them assistance and special permits on disposing such garbage.



## SMC ramps up Tullahan River cleanup efforts

By [BusinessMirror](#)

-April 16, 2021



Tullahan River

San Miguel Corp. (SMC) said it is on track to more than double its daily dredging of silt and trash for its P1-billion Tullahan-Tinajeros river system cleanup project from 600 metric tons (MT) per day to 1,500 MT per day for the 11.5-km stretch it is working on.

This covers the initial sections 1-3 of the project from the mouth of the Manila Bay in Navotas City to Tinajeros Bridge, and sections 4-5 from Tinajeros Bridge to Potrero in Malabon and Valenzuela cities.

SMC's 5-year project covers the entire 27-km length of the Tullahan-Tinajeros river system.

SMC is also advancing the start of dredging at the tributary's Malabon and Valenzuela sections, to boost government's flood mitigation efforts before the rainy season sets in.

"We were able to average 1,000 MT per day last March to deliver our highest monthly dredging total so far. Currently, we are averaging 1,200 MT and we will gradually increase to 1,500 MT. With the arrival of our new, additional dredging equipment, we will also start dredging Sectors 4 and 5 where heavier flooding was experienced during heavy typhoons last November 2020," Ang said.

"Work on Sectors 4 and 5 involves more than just dredging to maintain its ideal depth. This part also involves widening parts of the river and removal of illegal structures that restrict the flow of water, especially during heavy rains. This is part of the dredging plan approved by DPWH."

Ang added: "We will need the support and cooperation of the local government units and other stakeholders to enable us to complete our task of rehabilitating the river and assisting in their flood mitigation efforts."





## SMC ramps up Tullahan River cleanup efforts

As of April 13, Ang said a total of 168,004 MT of silt and solid waste had already been removed from the river. Last March, the company registered output of 29,555 MT, the highest since the project was started with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) last June 2020.

For the 11.5-kilometer stretch, which is close to half of entire length of the 27-kilometer river system that goes all the way to the La Mesa Dam in Quezon City, the company is targeting to dredge a total of 1.5 million metric tons of silt and solid waste.

“We’re adding more personnel and more equipment, and with this, we are confident that we will be able to cover more ground in the coming months. This also prepares us for our planned dredging and cleanup of the Pasig River and major tributaries in Bulacan,” Ang said.

In preparation for these projects, Ang earlier disclosed it was acquiring an amphibious excavator for use in dredging shallow waters and for river widening. It is also acquiring a suction cutter dredger that can handle big volume throughput operations, such as required for cleaning up Pasig River.

SMC is in the middle of talks with government for the dredging of the Pasig River, as part of its proposal to invest P95.4 billion to build the Pasig River Expressway (PAREX).

For the Pasig River cleanup, SMC will utilize 2 new dredging equipment capable of removing 50,000 MT of silt and solid waste per month, or 600,000 MT per year for the next five years.

The company will work with the DENR, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), and other concerned government units for the project.

Ang said that the company will also subject tributaries belonging to the Marilao-Meycauayan-Obando River System (MMORS) to river channel improvement.

The Alipit or Taliptip River, Sta. Maria River, and the Meycauayan River will be dredged, cleaned, and widened under the program.



## River rid of 168K metric tons of trash



By [Frederick Silverio](#)

April 17, 2021

San Miguel Corp. (SMC) seems on track to more than double its daily dredging of silt and trash for its P1-billion Tullahan-Tinajeros river system clean-up project from 600 metric tons per day to 1,500 metric tons daily for a 11.5-km stretch it is working on.



**ON TRACK** Heavy equipment work on widening a portion of the Tullahan River from the Tinajeros Bridge to Potrero in Malabon and Valenzuela cities. San Miguel Corporation's P1-billion dredging initiative is reportedly on track to increase its daily waste and silt extraction output to 1,500 metric tons, thus boosting the government's flood-mitigation efforts before the rainy season. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

This covers the initial sections 1-3 of the project from the mouth of the Manila Bay in Navotas City to Tinajeros Bridge and sections 4-5 from Tinajeros Bridge to Potrero in Malabon and Valenzuela cities.

SMC's five-year project involves the entire 27-km length of the Tullahan-Tinajeros river system.

The company is also advancing the start of dredging at the tributary's Malabon and Valenzuela sections, to boost government flood-mitigation efforts before the rainy season sets in.

"We were able to average 1,000 metric tons per day last March to deliver our highest monthly dredging total so far. Currently, we are averaging 1,200 metric tons and we will gradually increase it to 1,500 metric tons. With the arrival of our new, additional dredging equipment, we will also start dredging Sectors 4 and 5 where heavier flooding was experienced during heavy typhoons last November 2020," SMC president and chief operating officer Ramon S. Ang said.



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“Work on Sectors 4 and 5 involves more than just dredging to maintain its ideal depth. This part also involves widening parts of the river and removal of illegal structures that restrict the flow of water, especially during heavy rains. This is part of the dredging plan approved by DPWH [Department of Public Works and Highways],” he added.

“We will need the support and cooperation of local government units and other stakeholders to enable us to complete our task of rehabilitating the river and assisting in their flood-mitigation efforts,” Ang said.

As of April 13, 2021, he noted a total of 168,004 metric tons of silt and solid waste had already been removed from the river.

Last March, the company registered an output of 29,555 metric tons, the highest since the project was started by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in June 2020.

For the 11.5-kilometer stretch, which is close to half the entire length of the 27-kilometer river system that goes all the way to the La Mesa Dam in Quezon City, SMC is targeting to dredge a total of 1.5 million metric tons of silt and solid waste.

In preparation for these projects, Ang earlier disclosed it was acquiring an amphibious excavator for use in dredging shallow waters and for river widening.

The company is also acquiring a suction cutter dredger for cleaning up Pasig River.

SMC is in the middle of talks with the government for the dredging of the Pasig River as part of its proposal to invest P95.4 billion to build the Pasig River Expressway (Parex).

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The company will work with the DENR, the DPWH and other concerned government units for the project.

Ang said they will also subject tributaries belonging to the Marilao-Meycauayan-Obando River System (MMORS) for river channel improvement.

The Alipit or Taliptip River, Santa Maria River and Meycauayan River will be dredged, cleaned and widened under the program.





## SMC Ramps Up Tullahan River Cleanup Efforts, Removes 168,000 MT Of Silt And Trash To Date



By [Featuresdesk \(MD\)](#)  
April 16, 2021

San Miguel Corporation is on track to more than double its daily dredging of silt and trash for its P1-billion Tullahan-Tinajeros river system cleanup project from 600 metric tons per day to 1,500 metric tons per day for the 11.5-km stretch it is working on.

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Source: <http://pageone.ph/smc-ramps-up-tullahan-river-cleanup-efforts-removes-168000-mt-of-silt-and-trash-to-date/>



## Gov't urged to focus on reduction, recovery of waste to solve plastic problem in Manila Bay

By [Gaea Katreena Cabico](#)(Philstar.com)

- April 16, 2021 - 6:11pm



File photo shows people participating in a clean-up drive along the shore of Manila Bay.

MANILA, Philippines — The government should shift its focus to the recovery and reduction of waste rather than “false solutions” such as clean-up efforts to address the plastic pollution problem in Manila Bay, environmentalists said.

Aileen Lucero, national coordinator of environmental group EcoWaste Coalition, said that end-of-pipe solutions such as clean-up drives are “not sustainable.”

“We don’t need to do clean-ups regularly or yearly. Clean-up is a waste of money actually because people think that it’s okay to litter since there will be a clean-up. It’s not sustainable. We don’t have to do clean-up if there’s a law banning single-use plastics and there’s proper enforcement of Republic Act 9003,” Lucero said in a briefing Thursday.

RA 9003 refers to the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, which requires, among others, the mandatory segregation of solid waste at source.

“We don’t need false solution. What we need is the promotion of refill, reduce and alternative delivery system for the proper collection of waste and implementation of solid waste management,” she said.

A study conducted by EcoWaste in partnership with researchers from the University of Santo Tomas and the De La Salle University-Dasmariñas found that 87% of the uncollected waste from five barangays in the capital region end up in Manila Bay.

These barangays include Brgy. Tangos South in Navotas City, Brgy. San Agustin in Malabon City, Brgy. 649 in City of Manila, Brgy. 76 in Pasay and Brgy. San Dionisio in Parañaque.





## Gov't urged to focus on reduction, recovery of waste to solve plastic problem in Manila Bay

Of the mismanaged waste in waterways, around 23% are single-use plastics.

Lucero also suggested that the government must focus on the development and implementation of an “accurate and science-informed” National Waste Recovery Plan as framed in RA 9003. She also called on the government to declare single-use plastics as non-environmentally accepted products (NEAP).

Plastic soft drink straws and coffee stirrers are now included in the list of NEAP, which means they may be banned soon. But environmental groups said the move is not enough to solve the plastic pollution problem in the country.

### ‘Cosmetic beautification’

Lucero also criticized the dumping of fresh coat of crushed dolomite rocks along a portion of Roxas Boulevard, saying Filipinos do not need this “cosmetic beautification.”

For Marlon Pareja, a researcher from DLSU-Dasmariñas, the overlaying of dolomite sand will not do anything to help reduce solid waste in the area.

This is part of a P389-million “beach nourishment” project—a component of the government’s rehabilitation program for the degraded bay.

Environment Undersecretary Jonas Leones earlier said that the rehabilitation does not only focus on the baywalk but also addresses problems in different tributaries and settlements.

Environmental groups opposed the addition of pulverized dolomite rocks, saying it is an expensive effort that will not solve Manila Bay’s environmental problems.



ONE News ✓

April 15 at 3:40 PM · 🌐

The Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources is more confident that the fresh batch of dolomite dumped in Manila Bay, along with the rock garden, will not get washed away so easily even if a strong surge occurs.

Get updates via Viber: <https://bit.ly/36uQLSo> ✓

Join us on Telegram: <https://t.me/onenewsph> ✓





## Dumping of dolomite sand expected to be completed by mid-year: DENR

By [Margret Fermin](#)

-April 16, 2021

The controversial dumping of crushed dolomite in [Manila Bay](#) is expected to end by the middle of the year, Environment Undersecretary Jonas Leones said Thursday.

The piling of [dolomite sand](#) in Manila Bay is 60 to 70 percent complete, possibly in June or July, said Leones who inspected the area this Thursday morning.

Leones also explained that the installation of the artificial dolomite sand beach is only part of the beach nourishment project of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Manila Bay, which is now 50 to 60 percent complete.

According to Leones, of the P389 million fund for the beach nourishment project, P23 million to P28 million was used for piling the dolomite.

“Contracted na kasi rin ‘yan eh so may mga liabilities din ang bawat parties kung ‘di makakapag-comply,” said Leones.

Leones had earlier said that the funds for the “[dolomite beach](#)” project will be allocated in 2019 so it cannot be stopped.

The beach nourishment project also includes water purification in Manila Bay.

Dumping of dolomite sand expected to be completed by mid-year: [DENR](#)

According to Leones, the fecal coliform water level in Manila Bay is now only 100,000 most probable number (mpn) per 100 milligrams compared to the previous million MPN per 100 milligrams.

Despite this, he said it is still not safe to bathe in [Manila Bay](#).

According to Leones, it is also not right to allocate all DENR funds to COVID-19, especially since the agency has already provided 10 percent of its 2020 budget for responding to the pandemic.

He also said that the dolomite sand beach project that was started was continued because the layer of dolomite that was laid in 2020 was still thin so there were black sands then.

It is said that the minimum thickness of dolomite of one meter must be met.

Meanwhile, some groups have criticized the [government](#)’s continued dumping of crushed dolomite in parts of [Manila](#) Bay at the height of the COVID-19 cases in the country.

The [Oceana Philippines](#) group questioned why the said “dolomite beach” was added even though the first mound in the area was damaged last year.

Source: <https://philippineslifestyle.com/dolomite-sand-completed-by-mid-year-denr/>





## Pagtatambak ng dolomite sands sa Manila Bay, makakaapekto sa karagatan – Oceana Philippines

By [RadyoMaN Manila](#)

-Apr. 16, 2021 at 9:37am



Hindi ito ang tamang panahon para magsagawa ng pagpapaganda sa Manila Bay ayon sa isang advocacy group kasunod ng muling paglalagay ng dolomite sands sa ilang bahagi ng baybayin nito.

Sa interview ng RMN Manila, sinabi ni Atty. Gloria Ramos, Vice President ng Oceana Philippines na una sa lahat ay mali ang ginawang pagtatambak ng “white sands” sa manila bay dahil ito’y isang key biodiversity area.

Mas magastos din aniya lalo na’t kinakailangan dito ang madalas na paglalagay muli ng dolomite sands kapag inanod na ito ng tubig o kapag may dumaang bagyo.

Samantala, sinabi naman ni PAMALAKAYA National Chairperson Fernando Hicap na isang reclamation at hindi rehabilitation ang ginagawa ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) dahil sa halip na ayusin ay tinambakan lamang ito ng mga dolomite sand.

Giit ni Hicap, kung magpapatuloy ang ganito hindi lamang sa Manila Bay ay mauwi tayo sa pagkakaroon ng kakulangan ng supply ng mga isda.



## Obispo ng Maynila, hinikayat ang pamahalaan na unahin ang pangangailangan ng publiko bago sana ang pagtatambak ng dolomite sa Manila Bay

By [RadyoMaN Manila](#)  
-Apr. 15, 2021 at 11:39am



Photo Courtesy: PTV Facebook Page

Hinikayat ng opisyal ng simbahan ang pamahalaan na tutukan sana ang pangangailangan ng mamamayan.

Ayon kay Archdiocese of Manila Apostolic Administrator Bishop Broderick Pabillo, mahalagang bigyang prayoridad ang kasalukuyang suliranin sa kalusugan ng tao at ekonomiya.

Aniya, kung ang talagang problema ngayon ay COVID-19, dapat ang atensyon at ang pondo ay inilagay na lamang dito para matugunan muna ang pangangailangang pangkalusugan at ekonomiya ng mga tao.

Ang mensahe ng obispo ay kasunod ng muling pagtatambak ng mga dolomite sa Manila Bay bilang bahagi ng Manila Bay Rehabilitation Program na inilunsad ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Dismayado si Bishop Pabillo sa mga hakbang ng pamahalaan na inuuna ang hindi napapanahon at pinag-aralang proyekto na una nang binatikos makaraang anurin sa dagat ang mga artificial na buhangin nang manalasa ang bagyo noong nakalipas na taon.

Lalong ikinadismaya ng obispo ang pagpapatuloy ng dolomite project dahil marami ang nawalan ng trabaho at walang sapat na pambili ng pagkain ang mamamayan noong muling ipinatupad ang Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) ng dalawang linggo sa National Capital Region (NCR) at karatig lalawigan.

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/2316600095231066/posts/3706699716221090/?app=fbl>



## EDITORIAL - Imbestigahan, minahan ng dolomite

(Pilipino Star Ngayon)  
- April 17, 2021 - 12:00am



KONTROBERSIYA ang mala-Boracay na “dolomite beach’ sa isang bahagi ng Manila Bay. Noong nakaraang Nobyembre 2020, ipinakita sa publiko ang beach at marami ang humanga dahil sa puting buhangin. Parang sa Boracay nga ang bukambibig nang marami. Dinagsa ng mga sabik na tao at nasira ang ipinatutupad na social distancing. Isinara muli ang beach dahil dun.

Nang manalasa ang mga bagyo noong Disyembre, natakpan ng mga layak at basura ang beach. Ang maputing buhangin ay nangitim. Ang iba ay inanod. Binatikos muli ang dolomite beach. Sana raw ang ginastos ay inilaan na lang na pambili ng pagkain ng mga apektado ng lockdown. Ang proyekto ay bahagi sa pagpapaganda ng Manila Bay na may pondong P389 milyon.

Sabi ng mga bumabatikos, sa halip daw na dolomite, dapat ay bakawan ang itinanim para maproteksiyunan ang dalampasigan. Pero sabi ni DENR Usec. Benny Antiporda, matagal na raw plano ang paglalagay ng dolomite sa bahagi ng Manila Bay. Inorder ang dolomite sa Alcoy, Cebu.

Natahimik ang isyu sa dolomite beach pagsapit ng 2021 at maraming nag-isip na tinigil na ang pagpapaganda sa Manila Bay. Pero hindi pa pala at bigla na lamang nakita ang pagtatambak ng dolomite. Tuloy muli ang mala-Boracay na dalampasigan.

Ang tanong ngayon, saan kumuha ng dolomite ang DENR? Matatandaan na ipinag-utos noong nakaraang taon ni DENR Sec. Cimatu na suspendihin ang operasyon ng dalawang mining companies na nagmimina ng dolomite sa Alcoy, Cebu dahil may paglabag ang mga ito. Nakita ang pagkasira ng corals at pagdumi ng tubig sa lugar. Ang dalawang mining companies ay ang Dolomite Mining Corp. (DMC) at Philippine Mining Service Corp. (PMSC). Inatasan ni Cimatu ang Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) na magsagawa ng test sa kalidad ng hangin at tubig sa lugar kung saan nasira ang corals. Wala nang narinig sa imbestigasyon ng EMB sa dalawang minahan.





## EDITORIAL - Imbestigahan, minahan ng dolomite

Ngayong itinuloy na ng DENR ang pagtatambak ng dolomite sa Manila Bay, ibig sabihin patuloy ang pagmimina ng dalawang mining companies sa Alcoy, Cebu? Nasaan na ang direktiba ni Cimatú na pagsuspende sa mga ito?

Dapat din namang tanungin ang Cebu LGUs. Natigil ba ang operasyon ng dolomite mining companies sa kanilang lugar o hindi? Kung tutuusin ang LGUs ang dapat maunang magpuputak sapagkat sinisira ng dolomite mining ang kanilang lugar. Maaring nakikisakay lang sila sa isyu.



## EDITORIAL - Patuloy ang pagmimina ng dolomite?

(Pang-Masa)

- April 16, 2021 - 12:00am



ITINULOY ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang pagtatambak ng dolomite sa bahagi ng Manila Bay. Itinigil ang pagtatambak sa Manila Bay noong nakaraang Nobyembre dahil dinudumog ng mga nag-uusyong mga tao at nasisira ang health protocol. Sabi ni DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu, ang muling pagtatambak ng dolomite ay bahagi pa rin ng beautification project ng Manila Bay na may pondong P389 milyon. Noong nakaraang taon, binatikos ang pagtatambak ng dolomite dahil aanurin lamang ito nang malakas na alon kapag may bagyo. Sa halip daw na dolomite, taniman ng bakawan para mayroong proteksiyon ang dalampasigan. Pero ipinagtanggol ni DENR Usec. Benny Antiporda ang mala-Boracay na dolomite beach. Matagal na raw plano ang paglalagay ng dolomite sa bahagi ng Manila Bay. Galing ang dolomite sa Alcoy, Cebu.

Isang malaking katanungan din ngayon ay ang patuloy na pagmimina ng dolomite. Ipinag-utos noong nakaraang taon ni DENR Sec. Cimatu na suspendihin ang operasyon ng dalawang mining companies na nagmimina ng dolomite para maimbestigahan kung may paglabag ang mga ito. Ang dalawang mining companies ay ang Dolomite Mining Corp. (DMC) at Philippine Mining Service Corp. (PMSC). Inatasan ni Cimatu ang Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) na magsagawa ng test sa kalidad ng hangin at tubig sa lugar kung saan nasira ang mga coral. Mananatili ang suspension ng dalawang mining companies hangga't hindi natatapos ang masusing imbestigasyon ng EMB. Mananagot umano ang dalawang kompanya kapag may paglabag na nagawa. Ayon sa report, ang DMC ay may 25-year mineral production sharing agreement (MPSA) kung saan may kabuuang 524 hectares ang sakop ng pagmimina sa Alcoy samantalang ang PMSC ay may processing permit hanggang 2023. Sabi ng dalawang mining companies, makikipag-cooperate sila sa imbestigasyon ng DENR.



## EDITORIAL - Patuloy ang pagmimina ng dolomite?

Ngayong itinuloy na ng DENR ang pagtatambak ng dolomite sa Manila Bay, ibig sabihin patuoy ang pagmimina sa Alcoy, Cebu? Nasaan na ang direktiba ni Cimatú na pagsuspende sa dalawang mining companies? Pakitang tao lamang ba ito?

Masasagot din ito ng mga opisyaless ng Cebu. Natigil nga ba ang operasyon ng dolomite mining companies sa kanilang lugar o hindi? Sila ang dapat manguna sa pagpiyok sapagkat nasisira ng dolomite mining ang kanilang nasasakupan.



## DOST urges researchers, policymakers, public to support ‘environmentally-sound game-changing’ technologies, policies

Published April 16, 2021, 7:35 PM

by [Charissa Luci-Atienza](#)

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) urged on Friday, April 16, the country’s researchers, policymakers and concerned stakeholders to give their all-out support to “environmentally-sound game-changing technologies and policies” to help ensure country’s economic growth and environmental sustainability.

DOST Secretary Fortunato “Boy” T. de la Peña made the call during a webinar dubbed “Manila Bay Conversations: Initial Findings and Assessment from the IM4ManilaBay Program” initiated by the DOST-Philippine Council for Industry, Energy and Emerging Technology Research and Development (DOST-PCIEERD)

“In the coming years, we will further strengthen our efforts to reduce environmental pollution and provide greater access to clean and safe water by generating environmentally-sound game-changing technologies and policies,” he said in a message.

“We encourage our researchers, policy makers, key stakeholders, and the general public to support and implement these kinds of initiatives and projects which are aimed at achieving the sustainable development goals through an innovative and integrated solutions,” he added.

The DOST chief expressed the agency’s commitment to continue pursuing research and development (R&D) projects that would benefit all Filipinos.

“As the premier agency for scientific and technological activities, and of formulating policies, programs and projects geared towards national development, we, at the DOST will relentlessly and continuously pursue R&D projects for the optimum benefit of all Filipinos and make science work for the people,” he said.

“We believe that this is a good opportunity for all of us to deepen our collaboration and strengthen our scientific and technological research for economic growth and environmental sustainability,” he added.

De la Peña noted that the DOST through PCIEERD supported the two-year Integrated Mapping, Monitoring, Modeling and Management System for Manila Bay and Linked Systems or IM4ManilaBay program with funding amounting to P65.9 million.

Launched in January 2020, IM4ManilaBay program is composed of four component projects aimed at conserving Manila Bay.

“It aims to characterize Manila Bay and its watershed as well as linked environments to provide information for rehabilitation and management through water quality monitoring and mapping, hydrodynamic and hydrologic modelling, and dredge materials and solid waste management,”





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## **DOST urges researchers, policymakers, public to support 'environmentally-sound game-changing' technologies, policies**

The four project components are the following: Eco-System, Modeling and Material Transport Analysis for the Rehabilitation of Manila Bay or e-SMART, Management of Dredged Materials; Characterization, Treatment, and Disposal, also known as CharTeD DreaM; Integrated Waste Analysis, Survey and Technological Options or IWAStO; and the Development of an Integrated Mapping, Monitoring, and Analytical Network System for Manila Bay and Linked Environments, or MapABLE.



## BGCI extends partnership with EDC to assess, save 670 more trees species



By [The Manila Times](#)

April 17, 2021



A virtual agreement signing was held among EDC, LGFI and BGCI extending the Global Tree Assessment project to assess 670 more Philippine endemic and near-endemic tree species.

Europe-based Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) has extended its partnership grant with Lopez-led geothermal leader Energy Development Corporation (EDC) for two more years to assess and conserve additional 200 Philippine endemic tree species and 470 near-endemic species.

Under the company's flagship Binhi greening program, EDC was tapped in May 2019 as the first and sole partner of BGCI for its Global Tree Assessment (GTA) program for the conduct of conservation status assessments of 800 Philippine endemic tree species for two years. BGCI is the secretariat of the IUCN for GTA, an organization that formulates measures for the protection of the environment through data gathering, research, field projects, advocacy and education.

Through the partnership, EDC received a grant of £16,160 or more than P1 million. BGCI also trained the Binhi team, its partner organizations, and representatives of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on the IUCN Red List methodology, a vigorous and globally respected procedure following strict guidelines and data requirements on extinction risk assessments.



## BGCI extends partnership with EDC to assess, save 670 more trees species

According to Megan Barstow, conservation officer of BGCI, before 2019 only 248 assessments for trees native to the Philippines were published on the IUCN Red List. To date, there are now 1,225 assessments, 42 percent of which were contributed by EDC in collaboration with Pro-Seeds Development Association Inc., an organization based in the University of the Philippines–Los Banos (UPLB) composed of young professionals engaged primarily in various environmental research as well as the promotion and development of environmentally sound management strategies.

EDC President and Chief Operating Officer Richard Tantoco, likewise, believed that there is much to be done and a bigger world to restore: “Just when you think you’ve accomplished your goals and reached the finish line, that line just keeps getting farther as you find out that what you have done is merely a drop in the bucket.”



## Navy seizes illegally-cut forest products



ZAMBOANGA. Philippine Navy personnel intercept a shipment of illegally cut forest products while patrolling the waters off Zamboanga City Thursday, April 15, 2021. A photo handout shows two Navy Seals personnel inspect the seized lumber loaded on a motorboat. (SunStar Zamboanga)

April 16, 2021

OPERATIVES of the Philippine Navy have intercepted a shipment of illegally-cut forest products off Zamboanga City, an official said Friday, April 16.

Rear Admiral Toribio Adaci Jr., Naval Forces Western Mindanao (NFWM) commander, said the shipment was intercepted at dawn Thursday, April 15, off Recodo village, Zamboanga City.

Adaci said the troops of the Naval Task Force 61, Navy Seals and intelligence operatives were conducting maritime patrol when they spotted a motorboat, M/B Sarhana, steaming to the shore of Recodo village.

M/B Sarhana, which is manned by a four-man crew, was found to be loaded with undocumented illegally-cut forest products when the troops conducted Visit Board Search and Seizure (VBSS) operations.

M/B Sarhana was then escorted to Naval Station Romulo Espaldon, which houses the NFWM headquarters in Zamboanga City, for proper documentation, inspection, inventory, and subsequent turnover to Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and Regional Maritime Unit (RMU)-Zamboanga Peninsula of the Philippine National Police (PNP).

Adaci said M/B Sarhana was found to be carrying 2,565.31 board feet of Yakal wood with an estimated value of P303,918.60, based in a joint inspection and inventory conducted Thursday afternoon, April 15, by the personnel from the DENR, RMU-Zamboanga Peninsula and NFWM.





## Navy seizes illegally-cut forest products

He said the Yakal wood is allegedly by a certain Nanong Balamo, who was not aboard the motorboat during the apprehension.

He said the Yakal wood was properly turned over to the DENR, while M/B Sarhana, along with its four crew, were turned over to the custody of RMU-Zamboanga Peninsula for appropriate actions. (**SunStar Zamboanga**)



## Fire prevention pushed in Leyte Sab-a peatland forest

By Sarwell Meniano April 16, 2021, 7:46 pm



**PEAT FIRE.** A portion of the Leyte Sab-a peatland forest burns in this April 2019 photo. Concerned with incidents of peat fires, a non-government organization on Friday (April 16, 2021) pushed for stronger fire prevention, management, and post-fire restoration in the peatland forest. *(Photo courtesy of Leyte Sab-a Peatland Forest Restoration Initiative)*

**TACLOBAN CITY** – Concerned with incidents of peat fires, a non-government organization on Friday pushed for stronger fire prevention, management, and post-fire restoration in the Leyte Sab-a peatland forest.

Juvilyn Salazar, project officer of the International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR) Leyte Sab-a Peatland Forest Restoration Initiative, said the peatland has been experiencing a yearly incidence of fire since their project began in 2018.

The IIRR is a non-profit organization that helps empower rural communities by making them self-sufficient.

“Fires are an annual occurrence and a majority of the cause originates from unsustainable practices on peatlands. We have invited experts in an online capacity-building to share their recommendations based on the best management practices on fire prevention and management in the Philippines and Indonesia,” Salazar told the Philippine News Agency (PNA).

More than 200 participants from various local government units, national government agencies, students, and faculty members of various Southeast Asian universities and state colleges, and non-government organizations attended the virtual event on April 8.

The construction of a drainage system since the 1970s has triggered fire incidents in the Leyte Sab-a peatland forest.

From 2018 to 2020, the IIRR has documented four fire incidents.



## Fire prevention pushed in Leyte Sab-a peatland forest

“The peat soil should be wet all the time. Once the water is drained, the peatland might trigger peat fire. In order to prevent and reduce peat fires, it is recommended to follow the concept of rewetting through canal blocking or drainage blocking,” he said in a phone interview.

When peatlands are drained, they become highly vulnerable to a peat fire.

A simply discarded cigarette butt or a match can cause huge devastation, degradation of the resource base, accelerated carbon emission, and a host of health issues for local communities, according to a briefer posted online by the University of Leicester in England.

The Leyte Sab-a peatland forest in the towns of Alangalang, Sta. Fe, and San Miguel in central Leyte is one of two major peatlands in the Philippines that play an important role in long-term climate change mitigation, given their role in moderating atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations.

“The forest has carbon storage. It plays an important role to counter global warming and climate change, promote diverse vegetation, and ensure a stable water supply,” Salazar said.

About 1,160 hectares of the peatland have been categorized as alienable and disposable land, with 660 hectares distributed to farmers under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.

Some 15 percent of the area has been cultivated, he added.

The IIRR and Forest Foundation have been implementing the four-year Leyte Sab-a Peatland Forest Restoration Initiative since January 2018.

The PHP20 million project aims to produce legal and scientific studies, come up with a comprehensive map of the forest, and raise community and local leaders’ awareness of the importance of peatland forest.

Leyte's Sab-a Basin exhibits diverse vegetation characterized by the presence of wetland forest, boggy areas, sedge and grasslands, and diversity of endemic flora and fauna, with the presence of threatened animals and freshwater fish species, which are found mostly in the wetland forest ecotype.

The basin absorbs and holds water during the rainy season and releases it slowly to maintain base flows in the outflow rivers, according to Forest Foundation.

The Leyte Sab-a Basin peatland is a large catchment basin measuring 3,088 hectares, more than half of which has been reclaimed for agriculture.

The remaining 1,740 hectares in the eastern half of the basin consist of small remnant areas of swamp forest and grass peat swamp. *(PNA)*



## Waste management stops garbage crisis in province

posted April 16, 2021 at 11:20 pm

by [Jess Malabanan](#)

Lingayen, Pangasinan — Effective solid waste management and other sustainable ecology programs of the province prevented the possible garbage crisis as a result of the recent closure of the Urdaneta Sanitary Landfill, an official said Friday.

Pangasinan Governor Amado I. Espino III said the necessary interventions were done and as a result the impending garbage crisis was addressed immediately and effectively.

Likewise, the Cease and Desist Order issued by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources against the USLF “did not affect our ecology and sanitation because of the programs that were in place even before the landfill shut down its operations” Espino said.

Melody Sison, the head of the province’s Solid Waste Management Office, said the waste management of a number of cities and municipalities affected by the closure order of the 18-hectare USLF remained in check.

“Our waste disposal processes were addressed immediately after the Urdaneta landfill shutdown. Most if not all of the province’s municipal wastes being brought to Urdaneta are now being transported and hauled to an engineered sanitary landfill facility in Capas, Tarlac, owned and operated by Metro Clark Waste Management Corp.,” Sison said.

Gladys Domalanta, head of the General Services Office, said the provincial government had a standing agreement with the MCWM for three years now. She said the garbage, especially at the capitol complex, was hauled regularly.

“The Clark Sanitary landfill provided relief. And based on our experience with them, their [facilities] and type of operations could sufficiently service our waste management requirements even if it will take more time before the Urdaneta landfill reopens and starts its operations,” Espino said.

Long before the shutting down of the landfill, Espino said, the “province’s recycling, segregation and awareness campaign reached a highest level plus innovations, such as garbage treatment transportation and shredding machines that made it a breeze for us to effectively manage the province’s domestic wastes.”

Domalanta, meanwhile, said the SWMO embarked on several projects such as palit-basura, where every kilo of garbage was paid P20 and the one-time-use plastic or sando bags was discouraged. Another project, once it pushes through, is the waste-to-energy plant being studied by the office of the governor.

The LGUs adopted the province’s best practices in promoting eco-friendly programs, he said.

In January this year, officials of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources inspected the site and issued two cease-and-desist orders for violations of the Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004 and the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

Source: <https://manilastandard.net/mobile/article/352046>



## PH nickel industry group welcomes moratorium lift on mineral agreements

By Susan G. De Leon Published on April 16, 2021



CALOOCAN CITY, April 16 (PIA) -- The Philippine Nickel Industry Association (PNIA) has welcomed the amendment of Section 4 of the Executive Order (EO) 79, S. 2012 that lifts the moratorium on mineral agreements.

In a statement sent to the *PIA-NCR*, PNIA President Atty. Dante Bravo said their group "appreciates the government's recognition of the industry's role in economic recovery and development."

"PNIA has always maintained the industry's contribution to countryside development by providing employment opportunities and livelihood, and ensuring the sustainability of our host communities," Bravo said.

"We remain steadfast in our thrust to adhere to the highest safety standards in our operations and to deliver beyond compliance on environmental safety and protection," he added.

To recall, President Rodrigo Duterte earlier issued an EO lifting the nine-year moratorium on mineral agreements to spur economic growth and support projects and programs of the government.

Duterte signed the new measure that prohibits the grant of mineral agreements "until a new legislation rationalizing existing revenue sharing schemes and mechanisms shall have taken effect".

"The moratorium on mineral agreements under Section 4, EO No. 79 is hereby lifted," Section 1 of the amended EO 130 read.

Under the new EO, Section 4 of EO No. 79, which was signed by former President Benigno Aquino III in 2012, shall be amended to read as follows: "Section 4. Grant of Mineral Agreements. The Government may enter into new mineral agreements, subject to compliance with Philippine Mining Act of 1995 and other applicable laws, rules, and regulation."



## PH nickel industry group welcomes moratorium lift on mineral agreements

"The DENR (Department of Environment and Natural Resources) may continue to grant and issue Exploration Permits under existing laws, rules, and guidelines. The grantees of such permits shall have the rights under the said laws, rules, and guidelines over the approved exploration area and shall be given the right of first option to develop and utilize the minerals in their respective exploration area upon the approval of the declaration of mining project feasibility," it added.

The new EO also directs the DENR to "formulate the terms and conditions in the new mineral agreements that will maximize government revenues and share from production, including the possibility of declaring these areas as mineral reservations to obtain appropriate royalties, in accordance with existing laws, rules, and regulations."

"The DENR shall likewise undertake a review of existing mining contacts and agreements for possible renegotiation of the terms and conditions of the same, which shall in all cases be mutually acceptable to the government and the mining contractor," the EO read.

The DENR and the Department of Finance are directed "to undertake appropriate measures to rationalize existing revenue sharing schemes and mechanisms."

EO 130 also directs the DENR to strictly implement mines safety and environmental policies.

"It shall ensure strict implementation of and compliance with the recommended measures of the Mining Industry Coordinating Council involving all mining operations, including other pertinent laws, rules, and regulations, and the terms and conditions of the mineral agreements," the EO read.

Duterte issued EO 130 to usher significant economic benefits to the country.

"The mining industry can support various government projects, such as the Build, Build, Build Program, by providing raw materials for the construction and development of other industries; and the Balik Probinsya, Bagong Pag-asa Program, by increasing employment opportunities in remote, rural areas where there are mining activities thereby stimulating countryside development," the EO read.

According to the new EO, the country has tapped less than 5 percent of its mineral resources endowment to date.

On Dec. 19, 2017, Duterte signed Republic Act No. 10963 or the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusive (TRAIN) Act. Section 48 of the law has doubled the rate of excise tax on minerals, mineral products, and quarry resources from 2 percent to 4 percent.

The President has repeatedly urged the mining industry to observe stricter environmental rules or risk getting shut down. (PIA NCR)

Source: <https://pia.gov.ph/news/articles/1072443>



## Mining an 'economic vaccine', lawmaker says

Published April 16, 2021, 1:42 PM

by [Mario Casayuran](#)

Surigao del Norte Representative Robert Ace Barbers on Friday, April 16, lauded President Duterte's decision lifting the moratorium on new mining deals.



(Surigao del Norte Rep. Robert Ace Barbers' Office / FILE PHOTO / MANILA BULLETIN)

With the country buried in trillions of pesos of debt by the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the President's decision was the thing he has been praying for since last year, Barbers said.

"I have been hoping for this since last year. I have been saying that mining is the only way out of this debt trap we have found ourselves in by reason of the pandemic. Mining pays, and it will help us pay our debts. The royalties, revenues, taxes will all contribute to our economic recovery," said the lawmaker.

"There is no other industry aside from our BPO (business process outsourcing) and OFWs (overseas Filipino workers) that can bring much revenue. Sadly, these two have been on the losing end since the pandemic began," he pointed out.

He further said: "We should start thinking global – by tapping the industries in the country with which we have a competitive advantage on such as mining and tourism. It is now high time to tap on foreign mining investors that have espoused balanced and non-destructive practices in extracting mineral resources."

"As people need vaccines, our economy needs it too, and mining it is," Barbers said.

The congressman, however, said that the government "should be very careful in getting investors and vet them properly and thoroughly so we don't end up with 'hawshao' miners in our desire for revenues."



## Mining an ‘economic vaccine’, lawmaker says

“We must look into their financial capacity, viability, and track record. The DENR (Department of Environment and Natural Resources) should scrutinize them and come up with a no non-sense standards patterned after the best practices in the world,” he added.

Barbers said foreign mining companies have been raring to invest and take part in the Phlippine’s mining industry.

“If these undertakings push through, the projections are mining will contribute as much as six to 10 percent in our GDP. Currently, its contribution is 0.6 percent,” he said.

“Prominent mining countries such as Canada and Australia have mining contributing six percent to their GDP. With Australia’s GDP at \$.37 trillion, this translates to \$82 billion, almost 38 times the value of our mining output. If we indeed believe that our resources are among the best in the world, then the solution is obvious,” he noted.

Barbers said the President’s decision is timely as the industry would also provide jobs to people in rural areas.

“Imagine the number of jobs that will be created in the rural areas where these mining sites are located. The locals will be gainfully employed and the host communities will be developed as part of the corporate social responsibility of these companies. Schools, roads, and other infrastructure will be built on the host communities,” he stressed.

“This is the much-needed stimulus that is not based on loans that the people will eventually shoulder. It is the only industry that can put our economy back on its feet,” he claimed.

“Today, the price of gold is very high at around US\$ 1,700 per ounce. We have plenty of gold, estimated at 16 to 18 million ounces. In the coming years, it is projected that 50% of car sales will be on electric cars. This cars need a lot of copper and nickel to run. We have all these minerals here, more than two billion tons of copper and nickel. Imagine the returns if we are to start now,” Barbers explained.





## Caritas Philippines urges Duterte to reconsider the lifting of mining moratorium

Published April 16, 2021, 6:58 PM

by [Leslie Ann Aquino](#)

Caritas Philippines has urged President Duterte to reconsider the lifting of the mining moratorium.

“The Catholic Church, through Caritas Philippines, the Eco-Convergence and the CBCP National Laudato Si Program strongly enjoin President Duterte to reconsider the lifting of the mining moratorium,” Kidapawan Bishop Jose Colin Bagaforo, Caritas Philippines national director said, in a statement on Friday, April 16.



Bishop Jose Collin Bagaforo of Kidapawan, National director of Caritas Philippines. (CBCP/ MANILA BULLETIN)

He added that such action which is a “sign of desperation to solve the ginormous economic gap caused by the COVID-19 pandemic” is unsustainable destructive and extremely detrimental to the Filipino communities in the peripheries and the Philippine ecology.

Caritas Philippines with the lead dioceses of the Eco-Convergence hubs in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao and the conveners of the CBCP National Laudato Si Program said they were dismayed over the lifting of the nine year mining moratorium.

Executive Order 130 amended EO 79 issued in 2012 which suspended applications for mineral extractions in protected areas, prime agricultural lands, tourism development areas, and other critical ecosystems.

Stating that the country has just tapped 5% of its mineral reserve, the order added that “in addition to ushering significant economic benefits to the country, the mining industry can support various government infrastructure projects, and increase employment opportunities in remote rural areas to countryside development.”



## Caritas Philippines urges Duterte to reconsider the lifting of mining moratorium

However, Bishop Bagaforo said: “We are in the countryside and we are seeing no economic improvement in the lives of the people from mining. The government has again chosen vested interests and profit over our suffering people and ecology.”

He added, “take for example what happened in Marinduque and Albay. The mining companies are gone but the ill-effects to the local ecosystems still threaten communities who gained nothing from the operations”

Bishop Allan Casicas of the Diocese of Marbel and lead of the Eco-Convergence Hub down south said while the Tampakan mines in South Cotabato can potentially generate at least 8 billion USD in export earnings with two other mining operations in Mindanao, it will also exponentially destroy the Mindanao River Basin which will severely affect nine provinces equivalent to more than 3.5 million population.

Archbishop Ricardo Baccay of the Archdiocese of Tuguegarao and lead of the Eco-Convergence Hub in Luzon said the same is true if the off-shore mining in Cagayan will be fully operational.

He said the magnetite mining is projected to exacerbate flooding, and cause massive erosion in coastal and near shore areas which might again cause the loss of lives.

Thus Bishop Gerardo Alminaza of the Diocese of San Carlos and lead of Eco-Convergence Hub in Visayas reiterates their strong position against the proposed coal mining in the province of Negros Occidental.

“We challenge our government officials, to restore the dignity of your office by siding with our people and the ecology. Let your legacy be in the defense of ecology and justice,” he added.



## Churches ask banks to stop supporting coal projects

By [Jonathan L. Mayuga](#)

-April 16, 2021



(contributed photo)

Churches in Quezon and Negros provinces have unfurled banners urging Philippine banks to stop financing coal projects.

Environmental groups have been strongly advocating the shift to clean, renewable-energy sources by harnessing the power of the sun and the wind and junking coal-fired power plant projects, which they consider as a major source of air pollution and contributor to greenhouse gas.

The move by Negros and Quezon churches came a week ahead of the celebration of Earth Day on April 22 as the call is for Philippine banks was to “Restore our Earth” in line with the 2021 theme of the annual celebration.

In the Diocese of Lucena, 15 major parishes participated in the symbolic initiative, including Our Lady of the Angels Parish in Atimonan, Saint Buenaventure Parish in Mauban, Saint Catherine of Alexandria Parish in Pagbilao, and Saint John the Baptist Parish in Tiaong.

“We cannot gather on the streets or in the Church’s halls to unite in prayer and action as many of the faithful do on Earth Day in normal circumstances, but that does not make addressing the climate crisis any less urgent. These banners we place at the front of our Churches symbolize the Church’s long-standing commitment to pursue ecological conversion and energy transformation to protect our common home. That would begin with moving away from coal,” Fr. Warren Puno, director of the Ministry of Ecology of the Diocese of Lucena in Quezon said in a news statement issued through the movement Withdraw from Coal (WFC).

Quezon is dubbed by residents and clean energy advocates as the Philippines’s coal capital, with three coal-fired power plants with a total installed capacity of 2.195 giga watts currently operating in the province.



## Churches ask banks to stop supporting coal projects

As of December 2020, three more projects are reported to be in the pipeline.

“If it were not for the banks and investors providing financial support to coal, our province would not have been tied down to decades of environmental degradation and health and livelihood problems,” added Puno.

The initiative was also joined by parishes in the Diocese of San Carlos in Negros Occidental.

“Our beloved Negros takes pride in being called the renewable-energy capital of the Philippines, but our heart goes to Quezon and all other communities in the Philippines suffering at the hand of coal proponents, especially since San Carlos is also the site of a proposed 300 megawatt coal plant,” San Carlos Bishop Gerardo Alminaza said in the same statement.

Alminaza is a convener of WFC, which is currently conducting another assessment of Philippine banks’ coal exposure.

“We are still full of hope that the restoration of our Common Home is possible, and that we can unite together toward it. As corporate citizens, Philippine banks, too, must do their part swiftly and decisively by immediately restricting and eventually phasing out their financing for coal,” he said.





## Government may buy, then close, Mindanao coal-fired plants

By [Bernadette D. Nicolas](#)

-April 16, 2021



Dominguez

THE Philippine government is looking to set up a fund to acquire all coal-fired power plants in Mindanao and shut them down in a bid to make the island heavily reliant on renewable-energy resources.

Finance Secretary Carlos G. Dominguez III revealed on Thursday that they are studying the “actual viability” of this concept in Mindanao together with Manila-based Asian Development Bank, adding that they should be able to come up with a model sometime in the third quarter of this year.

This study, he said, will coincide with their plan together with the Department of Energy to first improve the generating capacity of the Agus Pulangi Hydropower Complex which has deteriorated due to lack of maintenance over the years.

“So together with the Department of Energy, we have developed a plan to first improve the generating capacity of the Agus River System. As we do that, we are also studying the possibility of setting up a fund to acquire all the coal-powered plants in Mindanao, with the idea of shutting them down, as the energy delivery of the Agus River increases,” said Dominguez at the Virtual Economic Briefing hosted by the Philippine Embassy in Washington, D.C., as the Philippines and the United States mark the 75th anniversary of bilateral relations this year.

Dominguez, who also sits as the chairman of the Climate Change Commission, is optimistic that this plan, together with the completion of the rehabilitation of the Agus River project, would greatly reduce the operations of older coal-fired power plants on the island.

“Now obviously, this will require long term, and low-cost funds so we are working together with the ADB to study the actual viability of this concept in the Mindanao area, with the idea that Mindanao will be totally powered by, or at least 90 percent powered by, renewable-energy resources,” he added.



## Government may buy, then close, Mindanao coal-fired plants

Coal still dominates the country's power generation mix at 49 percent; followed by renewable energy (26 percent) gas (21 percent); and, the remaining from other sources.

Last year, the Department of Energy declared a moratorium on endorsing new coal power plant projects, citing the need for the country to shift to a more flexible power supply mix.

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/04/16/government-may-buy-then-close-mindanao-coal-fired-plants/>



## PH pledges 75% cut on greenhouse gas emissions

Published April 16, 2021, 7:43 PM

by [Mario Casayuran](#)

House Deputy Speaker Loren Legarda lauded on Friday, April 16, the approval of the Philippines' first Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) which pledges significant cuts to the country's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in line with the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.



Deputy Speaker and Antique Rep. Loren Legarda (Congresswoman Loren Legarda Official Facebook Page / FILE PHOTO / MANILA BULLETIN)

“We welcome the signing of the NDC, which will drive more ambitious climate action, stronger and more sustainable economic growth, and a green pandemic recovery,” Legarda said in a statement.

Signed by President Duterte, Legarda said the country's first NDC conveys a 75-percent reduction and avoidance to GHG emissions by 2030.

Out of this, 72.29 percent is conditional or contingent on the support of climate finance, technologies, and capacity development, which shall be provided by developed countries as prescribed by the Paris Agreement; while the other 2.71 percent is unconditional or shall be implemented mainly through domestic resources.

The new commitment is higher than the 70 percent GHG reduction target in the Philippines' Intended NDC submitted in 2015.

The NDC was submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Thursday, April 15.

“Our NDC is ambitious and is indeed transformational, and we thank the President, with the Department of Finance (DOF), Climate Change Commission (CCC), Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Transportation (DoTr) Department of Energy (DOE), Department of Agriculture (DA) and National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), for pushing for bigger cuts in our



## PH pledges 75% cut on greenhouse gas emissions

emissions in crafting the NDC. We also laud members of the business sector, civil society organizations and the academe who actively participated in the consultations,” Legarda said.

In January this year, Legarda filed House Resolution 1494 urging the Climate Change Commission (CCC) to submit the country’s NDC to help tackle the climate emergency and drive sustainable pandemic recovery.

In 2017, as chairwoman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, Legarda led the process of the Senate concurrence in the country’s accession to the Paris Agreement.

The NDC represents the country’s ambition to modernize and pursue low carbon and resilient development for the sectors of agriculture, waste, industry, transport, and energy for the period of 2020 to 2030.





## Philippines submits 1st greenhouse gas reduction target to UN

By [Gaea Katreena Cabico](#) (Philstar.com)  
- April 16, 2021 - 11:55am



A resident walks past uprooted banana trees washed up on a river bank after Typhoon Molave hit the town of Pola, Oriental Mindoro province, on Oct. 26, 2020.

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines finally submitted to the United Nations its commitment to cut down greenhouse gas emissions by 75% between 2020 and 2030.

The government submitted its [first Nationally Determined Contribution](#) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change on Thursday. An NDC outlines the government's plan to reduce carbon emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

The country committed to reduce its GHG emissions by 75%—which would come from the sectors of agriculture, wastes, industry, transport and energy—from 2020 to 2030.

Of the target, only 72.29% is conditional, while the remaining 2.71% is unconditional, which means it will be undertaken without international funding and assistance.

The government said it will do adaptation measures across but not limited to the sectors of agriculture, forestry, coastal and marine ecosystems and biodiversity, health, and human security.

“The Philippines shall pursue forest protection, forest restoration and reforestation, and access to results-based finance in forest conservation. The country shall also endeavor to undertake equitable adaptation strategies with mitigation co-benefits and ensure their contribution to the national pandemic recovery,” the NDC also read.

The Philippines, one of the countries most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, failed to submit its NDC last December 31. Parties to the historic Paris Agreement were requested to submit their pledges by 2020 and every five years thereafter.



## Philippines submits 1st greenhouse gas reduction target to UN

### From pledge to transformative action

For environmental group Greenpeace Philippines, the country's pledge is not ambitious enough.

"With unambitious plans for carbon-intensive sectors, the commitment does not reflect the urgency needed to address the climate emergency," Greenpeace campaigner Khevin Yu said.

Aksyon Klima Pilipinas, for its part, called for clarification about the calculation of the share of unconditional and conditional commitments in the NDC.

Rex Barrer, climate governance lead of the Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities, said that despite the "frustration" over the low unconditional number, the policy group "[takes] hope in the Department of Energy's commitment to continuously update it pledge as reflected in the current effort to improve on the Philippine Energy Plan."

Nazrin Castro, branch manager of The Climate Reality Project Philippines, lauded the government for submitting its first NDC committed but she noted that this is just the "first step" in ensuring the country's just transition to a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy.

"This roadmap should hammer out the sectoral policies and measures that will deliver our NDC target and will spell out detailed plans and timetables for the transition of sectors into a low-carbon economy in line with our aspiration to peak our emissions by 2030," Castro said.

Barrer also said it is now time to turn the pledge to transformative action.

"The NDC should embody the country's highest possible climate ambition, as written in a resolution by House Deputy Speaker Loren Legarda, and should serve as our strategy toward a climate-resilient, low carbon, and sustainable future. We are still a long way from that goal," he said.

Under the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement, global warming must be limited well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels while pursuing efforts for a tougher ceiling of 1.5°C.

Out of the 196 parties to the accord, 192 submitted their first NDCs. Meanwhile, eight parties submitted their second NDCs.



## Algo: The NDC: is the Philippines ready to fight climate change?

[JOHN LEO ALGO](#)

April 16, 2021

THE Philippines finally took a long-awaited step in its fight against the climate crisis.

On April 15, nearly four years after ratifying the Paris Agreement, the country officially submitted its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), a self-determined pledge to reduce its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and enhance adaptive capacity and resilience. It is a sign of commitment to join the rest of the world in limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial temperatures, a point that if crossed could lead to irreversible loss and damage.

The compliance has been made, but is the Philippines's commitment in the NDC enough to address the climate crisis?

### Willing and committed

The Philippines plans to pursue mitigation or GHG reductions as a function of adaptation, given that it emits less than one percent of global emissions and is also one of the most vulnerable nations to the climate crisis.

That said, this situation also gives the country the moral imperative to avoid following the pollutive development pathways by industrialized nations that largely caused global warming. With scientific findings projecting to an even warmer world and hazards more destructive than what the world has already felt, every ton of emissions avoided or reduced matters.

Under its NDC, the country commits to reduce and avoid GHG emissions by 75 percent from 2020 to 2030, compared to the business-as-usual scenario. It aims to implement this primarily in the sectors of agriculture, waste, industry, transport, and energy. Around 37 percent of its GHG emissions come from the energy sector, currently dominated by coal. Agriculture and transport account for 29 and 16 percent, respectively.

Another sector, forestry, plays a key role in reducing further pollution. Climate change mitigation is not only about reducing and avoiding potential GHG emissions. It also involves removing GHGs that have already been emitted into the atmosphere and oceans; these can be accomplished by forests and other natural carbon sinks. Protection, conservation, and restoration of forests are also recognized under the NDC.

The Philippines also expressed its aspiration for its emissions to peak by 2030 then decrease, aligned with its Asean neighbors. It plans to accelerate a just transition to a more sustainable economy, marked by delivery of green jobs and increased resilience of infrastructures and communities to typhoons, droughts, sea level rise, and other climate-related hazards.



## Algo: The NDC: is the Philippines ready to fight climate change?

To achieve these goals, the Philippines plans to implement policies and measures largely with international support from developed countries. This is based on the concept of "climate debt," wherein richer nations that emitted most of the GHGs that cause global warming owe developing countries, which are not as capable to deal with its impacts. These means of implementation come in the form of finance, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building, which the country can avail as a signatory to the Paris Agreement.

### From words to actions

Despite these features, the Philippines's first NDC is underwhelming in many aspects. While the 75 percent emissions reduction may seem an ambitious target, there is a lack of transparency on how to achieve this reduction or what sectoral contributions will be. It is also unclear on how the interlinkages between sectors and other cross-cutting issues, such as poverty eradication, gender, health, education, and Covid-19 recovery would affect the country's ability to fulfill its own pledges.

While this may be seen as a negotiating tactic with developed nations in securing means of implementation, it is gravely concerning that some government agencies have not presented a clear roadmap on how to achieve their sectoral targets at this stage of national action. This is symptomatic of a lack of transparency and meaningful engagement with non-government stakeholders such as vulnerable communities and civil society organizations, which significantly affected the NDC development for years.

There are also issues regarding the coherence of existing policies and measures with achieving targets in the NDC. For instance, the Department of Energy included the "highly efficient coal technologies" in its proposed policies and measures under the NDC. This is despite the known role of coal and other fossil fuels in global warming and air pollution, among other impacts, and its own moratorium on new coal plants issued last October. This would also offset the mitigation benefits of developing the country's renewable energy resources under RA 9513, whose full implementation only began a decade after being enacted into law.

As difficult as the formulative stage has been, the road gets even tougher from here on out. The Philippine government must learn from mistakes seen in previous years. With the implementation phase of the Paris Agreement already started, it must now present a clear decarbonization strategy to Filipinos, with evidence-based sectoral policies and measures. This is necessary to successfully negotiate the much-needed means of implementation to achieve the 75 percent reduction target.

Addressing the climate crisis requires long-term continuity in planning, implementation, and monitoring of mitigation and adaptation strategies. It must be prioritized in national and local development plans, which necessitates the active participation of non-government actors throughout the process.



## Algo: The NDC: is the Philippines ready to fight climate change?

Any exclusion of marginalized communities or the prioritization of false solutions that further social injustices will be a failure of not just implementing the NDC, but the mandate of the State to uphold the constitutional "right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature."

The first Philippine NDC lacks meaningful ambition, but its positive impact on our development does not have to be. For the sake of all Filipinos in the present and future, we must get our act together. The true test finally begins.

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*John Leo is the Deputy Executive Director from Programs and Campaigns of Living Laudato Si' Philippines and a member of the interim Secretariat of Aksyon Klima Pilipinas. He has been representing the Philippine civil society in UN regional and global climate conferences since 2017.*





## Active COVID-19 cases reach new all-time high at over 193,000 as infection total nears 915,000

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Apr 16, 2021 4:03:51 PM



LAGUNA PROVINCIAL INFORMATION OFFICE/FACEBOOK

**Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, April 16)** — The country recorded a new all-time high of active cases with 193,476 currently sick patients, the Department of Health's Friday case bulletin said.

The DOH said the active case count is 21.1% of the total number of infections, which is 914,971, with 10,726 new cases. This is the second straight day that there were over 10,000 new daily cases. At least 96% of active cases are experiencing mild symptoms, 2.9% have no symptoms, 0.5% are in a severe state, 0.4% are in critical condition, and 0.30% are moderate infections.

The total excludes data from six laboratories that did not submit their reports on time, the department noted.

The death toll rose to 15,738 or 1.72% of the COVID-19 count after 145 more patients succumbed to the disease. It is the eight consecutive time that the country logged over 100 new deaths in a day. Meanwhile, 650 others were cleared of the virus, raising the recovery number to 705,757, equivalent to 77.1% of the case total.

The DOH said it reclassified 39 recoveries into fatalities after validation and deleted 40 duplicates, including 18 survivors and one fatality.

The daily positivity rate remained high at 19.7% with 41,905 tests conducted as of noon of April 15. The World Health Organization recommends that the positivity rate, or the percentage of infected individuals out of all patients tested, be kept below 5%. Otherwise, there may be high transmission and more undetected cases.

Despite these high figures, the OCTA Research noted that the growth in cases [slowed down](#) in the past two weeks, at least in the National Capital Region, which was recently placed on strict lockdown along with nearby provinces. OCTA said the positivity rate in the NCR dropped from



## Active COVID-19 cases reach new all-time high at over 193,000 as infection total nears 915,000

25% a week ago to 24%, but warned the demand for more hospital spaces may not ease soon as experts see another wave of infections in the coming weeks.

Among Filipinos abroad, 126 new infections were detected, according to the Department of Foreign Affairs. The total is 18,134 in 91 countries with 4,062 cases verified by the DOH, the DFA added. Two more Filipinos died, while 100 others recovered, making the death toll 1,115 and the recovery total 11,142 with 5,877 others getting treatment.



## SALAMAT KINA MAYOR PLEYTO AT IBA PANG LUMALANTAD NA MAY COVID-19



April 16, 2021 @ 4:11 PM 15 hours ago

MALAKING-malaki ang ating ipinagpapasalamat sa mga lumalantad na sila'y tinatamaan ng coronavirus disease o COVID-19.

Kabilang sa mga pinasasalamatan natin ang mga mayor na katulad ni Sta. Maria, Bulacan Mayor Russel Pleyto na agad naghayag ng pagiging positibo niya ilang oras lang matapos matanggap niya ang kumpirmasyong tinamaan nga siya.

Gayundin ang kasamahan natin sa media at namamasukan sa Department of Agriculture na si Carol Claudio.

### PAGHAHAYAG MABUNGA

Makaraang magpositibo, agad na nanawagan si Mayor Pleyto sa mga nakasalamuha niya na pakiramdaman ang kanilang mga sarili kung may sintomas sila o wala.

Kabilang sa mga sintomas gaya ng pagkakaroon ng lagnat, ubo, pananakit ng ulo at katawan, panghihina, kawalan ng panlasa sa pagkain at pang-amoy at iba pa.

Kung sila'y may sintomas, payo niyang kaagad humiwalay sa pamilya o kasamahan at magpa-swab test kung kinakailangan.

Bilang mayor, aniya, araw-araw na marami siyang nakasalamuha at nakapulung ukol sa programa ng kanyang pamahalaan, lalo't kasagsagan ng preparasyon at pamimigay ng ayuda mula sa pambansang pamahalaan.



## **SALAMAT KINA MAYOR PLEYTO AT IBA PANG LUMALANTAD NA MAY COVID-19**

Nagpa-quarantine rin kaagad si mayor makaraan siyang magpositibo.

Kasabay nito ang payo niyang dapat na mag-ingat ang lahat.

Kabilang sa mga pag-iingat na pinairal ng kanyang bayan ang pagsunod ng lahat sa mga umiiral na health protocol ng pamahalaan gaya ng pagsusuot ng face mask, social distancing at iba pa.

### **ARAW-ARAW NA NILALABANAN**

Maganda naman ang pinaggagagawa ni Carol Claudio habang naka-quarantine siya.

Isa sa mga nilalaban niya ang kahirapan ng paghinga, pananakit ng ulo at katawan at panghihina.

Araw-araw niyang hinaharap ang COVID-19 na malakas na kalaban.

Ngunit ipinakikita niya sa virus na hindi siya kayang patumbahin.

Nakikipagpambuno siya sa pagsasabing virus lang si COVID-19 at hindi kakayanin ang pagiging matapang niya.

Ngayon, sa pagkakaalam ng ating Uzi, nakalabas na siya sa quarantine facility ngunit nagpapahinga siya na may kasamang pag-iingat pa rin at para hindi siya makahawa ng iba.

### **MAGAGAWA NATIN AT NG PAMAHALAAN**

Ipinakikita lang nina Mayor Pleyto at kasamang Carol na malaki ang magagawa ng tao, opisyal man o ordinaryong tao laban sa pandemya,

Pero unang ikokonsidera na kahit anong pag-iingat ang gawin mo, maaaring mahawa ka pa rin.

At kung nahawa ka, sa pagkakaroon pa lang ng sintomas, dapat kang kumilos kaagad para na rin sa iyong kaligtasan sa ospital at sementeryo.

Kasama sa agad na gagawin ang pagpapa-test kung positibo ka o hindi.

At kung nagpositibo ka, magdeklara ka para maasistehan ka sa iyong pangangailangan ng mga kinauukulan.

Una, ambulansya o sasakyan ng pamahalaan ang susundo sa iyo at magdadala sa quarantine facility para maasikaso ka.

Ikalawa, kahit papaano, nariryan ang suporta sa iyong pangangailangan bagama't walang karangyaan sa loob ng facility.

Ikatlo, magawan ng paraan ang kaligtasan din ng iyong pamilya at maibigay ang kanilang mga pangangailangan dahil tiyak na mala-lockdown sila.

Ikaapat, mahiwalay mo ang iyong sarili sa iba upang hindi kumalat ang pandemya.



## **SALAMAT KINA MAYOR PLEYTO AT IBA PANG LUMALANTAD NA MAY COVID-19**

Ikalima, mula mismo sa facility, bahala na ang gobyerno na magdala sa iyo sa kung saan ka dadalhin sakaling maging severe o kritikal ang iyong kalagayan at makatutulong ito sa iyo para hindi ka pipila sa mga lansangan sa harap ng mga ospital.

Ikaanim, kung sakaling hahantong sa pagkikita ninyo ni Lord ang lahat, malaking bagay na nasa kamay ka ng gobyerno at ang iyong pamilya.

### **PAGLALANTAD AT PAGLILIHIM**

Higit na maganda ang paglalantad ng sarili kaysa paglilihim ng kalagayan dahil nariyan ang gobyerno na handang umayuda sa atin at hindi lang ang mga pamilya o kaibigan natin.

At nararanasan nga nito ng katulad nina Mayor Pleyto at ni Carol.

Kung ililihim mo ang iyong kalagayan katulad ng isang mediaman na nasasakupan ng Valenzuela City, anak ng tipaklong, maraming bagay ang hindi magandang mangyayari.

Ayaw kasi ng mediaman na maistorbo ang paghahanapbuhay ng isa niyang kamag-anak na may pamilya.

Paano na lang umano ang mga nakatira sa kanilang compound kung ila-lockdown sila?

Gutom at kalayaan sa pagkilos ng iba ang iniisip ng kasamahan nating ito.

Hayun, nagsimula na ring mawalan ng panlasa sa pagkain at pang-amoy ang kanyang anak.

Sa halip na tumawag sa local government unit, konsultasyon sa kaibigan niyang doktor ang ginagawa.

Maganda naman umano ang epekto ng mga payo ng doktor.

Pero higit sanang maganda kung lumantad na lamang siya, tumawag kina Mayor Rex Gatchalian para matugunan ang kanilang mga pangangailangan.

Kapag hindi siya lalantad, paano na lang kung taglay nito hindi lang ang orig na virus kundi mga variant nito?

Paano ang paglaganap ng pandemya sa lugar dahil sa paglilihim nito?

Paano kung may madadamay, magkasakit, maospital at mamatay?

Sa ibang bansa, mahigpit na ipinagbabawal ang ganitong gawa at inaaresto ang mga salarin.

Sana hindi hahantong sa hindi magandang pangyayari ang paglilihim ng isang kapatid nating ito sa hanapbuhay.

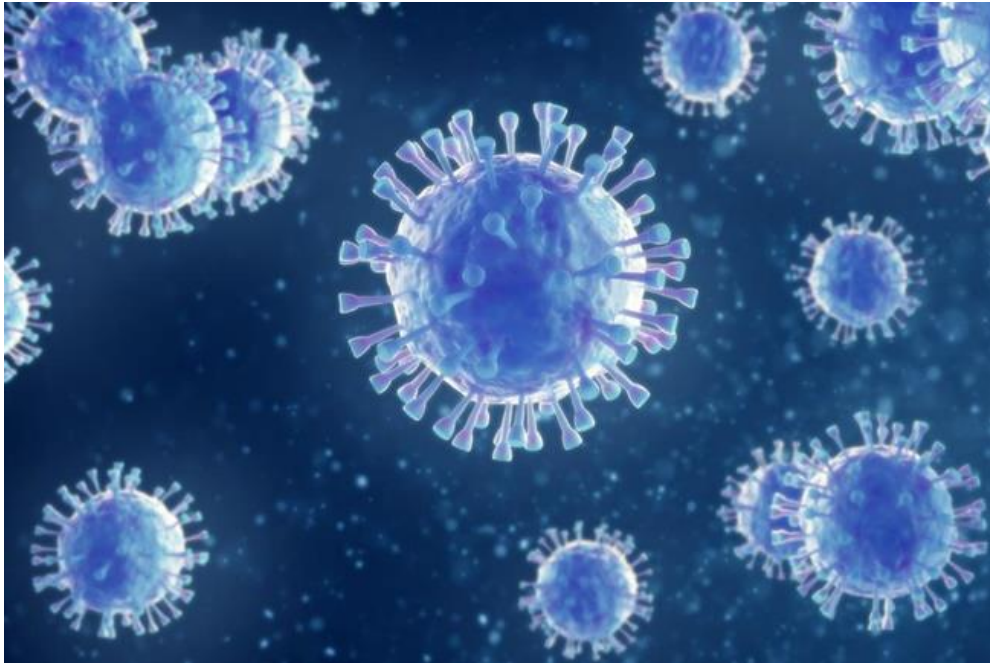
Isang napakalaking tanong: Paano kung mahawa ang lahat sa compound dahil pati ang mga nasa compound ay hindi alam na may na-COVID na pala sa kanila?





## GLOBAL COVID-19 CASES UMAKYAT NA SA 2,987,891

written by [Gilbert Perdez](#) April 16, 2021



Umakyat na sa 2,987,891 ang bilang ng mga nasawi sa COVID-19 sa buong mundo.

Bukod dito, napag-alaman sa datos na 139,008,120 cases mula nang mag-umpisa ang outbreak sa China noong December 2019.

Noong Huwebes, naitala naman ang 13,646 na bagong insidente ng pagkamatay dulot ng virus habang nagkaroon naman ng 809,849 na bagong kaso.

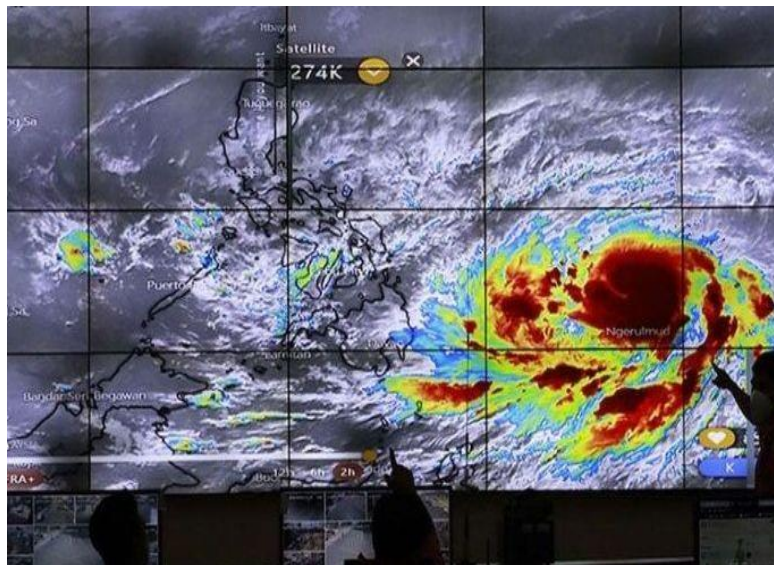
Pinakamarami ang nasawi sa Brazil na nasa 3,560 na sinundan ng India na 1,185 at Estados Unidos na 974.

Source: <https://www.dwiz882am.com/index.php/global-covid-19-cases-umakyat-na-sa-2987891/>



## Bising pumasok na sa PAR

By [Angie dela Cruz](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon)  
- April 17, 2021 - 12:00am



Nakabantay ang mga tauhan ng Quezon City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (DRRMO) sa mga lugar na dadaanan ng severe tropical storm Bising na pumasok na sa bansa kahapon.

Michael Varcas

MANILA, Philippines — Lumakas at naging isang Severe Tropical Storm ang bagyong Bi-sing nang pumasok sa Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) kahapon ng umaga.

Alas-10 ng umaga kahapon, si Bising ay namataan ng PagAsa sa layong 960 kilometro sa silangan ng Surigao City, Surigao del Norte taglay ang lakas ng hangin na 130 kilometer per hour at pagbugso na 160 kph.

Hindi pa direktahang nakakaapekto sa bansa ang bagyo.

Sa Linggo inaasahang mararamdaman na si Bising sa Eastern Visayas at Bicol Region na makakaranas doon ng bugso ng hangin at pag-ulan.

Si Bising ay mananatili sa bansa hanggang sa susunod na linggo.

## PARIS PACT | Philippines plans to curb total emission by 75 percent

April 16, 2021 , 08:24 PM

(April 16, 2021) – The Philippines has committed to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 75 percent by 2030, adhering to an international pact and helping local sectors fulfill the global ambitious target.

On Thursday, the government submitted the Philippines’ first Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, fulfilling its role as a signatory to the Paris Agreement.

“The country’s climate change mitigation actions shall strengthen the resilience and adaptive capacity of the country, including through enhanced access to climate finance, technology development and transfer, and capacity building,” said the Philippine document, putting emphasis on implementing “policies and measures on and uptake of circular economy and sustainable consumption and production practices.”

But the government said the country cannot fulfill the goals on its own, saying that 72.29 percent of the emissions reduction target could be completed through external assistance from foreign countries.

Only 2.71 percent can be covered by the country’s own funding and resources.

Government officials plan to target the sectors of agriculture, wastes, industry, transportation, and energy to fulfill the reduction of the country’s greenhouse gas emissions, pegged at an average of 1.98 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent per capita in 2020.

In the NDC, the country also promised to create adaptation measures across different aspects of the environment, like the coastal and marine ecosystems, “to preempt, reduce and address residual loss and damage”.

“The country shall also endeavor to undertake equitable adaptation strategies with mitigation co-benefits and ensure their contribution to the national pandemic recovery. For this purpose, the Philippines shall diligently access the means of implementation under the Paris Agreement,” the NDC added.

At least 197 countries had signed the Paris Climate Change Agreement in 2015 where nations signified their commitment to reduce their carbon emissions to combat climate change. Developed countries have the responsibility to assist developing nations, like the Philippines, achieve their climate mitigation targets and adaptation efforts.

President Rodrigo Duterte, in a speech before the United Nations last year, urged developed nations to step up their efforts against climate change, adding that the problem should be urgently resolved in light of the pandemic.

But environmental groups believed the country could have done so much more, calling the commitment “not ambitious enough.”



## PARIS PACT | Philippines plans to curb total emission by 75 percent

“The commitment does not reflect the urgency needed to address the climate emergency,” said Greenpeace campaigner Khevin Yu.

“We still have a workable chance to overturn our situation if the government develops and updates their action plans to reflect the ambition necessary to respond to the crisis ... Ambitious climate targets and corresponding action will help us attain a better normal.”

Rex Barrer of the Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities expressed frustration over the remarkably low figure the government was willing to shoulder, urging the energy department to update its pledge as reflected in the Philippine Energy Plan.

“The challenge now is to see the NDC process as a means by which the modernization of the electricity sector is realized, driven by genuine competition and premised on greater reliance on flexible generation.”

“To this end, we are committed to support the government’s goal to rapidly modernize the country’s power sector and to ensure sooner rather than later the integration of transport modernization strategies into long-term energy development.”

*(Beatrice Puente/MM)*



## Activists vow tough acts for nature



By [Agence France-Presse](#)

April 17, 2021

**MAASTRICHT:** Stopped in their tracks by the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic, citizens around the world are once again bracing to mobilize for the planet in a year marked by several major international summits on climate and biodiversity.

In 2019, millions of people, led by student and youth organizations, flooded the world's streets to demand that governments act to stave off the worst effects of global warming.

But then came Covid-19, bringing the global movement to a screeching halt, with lockdowns and travel restrictions forcing mass events to be canceled and activism to shift online.

"The pandemic hit right at the moment when we were peaking in terms of mobilization," said Nicolas Haeringer from the environmental group 350.org.

36op geselecteerd als afspeelkwaliteit

Youth activists quickly adapted to online activism, and the Covid-19 pandemic may even have helped groups based in richer countries to devise better ways to include activists from developing nations.

The School Strike for Climate movement "was deeply rooted in European youth," said Haeringer. "The pandemic has been used to rebalance things and build real leadership in global south nations."

While the internet is ideal for laying plans, it is clear that the impetus has waned from movements unable to protest in real life. "It has been hard for movements," said Clare Farrell, a co-founder of the civil disobedience Extinction Rebellion movement.

"We build relationships through face-to-face work often so we are really looking forward to getting back out to do actions in public space, to meet new people and build the movements again."

Dana Fisher, professor of sociology at the University of Maryland, said climate activists have spent the last year also campaigning for similar causes in solidarity with other movements.

This includes participating in activism against systemic racism and in helping people of color gain better access to Covid-19 vaccines.

In the United States, "the movement is definitely not stopping, but the tactic of the climate strike is not a dominant form of activism right now and it may never return," said Fisher. But many youth strikers are undeterred by the turbulent last 12 months.





## Activists vow tough acts for nature

“We’re keeping in touch, it’s great and I believe that there will be another youth mobilization,” said Michel Villarreal, a Bolivian student activist.

There are a number of high-profile events in 2021 that activists could use as launch pads for wider activities. The first is next week with US President Joe Biden’s virtual climate summit.

In September, the global congress of the International Union for Conservation of Nature is set to take place in the French port city of Marseille, Covid permitting.

Then comes the COP15 on biodiversity in Kunming, China, in October, followed hot on its heels by the COP26 United Nations climate talks in the Scottish city of Glasgow.

Groups are already planning a global day of action to “reclaim the initiative,” probably at the start of autumn, said Haeringer.



## Apple announces \$200 mn forestry fund to reduce carbon

Agence France-Presse

Posted at Apr 16 2021 12:12 PM | Updated as of Apr 16 2021 12:21 PM



The Apple Inc logo is seen hanging at the entrance to the Apple store on 5th Avenue in Manhattan, New York, U.S., October 16, 2019. *Mike Segar, Reuters/File Photo*

MANILA - Apple on Thursday announced a \$200 million fund to invest in timber-producing commercial forestry projects, with the goal of removing carbon from the atmosphere while also generating profit.

The Restore Fund, launched in partnership with Conservation International and Goldman Sachs, expected to have its first projects targeted later this year.

"Nature provides some of the best tools to remove carbon from the atmosphere," Apple vice president of environment, policy and social initiatives Lisa Jackson said in a statement.

"Through creating a fund that generates both a financial return as well as real, and measurable carbon impacts, we aim to drive broader change in the future -- encouraging investment in carbon removal around the globe."

Forests draw in carbon from the air, storing it away and stopping the gas from contributing to climate change.

The fund aims to remove one million metric tons of carbon dioxide annually from the atmosphere, equal to the amount spewed by more than 200,000 passenger vehicles.

Apple said last year it would become carbon neutral by 2030 for all its operations, including manufacturing.

The California-based iPhone maker said its goal was to have no climate impact for all its devices sold.



## Apple announces \$200 mn forestry fund to reduce carbon

"Investing in nature can remove carbon far more effectively -- and much sooner -- than any other current technology," Conservation International chief executive M. Sanjayan said in a joint release.

"As the world faces the global threat climate change presents, we need innovative new approaches that can dramatically reduce emissions."

Also Thursday, Google unveiled a time-lapse feature to its Google Earth service that provides a satellite view of the world.

The new feature is based on tens of millions of satellite images from the past 37 years to enable users to see in rich detail how the face of the planet has changed.

"Timelapse in Google Earth is about zooming out to assess the health and well-being of our only home, and is a tool that can educate and inspire action," the company said in a blog post.

"Visual evidence can cut to the core of the debate in a way that words cannot and communicate complex issues to everyone."



17 APRIL 2021, Saturday



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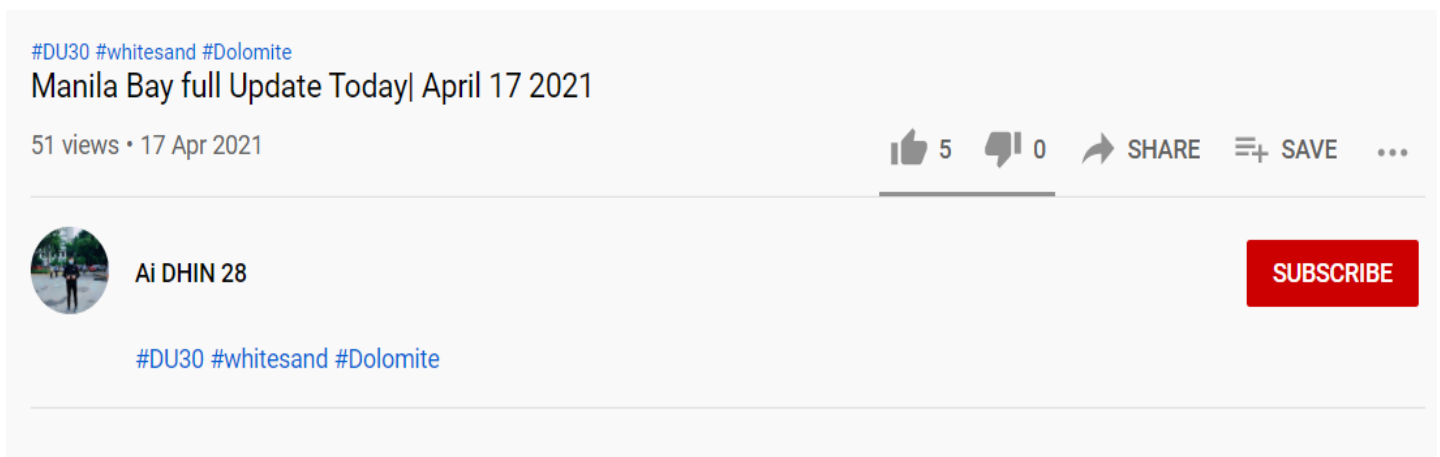
**VLOGS**

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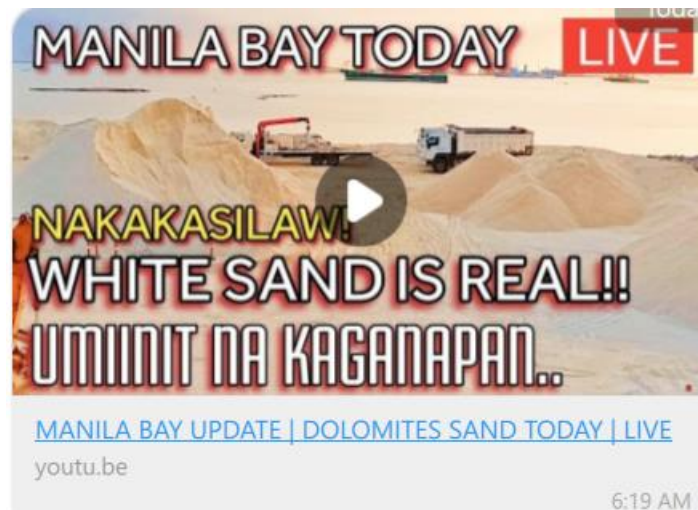


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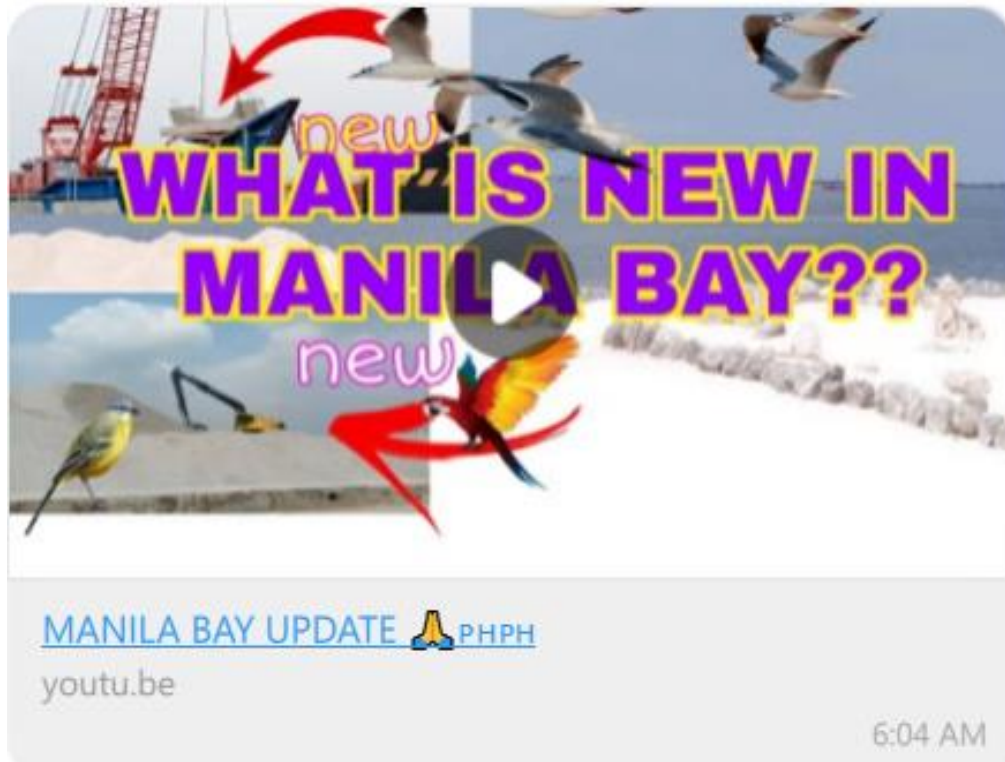
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A fresh batch of dolomite sand has been dumped along the Manila Baywalk, as part of the

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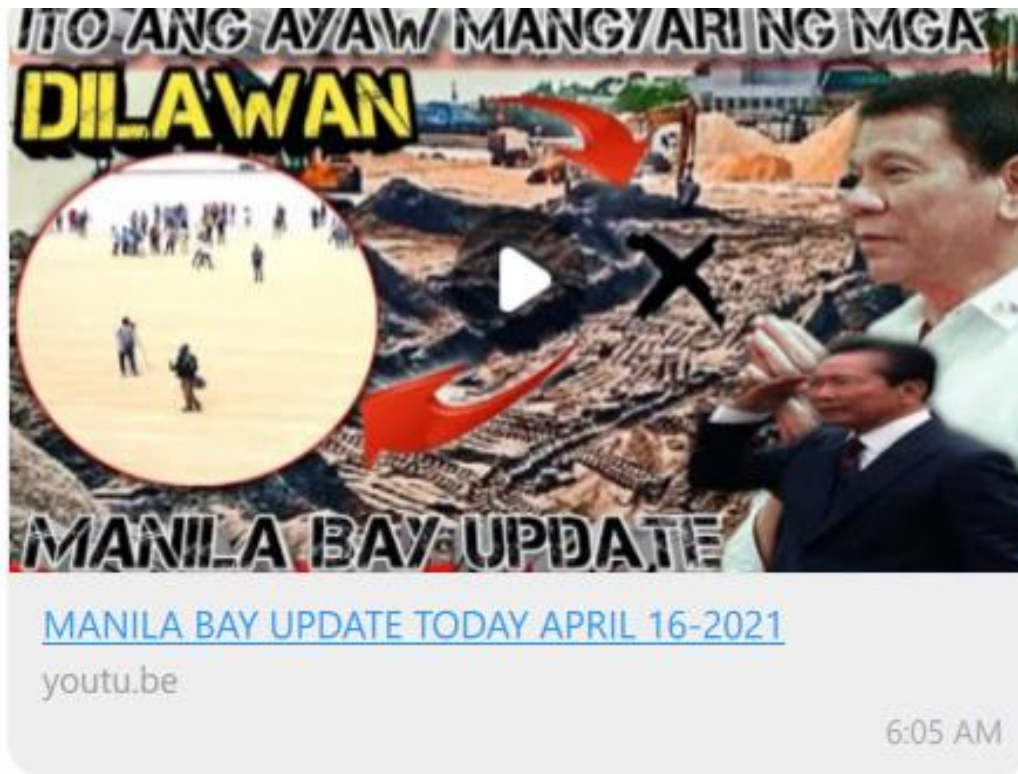
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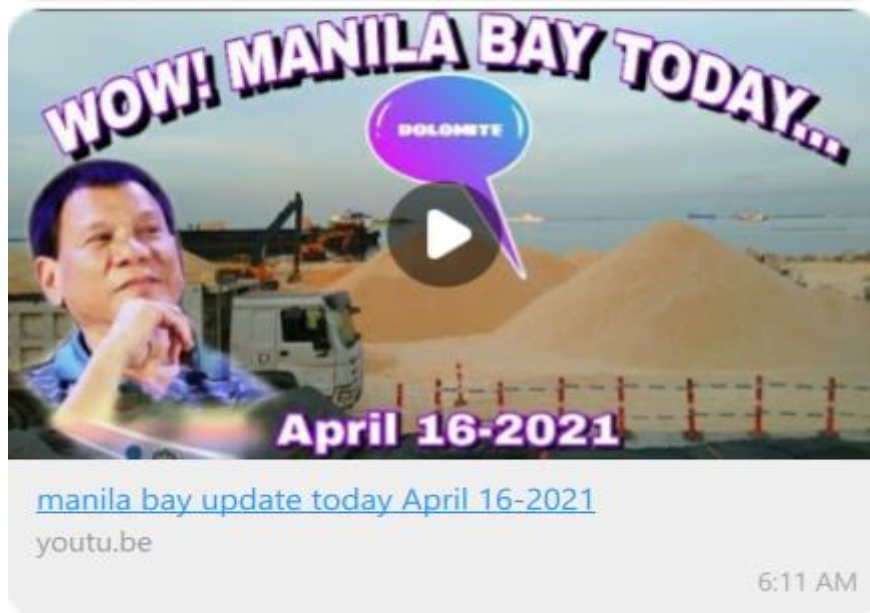
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Whut's up mga kababayan welcome back to my YouTube channel.Ito Napo ang ating latest update Sa manila bay.

Maraming salamat Sa Inyong suporta..Please watch my usual update here at Manila Bay. Godbless

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